The Mineral Industry of the United Kingdom
By John R. Matzko

The United Kingdom historically was an important producer of metallic minerals; however, those resources have mostly been exhausted or replaced by lower cost imports, and the production of metal ores in the country mostly ceased by the 1980s. Domestic production of metallic minerals was limited to small amounts of primarily lead and tungsten. Processing of imported metal ores and concentrates was still important for the United Kingdom’s exports and industrial sector, and the country produced aluminum, pig iron, lead, nickel, and steel. Industrial minerals produced in the country included barite, chalk, clays, fluorspar, lime, nitrogen (as N content of ammonia), salt, sand and gravel, various types of stone, and talc. The country was also a significant producer of crude petroleum, gas, and refinery products and had significant resources of coal and hydrocarbons. The country’s industrial base was composed of companies that provided automotive, aviation, and railroad products; chemicals; machine tools; and shipbuilding. These industries relied on imported metal ores and concentrates, refined metals from imports as well as domestically recycled scrap, and imported industrial minerals and mineral fuels (British Geological Survey, 2015; International Monetary Fund, 2016; U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2016; World Bank, The, 2016).

Minerals in the National Economy

In terms of the gross domestic product (GDP), the United Kingdom had the fifth largest economy in the world in 2015 with a nominal GDP of $2.86 trillion. In real terms, the GDP increased by 2.2% compared with that of 2014 and was projected to increase by 1.8% in 2016. The services sector accounted for nearly 80% of the United Kingdom’s GDP; the industrial sector, nearly 20%; and the agricultural sector, less than 1% (International Monetary Fund, 2016; U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2016; World Bank, The, 2016).

In 2014, the value of nonmetallic minerals produced in the United Kingdom decreased by 13% to 28.2 billion British pounds sterling (GBP) ($46.4 billion1) from GBP32.4 billion ($50.7 billion) in 2013. The value of crude petroleum produced amounted to 65% of the total value of all nonmetallic minerals produced in the country, and that of natural gas, 24%. The gross value added of mining and quarrying in 2014 (which included coal, crude petroleum, and natural gas) was GBP26.0 billion ($42.8 billion), which was a decrease of 9% from that of 2013 (Idoine and others, 2016, p. 9, 10; International Monetary Fund, 2016).

Government Policies and Programs

In Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales), most mineral rights are generally privately held with the exception of gold, silver, and such energy minerals as coal, gas, and oil, which are held by the Crown. The Crown Estate is the commercial agent for the British Government in charge of providing licenses for the development and production of gold and silver in the United Kingdom; however, exploration and access rights are obtained from the landowner. There is no national licensing system for the exploration and production of privately held minerals, and planning permission must be obtained from local mineral planning authorities for their extraction. In Northern Ireland, under the Mineral Development Act (Northern Ireland) of 1969, the rights to work most minerals and to license others to do so are vested in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, which grants prospecting and mining licenses to commercial companies for the exploration and development of minerals. The three main exceptions are gold and silver, which are already vested in the Crown; minerals that were being worked at the time of the 1969 act; and such common substances as sand and gravel (Dewar and Ofori-Quaah, 2015, p. 271; British Geological Survey, 2016).

Within the United Kingdom, the majority of coal falls under the ownership of the Government’s Coal Authority, which was established in 1994 in accordance with the Coal Industry Act. The Authority manages those resources under its control and is authorized to grant licenses for exploration and extraction to the private sector subject to restrictions on mine size and the payment of a royalty on the amount of coal produced. The Crown has ownership of oil and gas in the United Kingdom, both onshore and offshore in territorial waters and the United Kingdom continental shelf, as provided by the Petroleum Act of 1934; the Petroleum (Production) Act of 1998; and the Continental Shelf Act of 1964. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was responsible for setting energy policies and the associated framework until April 2015, when the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) was established by the Government as an executive agency of the DECC. The OGA is responsible for regulation of both onshore and offshore oil and gas activities, including licensing, exploration and production, and infrastructure. In June 2014, the Government introduced the Petroleum Licensing (Exploration and Production) (Landward Areas) Regulations 2014 (the 2014 Regulations). These regulations, which apply to any license granted on or after July 17, 2014, altered the clauses for new onshore petroleum exploration and development licenses. The new clauses consider the wide distribution of shale reserves across license areas, clarify the process for time extensions, and accelerate the dissemination of geologic data and operational results from

1 Where necessary, values have been converted from British pound sterling (GBP) to U.S. dollars (USD) at an annual average exchange rate of GBP0.6395=USD1.00 for 2013, GBP0.6542=USD1.00 for 2015, GBP0.6072=USD1.00 for 2014, and GBP0.6395=USD1.00 for 2013.
hydraulic fracturing. The Finance Act of 2014 also contains measures designed to promote onshore oil and gas projects, including an onshore tax allowance, which shields a portion of the profits of onshore oil and gas projects from certain taxes (Dewar and Ofori-Quaah, 2015, p. 271; Rafferty, 2015, p. 189; British Geological Survey, 2016; U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2016, p. 4).

