

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF DENMARK, THE FAROE ISLANDS, AND GREENLAND

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Denmark's mineral resources are concentrated mainly in natural gas and petroleum fields in the North Sea that have, together with renewable energy, made the country a net exporter of energy since 1996. Most of the mineral commodities produced in Denmark were exported with a majority shipped to European Union (EU) countries. Continued close cooperation with the other member countries of the EU is very important for Denmark because these countries remain the major export markets.

Although Denmark has no known economically exploitable reserves of metallic ores, it does have large reserves of nonmetallic materials, such as chalk, diatomaceous earth, limestone, and sand and gravel. Approximately one-third of the bedrock area in Denmark consists of chalk and limestone. Cement, chalk for paper filler, ground limestone, and lime,

including agricultural and burnt, are produced (table 1). Petroleum production continued to exceed consumption, which allowed Denmark to stay self-sufficient in petroleum. The structure of the Danish mineral industry is listed in table 2.

Denmark and Greenland were actively seeking to develop both area's nonfuel mineral resources, particularly in Greenland. Both were actively encouraging mineral exploration activities and provided support where possible. The hopes were that mining can once again become an important sector of the economy.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Denmark, the Faroe Islands, and Greenland, see the 1998 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Europe and Central Eurasia.

TABLE 2
DENMARK: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1999

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Cement	Aalborg Portland A/S	Plant at Rordal	3,000
Chalk	A/S Faxe Kalkbrud	Quarries at Stevns and Sigerslev	250
Diatomite (moler) thousand cubic meters	Dansk Moler Industri A/S (Damolin)	Quarries on Mors and Fur Islands	145
Kaolin	Aalborg Portland A/S	Mine and plant on Bornholm Island	25
Lime	A/S Faxe Kalkbrud (Aalborg Portland Holding A/S)	Plant at Stubberup, near Fakse, on Zealand Island	200
Natural gas million cubic meters	Maersk Olie og Gas A/S	Roar and Tyra Gasfields, Danish North Sea	2,550
Petroleum:			
Crude barrels per day	Dansk Undergrunds Consortium	Dan, Gorm, Rolf, and Tyra, Danish North Sea	127,000
Refined do.	A/S Dansk Shell	Fredericia	55,000
Do. do.	Kuwait Petroleum Refining A/S	Guldhavn	56,500
Do. do.	Statoil A/S	Kalundborg	65,000
Salt	Dansk Salt I/S	Mine (brine) at Hvornum, plant at Mariager	600
Steel	Danish Steel Works Ltd. (Det Danske Stalvalsevaerk A/S) (30% Government owned)	Plant at Frederilsvaerk	750