

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

CYPRUS

By Staff^{1 2}

During the past few years, operations in Cyprus' historically important mineral export commodities, including asbestos, celestite, chromite, copper, and iron pyrite, have effectively ceased, although the country has remained a significant source for the world's supply of umber and yellow ochre. Mineral production was mainly by local companies working small deposits. Bentonite, gypsum, and umber mined for export, and cement and stone production destined for the domestic construction industry, dominated the nation's nonfuel mineral economy. The value of mining and quarrying products increased slightly, from \$105.8 million³ in 1993, to \$108.3 million in 1994. Despite the slight drop in production volume, the value of hydraulic cement accounted for approximately 47% of the total value of Cyprus' nonfuel mineral industry output. (*See table 1.*)

The Mines Service administered mineral operations under the Mines and Quarries (Regulation) Law, Chapter 270, 1959; the Mines and Quarries Regulations, 1958-79; the Petroleum (Production) Law, 1974; and the Cyprus Standard and Control of Quality Law, 1975. Mining operations in Cyprus have been owned and operated privately under leases and licenses issued by the Mines Service since 1958. Royalties on extracted mineral commodities ranged from 1% to 5%. The Economic Geology Section of the Geological Survey Department was responsible for mineral exploration programs and the evaluation of the country's resources. The Environmental Service was responsible for coordinating the environmental efforts of the Government departments.

Hellenic Mining Co. Ltd. successfully concluded its copper bioleach and solvent extraction studies at Skouriotissa in 1994.⁴ An 8,000-metric-ton-per-year plant was planned to process oxides from a proposed open pit mine near the Green

Line, the United Nation's buffer zone between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot areas. Hellenic Mining ended its copper cement operation in 1993. Since 1981, the company had been recovering copper cement via an in situ leach of the tailings from the old Skouriotissa Mine.

Most of the country's traditional mineral enterprises were either shut down or were operating at a small fraction of past production levels; however, the Cypriot mining industry appears to be poised to recover. The resource base of commodities, such as asbestos, bentonite, celestite, chromite, iron oxide pigments, pyrite, and salt, is still significant. Producers of these commodities could possibly resume operations or step up production with favorable economic conditions.

¹Text prepared May 1995.

²Unless specifically stated, all data in this chapter are for the southern Greek-administered area because data related to the Turkish Cypriot area are sparse or unavailable.

³Where necessary, values have been converted from Cypriot pounds (£) to U.S. dollars at the rate of £0.49=US\$1.00.

⁴Hellenic Mining Co. Ltd. press release.

Major Source of Information

Mines Service
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Nicosia, Cyprus

Major Publication

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mines Service, Annual Report.

TABLE 1
CYPRUS: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/ 3/

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
METAL					
Copper, cement:					
Gross weight metric tons	1,030	535	473	278	--
Cu content do.	472	226	172	103	--
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement, hydraulic	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,090	1,040
Clays, crude:					
Bentonite metric tons	82,000	58,500	58,800	60,000	50,000
Other:					
For brick and tile manufacture	400	440	463	450	450
For cement manufacture e/	300	300	346	350	350 4/
Total	700	740	809	810	850
Gypsum:					
Crude metric tons	37,000	37,000 e/	35,500	90,000	180,000
Calcined do.	4,600	6,200	6,150	3,000	4,000
Lime, hydrated do.	7,330	6,570	5,540	6,100	5,530
Stone, sand, and gravel:					
Limestone, crushed (Havara)	2,700	2,700	2,800	3,000	3,000
Marble	82	74	58	50	50
Marl, for cement production	700	1,400	1,400 e/	1,500	1,600
Sand and gravel 5/	5,250	5,450	5,750	6,000	6,000
Building stone	200	200	250 e/	100	100
Umber do.	7,700	5,800	5,000	6,000	9,000
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Petroleum refinery products: e/					
Liquefied petroleum gas thousand 42-gallon barrels	300	315 4/	300	308 r/ 4/	300
Gasoline do.	1,100	1,030 4/	1,100	799 r/ 4/	800
Kerosene and jet fuel do.	200	301 4/	300	346 r/ 4/	300
Distillate fuel oil do.	1,900	2,080 4/	2,200	1,890 r/ 4/	1,900
Residual fuel oil do.	1,200	1,570 4/	1,500	2,000 r/ 4/	2,000
Asphalt do.	250	171 4/	200	208 r/ 4/	200
Refinery fuel and losses do.	200	208 4/	200	147 r/ 4/	150
Total do.	5,150	5,680	5,800	5,700 r/	5,650

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Previously published and 1994 data are rounded by the U.S. Bureau of Mines to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Table includes data available through May 8, 1995.

3/ Mineral production data from the northern Turkish-occupied section of the country are not included in this table, as available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output levels.

4/ Reported figure.

5/ Includes crushed aggregate.