

Mineral resources in Norway 2012

Introduction

The mineral and mining industry comprises companies involved in extraction and processing of minerals and rocks, from bedrock and/or superficial deposits. Five main groups of materials can be distinguished:

- **Industrial minerals** (e.g. calcium carbonate rock (marble and limestone), olivine, nepheline syenite, quartz and dolomite)
- **Natural and dimension stone** (e.g. larvikite, granite, marble, slate/flagstone and building stone)
- **Building materials** (sand, gravel, hard-rock aggregate, rock for ballast and clay)
- **Metallic ores** (e. g. iron, nickel, molybdenum and ilmenite-titanium)
- **Energy minerals** (e. g. coal and peat)

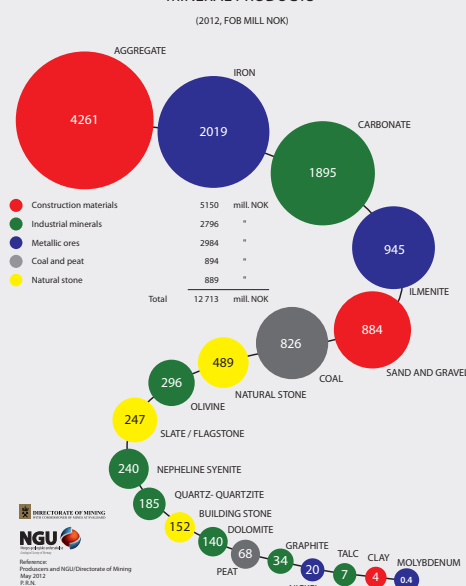
All of the above materials are essential for everyday life: modern society cannot exist without using mineral raw materials such as iron ore for production of steel, limestone for cement and paper, aggregate for road building, sand and gravel for concrete, and coal for metallurgical processes and for energy production. Per capita annual consumption of minerals and mineral products in 2012 amounted to 13 metric tonnes, which over an average lifetime, adds up to c. 1,000 tonnes/person. Production data from mineral producers were collected by the Directorate of Mining (DMF) and the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU).

General overview

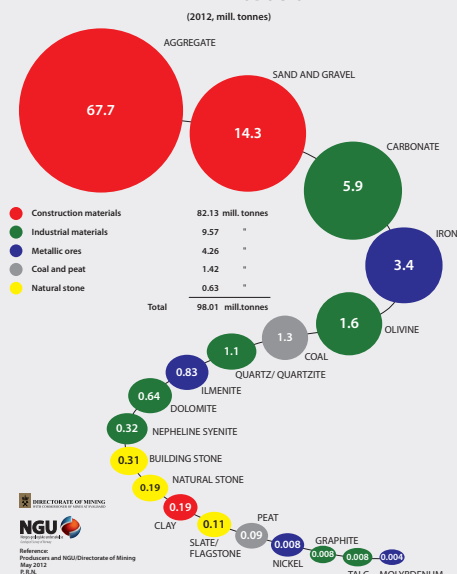
Approximately 98 million tonnes of mineral resources were extracted in Norway in 2012, representing a total value of NOK 12,7 billion. Turnover of industrial minerals was NOK 2,8 billion, natural stone NOK 889 million, metallic ores NOK 3 billion, gravel and hard-rock aggregate for the building industry NOK 5,1 billion, coal NOK 826 million and peat NOK 68 million.

The total export value for the industry in 2012 was NOK 7,38 billion, representing 59 % of the overall turnover. The export value for industrial minerals was NOK 2,2 billion, of which calcium carbonate slurry, olivine and nepheline syenite are the most important products. The natural stone industry exported stone blocks for NOK 475 million (of which NOK 427 million relates to larvikite), and slate/flagstone and building stone for NOK 49 million. Similar data for hard-rock aggregate, rock for ballast and gravel have an export value of NOK 1,17 billion, whereas

PRODUCTION OF NORWAY'S MOST IMPORTANT MINERAL PRODUCTS



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Mining and quarrying industry in 2012

Extraction of various mineral resources:

98 million tonnes

Production value:

12,7 billion NOK

1,7 billion EUR

Export:

7,4 billion NOK

984 million EUR

59 per cent

Number of aggregate companies:

1012

Other companies:

166

Number of employees:

5981

exports from ore production amounted to NOK 2,7 billion consisting of ilmenite, iron and nickel. Finally, export of coal to Europe represented a value of NOK 804 million.

The mining and quarrying industry is a typical regional industry, especially strongly represented along the coast.

The industry employs about 5981 full-time employees at a total of 1180 producing quarries/mines. Measured according to turnover, the most important mineral-producing counties are Møre og Romsdal, Rogaland, Finnmark, Nordland and Vestfold.



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