



2013 Minerals Yearbook

COMOROS, MAURITIUS, REUNION, AND SEYCHELLES

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF COMOROS, MAURITIUS, REUNION, AND SEYCHELLES

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COMOROS

Comoros consists of an archipelago of islands that is located between Madagascar and Mozambique. The real gross domestic product (GDP) of Comoros was estimated to have increased by 3.5% in 2013. Mineral commodity output in Comoros may have included small quantities of common building materials for domestic consumption. In 2013, cement was imported primarily from India and Pakistan, petroleum products from Madagascar, and steel bars from Turkey (International Monetary Fund, 2014; United Nations Statistics Division, 2014).

In 2013, a new petroleum code was promulgated, and the Government awarded its first petroleum production-sharing contracts to the joint venture of Discover Exploration Comoros B.V. (60% working interest), which was a subsidiary of Discover Exploration Ltd. of the United Kingdom, and Bahari Resources Ltd. of Kenya (40% working interest). The joint venture subsequently acquired seismic data that encompassed its three deepwater exploration blocks (A, B, and C) (Discover Exploration Ltd., 2013, p. 10).

References Cited

- Discover Exploration Ltd., 2013, Introducing Discover Exploration—Africa oil week 2013: London, United Kingdom, Discover Exploration Ltd. presentation, October, 12 p. (Accessed December 2, 2014, at http://www.discover-exploration.com/company-presentations/Discover_Exploration_Limited_-_20th_Africa_Oil_Week.pdf.)
- International Monetary Fund, 2014, Union of the Comoros—Concluding statement of the 2014 article IV mission: International Monetary Fund press release 14/97, November 4. (Accessed December 2, 2014, at <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2014/pr14497.htm>.)
- United Nations Statistics Division, 2014, United Nations commodity trade statistics database (UN Comtrade): United Nations Statistics Division database. (Accessed December 2, 2014, at <http://comtrade.un.org/data>.)

MAURITIUS

The Republic of Mauritius consists of several islands and islets that are located about 900 kilometers (km) east of central Madagascar. Real GDP was estimated to have increased by 3.2% in 2013. Construction accounted for an estimated 5.5% of the GDP, whereas mining and quarrying, which contributed about 0.3% to the GDP in 2013, was a minor factor in the economy. Mineral-related output included crushed basalt, coral sand, and solar-evaporated marine salt, and the production of lime for the domestic agriculture market and steel concrete-reinforcing bar for the construction market. Petroleum products were imported to fuel electricity-generating power stations and for transportation fuel (Statistics Mauritius, 2014, p. 10, 14).

¹Deceased.

Data on mineral production are in table 1, and information on the structure of the mineral industry is in table 2.

Reference Cited

- Statistics Mauritius, 2014, National accounts estimates (2011–2014): Port Louis, Mauritius, Statistics Mauritius, September, 22 p. (Accessed December 3, 2014, at http://statsmauritius.govmu.org/English/StatsbySubj/Documents/ei1141/NAT_Sept2014.PDF.)

REUNION

Reunion is a volcanic island located about 200 km southwest of Mauritius. Administratively, it is an overseas department of France. Mineral production represented only a very small part of the economy of Reunion; quantitative information on mineral production was not available. Aggregates and coral sand were produced on the island, primarily for local consumption needs, and cement was processed from imported clinker. All demand for metals and mineral fuels was met through imports.

SEYCHELLES

The Seychelles Archipelago is located in the Indian Ocean about 1,000 km northeast of Madagascar. The mineral industry is administered by the Ministry of Defense, Legal Affairs, Information, Youth, and Hydrocarbons and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Industry. The Mineral Act of 1962 governs mineral extraction and mining; the Removal of Sand and Gravel Act of 1982 regulates the mining of beach sand; and the Petroleum Mining Act of 1976 governs hydrocarbon exploration and production. Activity in the hydrocarbon sector is also regulated by the Seychelles Petroleum (Taxation) Act of 2008 and the Seychelles Petroleum (Taxation) (Amendment) Act of 2013. The petroleum potential of the Seychelles offshore region was promoted by the Government's PetroSeychelles Ltd.

