MINERAL RESOURCES IN NORWAY 2014

INTRODUCTION

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

- **Industrial minerals** (e.g. calcium carbonate (marble and limestone rock), olivine, nepheline syenite, quartz and dolomite)
- **Natural and dimension stone** (e.g. larvikite, granite, marble, slate/flagstone and building stone)
- **Construction 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 the production of steel, limestone for cement and paper, aggregate for road building, sand and gravel for concrete, and coal for metallurgical processes and energy production. The annual per capita consumption of minerals and mineral products in 2014 amounted to 13 metric tonnes, which adds up to c. 1,000 tonnes/person over an average lifetime. Production data from mineral producers were collected by the Directorate of Mining (DMF) and the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU).

MORE INFORMATION?

**PEER-RICHARD NEEB**
Scientist, Georesources
peer.neeb@ngu.no
Tel: +47 73 90 41 62

**TOM HELDAL**
Director of Georesources
tom.heldal@ngu.no
Tel: +47 73 90 42 05

**KARI AASLY**
Team leader, Natural Construction Materials
kari.aasly@ngu.no
Tel: +47 73 90 42 38

**HENRIK SCHIELLERUP**
Team leader, Mineral Resources
henrik.schiellerup@ngu.no
Tel: +47 73 90 42 20
GENERAL OVERVIEW

Approximately 96 million tonnes of mineral resources were extracted in Norway in 2014, representing a total value of NOK 12.9 billion. The turnover of industrial minerals was NOK 2.7 billion, natural stone NOK 1032 million, metallic ores NOK 2.6 billion, gravel and hard-rock aggregate for the building industry NOK 5.7 billion, coal NOK 864 million and peat NOK 100 million.

The total export value of the industry in 2014 was NOK 7 billion, representing 54 % of the overall turnover. The export value for industrial minerals was NOK 1.9 billion, of which calcium carbonate slurry, olivine and nepheline syenite are the most important products. The natural stone industry exported stone blocks for NOK 522 million (of which NOK 517 million related to larvikite), and slate/flagstone and building stone for NOK 27 million. Hard-rock aggregate, rock for ballast, and gravel had an export value of NOK 1.3 billion, whereas exports from ore production consisting of ilmenite, iron and nickel amounted to NOK 2.2 billion. Finally, export of coal to Europe represented a value of NOK 858 million.

The mining and quarrying industry is a typical regional industry, and production sites are often located along the coast.

The industry employs about 5950 full-time employees at a total of 1156 producing quarries/mines. Measured by turnover, the most important mineral-producing counties are Møre og Romsdal, Rogaland, Finnmark, Nordland and Vestfold.