

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF MOLDOVA

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Moldova has a small mineral industry. The mineral industry was primarily engaged in the mining and production of industrial minerals and products, including cement, dimension stone, gypsum, limestone, and sand and gravel. Moldova also has a steel minimill in Ribnita (formerly Rybnitsa) with the capacity to produce 800,000 metric tons per year of crude steel. Moldova had been receiving more than 90% of its industrial raw materials and more than 98% of its mineral fuels from Russia.

The conflict in the separatist region called Transnistria has complicated the country's transition to a market economy. Transnistria, despite its small size (about 12% of the territory and 17% of the population of the country), is an economically important region, having accounted before the dissolution of the Soviet Union for more than one-fourth of the Moldovan republic's gross domestic product and 35% of its total industrial

output (Ministry of Economy and Reforms, Moldovan industry trends, accessed March 1, 1999 at URL <http://www.moldova.md/DEPART/DEPSTAT/1996/EN/18.htm>). Moldova's major industrial facility, the minimill in Ribnita, is in the Transnistria region.

In the country's economic statistical reporting, output from Transnistria is no longer accrued in the national accounts. In the production table for this report, which was derived from Moldovan reporting, data from the Transnistria region are not included. However, steel production data, which were derived from other sources, does include the minimill.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Moldova, see the 1997 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Europe and Central Eurasia.

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Cement	40,000 r/	50,000	40,000	121,800	74,000
Gypsum	14,600 r/	13,600	12,700	14,400	19,100
Lime	15,900	10,800	18,800	9,900 r/	16,800
Peat	646,500	454,700	462,700	475,000 e/	475,000 e/
Sand and gravel	75,553	151,073	25,753	30,000 e/	22,000 e/
Steel, crude	633,000 r/	663,000	630,000	811,000	718,000

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes estimates and data based on information available through December 15, 1999.

2/ Data, with the exception of crude steel data, exclude production from the area of Transnistria.