

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

ALGERIA

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Petroleum and natural gas dominated Algeria's mineral sector and accounted for more than 90% of export revenues (Arab Petroleum Research Center, 2000). Production of metals and industrial minerals was modest. Although a number of exploitable mineral deposits have been identified by the Office de la Recherche Géologique et Minière, they are located in remote areas that lack infrastructure. Several fertilizer plants and petrochemical projects, which were based on readily available indigenous natural gas, were projected to start up in the next 5 years.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports were directed principally to Europe and the United States. Historically, Algeria has been the United States' major source of LNG imports and accounted for 100% of imported LNG in 1995. In recent years, LNG cargoes from Australia, Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Arab Emirates have begun to supplement LNG imported from Algeria. Algeria's share of the United States' imported LNG market dropped to 46% in 1999 compared with 80% in 1998, 84% in 1997, and 88% in 1996 (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2000).

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

References Cited

- Arab Petroleum Research Center, 2000, Algeria, *in* Arab oil & gas directory: Paris, Arab Petroleum Research Center, p. 56.
U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2000, Natural gas monthly—Table 5: U.S. Energy Information Administration, November, p. 14-15.

Major Sources of Information

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 3/ 4/	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 e/
METALS					
Cadmium, refined e/	75	75	75	75	75
Iron and steel:					
Iron ore, gross weight thousand tons	2,200	2,245	1,637	1,783	1,336 5/
Metal:					
Pig iron e/ do.	940 5/	800	700	700	500
Steel, crude do.	827	620	427	400 e/	400
Lead:					
Concentrate, Pb content	1,383	1,016	845	730	1,215 5/
Metal, refined e/	8,000	8,600 r/	8,000 r/	7,000	7,000
Mercury kilograms	292,000	367,800	447,034	223,965	240,327 5/
Silver e/ do.	2,000	2,000	1,600	1,500	1,400
Zinc:					
Concentrate, Zn content	7,174	5,912	3,690	4,555	9,808
Metal, smelter output e/	30,000 5/	30,000 r/	29,300 r/	31,000 r/	34,000
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Barite, crude	29,838	31,348	39,140	37,006	50,510 5/
Cement, hydraulic	6,200	6,500	7,000	7,500	7,500
Clays:					
Bentonite	17,088	17,200	17,657	15,655	15,491 5/
Fuller's earth	4,500	4,500 e/	3,960	3,942	2,489 5/
Kaolin	24,068	25,000 e/	18,533	13,640	16,833 5/
Diatomite	3,700	3,700 e/	2,332	2,133	2,563 5/
Feldspar e/	7,000 5/	7,000	7,000	7,000	2,820 5/
Gypsum e/ 6/ thousand tons	250 5/	250	275 r/	275 r/	275
Helium, liquid e/ million cubic meters	10 5/	15	15	16	16 5/
Lime, hydraulic e/	62,000	62,000	65,000 r/	65,000 r/	65,000
Marble	700,000 e/	700,000 e/	702,000	732,000	665,000
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia 7/	176,100	149,900	379,500 r/	350,200	455,200 5/
Phosphate rock:					
Gross weight thousand tons	1,596	1,051	1,063	1,155	1,096 5/
P ₂ O ₅ content do.	500	320	330 e/	358 e/	340
Salt, brine and sea salt	178,000 e/	178,000 e/	137,317	172,025	163,748 5/
Strontium minerals, celestite, gross weight e/	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400
Sulfur, elemental e/	20,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	25,000
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Gas, natural:					
Gross million cubic meters	114,779	143,100	125,012	125,971	128,800 5/
Dry 8/ do.	58,100	62,300	97,458	96,873	99,000
Natural gas plant liquids thousand 42-gallon barrels	53,000	53,000	56,575	56,575	89,320 5/
Petroleum:					
Crude including condensate do.	438,730	453,300	466,105	454,750	438,840 5/
Refinery products:					
Liquefied petroleum gas do.	10,000	60,000	75,539	86,048	6,191 5/
Gasoline do.	21,900	20,000	17,313	17,836	20,000
Naphtha do.	31,000	31,000	33,233	31,688	33,000
Kerosene e/ do.	8,030 5/	8,100	8,000	8,000	8,000
Distillate fuel oil do.	51,976	50,000	48,661	46,245	55,000
Lubricants do.	850	850 e/	686	728	776 5/
Residual fuel oil do.	36,646	36,800	37,002	33,753	38,000
Other e/ do.	3,500	3,500	2,500	2,000	2,100
Total do.	164,000 r/	210,000 r/ e/	223,000 r/ e/	226,000 r/ e/	163,000

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through November 1, 2000.

2/ Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ In addition to the commodities listed, secondary aluminum, secondary lead, and secondary copper may be produced in small quantities, and crude materials are produced for local consumption, but output is not reported, and available information is inadequate to make estimates of production levels.

4/ In addition to the commodities listed, about 700 metric tons per year of caustic soda had been estimated to be produced.

5/ Reported figure.

6/ Includes about 50,000 metric tons per year of plaster.

7/ Additional nitrogen was produced by Helios, the helium liquids production company. In 1999, Helios produced more than 68,000 42-gallon barrels of liquid nitrogen and 14 million cubic meters of gaseous nitrogen.

8/ Excludes gas used in reinjection, flaring, venting, transmission losses, and natural gas liquids extraction.