**Production**

In 2015, the production of fluorspar increased by about 171% to an estimated 65,000 metric tons (t) from 24,000 t (revised) in 2014. The increase was owing to the ramp-up in production to mine capacity at British Fluorspar Ltd.’s mine in Derbyshire County. The output of primary aluminum increased by 12% (to 47,000 t). The production of coke breeze decreased by 42% (to 18,000 t); and that of coal, by 26%; that of metallurgical coke, by 25%; that of crude steel and pig iron, by about 10% each; and that of cement, by 7% (table 1).

**Structure of the Mineral Industry**

The United Kingdom is home to several leading mineral and mineral-processing companies with global activities. London is the main hub for trade in metals and in metal-commodities-backed financial instruments, such as delivery contracts, futures, and swaps. Royal Dutch Shell plc and BP p.l.c. are among the most significant domestic companies in terms of financial performance as they ranked 3d and 29th, respectively, among global energy companies in 2015. The Government does not have a direct financial interest in oil production, but the sector’s contribution to the economy and tax revenues make it important to the Government. UK Coal Production Ltd. is the principal owner and operator of underground coal mines in the United Kingdom. Glencore plc is a major Anglo-Swiss trading and mining conglomerate with operations throughout the world; in the United Kingdom, the company produced primary and secondary lead through subsidiaries. The natural gas sector in the United Kingdom has been completely privatized. Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry producers and facilities in the country (Platts McGraw Hill Financial, 2016; U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2016, p. 3, 12).

**Mineral Trade**

Exports accounted for 16.3% of the United Kingdom’s GDP in 2015. The value of the United Kingdom’s exports was $466.3 billion in 2015, which was a decrease of nearly 9% compared with the value in 2014. The United Kingdom’s five major export partners in 2015 were the United States (which received 14.9% of the United Kingdom’s exports, by value), Germany (10.0%), Switzerland (7.3%), and China and France (5.9% each). Among the country’s major exports in 2015 were gems, precious stones, and metals (11.8% of total exports, by value), and mineral fuels and oil (7.1%). In 2015, imports were valued at $630.3 billion, which was a decrease of about 9% compared with that of 2014. The five major import partners of the United Kingdom were Germany (which provided 15.0% of the United Kingdom’s imports, by value), China (10.0%), the United States (9.2%), the Netherlands (7.5%), and France (6.1%). Among the country’s major imports in 2015 were mineral fuels and oil (8.1% of total imports, by value) and gems, precious stones, and metals (5.1%) (Department for International Trade and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, 2016).

In 2015, imports of crude oil decreased by about 8% to 323 million barrels (Mbbl) from 352 Mbbl in 2014 owing to increased domestic production and increased processing of domestic crude petroleum by the country’s refineries. Crude petroleum was imported principally from Norway (which supplied about 50%) and the member countries of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) (about 39%). In 2015, crude petroleum exports increased by about 6% to about 226 Mbbl from 213 Mbbl in 2014. Crude exports went primarily to the Netherlands, Germany, France, and the United States. The United Kingdom had been a net importer of refined petroleum products since 2013 owing to refinery closures and increased demand for aviation and diesel fuels not met by domestic refineries. Imports of refined petroleum products increased by about 9% to 31.7 million metric tons (Mt) in 2015 from 29.1 Mt in 2014 (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2016a, p. 63, 65, 66, 83).

The United Kingdom had been a net importer of natural gas since 2004 owing to declining domestic production. In 2015, the country imported 29 billion cubic meters of natural gas by pipeline from Belgium, the Netherlands, and Norway, which was a decrease of about 12% compared with the amount imported in 2014. The United Kingdom exported 13.4 billion cubic meters of natural gas by pipeline in 2015, which was an increase of about 26% compared with the amount exported in 2014. About 68% of the natural gas exports in 2015 went to continental Europe and 32% went to the Republic of Ireland (BP p.l.c., 2015, p. 28; 2016, p. 28; Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2016a, p. 97).

