

# 2016 Minerals Yearbook

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## RWANDA

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF RWANDA

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In 2016, the production of mineral commodities—notably gold, tantalum, tin, and tungsten—represented only a minor part of the economy of Rwanda (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2017). Rwanda accounted for about 29% of the world's production of tantalum in 2016 (Polyak, 2018). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Rwanda is provided by law No. 13/2014 of May 20, 2014, on Mining and Quarrying Operations. The legislative framework for the petroleum sector is provided by law No. 13/2016 of May 2, 2016, Governing Petroleum Exploration and Production Activity. 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 Rwanda 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>.

## References Cited

- Polyak, D.E., 2018, Tantalum: U.S. Geological Survey Mineral Commodity Summaries 2018, p. 164–165.
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2017, Rwanda, *in* African statistical yearbook 2017: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, p. 278–282. (Accessed November 7, 2018, at <https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/asyb-2017.pdf>.)

TABLE 1  
RWANDA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity <sup>2</sup>		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
METALS						
Beryllium, beryl	kilograms	NA	NA	NA	22,856 <sup>3</sup>	20,001 <sup>3</sup>
Gold, mine, Au content <sup>3</sup>	do.	--	--	160 <sup>e</sup>	319	336
Iron and steel, raw steel <sup>e, 4</sup>		15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Niobium and tantalum, mine:						
Cassiterite concentrate:						
Gross weight		4,637 <sup>5</sup>	4,895	5,930	3,846	3,550 <sup>5</sup>
Nb content <sup>e</sup>	kilograms	50,000	50,000	60,000	40,000	30,000
Ta content <sup>e</sup>	do.	70,000	70,000	90,000	60,000	50,000
Columbite-tantalite concentrate:						
Gross weight	do.	1,144,684 <sup>5</sup>	2,466,025	2,302,520	1,651,712	1,269,939 <sup>5</sup>
Nb content <sup>e</sup>	do.	140,000	310,000	290,000	210,000	160,000
Ta content <sup>e</sup>	do.	240,000	530,000	490,000	350,000	270,000
Tin:						
Mine, cassiterite concentrate:						
Gross weight		4,637 <sup>5</sup>	4,895	5,930	3,846	3,550 <sup>5</sup>
Sn content <sup>e</sup>		2,900	3,100	3,700	2,400	2,200
Smelter production, primary		--	--	--	400 <sup>e</sup>	-- <sup>e</sup>
Tungsten, mine, wolframite concentrate:						
Gross weight		1,751 <sup>5</sup>	2,218	2,166	1,784	1,716 <sup>5</sup>
W content <sup>e</sup>		830	1,100	1,000	850	820
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement, hydraulic		105,760	130,000 <sup>e</sup>	140,000 <sup>e</sup>	200,000 <sup>r, e</sup>	400,000 <sup>e</sup>
Clay and shale, common clay <sup>6</sup>		NA	9,100	7,100 <sup>e</sup>	16,839	34,000 <sup>e</sup>
Gemstones:						
Amethyst	kilograms	NA	NA	NA	27,019 <sup>3</sup>	8,986 <sup>3</sup>
Sapphire	do.	NA	NA	NA	1 <sup>3</sup>	-- <sup>3</sup>
Tourmaline	do.	NA	NA	NA	10,591 <sup>3</sup>	3,934 <sup>3</sup>
Pumice and pumicite <sup>6</sup>		31,000 <sup>e</sup>	23,862	20,056	48,955	98,000 <sup>e</sup>
Stone, sand, and gravel:						
Stone, crushed:						
Limestone		100,000 <sup>e</sup>	92,137	67,732	187,657	380,000 <sup>e</sup>
Sandstone <sup>6</sup>		12,000 <sup>e</sup>	12,716	9,651	20,292	41,000 <sup>e</sup>
Stone, dimension, granite		NA	2,157 <sup>r</sup>	5,962 <sup>r</sup>	6,027 <sup>r</sup>	6,000 <sup>e</sup>
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS						
Natural gas, marketable, dry basis <sup>e</sup>	million cubic meters	2	3	4	7	7
Peat, unspecified <sup>e</sup>		13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through February 23, 2018. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>In addition to the commodities listed, brick clay and lime were produced in Rwanda, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

<sup>3</sup>Production is on a fiscal year basis, with a starting date of July 1 of the year shown.

