

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

THE MIDDLE EAST

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For many of the 15 nations of the Middle East covered in this section, production of natural gas, petroleum, and refined petroleum products dominated the mineral sector of the economy. Of the world's total production, the Middle East accounted for about 25% of produced crude oil and about 8% of natural gas (dry). The area also accounted for about 32% of the world's production of boron, 14% of potash production, 12% of gypsum production, and 11% of sulfur production.

In 1999, the rebound of crude oil prices resulted in significantly increased revenues for petroleum-producing countries in the Middle East. Hydrocarbon production and processing remained, for the most part, under government control, although discussions were initiated in 1999 between the Saudi Arabian Government and international oil companies

concerning the opening of the Saudi Arabian natural gas sector to foreign operators.

In 1999, Saudi Arabia again was the leading supplier of crude oil to the United States—about 506 million barrels (Mbb) of total crude oil imports of 3.2 billion barrels. Other nations in the Persian Gulf (Arabian Gulf) region—specifically, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, and Yemen—accounted for about 11% of total U.S. crude oil imports (about 355 Mbb) (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2001).

Reference Cited

U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2001, Crude oil and petroleum product imports—1984-Present: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Petroleum Supply Monthly, February, p. 8-15.

TABLE 1
MIDDLE EAST: PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES, 1999 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	Alumi- num e/	Boron	Cement, hydraulic e/	Chromite	Copper, mine Cu content	Gypsum e/	Natural gas	
							Plant liquids (thousand 42-gallon barrels)	Dry (million cubic meters)
Bahrain	501 3/	--	230	--	--	--	4,300	7,600
Cyprus	--	--	1,200	--	5	270	--	--
Iran	137	4	19,000	311 4/	138	10,834 3/	24,000	51,000
Iraq	--	--	2,000	--	--	--	3,000	2,800
Israel	--	--	5,100	--	--	50	--	20
Jordan	--	--	1,400	--	--	180	--	320
Kuwait	--	--	2,000	--	--	--	38,000	9,400
Lebanon	--	--	4,200	--	--	3	--	--
Oman	--	--	1,300	26	--	115	6,000	7,500
Qatar	--	--	700	--	--	--	22,000	20,000
Saudi Arabia	--	--	14,000	--	1 e/	330	264,000	49,000
Syria	--	--	4,500	--	--	300	2,700	6,200
Turkey	62	1,410	34,403 3/	770	45 e/	400	--	600
United Arab Emirates	440	--	6,000	60 e/	--	90	110,000	37,100
Yemen	--	--	1,454 3/	--	--	100	2,600	--
Total, Middle East 5/	1,140	1,414	97,487	1,167	189	12,672	476,600	191,540
Total, world	22,700	4,370	1,605,784	14,000	12,600	107,000	2,184,000	2,398,000
Share of world total	5%	32%	6%	8%	1%	12%	22%	8%
United States	3,779	1,220	87,777	--	1,600	22,400	675,250	527,529

Country	Nitrogen, N in ammonia e/	Petroleum, crude (thousand 42-gallon barrels) 6/	Phosphate rock e/ (gross weight)	Potash e/ K ₂ O equivalent	Salt e/	Steel, crude e/	Sulfur e/
Cyprus	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Iran	1,000	1,280	--	--	1,600	6,277 3/	1,350
Iraq	450	915,000	1,000 7/	--	300	200	300
Israel	--	36	4,000 7/	2,450	800	200	31
Jordan	--	--	6,014 3/	1,100	200	30	--
Kuwait	397 3/	708,000	--	--	100	--	675
Lebanon	--	--	--	--	4	--	--
Oman	--	328,100	--	--	--	--	30
Qatar	1,130 3/	232,000	--	--	--	629	155
Saudi Arabia	1,402 3/	2,860,000	--	--	140	2,610	2,400
Syria	112 3/	196	2,100	--	150	70	10
Turkey	82	21,100	--	--	2,200	14,309 3/	335
United Arab Emirates	380 3/	756,000	--	--	--	70	1,089
Yemen	--	144,000	--	--	147	--	--
Total, Middle East 5/	5,303	5,979,382	13,114	3,550	5,641	24,395	6,442
Total, world	109,000	24,043,000	141,000	25,700	209,000	754,000	57,100
Share of world total	5%	25%	9%	14%	3%	3%	11%
United States	14,100 8/	2,414,000	40,600	1,200	41,300	97,400	11,300

e/ Estimated. -- Zero.

1/ Table includes data available through January 31, 2001.

2/ Data may be different from that appearing in individual country production tables owing to availability of more-current data.

3/ Reported figure.

4/ Concentrate.

5/ May not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

6/ Includes lease condensate.

7/ Beneficiated.

8/ Synthetic anhydrous ammonia; excludes coke oven byproduct ammonia.