**Commodity Review**

**Metals**

**Aluminum.**—Aluminum production in the United Kingdom increased by 12% to 47,000 t in 2015 from 42,000 t in 2014. Rio Tinto plc owned the aluminum smelter at Lochaber, Scotland, which was the United Kingdom’s only operating aluminum smelter since the closures of the Anglesey Aluminium Metal Ltd. facility in Holyhead, Wales, in 2009, and the Rio Tinto Alcan Ltd. facility at Lynemouth, England, in 2012 (the closures were the result of fluctuations in world metal prices and increased energy costs). The Lochaber smelter had a production capacity of 47,000 metric tons per year (t/yr). In 2015 the company announced that it would change its name from Rio Tinto Alcan to Rio Tinto (tables 1, 2; van der Linde, 2015; Rio Tinto plc, 2016, p. 9, 213).

**Gold.**—Processing and production of gold at the Cavanacaw open pit mine had been suspended since the 4th quarter of 2013 because the planning consent for the removal of surplus rock had been cancelled, and the mine had been placed on and continued to be on care-and-maintenance status. The Cavanacaw Mine was operated by Omagh Minerals Ltd.,
which was wholly owned by Galantas Gold Corp. of Canada. The mine is located in Northern Ireland and was the only active gold mine in the United Kingdom. In 2013, the company produced 42 kilograms (kg) of gold valued at GBP1 million from lower grade ore previously mined from the open pit. The ore, which contained gold, iron, lead, silver, and sulfur, was mined from veins exposed by the open pit. The company published a revised resource assessment in 2014 that showed measured resources of 138,241 t grading 7.24 grams per metric ton (g/t) gold and containing 1,000 kg gold; indicated resources were 679,992 t grading 6.78 g/t and containing 4,600 kg of gold; these resource estimates were at a cutoff rate of 2 g/t gold. The company planned to establish an underground mine and to explore for additional reserves on the property upon the availability of financing. In June 2015, the Minister of Environment of Northern Ireland granted planning consent for the underground mine at the Omagh site, which would permit the continuation and expansion of mining activity. The Kearny and Joshua veins at the mine were the targets for future underground mining. The combined measured and indicated resources that contained gold for the two veins were estimated to be 5,230 kg (Idoine and others, 2016, p. 34; Galantas Gold Corp., 2015, p. 7, 13, 15–17).

During 2015, Scotgold Resources Ltd. of Australia continued to advance the Cononish gold and silver project to production and was focused on the completion of the bankable feasibility study. The Cononish project is located near Tyndrum in the Grampian Highlands of midwestern Scotland. An annual reserve statement as of June 2015 showed total proven and probable reserves of 555,000 t grading 11.1 g/t gold and 47.7 g/t silver and containing about 6,200 kg of gold and 26,500 kg of silver. On the basis of the bankable feasibility study, average production was projected to be 72,000 t/yr with an average life-of-mine grade of 11.8 g/t gold equivalent and containing about 730 kilograms per year (kg/yr) of gold equivalent; the life of the mine was expected to be 8 years. The company indicated that all required permitting had either been granted or could be completed within a short timeframe. The company expected that the Cononish project could be in production during 2016 and would eventually ramp up to full capacity of about 4,000 t/yr of tungsten in concentrate and 1,000 t/yr of tin in concentrate. In March 2015, Wolf announced an updated 2012 Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC)-compliant reserve estimate for the project, with total proved and probable reserves of 35.7 Mt grading 0.18% WO3 and 0.03% tin, with a cutoff grade of 0.05% tungsten (0.063% WO3). The company also announced a new mineral resource estimate, which reported total resources of 145.2 Mt grading 0.15% WO3 and 0.02% tin with a cutoff grade of 0.05% tungsten (0.063% WO3). Wolf secured offtake agreements with Global Tungsten and Powders (GTP) of the United States, and Wolfram Bergbau und Hütten of Austria for 80% of the tungsten production during the first 5 years from September 2015 to November 2020. The company had invested more than GBP140 million ($214 million) in the mine project and created more than 200 jobs (Wolf Minerals Ltd., 2015a, b; 2016; International Tungsten Industry Association, 2016).

