

The deposits of Minera C6ndor are located near Arica and have estimated reserves of 3 million metric tons. At present the main mines are Casualidad, San Eduardo, Chaquiri and Hayllas which are located 60 kilometers from the city of Arica.

In 1991 production was 5,557 tons, 43% more than 1990. Production is estimated to increase in the next years as the capacity is approximately 7,000 tpy. Sociedad Minera C6ndor is estimating a figure of 6,200 tons for 1992.

Exports of Sociedad Minera C6ndor 1991 were 5,600 tons compared to 1,994 tons in 1990. The countries that are supplied are Argentina (20%), Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay. The company has agents in all these countries, and new markets are being opened up in Japan, Australia and Indonesia.

Most of the production is consumed locally, as a filtering agent in breweries, viticulture and juice manufacture. There are also contracts to use the product as a filter in gold metallurgy. The company has signed contracts with Mantos de Oro, Tres Cruces, Vilacollo and Homestake. It also fills the needs of Sociedad Chilena del Litio.

A diatomite-based product based has been able to penetrate in the industry competing with Agar-Agar (seaweed derivation) and with activate perlite which comes from Argentina, increasing the supply percentage from 20 to 40% in 1991, and decreasing perlite imports.

III.5.15 Feldspar.

Chilean feldspar production jumped from 705 tons in 1987 to 4,453 tons in 1988 and 8,081 tons in 1989. In 1990 it dropped to 2,980 tons when the chinaware factory in Tom6 was shut down. Production in 1991 was 4,006 tons.

The main producers are Minera Santa Juana in Santiago, Compa1a Minera Soledad in the VIII Region and some private producers in the Metropolitan Area. All production is handled manually (not mechanized) for use in the glass and ceramics industry.

III.5.16 Guano.

Guano production in Chile is sporadic, but it has not stopped for the past four years, although figures have dropped to half of the 1986 production. In 1989 it was 3,127 tons, and it dropped to 1,308 tons in 1991. The largest producer is Guano Rojo S.A. in the I Region. Guano used to be an important product in the northern regions' economy.

III.5.17 Lapislazuli.

The only Lapislazuli mine is the Flor de Los Andes mine in the IV Region, which has been closed for several years due to inheritance problems. Nevertheless, some amounts are still being extracted illegally. The mine was purchased in 1988 by Chilean and North American investors who are planning to exploit it commercially by manufacturing expensive bathroom fixtures and selling the surplus to the semi-precious stone industry. Production in 1991 was 450 tons.

III.5.18 Pozzolan.

Pozzolan production was 320,928 tons in 1991 compared to 305,147 tons in 1990. The main producers are connected with the cement industry, and they include Cemento Mel6n, Cemento Polpaico,

Cementos Inacesa and Soprocal. Like the cement industry, pozzolan production has been growing since 1984.

III.5.19 Gypsum.

Gypsum production in Chile is linked to calcium carbonate and cement production. The main producers are Cementos B6o-B6o (Inacesa), Cemento Mel6n, Cemento Polpaico, Sociedad Minera El Volc6n and C6a. Minera Romeral.

Raw gypsum is used principally in the Portland cement industry, where it has a 2% to 6% share in the clinker weight and is used to delay setting.