Aggregates, clay for bricks, granite dimension stone, and salt were produced in the Seychelles. In 2013, the production of crushed granite decreased by about 13% compared with that of 2012. Small quantities of guano, which was an organic phosphate fertilizer, were mined intermittently. Data on mineral production are in table 1.

In 2013, the joint venture of East African Exploration (Seychelles) Ltd. (75% working interest), which was a subsidiary of Afren plc of the United Kingdom, and Avana Petroleum Ltd. (25% working interest), which was a subsidiary of Vanoil Energy Ltd. of Canada, had a three-dimensional seismic survey shot across its offshore petroleum exploration license areas. The Government signed an agreement with Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. to conduct additional geochemical, geologic, and geophysical surveys offshore

Seychelles. Also in 2013, WHL Energy Ltd. of Australia continued to negotiate with other international petroleum exploration companies and the Government regarding the assigning of its Seychelles petroleum exploration license to another party (Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp., 2013; WHL Energy Ltd., 2013, p. 1; Afren plc, 2014, p. 58).

Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp., 2013, Signing of joint survey agreement among JOGMEC, Ministry responsible for hydrocarbons and PetroSeychelles: Tokyo, Japan, Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. news release, October 15, 1 p. (Accessed December 4, 2014, at <http://www.jogmec.go.jp/english/news/release/content/300117921.pdf>.)
 WHL Energy Ltd., 2013, Annual report 2013: West Perth, Western Australia, Australia, WHL Energy Ltd., 80 p. (Accessed December 3, 2014, at <http://www.whlenergy.com.au/IRM/Company/ShowPage.aspx/PDFs/1537-13568542/AnnualReporttoshareholders>.)

References Cited

Afren plc, 2014, Annual report and accounts 2013: London, United Kingdom, Afren plc, 156 p. (Accessed December 4, 2014, at <http://www.afren.com/download.axd?Id=1847>.)

TABLE 1
 MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons)

Country and commodity ²	2009	2010	2011 ^e	2012 ^e	2013 ^e
MAURITIUS					
Aggregates, includes crushed basalt ^e	600,000	500,000	500,000	550,000	500,000
Fertilizers	31,014	24,326	27,000	27,000 ^f	27,000
Salt, marine	2,301	1,349	3,500	3,800	3,800
Sand	87,506	68,708	44,035 ³	40,000	40,000
Steel, rebar ^e	31,000 ³	32,000 ³	34,000	32,000	32,000
SEYCHELLES					
Aggregates					
Granite, crushed (locally known as crusher dust)	160,000	180,520	120,214 ^{r,3}	155,946 ³	136,000 ³
Other than crushed granite	150,000	156,710	101,046 ^{r,3}	123,759 ³	117,471 ³

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

¹Table includes data available through December 2, 2014.

²In addition to the commodities listed, lime also was produced in Mauritius; aggregates, cement, and sand were produced in Reunion; and clay for bricks, granite dimension stone, and salt were produced in Seychelles, but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Reported figure.

TABLE 2
 MAURITIUS, REUNION, AND SEYCHELLES: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2013

(Metric tons)

Country and commodity	Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity ^e
MAURITIUS			
Aggregates	Betonix Ltd. (Bhunjun Group)	Nouvelle France and Tour Koenig	NA
Do.	Gamma Civic Ltd.	Solitude	NA
Do.	United Basalt Products Ltd.	Near Ausailles	660,000
Fertilizers	Mauritius Chemical and Fertilizer Industry Ltd. (Harel Mallac Group)	Port Louis	100,000
Salt	Mont Calme Ltd.	Evaporation ponds at Tamarin	NA
Steel, rebar	Samlo Koyenco Steel Company Ltd.	Near Midlands	12,000
REUNION			
Cement	Holcim (Outre-Mer) S.A.S. (Holcim Ltd.)	Ibity grinding plant, Le Port	600,000
SEYCHELLES			
Granite	Gondwana Granite Ltd.	Victoria, Mahe Island	NA
Stone, crushed	United Concrete Products (Seychelles) Ltd.	Pointe La Rue, Mahe Island	150,000
Do.	Civil Construction Company Ltd.	Cap Samy, Praslin Island	97,000

^eEstimated. Do. Ditto. NA Not available.