### Industrial Minerals

#### Barite

The United Kingdom’s barite production was dominated by M–I Drilling Fluids (UK) Ltd., which was a subsidiary of MI-SWACO (UK) Ltd. M–I Drilling Fluids operated the underground Foss Mine located near Aberfeldy in Perthshire County, Scotland. The production from the mine accounted for most of the barite production in the United Kingdom; the remaining output of barite was from the Southern Pennine Orefield where barite was derived as a byproduct of fluorspar mining. In January 2015, MI-SWACO
announced a proposal to develop a barite mine at Duntanlich near Aberfeldy to replace the Foss Mine, which had been in operation since 1985. The complex geologic structure at the Foss deposit made it increasingly difficult and less economical to mine at greater depths. The company stated that the resources at Duntanlich were in excess of 7.5 Mt of barite and could supply all the United Kingdom’s demand for barite for at least 50 years at the planned production rate of 120,000 t/yr. In December, the proposals were approved by local authorities, subject to conditions. The company stated that tunnel excavation could start in late 2016 upon application approval, with initial production expected in the first quarter of 2018 (table 2; Duntanlich Mine, 2015a–c).

**Fluorspar.**—British Fluorspar Ltd. mined fluorspar near Cavendish Mill in Derbyshire, England. The company was established in 2012 and was a wholly owned subsidiary of the Fluorsid Group s.r.l. of Italy. In 2013, British Fluorspar began production of fluorspar with byproduct barite and lead from the Milldam underground mine and two quarries at Longstone Edge and Tearsall. In 2014, the company was granted permission by the Peak District National Park Authority to increase production during the next 15 years and to increase mine truck traffic from 60,000 t/yr to 150,000 t/yr (Derbyshire Times, 2014; British Fluorspar Ltd., 2016).

**Potash.**—Cleveland Potash Ltd., which was a wholly owned subsidiary of Israel Chemicals Ltd. (ICL), produced an estimated 1 Mt of potash in both 2014 and 2015 from the Boulby Mine in North York Moors National Park, Yorkshire County. Cleveland Potash was the United Kingdom’s only producer of potash. In November, ICL announced plans to stop producing potash at its Boulby Mine by 2018 to focus on production of polyhalite, which the company referred to as polysulphate. The company said the switch away from potash production would cut 220 jobs and 140 contractors. The company stated that it would spend up to GBP40 million ($61 million) to increase production of polyhalite to 1 Mt by 2020 from its current level of 200,000 t (Farrell, 2015).

By yearend 2015, Sirius Minerals plc, which was a fertilizer development company, received most of the major planning permissions required for its new North Yorkshire polyhalite project to proceed, including formal approval in October from the North York Moors National Park Authority. The project plan consisted of a mine with both underground and above ground infrastructure that is located 3.5 kilometers (km) south of Whitby and 18 km southeast of the Boulby potash mine. The total JORC-compliant and inferred mineral resource estimate was 2.66 billion metric tons (Gt) with a mean polyhalite grade of 85.7% and containing 2.28 Gt of polyhalite. The probable reserve estimate of the shallower shelf seam was 280.2 Mt with a mean polyhalite grade of 88.4% and containing 247.7 Mt of polyhalite. The company planned to increase the mine’s production capacity in phases, from roughly 0.3 million metric tons per year (Mt/yr) of initial polyhalite production during the construction phase in 2021, ramping up to 10 Mt/yr by 2024, and reaching full production capacity of 20 Mt/yr by 2026. By 2015, the company had secured customer commitments of 2.6 Mt/yr, which included long-term offtake agreements. The capital funding requirement for the project was $2.9 billion, with an additional $1.7 billion in incremental capital to carry the project to full production of 20 Mt/yr. The project was expected to provide 2,500 direct and indirect jobs (Sirius Minerals plc, 2016, p. 3–5, 7, 11, 18, 25, 26).

**Mineral Fuels**

**Coal.**—Coal production in the United Kingdom in 2015 decreased by 29% to an all-time low of 8.6 Mt from 11.6 Mt in 2014. The decrease was owing to the closure of the last three large deep mines in the United Kingdom (Hatfield, Kellingley, and Thorpe). The output from other surface mines (Butterwell Disposal, Earlseat, Leigh Glenshi, and Lodge House), and decreased output from other surface mines as they neared the end of their operations. Domestic production accounted for 23% of the country’s coal supply, which was essentially unchanged from that of 2014; the remainder was made up by imports and stock supplies. The United Kingdom imported about 24 Mt of coal in 2015, which was a decrease of about 43% compared with that of 2014. Russia supplied 38% of bituminous coal imports in 2015; Colombia and the United States combined supplied another 51% of imports. The mine closures and decreased coal imports were in response to a 24% decrease in the consumption of coal for electricity generation as domestic producers turned to other methods, such as nuclear and wind power, to generate electricity. In 2015, about 78% of the coal supply was used for electricity generation and 10% was used for the manufacture of coke. At yearend 2015, employment in coal mines decreased by 45% compared with that of 2014 to a total of 1,975 workers (table 1; Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2016a, p. 41, 43, 45, 58; Michaels, 2016).

