

Construction materials industry



CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

In 2011 – beginning of 2012 there was a tendency of decline in production of main construction materials Belarusian construction materials branch accounts for 5-7% of the total industrial output of the country. The main industry growth driver is a state policy of triggering capital investments, especially, in construction. However, due to review of the governmental approach to stimulating of construction sector (cut of emission-based lending for governmental programs) in 2011 and beginning of 2012 there was a downward tendency in production of main construction materials. In general the total industry's output dropped by 4% over 1Q2012 (comparing to 1Q2011). In particular, production of lime, construction brick, asbestos boards, and reinforced concrete declined.

Belarus has a negative FT balance in basic construction materials and positive in materials with higher value added The major task of the Belarusian construction materials industry is to meet the demand of domestic construction sector. However, in conditions of country's construction volumes decline the industry's enterprises face the problem of exports increase. The sharp depreciation of Belarusian ruble in 2011 strengthened the position of Belarusian companies on major markets: Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania. Belarus has a negative balance of foreign trade in basic construction materials (mainly formed by gypsum, chalk and crushed stone), and positive balance of FT in construction materials with higher value added (mainly represented by glass, ceramic tiles, bricks, etc.). Belarus holds strong positions on the regional construction materials market. Thus, the country is one of the largest supplier of float-glass and ceramic tiles in Russia (ca. 1/3 of Russia's imports) and the Ukraine.

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Per capita cement consumption in Belarus accounts for 460 kg. By this indicator Belarus overruns not only CIS countries such as the Ukraine (ca. 200 kg) and Russia (352kg) but some of EU countries. At the same time the market of construction materials with higher value added (ceramic tiles, glass, dry mixes etc.) has considerable potential for growth as their per capita consumption is much lower than in developed countries.

The industry is monopolized by the state

Belarusian construction materials industry is highly monopolized and dominated by the state. Thus, each subsector is represented by 1-3 state-owned companies (except for reinforced concrete sector with many state-owned players distributed throughout the country). A few independent producers also depend on the state in terms of access to material resources and sales.

Belarusian government implemented a number of large investment projects in the industry The industry is characterized by significant wear of production assets (ca. 60%), as well as high level of materials and energy consumption. In this respect a number of large-scale investment projects have been implemented in Belarus, i. construction of a. additional dry-method lines three cement 2nd plants. reconstruction of technological line the "Gomelglass", construction of 5th production line on crushed stone production on RUPE "Granit". At the same time the government is interested in attraction of strategic investors via creation of JV, sale of state shares, as well as selling concessions on development of mineral deposits.

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