

2016 Minerals Yearbook

ERITREA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF ERITREA

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In 2016, the production of mineral commodities—notably cement, copper, gold, silver, and zinc—represented only a minor part of the economy of Eritrea (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2017). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Eritrea is provided by Minerals Proclamation No. 68/1995, Mining Income Tax Proclamation No. 69/1995, Regulations on Mining Operations Legal Notice No. 19/1995, and Mining Law Proclamation No. 68/1995 Amendment Proclamation No. 165/2011. The legislative framework for the petroleum sector is provided by Revised Petroleum Operations Proclamation No. 108/2000. Data on mineral production are in table 1. Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities.

More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Eritrea can be found in previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—Africa, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/africa-and-middle-east>.

Reference Cited

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2017, Eritrea, *in* African statistical yearbook 2017: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, p. 173–177. (Accessed November 8, 2018, at <https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/asyb-2017.pdf>.)

TABLE 1
ERITREA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cement, hydraulic ^c	230,000 ^r	230,000 ^r	230,000 ^r	200,000 ^r	200,000
Clay and shale:					
Common clay ^c	80,000 ^r	81,000 ^r	84,000 ^r	85,000 ^r	85,000
Kaolin ^c	-- ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	--
Copper, mine production, Cu content	--	21,800	88,900	61,600	25,300
Gold, mine production, Au content kilograms	9,735	3,008 ³	905 ³	1,390 ³	1,400 ^c
Gypsum ^c	12,000 ^r	12,000 ^r	12,000 ^r	10,000 ^r	10,000
Lime ^c	13,000 ^r	15,000 ^r	15,000 ^r	16,000 ^r	16,000
Pumice ^c	5,100 ^r	5,100 ^r	5,100 ^r	5,100 ^r	5,100
Salt, sea ^c	240,000	290,000	300,000	300,000	310,000
Silica, quartz, mine production ^c	-- ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	-- ^r	--
Silver, mine production, Ag content ³ kilograms	29,900	15,799	52,668	70,330	13,200
Stone, sand, and gravel:					
Sand and gravel, construction, for use in concrete ^c	1,900,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Stone, crushed:					
Basalt ^c	30,000 ^r	31,000 ^r	33,000 ^r	35,000 ^r	35,000
Limestone, for use in cement and lime ^c	330,000 ^r	330,000 ^r	330,000	340,000 ^r	340,000
Stone, dimension:					
Granite:					
Slab ^c	6,100	6,300	6,700	6,900	6,900
Block ^c	41,000	43,000	45,000	47,000	47,000
Marble, slab ^c	2,400	2,500	2,700	2,800	2,800
Zinc, mine production, Zn content	--	--	--	--	40,900

^cEstimated. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through June 21, 2017. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²In addition to the commodities listed, feldspar and talc may have been produced in Eritrea, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Reported sales.

TABLE 2
ERITREA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2016

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location	Annual capacity
Brick		Dahlak Brick and Block Factory	Plant at Massawa	7,300 ^e
Cement		Gedem Cement Works	Gedem	350,000
Do.		Eritrea Cement Works	Massawa ¹	45,000
Copper		Bisha Mining Share Co. [Nevsun Resources Ltd., 60%, and Eritrean National Mining Corp. (ENAMCO) , 40%]	Bisha Mine near Bishia	20,000
Gold	kilograms	Zara Mining Share Co. [China Shanghai Corporation for Foreign and Technological Cooperation (SFECO), 60%, and Eritrean National Mining Corp. (ENAMCO), 40%]	Koka Mine in Anseba Region	3,200
Do.	do.	Bisha Mining Share Co.	Bisha Mine near Bishia	490 ^e
Lime		Badme Construction Co.	Plants at Gogne	7,300
Do.		do.	Plant at Barentu	1,800
Salt		Assab Salt Works	Assab	150,000
Do.		Salina Salt Works	Massawa	80,000
Silver	kilograms	Bisha Mining Share Co.	Bisha Mine near Bishia	18,000 ^e
Stone, dimension:				
Granite		Margran plc	Gheleb	13,500
Marble		do.	Gogne	7,700
Zinc		Bisha Mining Share Co.	Bisha Mine near Bishia	102,000

^eEstimated. Do., do. Ditto.

¹Not operating at the end of 2016.