



2005 Minerals Yearbook

SYRIA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF SYRIA

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The Middle Eastern nation of Syria was a producer of crude petroleum, dimension stone, gypsum, natural gas, phosphate rock, salt, sand and gravel, silica sand, and sulfur. Other commodities produced in Syria included cement, fertilizers, glass, phosphoric acid, refined petroleum products, steel, and sulfuric acid.

The state-owned General Company for Iron and Steel Products and five privately owned steel plants produced semimanufactured steel. In May 2005, Hares Group Holding GmbH signed an agreement with the Government to increase the billet capacity of the General Company for Iron and Steel Products to 435,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) from 60,000 t/yr, and the rebar capacity, to 410,000 t/yr from 78,000 t/yr. Privately owned JoudCo Steel produced 105,000 metric tons (t) of semimanufactured steel in 2005 compared with 99,000 t in 2004. The company planned to increase its output to 120,000 t in 2006 (Arab Iron and Steel Union, 2005^{§1}; 2006[§]).

The state-owned General Organization for Cement and Building Materials (GOCBM) and Military Housing Cement Group produced an estimated 4.7 million metric tons (Mt) of cement in 2005 compared with 4.76 Mt in 2004 and 4.82 Mt in 2003 (table 1). Cement imports from Lebanon increased because of stagnation in domestic cement production and higher demand. GOCBM planned to increase the national cement production capacity to between 8.5 million metric tons per year (Mt/yr) and 8.9 Mt/yr. The company planned to lease its plants to private investors for a period of 15 years. Ehdasse Sanat Corp. of Iran was building a new cement plant in Hama with a capacity of 1 Mt/yr; this project was expected to be completed by early 2007. In September 2005, Sinohydro Corp. of China signed an agreement with privately owned Farzat Company of Syria to build a cement plant near Damascus with a capacity of 1.8 Mt/yr (Middle East Economic Digest, 2003; Canada-Arab Business Council, 2005; Iran Daily, 2005).

The state-owned General Company for Phosphates and Mines (GECOPHAM) produced phosphate rock at the Alsharqia and the Kneifis Mines. In 2005, production increased to 3.85 Mt from 2.88 Mt in 2004 because Alsharqia's capacity was increased to 3.05 Mt/yr from 1.85 Mt/yr. Between 600,000 and 700,000 t/yr of GECOPHAM's output was consumed domestically in the manufacture of phosphate fertilizers and phosphoric acid; the remainder was exported (General Company for Phosphates and Mines, undated[§]).

Syria's natural gas production amounted to about 9.7 billion cubic meters in 2004 and 2005; the Government planned to increase production to 12.8 billion cubic meters. The state-

owned Syrian Petroleum Company (SPC) planned to develop 15 new gasfields in the Palmyra region and two new gas-processing plants. The plant near Homs would have a capacity of 2.2 billion cubic meters per year, and the plant at al-Thawra, 1.1 billion cubic meters per year. The project was expected to start commercial production in 2007 (Dar al-Fajr Group, 2006).

Syria was expected to start exporting natural gas to Lebanon by May 2005 as part of the Arab Gasline project. In the first year of the project, exports were expected to be about 550 million cubic meters. Exports would rise gradually to nearly 1.1 billion cubic meters per year, and in a subsequent phase of the project, exports could rise to 2.2 billion cubic meters per year. In June 2005, the Government of Syria announced that operations were suspended indefinitely because of technical problems (Arab Petroleum Research Center, 2004; Daily Star, 2005; Rasmussen, 2005).

At the end of 2005, Syria's reserves of crude petroleum amounted to 3 billion barrels. Production of crude petroleum declined to 469,000 barrels per day (bbl/d) in 2005 from 529,000 bbl/d in 2004 and 562,000 bbl/d in 2003. The al-Furat Petroleum Company (AFPC) was Syria's leading producer of crude petroleum; AFPC and Deir ez-Zor Petroleum Company produced light crude. About one-half of Syria's crude petroleum output was refined domestically; the remainder was exported (BP plc, 2005, p. 6, 9).