The production of metallurgical coke decreased by 25% to 2.7 Mt in 2015 from 3.6 Mt in 2014. The decrease was owing to reduced demand for use in blast furnaces as steel production in the United Kingdom decreased. In 2015, 73% of the country’s coke supply was produced domestically; the remainder was imported. The only dedicated coke plant in the United Kingdom, Monckton Coke and Chemicals, closed in December 2014; however, coke was still being produced and used at several steelworks, including the Port Talbot and Scunthorpe plants (table 1; Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2016a, p. 49, 50).

**Natural Gas and Petroleum.**—In 2015, the United Kingdom was the leading petroleum producer and the second-ranked natural gas producer in the European Union after the Netherlands. The production of crude petroleum in the United Kingdom increased by 14.3% to 324 Mbbl in 2015 from 283 Mbbl in 2014 owing to new fields coming online. The increase reversed a steady decline in production that had been trending since 1999. At yearend 2015, total proved oil reserves in the United Kingdom were 2.8 billion barrels, which was unchanged from that of 2014. Most of the United Kingdom’s hydrocarbon reserves were located offshore, and most oil production was from the central and northern sections of the North Sea. In 2015, the United Kingdom had six operating petroleum refineries that processed a significant proportion of the country’s crude petroleum. In November 2014, Murco Petroleum Ltd. closed its refinery at Milford Haven in Wales. By July 2015, Puma Energy Group Pte. of Singapore
had completed the purchase of the Milford Haven refinery from Murco and planned to convert it into a petroleum storage facility. Nynas AB Ltd. also converted its Dundee refinery in Scotland from a production site into a supply depot in 2014. Despite the decrease in capacity, the United Kingdom’s refinery production increased by about 1% in 2015 to 61.0 Mt from 60.4 Mt in 2014. The increase was owing to increased processing of domestic crude petroleum, lower crude prices, and reduced downtime for maintenance. In 2015, the United Kingdom’s refinery capacity was about 585 million barrels per year (Nynas AB Ltd., 2014, p. 7, 16; Brelsford, 2015; Puma Energy Group Pte., 2015; BP p.l.c., 2016, p. 6; Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2016a, p. 63, 65, 67, 68, 85, 87; U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2016, p. 1, 4).

In 2015, the production of natural gas increased by nearly 8% to 40 billion cubic meters from 37 billion cubic meters (revised) in 2014. The increase was owing to new fields coming online and reduced maintenance. The domestic production in 2015 met about 60% of the country’s needs; the remainder was met by imports. Proved reserves of natural gas at year-end 2015 were 0.2 trillion cubic meters, which was unchanged from those of 2014 (table 1; BP p.l.c., 2016, p. 20, 22; Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2016a, p. 97; 2016b, p. 4).

**Outlook**

Mineral production in the United Kingdom will remain focused mainly on industrial and fuel minerals. The country’s manufacturing industry is expected to continue to rely on imports of raw minerals, particularly metals, owing to the current lack of domestic production of these materials. Difficult market conditions continued to affect the steel industry in the United Kingdom. Steel production is likely to decrease substantially owing to the Redcar steelworks at Teesside entering liquidation and Tata Steel UK announcing in late 2015 that it would shut down mills in England and Scotland. Production of some mineral commodities, however, such as barite, fluor spar, polyhalite, and tungsten, are expected to increase in the near to long term as new mines come online and current ones increase production. Galantas Gold’s planned underground mine at the Cavanacaw project in Northern Ireland received planning consent in June. Scotgold expected that the Cononish project in Scotland could be in production within 18 months of obtaining financing, and projected average production of 730 kg/yr of gold. Oil and natural gas production is expected to remain steady in the near to mid-term despite the increase in 2015, as new fields coming online will likely be balanced by decreased production from aging fields and infrastructure. Although coal reserves remain significant in the country, the coal sector is expected to continue to decrease production as consumers turn to renewable energy sources and environmental pressures increase.

