

# 2016 Minerals Yearbook

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## SYRIA

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF SYRIA

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Before 2011, the economy of Syria was based largely on petroleum and phosphate rock exports. Syria's output and exports of petroleum and phosphate rock were interrupted from 2011 through 2016 by the ongoing armed conflict in the country (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2018). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Syria is provided by the law No. 26 of 2009 and the petroleum law Nos. 14 and 15 of 2009. The country produced modest quantities of cement, crude petroleum, crude steel, marble, natural gas, refined petroleum products, salt, and volcanic tuff for domestic consumption. Data on mineral production are in table 1. Table 2 is a list of

major mineral industry facilities. More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Syria can be found in previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—Africa and the Middle East, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/africa-and-middle-east>.

## Reference Cited

U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2018, Syria, in *The world factbook*: U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, January 17. (Accessed January 24, 2018, at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sy.html>.)

TABLE 1  
SYRIA: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>METALS</b>					
Iron and steel:					
Raw steel	10	10	5	5	5
Manufactured steel <sup>2</sup>	130	130	130	130	130
<b>INDUSTRIAL MINERALS</b>					
Asphalt, natural crude	13	10	-- <sup>r</sup>	--	--
Cement, hydraulic	6,000	4,000	3,800	4,000	2,000
Gypsum	328	300	181	150	150
Nitrogen, N content:					
Ammonia	50	50	50	--	--
Urea	61	60	50	--	--
Phosphate rock:					
Mine output, gross weight	1,500 <sup>r</sup>	1,000	1,200 <sup>r</sup>	500	--
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> content	450 <sup>r</sup>	300	360 <sup>r</sup>	170	--
Phosphoric acid	50	50	50	--	--
Phosphate fertilizer	85	70	70	--	--
Pumice and related materials, volcanic tuff	485	300	250 <sup>r</sup>	200	200
Salt	34	30	30	20	25
Stone, sand, and gravel:					
Sand, unspecified	900 <sup>r</sup>	1,100	700 <sup>r</sup>	600	600
Stone, crushed:					
Dolomite, refractory grade <sup>3</sup>	21,200	9,000 <sup>r</sup>	2,500 <sup>r</sup>	2,100 <sup>r</sup>	2,000
Gravel, including crushed rock <sup>4</sup>	300	500 <sup>r</sup>	200 <sup>r</sup>	200	200
Marble materials <sup>5</sup>	80	80	90 <sup>r</sup>	90	90
Stone, dimension, marble, block <sup>5</sup>	9 <sup>r</sup>	8	7	7	8
Sulfur compounds, sulfuric acid:					
Gross weight	40	40	20	-- <sup>r</sup>	--
S content	13	13	7	-- <sup>r</sup>	--

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1—Continued  
SYRIA: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS</b>					
Natural gas:					
Gross million cubic meters	6,000	5,300 <sup>r</sup>	4,900 <sup>r</sup>	4,300 <sup>r</sup>	3,900
Marketed do.	5,800	5,300 <sup>r</sup>	4,900 <sup>r</sup>	4,300	3,900
Natural gas liquids thousand 42-gallon barrels	1,900	330	330	330	330
Petroleum:					
Crude do.	62,100 <sup>r</sup>	11,300 <sup>r</sup>	3,700 <sup>r</sup>	3,500 <sup>r</sup>	2,900
Refinery production:					
Distillate fuel oil do.	19,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Gasoline do.	6,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Kerosene, including jet fuel do.	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Liquefied petroleum gas do.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Residual fuel oil do.	23,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Other do.	1,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Total do.	52,000 <sup>r</sup>	41,000 <sup>r</sup>	41,000 <sup>r</sup>	41,000 <sup>r</sup>	41,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through January 9, 2018. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Totals and estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Mostly from imported raw and semimanufactured steel.

<sup>3</sup>Production for all years was converted from cubic meters by multiplying by a factor of 1.48.

