

LUXEMBOURG

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Luxembourg's mineral industry consists principally of raw materials processing and is dominated by the steel company Aciéries Réunies de Burbach-Eich-Dudelange SA. Arbed, whose origins date back to 1882, is part of the Arbed SA Group, an industrial holding, regrouping the major sub-groups Aceralia, Sidmar, ProfilArbed, Tradearbed, Belgo-Mineira and Trefilarbed. Domestic and foreign subsidiaries of the Arbed Group have interests in steel-making and steel products, cement, mining and engineering, among others.

Arbed is, among others, involved in Luxembourg in steel-making and steel products, all from imported material. It produced in Luxembourg a reported 2.5 Mt of crude steel and 4.5 Mt of laminated products in 2000 (latest available data). Arbed retains a labour force of more than 7,600 and is the largest private employer in the Grand Duchy.

In a particularly difficult environment characterised by falling sales prices and a decline in demand, the Arbed Group achieved some satisfactory results in 2001, but inferior to the previous year's record performance.

Consolidated sales amounted in 2001 to €12.5 billion compared to €13.2 billion in 2000, a 5.5% decrease. Net earnings reached €246.6 million (group share of €85.7 million) as against €938.2 million (group share of €443.6 million) in 2000. The year 2001 will, however, have been marked above all by the amalgamation of the Aceralia, Arbed and Usinor groups to form the new group Arcelor. Trading in Arcelor's shares on the Spanish, Luxembourg and Euronext markets began in February 2002. The new Arcelor group employs worldwide 110,000 people and represents an annual production of roughly 50 Mt of steel.

Industrial minerals, essentially for domestic consumption and cement production, are the only minerals mined in the country. These minerals include dolomite, limestone, sand and gravel and some minor ornamental stone. They are mined by surface methods, in small pits and quarries. Average total annual output ranges around 6-8 Mt of diversified material. The sector employs some 300 people and is reported to generate an annual turnover of about €50 million.