**References Cited**


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<td>6,930</td>
<td>4,690</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand and gravel, common sand and grave do.</td>
<td>63,100</td>
<td>56,600</td>
<td>58,000</td>
<td>61,100</td>
<td>62,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silica sand (glass sand) do.</td>
<td>3,969</td>
<td>3,888</td>
<td>3,961</td>
<td>3,948</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chalk do.</td>
<td>3,996</td>
<td>3,473</td>
<td>3,528</td>
<td>3,312</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crushed do.</td>
<td>102,800</td>
<td>94,800</td>
<td>97,300</td>
<td>103,600</td>
<td>104,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolomite do.</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Igneous rock do.</td>
<td>44,400</td>
<td>40,200</td>
<td>40,500</td>
<td>43,700</td>
<td>46,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limestone do.</td>
<td>58,100</td>
<td>54,800</td>
<td>56,900</td>
<td>66,300</td>
<td>70,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandstone do.</td>
<td>12,300</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>13,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slate, including filling do.</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>868</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total do.</td>
<td>227,000</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>214,000</td>
<td>234,000</td>
<td>242,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfur, from oil refineries do.</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal, anthracite and bituminous thousand metric tons</td>
<td>18,552</td>
<td>16,967</td>
<td>12,767</td>
<td>11,648</td>
<td>8,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coke:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metallurgical do.</td>
<td>4,021</td>
<td>3,712</td>
<td>3,769</td>
<td>3,601</td>
<td>2,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeze, all types do.</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas, natural, marketable billion cubic meters</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peat thousand cubic meters</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See footnotes at end of table.
### TABLE 1—Continued