<sup>4</sup>Production for all years was converted from cubic meters by multiplying by a factor of 1.66.

<sup>5</sup>Production for all years was converted from square meters to cubic meters by multiplying by a factor of 0.03 and to metric tons by multiplying by a factor of 2.56.

TABLE 2  
SYRIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2016

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Asphalt, natural crude		General Establishment of Geology and Mineral Resources (GEGMR) (Government, 100%)	Mines at Al Bishri, Dayr az Zawr, and Kafriyah, Latakia <sup>1</sup>	100
Cement, hydraulic		Adra Cement and Building Materials Co. (Altoun Group)	Plant at Adra	1,000
Do.		Al Badia Cement Co. J.S.C. (Al Muhaidib Holding Co., 29.5%; Syrinvest Holding B.V., 26%; public stockholders, 15%; Menaf S.A.S., 12%; Ziad Al Zaim, 7.5%; Al Fozan Holding Co., 5%)	Plant at Abu ash Shamat	1,600
Do.		Al-Hasakeh Cement L.L.C. (Guris Holdings, 100%)	Clinker mill at Yaroubiyeh, Al-Hasakah	850
Do.		Al-Shahaba Cement and Building Materials Co.	Plant <sup>1</sup> at Sheikh Said, Aleppo	740
Do.		do.	Plant at Maslamieh, Aleppo	220
Do.		Arabian Cement Co.	do.	876
Do.		Guris Raqqa Cement Co. (Guris Holdings, 100%)	Clinker mill <sup>1</sup> at Ar Raqqa	300
Do.		Lafarge Cement Syria (Lafarge S.A., 98.67%, and Mas Economic Group S.A., 1.33%)	Plant at Jalabiya, <sup>1</sup> Aleppo	3,000
Do.		Military Housing Cement Group (Government, 100%)	Plant at Maslamieh, Aleppo	336
Do.		Rastan Cement and Building Materials Co. <sup>2</sup>	Plant at Rastan	1,131
Do.		The Syrian Company for Cement and Building Materials <sup>2</sup>	Plant at Hamah	1,500
Do.		Tartus Company for Manufacturing of Cement and Building Materials (Pharaon Group)	Tartus	1,800
Gypsum		General Establishment of Geology and Mineral Resources (GEGMR) (Government, 100%)	Mines at Ar Raqqa, <sup>1</sup> Jayrud, and Latakia	573
Natural gas	million cubic meters	Al Furat Petroleum Co. [General Petroleum Corp. (GPC), 100%]	Processing plant <sup>1</sup> at Omar field	2,400
Do.	do.	Ebla Petroleum Co. [General Petroleum Corp. (GPC), 50%]	Ash Shaer <sup>1</sup> and Cherrif gasfields	2,500
Do.	do.	Syrian Gas Co. (Government, 100%)	Arak gasfield	13,770
Do.	do.	do.	Dubayat gasfield	14,872
Do.	do.	do.	Processing plant at Dayr az Zawr	4,750
Do.	do.	do.	Processing plant at Palmyra	2,200
Do.	do.	do.	Processing plant at Jebissa	1,060
Do.	do.	do.	Processing plant at Suwaydiyah	240
Do.	do.	do.	Abu Rabah, Al -Fayed north, Qumqum, Bilas, Al-Rasm, and Abu Al Dhuhr gasfields	1,825
Nitrogen:				
Ammonia <sup>3</sup>		General Fertilizers Co. (Government, 100%)	Plant at Homs <sup>1</sup>	300
Urea		do.	do.	330
Petroleum: <sup>4</sup>				
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Al Bou Kamal Petroleum Co. [General Petroleum Corp. (GPC), 100%]	Al Kishima oilfield	NA
Do.	do.	Al-Furat Petroleum Co. [General Petroleum Corp. (GPC), 100%]	Al Izba, Al Ward, Galban, Jarnof-Saban, Maleh-Azraq, Omar-Omar North, Sijan, Tanak, and Thayyam fields	NA
Do.	do.	Deir Ezzor Petroleum Co. [General Petroleum Corp. (GPC), 100%]	al-Mazraa, Attala North Jafra, Qahar, Tabiyeh fields	NA
Do.	do.	Dijla Petroleum Co. [General Petroleum Corp. (GPC), 100%]	Khurbet East field	NA
Do.	do.	Oudeh Petroleum Co. [General Petroleum Corp. (GPC), 100%]	Oudeh field	NA
Do.	do.	Syria-Sino Al Kawkab Oil Co. [General Petroleum Corp. (GPC), 100%]	Gbeibe oilfield	NA
Do.	do.	Syrian Petroleum Co. (Government, 100%)	Jebissa, Karatchok, Rumailan, and Suwaydiyah fields	NA
Refined:	do.	Banias Refinery Co. (Government, 100%)	Refinery at Banias	48,545
Do.	do.	Homs Refinery Co. (Government, 100%)	Refinery at Homs	43,800

