

BAHRAIN

By Philip M. Mobbs

Bahrain had an oil-based economy. Production of crude oil [about 37,000 barrels per day (bbl/d)] from the Awali Field, which was Bahrain's sole oilfield, was supplemented by production of about 124,000 bbl/d from the offshore Abu Saafa Field in Saudi Arabian waters (Arab Petroleum Research Center, 2000, p. 58). In 1999, oil accounted for about 62% of Bahrain's export earnings, and Government revenues were enhanced as international prices of oil and aluminum exports increased during the year. Natural gas, principally from the Khuff reservoir, was the fuel source for low-cost electric power generation that sustained the nation's aluminum smelting and fabrication industries. Other value-added mineral-based products produced in Bahrain included ammonia, cement, iron ore pellets, methanol, natural gas liquids, and refined petroleum products.

In 1998 (the last year for which data are available), Bahrain's gross domestic product was estimated to be \$5.4 billion. Population of the archipelago nation in the Arabian Gulf was estimated to be 643,000.

In December 1999, the Government formed the Bahrain Petroleum Co., B.S.C. (closed) (BAPCO), by merging Bahrain National Oil Co., which was the national oil exploration and production company, and Bahrain Petroleum Co. (also known as BAPCO), which was the national oil refining company. The new BAPCO was wholly owned by the Government, and the company continued the upgrade of its 250,000-bbl/d-capacity refinery at Sitra. One project was the reduction of the sulfur content of produced diesel fuel from a range of 0.75% to 1% down to 0.05%. The refinery modernization project also included an in-line blending project, an unleaded gasoline

project, a new kerosene plant, and instrumentation rehabilitation.

Chevron Corp. of the United States continued to evaluate offshore blocks 1, 2, and 3. Texaco Inc. of the United States reinitiated petroleum exploration activities in late 1999. Crude oil reserves were officially reported to be 210 million barrels, and natural gas reserves are estimated to be 122 billion cubic meters (Arab Petroleum Research Center, 2000, p. 62).

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Bahrain, see the 1998 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

Reference Cited

Arab Petroleum Research Center, 2000, Bahrain, *in* Arab oil and gas directory—2000: Paris, Arab Petroleum Research Center. p 58-72.

Major Sources of Information

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TABLE 1
BAHRAIN: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1995	1996	1997	1998 e/	1999 e/
Aluminum, smelter output, primary metal	450,709	461,245	489,847	499,000 3/	500,921 3/
Cement	196,568	192,000	171,854	230,422 r/	230,000
Gas, natural:					
Gross million cubic meters	12,538	10,210	10,625 r/	11,120 r/	11,470 3/
Dry do.	7,205	6,950 e/	7,000 r/ e/	7,400 r/	7,600
Methanol	427,350	384,558	447,969	450,000	450,000
Natural gas plant liquids:					
Propane thousand 42-gallon barrels	1,375	1,272	1,213	1,210	1,300
Butane do.	1,163	1,087	1,048	1,050	1,100
Naphtha do.	1,848	1,784	1,716	1,700	1,900
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia	357,504	322,500 r/	355,900 r/	335,900 3/	350,000
Petroleum:					
Crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	14,468	14,124	14,159	13,750 r/	13,670 3/
Refinery products:					
Gasoline do.	7,766	8,134 r/ 3/	7,377 3/	9,000 r/	9,000
Jet fuel do.	6,219	6,200 r/ 3/	6,500 r/	6,500 r/	6,500
Kerosene do.	11,327	11,300 r/ 3/	17,501 r/ 3/	12,000 r/	12,000
Distillate fuel oil do.	31,027	31,050 r/ 3/	19,188 3/	28,000 r/	28,000
Residual fuel oil do.	20,807	20,800 r/ 3/	20,800 r/ e/	20,800 r/	20,900
Other do.	14,728	14,730 r/ 3/	20,000 r/ e/	20,000 r/	20,000
Total do.	91,874	92,214 r/ 3/	91,400 r/ 3/	96,300	96,400
Sulfur	55,390	74,282	66,334	66,500	66,500

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through September 8, 2000.

2/ In addition, iron ore was pelleted and exported for use by direct reduction plants. Pellets were produced from imported iron ore. Production—1995, 2.94 million metric tons; 1996, 2.9 million metric tons; 1997, 3.23 million metric tons; 1998, 1.9 million metric tons; 1999, 2.7 million metric tons.

3/ Reported figure.