**UNITED KINGDOM: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES**

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude</td>
<td>thousand 42-gallon barrels</td>
<td>367,197</td>
<td>317,913</td>
<td>290,727</td>
<td>283,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refinery products</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>575,970</td>
<td>524,140</td>
<td>503,700</td>
<td>474,865</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| 1 | Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. | 2 | Revised. do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero. | 3 | In addition to the commodities listed, gypsum, lead bullion, and sodium compounds were also produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output. | 4 | Produced entirely from imported bullion and includes the lead content of alloys. | 5 | Includes a small quantity of primary lead from domestic concentrate. | 6 | Includes witherite. | 7 | Sales, dry weight. | 8 | Salable product. | 9 | Proportions of grades not available; probably about two-thirds acid grade. | 10 | Methane, excluding gas flared or reinjected. | 11 | Excludes gases and condensates. Production figures were reported in metric tons, as follows: 2011—48,571,000; 2012—42,052,000; 2013—38,456,000; 2014—37,474,000; and 2015—42,826,000. | Production figures reported in metric tons, as follows: 2011—74,707,000; 2012—71,630,000; 2013—65,397,000; 2014—60,392,000; and 2015—61,014,000. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum:</td>
<td><strong>Primary</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rio Tinto plc</td>
<td>Lochaber smelter, Fort William County, Scotland</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Secondary</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hydro Aluminium Deeside Ltd. (Hydro Aluminium AS)</td>
<td>Wrexham, Clwyd County, Wales</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cohen Alloys Ltd.</td>
<td>Glasgow, Scotland</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Coleshill Aluminium Ltd. (Enresco 178 Ltd.)</td>
<td>Coleshill, Warwickshire, England</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Barite</strong>&lt;br&gt;M-I Drilling Fluids (UK) Ltd. (M-I SWACO (UK) Ltd.)</td>
<td>Foss Mine, near Aberfeldy, Perthshire County, Scotland</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;British Fluorspar Ltd. (Fluorsid Group s.r.l., 100%)</td>
<td>Artherton West, Bow Rake, High Rake, and Watersaw Mines, Southern Pennine Orefield, Derbyshire County, England</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cement</td>
<td><strong>Primary</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tarmac (CRH plc)</td>
<td>Aberthaw plant, East Aberthaw, Barry, South Glamorgan County, Wales</td>
<td>500 &lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;do.</td>
<td>Dunbar plant, Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland</td>
<td>1,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;do.</td>
<td>Tunstead plant, Buxton, Derbyshire County, England</td>
<td>1,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Aggregate Industries Ltd. (LafargeHolcim Ltd., 100%)</td>
<td>Cauldon plant, near Leek, Staffordshire County, England</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;do.</td>
<td>Cookstown plant, Cookstown, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hanson Cement (HeidelbergCement AG, 100%)</td>
<td>Ketton plant, Rutland County, near Stamford, Lincolnshire County, England</td>
<td>1,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;do.</td>
<td>Padeswood plant, Mold, Flintshire County, Wales</td>
<td>820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;do.</td>
<td>Ribblesdale plant, Clitheroe, Lancashire County, England</td>
<td>960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;CEMEX UK Operations, Ltd. (CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V., 100%)</td>
<td>Rugby plant, Rugby, Warwickshire County, England</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;do.</td>
<td>South Ferriby plant, North Lincolnshire County, England</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hope Construction Materials Ltd. (Mittal Investments)</td>
<td>Hope plant, Hope Valley, Derbyshire County, England</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay:</td>
<td><strong>Ball clay</strong>&lt;br&gt;WBB Minerals (S.C.R.-Sibelco NV)</td>
<td>Various operations in northern and southern Devon County, England</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Imerys Group</td>
<td>Operations in Bovey and Wareham Basins, Dorset County, England</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>China clay (kaolin)</strong>&lt;br&gt;do.</td>
<td>Mines and plants in Cornwall and Devon Counties, England</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Coal</strong>&lt;br&gt;WBB Minerals (S.C.R.-Sibelco NV)</td>
<td>Mines and plants in Cornwall County, England</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Underground mines</strong>&lt;br&gt;UK Coal Production Ltd</td>
<td>Operations in England include the Kellingley Colliery, North Yorkshire County and the Thoresby Colliery, Nottinghamshire Country</td>
<td>30,000 &lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ayle Colliery Co. Ltd.</td>
<td>Ayle Colliery in Northumberland County</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Grime Bridge Colliery Co.</td>
<td>Hill Top Colliery, Lancashire County</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Do.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hatfield Colliery Partnership Ltd.</td>
<td>Hatfield Colliery, Yorkshire</td>
<td>NA &lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See footnotes at end of table.
### Coal—Continued:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface pits</td>
<td>Celtic Energy Ltd.</td>
<td>Nant Helen Extension pit, Abercraf, West Glamorgan, Wales</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>Sellar pit, Glyneath, West Glamorgan, Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>Energybuild Ltd.</td>
<td>Nant-y-Mynydd pit, Neath, West Glamorgan, Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>UKCSMR Ltd.</td>
<td>Butterwell Disposal pit, Northumberland County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>Hall Construction Services Ltd.</td>
<td>Earlseat pit, Fife, Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>OCCCW (Duncaniemore) Ltd.</td>
<td>Lagg Glenmuir pit, East Ayrshire, Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>HJ Enthoven Ltd. (Quexco Inc, 100%)</td>
<td>Darley Dale, Derbyshire County, England</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fluorspar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fluorspar</td>
<td>British Fluorspar Ltd. (Fluorsid Group s.r.l., 100%)</td>
<td>Cavendish Mill at Stoney Middleton, Milddam Mine, Longstone Edge and Tarsall quarries in Derbyshire County, England</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gold

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Galantas Gold Corp.</td>
<td>Cavanacaw open pit mine, near Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gypsum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gypsum</td>
<td>British Gypsum Ltd. (Saint-Gobain S.A. 100%)</td>
<td>Several mines and quarries in England, which include the Barrow Mine, Barrow upon Soar, southeast of Loughborough, Leicestershire County; the Brightling Mine, Robertsbridge, East Sussex County; the Birkshead Mine, Kirby Thore, near Penrith, Cumbria County; the Fauld Mine, Tutbury, near Burton on Trent, Staffordshire County; the Kilvington Quarry, Staunton in the Vale, Kilvington, Nottinghamshire County; the Marbleegis Mine, East Leake, northeast of Loughborough, Leicestershire County; the Newbiggin Mine, Newbiggin, near Kirby Thore, Cumbria County</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lead:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Britannia Refined Metals Ltd. (Glencore plc)</td>
<td>Northfleet, Kent County, England</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Britannia Recycling Ltd. (Glencore plc)</td>
<td>Wakefield, West Yorkshire County, England</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.J. Enthoven Ltd. (Quexco Inc, 100%)</td>
<td>Darley Dale, Derbyshire County, England</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Natural gas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas</td>
<td>Numerous domestic and international oil companies</td>
<td>North Sea gasfields</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Nickel, refined