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued  
SYRIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2016

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Phosphate rock	General Company for Phosphate and Mines (GECOPHAM) (Government, 100%)	Alsharqiya (A and B Mines) <sup>1</sup>	2,575
Do.	do.	Khunayfis Mines <sup>1</sup>	1,000
Phosphatic fertilizers	General Fertilizers Co. (Government, 100%)	Plant at Homs <sup>1</sup>	450
Phosphoric acid	do.	do.	100
Pumice and related materials:			
Volcanic tuff	General Establishment of Geology and Mineral Resources (GEGMR) (Government, 100%)	Quarries at Daraa, As Suwayda, Al Hasakah, and Ar Raqqa	1,000
Salt	do.	Jebseh and Palmyra brines <sup>1</sup>	120
Do.	do.	Tabni Mine, <sup>1</sup> Dayr az Zawr	100
Steel:			
Raw	General Company for Iron and Steel Products (Government, 100%)	Plant at Hamah	70
Rolled	Al Wahib Group	Plant at Tartus	100
Do.	Arabian Steel Co. (ASCO)	Plant at Jableh	300
Do.	General Company for Iron and Steel Products (Hadeed Hama) (Government, 100%)	Plant at Hamah	78
Do.	Hmisho Steel S.A.	Plant at Latakia	500
Do.	Joudco Steel Ltd.	do.	150
Do.	International Company for Steel Rolling	Plant at Hessya <sup>1</sup>	300
Do.	Middle East Steel Industries	Plant at Yabroud <sup>1</sup>	140
Do.	Orient Co.	Plant at Aleppo <sup>1</sup>	NA
Do.	Syria Steel and Iron Co. (SALB)	Plant at Adra	NA
Stone dimension, marble	do.	Quarries at Zobar, Latakia, and Sabboura	800
Sulfur	Homs Refinery Co.	Plant at Homs	40
Do.	do.	Processing plant at Suwaydyia	NA
Do.	Syrian Petroleum Co. (Government, 100%)	Processing plant at Jebissa	NA
Sulfuric acid	General Fertilizers Co. (Government, 100%)	Plant at Homs <sup>1</sup>	NA

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Production stopped in 2014.

<sup>2</sup>Subsidiary of the General Organization of Cement and Building Materials (GOCBM), which is 100% Government owned.

<sup>3</sup>Expressed in nitrogen equivalent.

<sup>4</sup>The majority of international companies had withdrawn from the country by 2012. Several natural gas and oil fields in Dayr az Zawr, Al-Hasaka, Homs, and Ar Raqqa were under the control of the Islamic State [also known as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS)] and Syrian Democratic Forces in 2015 and 2016. including Ash Shaer, Jafra, Jebissa, Maleh-Azraq, Omar, Tanank, and Thayyam. Almost all oil fields held by the Islamic State were destroyed by yearend 2015.