



## Mining to Jordan.

### Trends and opportunities

#### The market

Jordan's mining industry is one of the main contributors to economic growth and a principal generator of national income. It accounts for over five per cent of gross domestic product and 25 per cent of export earnings.

The mining sector in Jordan consists of:

- ✍ **Minerals extraction industries**, confined to non-metallic minerals (industrial rocks) which includes phosphate, potash, salt, calcium carbonates, zeolite and quarrying and mine products.
- ✍ **Manufacturing industries**, which include fertilisers, chemical acids, aluminium fluoride, cement, white cement, rock wool, ceramics, lime, and building materials.

Phosphate rock is mined from overburden in the Shidya mines south of Jordan, while potash is mined from the Dead Sea using evaporative and brine harvesting technologies.

Jordan has only one (small) oil field; Hamza in the east of the country, near the Iraqi border. However, **Jordan does have large proven reserves of oil shale**, a potential investment opportunity for the extraction and production of crude oil.

The Jordanian National Petroleum Company (NPC) has 50-year concession (starting in 1996) to exploit the Risha area in northeast Jordan and operates the Risha gas field, Jordan's only commercial natural gas production.

**Jordan is subdivided into nine concession exploration blocks/zones**. Concession by-laws and the **production sharing agreement structure has been revised** to further encourage international companies explore oil and gas in Jordan's nine open concession areas.

In order to maximise the contribution of mining sector to the gross national product, the Jordanian Government adopted policies that boost local value-adding capacity and improve efficiency by privatising the major players in the sector.

#### Opportunities

The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) is **seeking management and operational contractors and/or joint venture partners** as it plans to expand its exploration and mining activities.

The company also plans to implement material handling systems, and process and develop the Upper Horizon area for the (future) expansion of its Eshidiya mine.

The Arab Potash Co (APC) is one of the **world's leading producers of potassium chloride/fertiliser and industrial grade potash**. Opportunities for Australian suppliers of mining equipment include special anti-corrosive alloys and steels, dredging equipment, and pumps.

Plans are underway for the construction of plants in Jordan to process/produce:

- ✍ magnesium oxide
- ✍ bromine
- ✍ phosphoric acid
- ✍ potassium nitrate
- ✍ dicalcium phosphate
- ✍ magnesium metal

Opportunities will arise from the ongoing process of privatisation in areas such as:

- ≠ Optimisation technologies for mining
- ≠ Mine management
- ≠ Software solutions

**Currently, the government is looking for companies to assist in mining/processing** copper, gold, silica sand (glass), tripoli, feldspar, gypsum and kaolin. Billions of dollars have been marked for these projects. Some will be financed by the Jordanian Government; others by neighbouring Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

### Competitive environment

The major active players in Jordanian mining and fertiliser industry include:

- ≠ [Jordan Phosphate Mines Company](#)
- ≠ [Arab Potash Company](#)
- ≠ Jordan Cement Factories Company
- ≠ Arab Co. for White Cement Industry
- ≠ [Jordan Carbonate Co](#)
- ≠ National Petroleum Co (Risha Gas Concession)
- ≠ [Jordan Magnesia Company \(Jormag\)](#)
- ≠ Jordan Safi Salt Company
- ≠ Kemira Arab Potash Co (Kemapco)
- ≠ Jordan Bromine Co
- ≠ Nippon Jordan Fertilizer Co
- ≠ Indo Jordan Chemicals Co Ltd
- ≠ National Resources Authority

The USA is active in the industry, as are Canadian and European Union interests.

### More information

For further information please contact Austrade on 13 28 78 or email [info@austrade.gov.au](mailto:info@austrade.gov.au)

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