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nickel, refined</td>
<td>Vale Europe Ltd. (Vale S.A.)</td>
<td>Clydach Refinery, near Swansea, West Glamorgan County, Wales</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Nitrogen, N content of ammonia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen, N content of ammonia</td>
<td>GrowHow UK Ltd. (Kemira GrowHow Oyj)</td>
<td>Ince, Lancashire County, England</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Petroleum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refined</td>
<td>Exxon Mobil Corp.</td>
<td>Fawley refinery, Southampton, Hampshire County, England</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>Stanlow manufacturing complex, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire County, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>ConocoPhillips Co.</td>
<td>Humber refinery, South Killingholme, North Lincolnshire County, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>Total S.A.</td>
<td>Lindsey refinery, Killingholme, North Lincolnshire County, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>Valero Energy Corp.</td>
<td>Pembroke refinery, Pembroke, Dyfed County, Wales</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See footnotes at end of table.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Major operating companies and major equity owners</th>
<th>Location of main facilities</th>
<th>Annual capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Petroleum:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refined</td>
<td>Ineos Group</td>
<td>Grangemouth refinery, Grangemouth, Stirling County, Scotland</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Puma Energy Group Pte.</td>
<td>Milford Haven, Dyfed County, Wales</td>
<td>40 ³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Eastham Refinery Ltd. (Shell UK Ltd., 50%, and AB Nynas Ltd., 50%)</td>
<td>Eastham refinery, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire County, England</td>
<td>8 ³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Nynas AB Ltd.</td>
<td>Dundee refinery, Dundee, Scotland</td>
<td>4 ³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyhalite</td>
<td>Cleveland Potash Ltd. (Israel Chemicals Ltd., 100%)</td>
<td>Boulby Mine, Yorkshire County, England</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potash</td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Slate:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road</td>
<td>British Salt Ltd.</td>
<td>Middlewich, Cheshire County, England</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock</td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Irish Salt Mining and Exploration Co. Ltd.</td>
<td>Kilkroot Mine, Carrick Fergus, Northern Ireland</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand and gravel</td>
<td>Hanson plc (HeidelbergCement AG, 100%)</td>
<td>Various offshore and onshore locations</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silica sand</td>
<td>WBB Minerals (S.C.R.-Sibelco NV)</td>
<td>Various operations in Cheshire, Humberside, and Norfolk Counties, England</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Hanson plc</td>
<td>Various locations</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slate, natural</td>
<td>Carillion Plc.</td>
<td>Operations in Wales include the Penrhyn quarry, Bethesda, Conwy County; the Pen Yr Orsedd quarry, Nantlle, Gwynedd County; quarries at Blaenau Ffestiniog and Cwt y Bugail, Gwynedd County</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Greaves Welsh Slate Company Ltd.</td>
<td>Llechwedd Slate Mines, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd County, Wales</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda ash</td>
<td>Brunner Mond Group (Tata Chemicals Ltd.)</td>
<td>Northwich, Cheshire County, England</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel</td>
<td>Tata Steel Europe Ltd. (Tata Steel Group)</td>
<td>Scunthorpe Works, Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire County, England</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Sahaviriya Steel Industries UK Limited (SSI UK)</td>
<td>Teeside Works, Redcar, Cleveland County, England</td>
<td>3,900 ⁶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Tata Steel Europe Strip Products UK (Tata Steel Group)</td>
<td>Port Talbot works, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, Wales</td>
<td>3,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Tata Steel Europe Engineering Steels (Tata Steel Group)</td>
<td>Rotherham Works, Rotherham, South Yorkshire County, England</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>do.</td>
<td>Stocksbridge Works near Sheffield, South Yorkshire County, England</td>
<td>NA ³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Tata Steel Europe Special Profiles (Tata Steel Group)</td>
<td>Skinningrove, Carlin How, near Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Cleveland County, England</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Celsa Manufacturing (UK) Ltd. (Grupo Celsa, 100%)</td>
<td>Tremorfa Works, Cardiff, South Glamorgan County, Wales</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone, crushed</td>
<td>Hanson plc</td>
<td>90 quarries in various locations</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tungsten, concentrate</td>
<td>Wolf Minerals (UK) Ltd. (Wolf Minerals Ltd., 100%)</td>
<td>Drakelands Mine near Hemerdon, Devon, England</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹May include historic, postal, or preserved counties instead of current regional governments, such as cities, county boroughs, or unitary authorities.
²Grinding plant only.
³Closed in 2015.
⁴Open pit production suspended since 2013. Underground mining in planning stage.
⁵Closed in 2014.
⁶Production suspended in September 2015.
⁷Remelt facilities.