Outlook

Syria's production of crude petroleum has declined in recent years and is likely to continue to decrease in the near future because of a lack of new discoveries and investment. Production of natural gas is expected to increase in response to likely increases in domestic demand. The expansion of the construction sector is likely to lead to increased cement and steel production.

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¹References that include a section mark (§) are found in the Internet References Cited section.

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TABLE 1
SYRIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		2001 ^e	2002	2003	2004	2005 ^e
Cement, hydraulic	thousand metric tons	5,005 ^{r,2}	4,679 ^r	4,824 ^r	4,757 ^r	4,700
Gas, natural:						
Gross ^c	million cubic meters	7,700 ^r	9,300 ^r	9,401 ^{r,2}	9,700 ^r	9,700
Dry	do.	5,590 ^{r,2}	6,800 ^r	6,850 ^r	7,100 ^r	7,100
Gypsum		474,004 ^{r,2}	350,088 ^r	376,715 ^r	431,561 ^r	440,000
Natural gas liquids:						
Propane	thousand 42-gallon barrels	250 ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	--
Butane	do.	800 ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	--
Pentanes	do.	20 ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	--
Total	do.	1,070 ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	--
Nitrogen:						
N content of ammonia		138,400 ²	142,800	161,100	115,000 ^r	120,000
N content of urea		97,700 ²	88,500	90,700	91,000 ^e	91,000
Petroleum:						
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	212,065 ^{r,2}	198,925 ^r	205,130 ^r	193,085 ^r	171,185 ²
Refinery products:						
Liquefied petroleum gas	do.	2,500 ^r	3,399 ^r	3,318 ^r	3,318 ^r	3,300
Gasoline	do.	10,000 ^r	11,959 ^r	10,739 ^r	11,413 ^r	11,000
Naphtha	do.	4,600 ^r	4,842 ^r	5,812 ^r	7,028 ^r	7,100
Jet fuel	do.	1,500	1,491 ^r	1,618 ^r	1,943 ^r	2,000
Kerosene	do.	600 ^r	495 ^r	301 ^r	448 ^r	450
Distillate fuel oil	do.	32,000 ^r	31,093 ^r	29,139 ^r	30,758 ^r	31,000
Residual fuel oil	do.	34,000 ^r	39,667 ^r	31,921 ^r	30,210 ^r	30,000
Asphalt	do.	2,500 ^r	2,800 ^r	2,500 ^r	2,500 ^r	2,500
Other	do.	900 ^r	950 ^r	850 ^r	900 ^r	900
Total	do.	88,600 ^r	96,700 ^r	86,200 ^r	88,500 ^r	88,300
Phosphate:						
Phosphate rock, mine output:						
Gross weight	thousand metric tons	2,043 ²	2,483	2,414	2,883	3,850 ²
P ₂ O ₅ content	do.	613 ²	770 ^r	750 ^r	890 ^r	1,190
P ₂ O ₅ equivalent:						
Phosphatic fertilizers		69,000 ²	123,000	91,000	127,000	130,000
Phosphoric acid		57,000 ²	102,000	73,000	97,000	100,000
Salt		182,073 ^{r,2}	145,018 ^r	128,265 ^r	141,445 ^r	140,000
Steel:						
Crude		70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
Semimanufactured		60,000	400,000	600,000	800,000	800,000
Stone: ^e						
Dolomite, refractory grade	thousand metric tons	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Gravel and crushed rock	do.	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Marble blocks	do.	347 ²	340 ²	340	340	340
Sand, construction	thousand cubic meters	450	450	450	450	450
Sand, industrial	thousand metric tons	850	850	850	850	850
Volcanic tuff	do.	650	650	650	650	650
Sulfur						
Byproduct of petroleum and natural gas ^e		16,000	19,000 ^r	19,000 ^r	19,000 ^r	19,000
Sulfuric acid:						
Gross weight		239,000 ²	344,000	250,000	362,000	360,000
S content		78,000 ²	112,000	82,000	118,000	117,000

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through November 30, 2006.

