Brazil is the seventh largest producer of nickel contained in ore, with 83,000 tons produced in 2011. Russia is the largest producer, with 15.55% of the total volume, followed by Indonesia and the Philippines with 12.7% each, and Canada with 11.11%.

In Brazil, the primary producing states (by CFEM revenues in 2011) are:

- BA (68%) GO (22%) and MG (10%).

RESERVES

The measured and indicated reserves for nickel in Brazil reached 8.7 million tons of contained ore. So they are ranked third among the world’s largest reserves, with 10.87% of the total, which is 80 million tons. Australia has the largest reserve – 30% (USGS – 2012).

CONSUMPTION

The largest consumers of nickel are manufacturers of stainless steel, and their consumption increased significantly worldwide over the past ten years.

The rest goes into the production of other types of steels, artifacts such as electroplating, alpacas (metallic alloys) etc.

The world consumed 1.31 million tons of nickel in 2008, and this consumption was driven strongly by China. As the crisis struck in 2009, demand fell somewhat, but experts believe it will reach in 2011, the demand for nickel increased by approximately 7%, with a 12.5% increase in the production of stainless steel.

FOREIGN TRADE

Trends for Brazil’s nickel trade balance for the coming years is favorable.

The spread between exports and imports has been increasing since 2004.

Brazil imports ferronickel alloy products and other unwrought, not alloyed nickel and exports matte nickel products and unconnected nickel cathodes.
DOMESTIC CONCENTRATE NICKEL ORE PRODUCTION – 2000-2011
THOUSANDS OF TONS/YEAR

Note: (1) Contained Nickel: contained Ni, Matte nickel, electrolytic Ni and Ni contained in the FeNi alloy. (2) From 2010, two companies entered the nickel market – Mirabela Mineração do Brasil and Vale S.A., the former being headquartered in Itagibá-BA, and the second, in São Félix do Xingu-PA.

Source: Sumário Mineral Brasileiro/AMB – 2012

CONTAINED NICKEL PRODUCTION
THOUSANDS OF TONS/YEAR

Source: USGS/DNPM – 2012
CONTAINED NICKEL PRICES
THOUSANDS OF TONS/YEAR

FOREIGN TRADE – CONTAINED NICKEL
TONS

As of November 2012 - Exports: 42,815 thousand tons  Imports: 3,838 tons

Source: Aliceweb – 2012
GLOBAL NICKEL PRODUCTION – 2011

Source: LME – 2012