



Demand for mineral products

The demand for mineral products has shot up spectacularly since the outset of the century. The demand for most metals rose by 1 to 2 percent per year in the 1980s and 1990s, though the pace of growth was much higher after the year 2000. Accordingly, the global production of crude steel rose from 1 percent per year between 1990 and 2000, then by 6.8 percent per year between 2000 and 2007. Such increase was underpinned mainly by industrial expansion and urbanization in China where the demand for raw materials rose steadily as the Chinese economy increasingly accounted for an ever greater share of manufactured products in the world... India and Brazil also recorded high increases in the use of metals, while the United States remained a huge consumer of both imported and locally produced minerals.