²Reported figure.

TABLE 2
SYRIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2005

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Cement		Tartous Company for Cement and Building Materials ¹	Tartous	1,802.
Do.		al-Chaba Cement and Building Materials ¹	Aleppo	923.
Do.		Arabian Cement Co. for Cement ¹	do.	898.
Do.		Adra Co. for Cement and Building ¹	Adra	845.
Do.		Syrian Co. for Manufacturing Cement ¹	Hama	432.
Do.		Rastan Co. for Cement and Building Materials ¹	Rastan	131.
Do.		Military Housing Cement Group (Government, 100%)	Musselemieh	336.
Natural gas	million cubic meters	ConocoPhillips Company	Processing plant at Deir ez-Zor	4,750.
Do.	do.	al-Furat Petroleum Company (Syrian Petroleum Company, 50%; Deminex GmbH, 18.8%; Pecten Syria Petroleum, 15.6%; Royal Dutch/Shell, 15.6%)	Processing plant at Omar	2,400.
Do.	do.	Syrian Petroleum Company (Government, 100%)	Processing plant at Palmyra	2,200.
Do.	do.	do.	Processing plant at Jebissa	1,060.
Do.	do.	do.	Processing plant at Suwaidiyah	240.
Nitrogen:				
Ammonia and urea ²		General Fertilizers Company (subsidiary of General Organization for Chemical Industries)	Homs	256 ammonia; 137 urea.
Fertilizers		do.	do.	109.
Petroleum:				
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	al-Furat Petroleum Company	al-Thayyem	20,000.
Do.	do.	do.	al-Izba	18,300.
Do.	do.	do.	Omar/Omar North	14,600.
Do.	do.	do.	Maleh/Azraq	11,000.
Do.	do.	do.	Sijan	11,000.
Do.	do.	do.	Jarnof/Saban	9,100.
Do.	do.	do.	al-Ward	7,300.
Do.	do.	do.	Tanak	6,600.
Do.	do.	Syrian Petroleum Company	Suwaidiyah, Jebissa, and Karatchok	45,600.
Do.	do.	Deir-ez Zor Petroleum Company (Syrian Petroleum Company, 50%, and Total S.A., 50%)	Qahar	10,200.
Do.	do.	do.	Jafra	4,700.
Do.	do.	do.	al-Mazraa and Attala North	3,700.
Do.	do.	al-Khabur Petroleum Co. (Syrian Petroleum Company, 50%)	Kishma	5,800.
Do.	do.	Tanganyika Oil Co.	Tishreen	2,190.
Refined:	do.	Banias Refinery Company (Government, 100%)	Banias	49,300.
Do.	do.	Homs Refinery Company (Government, 100%)	Homs	39,100.
Phosphate:				
Phosphate rock		General Company for Phosphate and Mines (Government, 100%)	Alsharqia (A and B Mines)	3,050.
Do.		do.	Kneifis	800.
Phosphatic fertilizers		General Fertilizers Company	Homs	450.
Phosphoric acid		do.	do.	165.
Salt		General Company for Phosphate and Mines	Deir al-Zour	72.
Steel:				
Billet		General Company for Iron and Steel Products (Government, 100%)	Hama	60.
Rolled		Merri Family	Tartous	300.
Do.		Arab Steel Co.	Lattakia	250.
Do.		JoudCo Steel	do.	150.
Do.		Middle East Steel Industries	Yabroud	140.
Do.		General Company for Iron and Steel Products	Hama	78.
Sulfur	metric tons	Homs Refinery Co.	Homs	14,600.
Do.	do.	do.	Processing plant at Suwaidiyah	7,410.
Do.	do.	Syrian Petroleum Company	Processing plant at Jebissa	7,300.
Sulfuric acid		General Fertilizers Company	Homs	560.

NA Not available.

¹Subsidiary of General Organization for Cement and Building Materials, which is 100% Government owned.