

Slovakia Mining Report 2015

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Abstracts

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BMI View: Slovakia's mining industry is small relative to most other European markets. It is expected to remain as such through to the end of our 2015-2019 forecast period, with lignite production continuing to dominate overall output. Growth during this period will be undermined by the weakness in global commodity prices, which threaten to delay existing projects. However, we note longer-term growth potential in certain sub-sectors including gold and possibly uranium. Slovakia's mining sector is currently one of the smallest in Europe, dwarfed by those of its Central and Eastern European neighbours, namely the Czech Republic, Poland and Austria. In local terms, the market is also negligible in size, accounting for just 0.3% of GDP in terms of its overall value or about USD270mn. Despite its limited stature, there is, however, relatively strong long-term potential for Slovakian mining.

While mining of brown coal or lignite currently dominates mining expenditure and employment, the country's gold mining sector holds considerable promise. Sizeable reserves have attracted the attention of a number of international investors, including Cyprus-based EMED Mining and Canadian company Tournigan Gold, with recent exploration returning promising results in terms of grades and reserves.

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