THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF MOLDOVA—1999

Moldova’s small mineral industry was primarily engaged in the mining and production of industrial minerals and products, which included cement, dimension stone, gypsum, limestone, and sand and gravel. The Moldova Steel Works minimill in Ribnita (formerly Rybnitsa) had the capacity to produce 800,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of crude steel (Cooke, 1999). Moldova had been receiving more than 90% of its industrial raw materials and mineral fuels from Russia (Bisnis, 1999, Commercial overview of Moldova, December 1999, accessed September 17, 2000, at URL http://www.bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/country/99moldova.htm).

The separatist movement in the region called Transnistria complicated the country’s transition to a market economy. Despite its small size (about 12% of the territory and 17% of the population of the country), Transnistria was an economically important region. Before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, it accounted for more than 25% of the Moldovan republic’s gross domestic product (GDP) and 35% of its total industrial output (Ministry of Economy and Reforms, 1999, Moldovan industry trends, accessed March 1, 1999, at URL http://www.moldova.md/DEPART/DEPSTAT/1996/EN/18.htm). The Moldova Steel Works minimill was in the Transnistria region. In 1999, the country’s GDP declined by 4%, and its industrial output, by 9% in compared with those of 1998, when these indicators also declined (2000 Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS, [undated], Main macroeconomic indicators of Moldova (in percent to previous year), accessed September 13, 2000, at URL http://www.unece.org/stats/sisstat/mol.htm).

At the beginning of 1999, the Itera Corp., which was an international firm based in Russia, bought 75% of the Moldova Steel Works for $52.5 million. Itera, which was a supplier of Russian gas to Moldova, offset $22 million of the purchase price for gas debts owed and would pay the remaining sum for the steel works in natural gas (Interfax Mining and Metals Report, 1999). In 1999, the Moldova Steel Works exported 735,000 metric tons of rolled steel worth $129 million, which was about 96% of its entire output. Exports went to Canada, Eastern and Western European countries, Middle Eastern and North African countries, and the United States (Interfax Mining and Metals Report, 2000).

Oil and gas exploration continued in 1999. In July 1995, the Moldovan Government had granted an exclusive oil and gas development concession to the U.S.-based Redeco Energy Inc., which registered its Moldovan subsidiary as Redeco Moldova. By June 1999, Redeco had completed the first phase of activity under the concession for shallow drilling on the Valeni Oilfield and the Victorovca Gasfield. The second phase of the project involved a large seismic project that was to be followed by deep test drilling to a depth between 2,500 and 3,500 meters (FM Amembassy Chisinau, July 2, 1999, 1999 investment climate statement on Moldova, accessed September 17, 2000, at URL http://www.bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/country/990707DN.HTM). Production from these fields, which is estimated to be about 100,000 t/yr of oil and 5 million cubic meters per year of natural gas, would alleviate Moldova’s energy-import dependency only slightly (Bisnis, December 1999, Commercial overview of Moldova, accessed on September 17, 2000, at URL http://www. bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/country/99moldova.htm).

References Cited


Major Sources of Information

The Western NIS Enterprise Fund (Investment Fund)
15 W. 39th St., 11th Floor
New York, NY 10018
Telephone: (212) 556-9320
Fax: (212) 556-9321

Chamber of Commerce and Industry
28 Eminescu St.
Chisinau, 277012
Moldova
Telephone: 373-(2)-22-15-52
Fax: 373-2-23-38-10

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)-23-32-67
Fax: 373-(2)-24-40-64

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
Ministry of Privatization and State
Property Administration
26 Puskin Str.
Chisinau 2012
Moldova
Telephone: 373-(2)-23-43-50
Fax: 373-(2)-23-36
Department of Customs
65 Columna Str.
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
Telephone: +373-(2)-22-16-14
Fax: +373-(2)-26-11-19
Moldova Steel Works
Industrialnaya, 1
Rybnitsa, 279700
Moldova
Telephone. (0037355) 32692, 20337
Telephone/Fax: (0037355) 42310, 20208
Internet: http://www.amp.ru
E-mail: amp97@dol.ru
### TABLE 1
MOLDOVA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cement</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>121,800</td>
<td>74,000</td>
<td>50,000 3/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gypsum</td>
<td>13,600</td>
<td>12,700</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>19,100</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lime</td>
<td>10,800</td>
<td>18,800</td>
<td>9,900</td>
<td>16,800</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peat</td>
<td>454,700</td>
<td>462,700</td>
<td>475,000 e/</td>
<td>475,000 e/</td>
<td>475,000 e/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand and gravel</td>
<td>151,073</td>
<td>25,753</td>
<td>30,000 e/</td>
<td>22,000 e/</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel, crude</td>
<td>663,000</td>
<td>630,000</td>
<td>811,000</td>
<td>718,000</td>
<td>796,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ Table includes data available through September 2000.
2/ Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.
3/ Reported figure.