

Chapter 2: Demand/Supply Analysis

Major Mineral Exports

In 1987, the Philippines exported metalliferous ores and metal scrap which amounted to US\$ 224 million. Metallic ores and concentrates comprise 98% of the total while the rest consisted of metal scrap.

Copper concentrates comprised almost half of the exports of metallic ores and concentrates in 1987 with a value of US\$ 109 million (see Table 2.1). However, this is a far cry from what the country has been exporting prior to 1984.

With the start of PASAR's operations in the middle of 1983, copper concentrate exports has dropped by more than 50% in the following year as shown in Table 2.2. A major part of the total production of copper concentrates were rechanneled from exports to PASAR for smelting and refining into copper cathodes.

On the other hand, gold from copper ores comprised 41% of the total exports of metallic ores and concentrates in 1987 at US\$ 90.5 million. But this too is a lean figure relative to those in the early eighties. PASAR recovers a by-product called dore metal (containing gold and silver) and sells them to the Central Bank for refining into gold and silver bullion.

Major Export Markets

Japan was the leading importer of gold and copper concentrates from the country in 1987. It was also the only market for the country's nickel ores, manganese ores and zinc concentrates. The USA, Brazil and Japan were the major markets of the country's chromium ores while Germany was the biggest market