



2007 Minerals Yearbook

INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

COMOROS, MAURITIUS, REUNION, AND SEYCHELLES

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COMOROS

The Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros is located on three main islands in the Mozambique Channel. In 2007, the mineral industry of Comoros continued to be limited to the production of such construction materials as clay, sand and gravel, and crushed stone for local consumption. Mineral production data continued to be unavailable. Comoros did not play a significant role in the world's production or consumption of minerals.

The demand for cement, steel, and petroleum products was met through imports. In 2005 (the latest year for which data were available), petroleum products accounted for 12% of total imports; cement, 8%; and iron and steel, nearly 4% (International Monetary Fund, 2006, p. 56).

Reference Cited

International Monetary Fund, 2006, Union of the Comoros—Selected issues and statistical appendix: Washington, DC, International Monetary Fund, October 30, 65 p.

MAURITIUS

The Republic of Mauritius is located about 1,000 kilometers (km) east of Madagascar. In 2007, Mauritius produced basalt for construction, fertilizers, lime from coral, semimanufactured steel, and solar-evaporated sea salt. Local companies also cut imported diamond. Mauritius did not play a significant role in the world's production or consumption of minerals. Imports of mineral fuels accounted for 18% of total imports; iron and steel, 3%; and cement, 1% (Mauritius Central Statistics Office, 2008, p. 18-19).

Production

In 2007, the production of semimanufactured steel was estimated to have decreased by 50%; sand, by 27%; and salt, by 10%. Consolidated Steel Ltd. and Desbro International Ltd. shut down their steel plants in March because of high prices for raw materials. Samlo Koyenco Steel Company Ltd. was the only remaining steel producer, and Mauritius experienced shortages of steel that delayed construction projects. Desbro resumed operations in October; Consolidated Steel remained closed at the end of 2007 (Etienne, 2007; L'Express, 2007; Permal, 2007).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Aggregates were produced by Gamma Civic Ltd. and United Basalt Products Ltd.; fertilizers, by Mauritius Chemical and Fertilizer Industry Ltd.; and salt, by Mont Calme Ltd. The mining, mineral processing, and steel companies were privately owned.

References Cited

Etienne, Pauline, 2007, Shortage of iron bars paves the road to black market: L'Express [Riche Terre, Mauritius], May 7, 1 p.
L'Express, 2007, Iron bar leader closes down: L'Express [Riche Terre, Mauritius], March 30, 1 p.
Mauritius Central Statistics Office, 2008, External trade—4th quarter 2007: Port Louis, Mauritius, Mauritius Central Statistics Office, 27 p.
Permal, Jean-Denis, 2007, Desbro redemarre ses activites: L'Express [Riche Terre, Mauritius], October 18, 1 p.

REUNION

Reunion, which is an overseas department of France, is located about 650 km east of Madagascar. Production of mineral commodities represented only a small part of the economy of Reunion, although little quantitative information was available. Aggregates, cement, and seacoast coral continued to meet local construction needs. Reunion was not a globally significant mineral producer or consumer. Cement consumption increased in 2007 because of increased road and housing construction.

Production

Holcim (Reunion) S.A. produced an estimated 400,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of cement by grinding imported clinker. The company also produced 1.3 million metric tons of aggregates from plants at Bras Panon and Saint-Joseph.

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Holcim (Reunion) S.A. was the most significant producer of mineral products in Reunion. It was privately owned.

SEYCHELLES

The Republic of Seychelles is a group of 40 granitic and 50 or more coralline islands that is located northeast of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. The country's mineral industry consisted mostly of production of such construction materials as clay, coral, sand, and stone. Seychelles was not a globally significant mineral producer or consumer.

Production

The domestic mineral industry was limited to the production of construction materials. In 2007, gravel and crushed stone output increased by nearly 9%, and granite, by 6%. PetroQuest Energy Inc. of the United States held four offshore exploration licenses for crude petroleum.

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Civil Construction Company Ltd., Gondwana Granite Ltd., and United Concrete Products (Seychelles) Ltd. produced construction materials. These companies were privately owned.

TABLE 1
MAURITIUS, REUNION, AND SEYCHELLES: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons)

Country and commodity	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
MAURITIUS²					
Fertilizers	89,380	89,400	85,000	87,300 ^r	86,000
Sand	60,000 ^e	60,000 ^e	60,135	91,422	66,850
Salt, marine	7,200	7,000	7,900	7,408 ^r	6,650
Steel, semimanufactures	58,700	59,000	60,500	62,000	31,000 ^e
REUNION^{e,3}					
Aggregates	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
Cement	380,000	380,000	380,000	400,000	400,000
SEYCHELLES					
Dimension stone, granite	768 ^r	560 ^{r,e}	350 ^{r,e}	141 ^r	149
Gravel and crushed stone	212,926	180,000 ^{r,e}	150,000 ^{r,e}	117,794 ^r	128,014
Sand ^e	8,100	8,100	8,100	8,100	8,100

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. ^rRevised.

¹Table includes data available through May 27, 2008.

²In addition to the commodities listed, asphalt, basalt, and lime are also known to be produced, but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³In addition to the commodities listed, coral and volcanic rock are also known to be produced, but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2
MAURITIUS, REUNION, AND SEYCHELLES: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2007

(Metric tons)

Country and commodity	Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
MAURITIUS			
Aggregates	United Basalt Products Ltd.	La Mecque	660,000. ^e
Do.	Gamma Civic Ltd.	Beau Bassin and Solitude	NA.
Fertilizers	Mauritius Chemical and Fertilizer Industry Ltd.	Port Louis	100,000.
Salt	Mont Calme Ltd.	Tamarin	NA.
Steel	Consolidated Steel Ltd. ¹	Port Louis	85,000 rebar.
Do.	Samlo Koyenco Steel Company Ltd.	Midlands	12,000 ^e rebar.
Do.	Desbro International Ltd.	Port Louis	NA.
REUNION			
Aggregates	Holcim (Reunion) S.A.	Bras Panon and Saint-Joseph	1,300,000. ^e
Cement	do.	Le Port	400,000.
SEYCHELLES			
Granite	Gondwana Granite Ltd.	Victoria	NA.
Gravel and crushed stone	United Concrete Products (Seychelles) Ltd.	Anse des Genets	150,000. ^e
Do.	Civil Construction Company Ltd.	Brilliant	97,000. ^e

^eEstimated. Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.

¹Shut down in 2007.