



2005 Minerals Yearbook

SWAZILAND

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF SWAZILAND

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The Kingdom of Swaziland was a landlocked country bordered by South Africa on three sides and by Mozambique to the east. The country was a producer of brick clay, coal, ferrovanadium, gravel, sand, and stone. Asbestos production shut down in 2001 because of a ban on asbestos products in the European Union. In 2004, the mining and quarrying sector accounted for less than 1% of the gross domestic product (GDP). Real output in the mining sector increased by 9% in 2004 (International Monetary Fund, 2006, p. 17).

Xstrata plc of Switzerland opened a ferrovanadium plant at Maloma in 2003 with a capacity of 2,400 metric tons per year (t/yr). Production of ferrovanadium at the plant declined to 345 metric tons (t) in 2005 from 1,150 t in 2004 (Xstrata plc, 2006, p. 79).

Maloma Colliery Ltd. (Xstrata plc, 75%, and Tibiyo Taka Ngwane of Swaziland, 25%) operated the Maloma Mine and colliery plant. In 2005, coal production declined to 221,701 t from 488,314 t in 2004; the value of coal production amounted to \$7.48 million (Phumzile S. Tsabedze, Central Statistical Office, written commun., July 7, 2006). Coal not used at the ferrovanadium plant was exported to South Africa for use in Xstrata's ferrochromium plants.

In 2005, production of quarried stone increased to 566,771 cubic meters from 230,062 cubic meters in 2004. The value of stone quarried in 2005 amounted to \$2.41 million. Fortis Enterprises Ltd. produced bricks; the company was expanding its capacity to 200,000 bricks per day (Colin le Roux, Fortis Enterprises Ltd., written commun., June 29, 2005; Phumzile S. Tsabedze, Central Statistical Office, written commun., July 7, 2006).

Swaziland was dependent upon imports of petroleum products and electricity to meet its energy requirements. From 2000 to 2004, domestic production of electricity fell to 103.5 gigawatthours (GWh) from 264.7 GWh, and imports from South Africa increased to 916.8 GWh from 547.4 GWh (International Monetary Fund, 2006, p. 25).

The outlook for Swaziland's mineral industry was for little change in the near future. The low level of exploration was likely to constrain increases in production. More than 38% of the adult population was estimated to test positive for HIV/AIDS; high rates of HIV/AIDS infection were likely to constrain development of the mining sector (World Bank Group, 2005¹).

References Cited

International Monetary Fund, 2006, The Kingdom of Swaziland—Statistical appendix: Washington, DC, International Monetary Fund, March 13, 70 p.
Xstrata plc, 2006, Annual review 2005: Zug, Switzerland, Xstrata plc, 116 p.

Internet Reference Cited

World Bank Group, 2005, Data query—Swaziland, accessed June 28, 2005, via URL <http://devdata.worldbank.org/data-query>.

¹A reference that includes a section mark (§) is found in the Internet Reference Cited section.

TABLE 1
SWAZILAND: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ³	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Asbestos, chrysotile fiber	3,058 ^r	--	--	--	--
Coal, anthracite	94,431 ^r	553,422	448,664 ^r	488,314 ^r	221,701
Ferrovanadium	--	--	1,011	1,150	345
Stone, quarry products	49,941 ^r	283,175 ^r	324,129 ^r	230,062 ^r	566,771

^rEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through October 4, 2006.

²Reported data are from Central Bank of Swaziland, company reports, or the Swaziland Geological Survey and Mines Department.

³In addition to the commodities listed, modest quantities of crude construction materials (brick clay and sand and gravel), kaolin, pyrophyllite (talc), and soapstone are produced, but output is not reported quantitatively, and information is inadequate to make estimates of output.