

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

ESTONIA

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Estonia's mineral industry consisted primarily of mining oil shale, peat, and industrial minerals, which included clays, limestone, and sand and gravel; phosphate mining in Estonia had ceased because of environmental concerns. The RAS Silmet rare-earth metals plant processed a range of imported ores, but information has not been available on this plant's output. Estonia, as do the other Baltic States, envisages its major role in the minerals sector as a transit country for minerals. Estonia's

ports are major gateways for shipments into and out of the countries of the former Soviet Union. Estonia's geographic location places it between the rich natural resources of Russia and the markets of Western Europe and other regions.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Estonia, see the 1997 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Europe and Central Eurasia.

TABLE 1
ESTONIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Ammonia, nitrogen content	138,000	137,000	153,000	175,000	145,000
Cement	417,000	387,700	422,500	321,000	358,000
Clays:					
For brick	40,000 e/	19,800	66,500	96,600	107,100
For cement	30,000 e/	27,200	25,500	33,000	38,400
Oil shale	13,310,000	14,735,000	14,383,000	12,463,000	10,685,000
Peat	952,200	1,100,000	1,002,000	365,000 r/	923,000
Sand and gravel	1,000 e/	1,000 e/	1,109	1,411	1,063
Silica sand, industrial	25,000	11,100	22,500	23,000	18,300

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through September 27, 2000.

TABLE 2
ESTONIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY FOR 1999

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity e/
Cement	Punane-Kunda plant	Punane-Kunda region	1,500
Fuel oils, other chemical products from oil shale	RAS Kiviter	Khotla-Yarve	
Nitrogen	AS Nitrofert	do.	NA
Limestone, for cement	Punane-Kunda deposits	do.	NA
Oil shale	Eesti Polevkivi includes seven mines, four open pits, and five beneficiation plants	Ida-Virumaa county	25,000
Peat	388 deposits under exploitation	Production in all regions of country, but major facilities in northern and southeastern part of country	6,000
Phosphate rock	Maardu (operation suspended)	Maardu	
Rare earths	RAS Silmet plant	Sillamae region	NA
Sand, for glass	Piuza deposit	Southeastern part of country	50
Sand and gravel	Production at more than 700 deposits, largest enterprises: Silikat association exploiting Tallinn deposit	Tallinn region	2,000,000
Do.	Akhtmeskiy industrial materials complex exploiting Panyarve deposit	Panyarve region	1,500,000
Do.	Vyrukivi plant exploiting Abissaare, Koryusmyae, Pyussa-palu deposits	Southeastern part of country	1,500,000
Do.	Tartu construction materials plant exploiting Vooremyagi and Kukemetsa deposits	Tartu region	800,000

e/ Estimated. NA Not available.