Moldova’s small 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. As of 1996, the sector entitled “mining of quarries and sand pits” accounted for 0.8% of Moldova’s 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 also had a steel minimill in Rybnitsa with the capacity to produce 800,000 metric tons per year of crude steel. More than 90% of the country’s industrial raw materials and more than 98% of its mineral fuels were imported from Russia.

In 1997, Moldova’s gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 1.3% compared with that of 1996. It was the first positive rate for the GDP in the last 7 years and was attributed to a particularly good year in agriculture. Since 1992, economic activity in Moldova has steadily declined because of many factors, including increasing prices for imported energy resources, upon which Moldova was almost totally dependent. Also, the conflict in the separatist region of Transnistria 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; before the disintegration of the Soviet Union, it accounted for more than one-fourth of the republic’s GDP 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 Rybnitsa, 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 tables for this report, which were derived from Moldovan reporting, post-1993 data from the Transnistria region is not included. Steel production data, which was derived from other sources, does, however, include the minimill in Transnistria.

Major Sources of Information

Ministry of Economy and Reforms
1 Piata Marii Adunari Nationale
Chisinau, 2033
Moldova
Telephone: 373-2-23-32-67
Fax: 373-2-24-40-64
Department of Foreign Economic Relations
1 Piata Marii Adunari Nationale
Chisinau, 2033
Moldova
Telephone: 373-2-23-35-18
Fax: 373-2-23-40-46
Development and Foreign Investment Agency
1 Piata Marii Adunari Nationale
Chisinau, 2033
Moldova
Telephone: 373-2-23-36-56
Fax: 373-2-23-40-46
Ministry of Industry and Trade
69 Stefan cel Marc Blvd.
Chisinau, 2001
Moldova
Telephone: 373-2-23-35-56
Fax: 373-2-22-73-46; 22-24-73
Department of Customs
65 Columna St.
Chisinau, 2001
Moldova
Telephone: 373-2-54-94-60
Fax: 373-2-26-30-61
Department of the Environment and Ecology
73 Stefan cel Mare Blvd.
Chisinau, 2001
Moldova
Telephone: 373-2-22-51-44
Fax: 373-2-23-38-06
Department of Statistics
24 Stefan cel Mare Blvd.
Chisinau, 2001
Moldova
Telephone: 373-2-22-16-14
Fax: 373-26-11-19
### TABLE 1
**MOLDOVA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/2/**

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

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<thead>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cement</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>r/</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gypsum</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>e/ r/</td>
<td>14,600</td>
<td>r/</td>
<td>13,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lime</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>e/</td>
<td>15,900</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peat</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>e/</td>
<td>646,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>454,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand and gravel</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>e/</td>
<td>75,553</td>
<td></td>
<td>151,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel, crude</td>
<td></td>
<td>604,000</td>
<td>633,000</td>
<td>r/</td>
<td>663,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

r/ Estimated.  e/ Revised.

1/ Table includes estimates and data based on information available through March 17, 1999.
2/ Beginning in 1994, data, with the exception of crude steel, exclude production from Transnistria.

### TABLE 2
**MOLDOVA: MINERAL TRADE BY COMMODITY CATEGORY 1/**

(In million lei and category as a percent of total exports and imports) 2/**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Million lei</td>
<td>% of 100%</td>
<td>Million lei</td>
<td>% of 100%</td>
<td>Million lei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrous and nonferrous metals</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>145.5</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mineral products</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>11.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearls, precious stone and metals</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Million lei</td>
<td>% of 100%</td>
<td>Million lei</td>
<td>% of 100%</td>
<td>Million lei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrous and nonferrous metals</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>152.6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>234.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral products</td>
<td>1,489.1</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>1,756.1</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>1,826.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearls, precious stones and metals</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA Not available.

1/ Data exclude trade from Transnistria.
2/ The exchange rate for the lei averaged 4.6 lei per US$1.00 in 1996 and 4.62 lei per US$1.00 in 1997.
