



2006 Minerals Yearbook

INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

COMOROS, MAURITIUS, REUNION, AND SEYCHELLES

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COMOROS

The Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros is located on three main islands in the Mozambique Channel. In 2006, the mineral industry of Comoros continued to be limited to the production of such construction materials as clay, sand and gravel, and crushed stone for local consumption. Mineral production data continued to be unavailable. Comoros did not play a significant role in the world's production or consumption of minerals.

The demand for cement, steel, and petroleum products was met through imports. In 2005 (the latest year for which data were available), imports of petroleum products accounted for 12% of total imports; cement, 8%; and iron and steel, nearly 4%. Imports of cement amounted to 55,867 metric tons (t); petroleum products, 20,487 t; and iron and steel, 3,678 t (International Monetary Fund, 2006, p. 56).

Reference Cited

International Monetary Fund, 2006, Union of the Comoros—Selected issues and statistical appendix: Washington, DC, International Monetary Fund, October 30, 65 p.

MAURITIUS

The Republic of Mauritius is located about 1,000 kilometers (km) east of Madagascar. In 2006, Mauritius produced basalt for construction, fertilizers, lime from coral, semimanufactured steel, and solar-evaporated sea salt. Local companies also cut imported diamond. Mauritius did not play a significant role in the world's production or consumption of minerals.

Imports of mineral fuels accounted for 17% of total imports; iron and steel, 2%; and cement, 1%. In March 2006, concerns about import reliance and rising petroleum prices led the Government to sign an agreement with ONGC Videsh Ltd. of India for offshore petroleum exploration (Reuters Ltd., 2006; Mauritius Central Statistics Office, 2007, p. 18-19).

Production

In 2006, the production of sand increased by 52%; semimanufactured steel, by 2%; and fertilizers, by 1%. The reported value of sand production amounted to about \$1 million (M.V.D. Domun, Principal Research and Development Officer, Agricultural Information Division, Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries, written commun., August 17, 2007).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Aggregates were produced by Gamma Civic Ltd. and United Basalt Products Ltd.; fertilizers, by Mauritius Chemical and Fertilizer Industry Ltd.; salt, by Mont Calme Ltd.; and semimanufactured steel, by Consolidated Steel Ltd. These companies were privately owned.

References Cited

Mauritius Central Statistics Office, 2007, External trade—1st quarter 2007: Port Louis, Mauritius, Mauritius Central Statistics Office, 27 p.
Reuters Ltd., 2006, India to help Mauritius hunt oil, gas reserves: Reuters Ltd., March 13, 2 p.

REUNION

Reunion, which is an overseas department of France, is located about 650 km east of Madagascar. Production of mineral commodities represented only a small part of the economy of Reunion, although little quantitative information was available. Aggregates, cement, and seacoast coral continued to meet local construction needs. Reunion was not a globally significant mineral producer or consumer.

Production

Holcim (Reunion) S.A. produced an estimated 400,000 t of cement by grinding imported clinker. The company also produced 1.3 million metric tons of aggregates from plants at Bras Panon and Saint-Joseph.

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Holcim (Reunion) S.A. was the most significant producer of mineral products in Reunion. It was privately owned.

SEYCHELLES

The Republic of Seychelles is a group of 40 granitic and 50 or more coralline islands that is located northeast of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. The country's mineral industry consisted mostly of production of such construction materials as clay, coral, sand, and stone. Seychelles was not a globally significant mineral producer or consumer. In 2006, imports of mineral fuels accounted for about 27% of the value of total imports (Central Bank of Seychelles, 2007, p. 45).

Production

Seychelles was estimated to produce about 210,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of gravel and crushed stone, 93,000 t/yr of granite, and 8,100 t/yr of sand.

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Civil Construction Company Ltd., Gondwana Granite Ltd., and United Concrete Products (Seychelles) Ltd. produced construction materials. These companies were privately owned.

Reference Cited

Central Bank of Seychelles, 2007, Annual report 2006: Victoria, Seychelles, Central Bank of Seychelles, 105 p.

TABLE 1
MAURITIUS, REUNION, AND SEYCHELLES: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity	2002	2003	2004 ^e	2005 ^e	2006 ^e
MAURITIUS²					
Fertilizers	83,000 ^r	89,380 ^r	89,400 ³	85,000 ^{r,3}	86,000 ³
Salt, marine	7,000	7,200	7,000 ^{r,3}	7,900 ³	8,000
Sand	300,000 ^{r,e}	60,000 ^{r,e}	60,000 ^r	60,135 ^{r,3}	91,422 ³
Steel, semimanufactures	51,400 ^r	58,700	59,000 ^{r,3}	60,500 ^{r,3}	62,000 ³
REUNION^{e,4}					
Aggregates	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
Cement	380,000	380,000	380,000	380,000	400,000
SEYCHELLES					
Dimension stone, granite	97,576	92,120	93,000	93,000	93,000
Gravel and crushed stone	239,746	212,926	210,000 ^r	210,000 ^r	210,000
Sand ^e	8,100 ^r	8,100 ^r	8,100 ^r	8,100 ^r	8,100

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through September 19, 2007.

²In addition to the commodities listed, asphalt, basalt, and lime are also known to be produced, but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Reported figure.

⁴In addition to the commodities listed, coral and volcanic rock are also known to be produced, but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2
MAURITIUS, REUNION, AND SEYCHELLES: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2006

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity	Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
MAURITIUS			
Aggregates	United Basalt Products Ltd.	La Mecque	660,000. ^e
Do.	Gamma Civic Ltd.	Beau Bassin and Solitude	NA.
Fertilizers	Mauritius Chemical and Fertilizer Industry Ltd.	Port Louis	100,000.
Salt	Mont Calme Ltd.	Tamarin	NA.
Steel	Consolidated Steel Ltd.	Port Louis	85,000 rebar.
REUNION			
Aggregates	Holcim (Reunion) S.A.	Bras Panon and Saint-Joseph	1,300,000. ^e
Cement	do.	Le Port	400,000.
SEYCHELLES			
Granite	Gondwana Granite Ltd.	Victoria	NA.
Gravel and crushed stone	United Concrete Products (Seychelles) Ltd.	Anse des Genets	150,000. ^e
Do.	Civil Construction Company Ltd.	Brilliant	97,000. ^e

^eEstimated. NA Not available.