<sup>4</sup>Estimated based on power consumption

<sup>5</sup>Reported exports.

<sup>6</sup>For use in cement production only.

TABLE 2  
RWANDA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2016

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Cement		Cimenterie du Rwanda Ltd. (Cimerwa) (PPC Ltd., 51%)	Plant at Cyangugu	600,000
Do.		Kigali Cement Co. (ARM Cement Ltd., 100%)	Plant at Muganza	100,000
Do.		Great Lakes Cement Co.	Plant in Musanze District	26,000
Clay		Cimenterie du Rwanda Ltd. (Cimerwa) (PPC Ltd., 51%)	Mine near Muganza	61,000 <sup>e</sup>
Gemstones:				
Amethyst	kilograms	Artisanal miners	Various locations	28,000 <sup>e</sup>
Sapphire	do.	do.	Mines in Rusizi District <sup>1</sup>	1,100 <sup>e</sup>
Tourmaline	do.	do.	Various locations in central Rwanda	11,000 <sup>e</sup>
Natural gas	million cubic meters	Kivu watt Ltd. (ContourGlobal LLC)	Plant at Lake Kivu	61 <sup>e</sup>
Do.	do.	Kibuye Power 1 Ltd.	do.	11 <sup>e</sup>
Niobium (columbium) and tantalum, columbite-tantalite ore and concentrate <sup>2</sup>		Various companies and cooperatives	Mines in Rutsiro District	480 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Nyamasheke District	460 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Muhanga District	390 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Gakene District	270 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Rubavu District	260 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Nyaraguru District	150 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Bugesera District	130 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Ngororero District	120 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Ruhango District	75 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Kamonyi District	65 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Gatsibo District	55 <sup>e</sup>
Peat		Peat Energy Co. [subsidiary of Rwanda Investment Group S.A. (RIG)]	Mine at Gishoma in Rusizi District	20,000
Pozzolanic materials		Cimenterie du Rwanda Ltd. (Cimerwa) (PPC Ltd., 51%)	do.	220,000 <sup>e</sup>
Steel, crude		SteelRwa Industries Ltd.	Plant in Rwamagana District	36,000
Stone, crushed:				
Limestone		Cimenterie du Rwanda Ltd. (Cimerwa) (PPC Ltd., 51%)	Mine at Nyakabuye	690,000 <sup>e</sup>
Sandstone		do.	Mine at Nengo	84,000 <sup>e</sup>
Stone, dimension, granite		East African Granite Industries Ltd.	Plant at Rutarka Village	13,700
Tin:				
Cassiterite, ore and concentrate <sup>2</sup>		Rutongo Mines Ltd. (Tinco Investments Ltd.)	Gasambya, Gisanze, Karambo, Mahaza, Masoro, and Nyamyumba Mines in Rulindo District	1,200
Do.		Various companies and cooperatives	Mines in Muhanga District	790 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Nyamasheke District	690 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Rutsiro District	640 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Gakene District	590 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Rubavu District	320 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Kayanza District	290 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Gatsibo District	270 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Bugesera District	230 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Nyaraguru District	210 <sup>e</sup>
Do.		do.	Mines in Gasabo District	200 <sup>e</sup>
Refined		Phoenix Metal Ltd.	Smelter at Karuruma <sup>1</sup>	2,200

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued  
RWANDA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2016

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Tungsten, wolframite ore and concentrate <sup>2</sup>	Eurotrade International S.A. (Tinco Investments Ltd.)	Nyakabingo Mine in Rulindo District	480
Do.	Various companies and cooperatives	Mines in Rwamagama District	300 <sup>e</sup>
Do.	do.	Mines in Burera District	290 <sup>e</sup>
Do.	Rwanda Allied Partners (RAP)	Kilimbari Mine in Kayanza District	270 <sup>e</sup>
Do.	Various companies and cooperatives	Mines in Rutsiro District	230 <sup>e</sup>
Do.	do.	Mines in Ngororero District	190 <sup>e</sup>
Do.	do.	Mines in Nyaraguru District	160 <sup>e</sup>
Do.	do.	Mines in Muhanga District	150 <sup>e</sup>
Do.	do.	Mines in Kirehe District	140 <sup>e</sup>
Do.	do.	Mines in Rubavu District	130 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. Do., do. Ditto.

<sup>1</sup>Not operating at the end of 2016.

<sup>2</sup>Gross weight of concentrate.