

2016 Minerals Yearbook

SIERRA LEONE

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF SIERRA LEONE

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In 2016, the production of mineral commodities—notably bauxite, diamond, gold, iron ore, titanium, and zirconium—represented only a minor part of the economy of Sierra Leone (Bank of Sierra Leone, 2016, p. 2, 6). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Sierra Leone is provided by the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009 and the Petroleum Regulatory Act (2014). 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 Sierra Leone can be found in previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook,

volume III, Area Reports—International—Africa and the Middle East, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/africa-and-middle-east>.

Reference Cited

Bank of Sierra Leone, 2016, Annual report and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 2015: Freetown, Sierra Leone, Bank of Sierra Leone, 145 p. (Accessed December 3, 2017, at <https://www.bsl.gov.sl/BSL%20ANNUAL%20REPORT%20-%202015%20pdf.pdf>.)

TABLE 1
SIERRA LEONE: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
METALS						
Bauxite	thousand metric tons	776	616	1,161	1,334	1,350 ^e
Gold, mine production, Au content	kilograms	135	98	43	106	188
Iron ore, mine production:						
Gross weight	thousand metric tons	6,800	20,300	19,429 ³	2,624 ³	4,720
Fe content	do.	3,900 ^{e, c}	11,900 ⁴	11,300 ^e	1,500 ^e	2,700 ^e
Titanium mineral concentrates:						
Ilmenite and leucoxene		22,590	32,300 ^e	35,838	37,633	26,000
Rutile		94,493	120,349	114,163	126,022	143,000
Zirconium mineral concentrates		1,120	2,951	2,357	1,326	1,500 ^e
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement, hydraulic		335,400	313,360	336,300	324,110	324,000 ^e
Diamond, gem and industrial	carats	541,166	608,955	620,181	500,000	549,086

^eEstimated. ^rRevised.

¹Table includes data available through December 7, 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, lignite may have been produced in Sierra Leone, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Source: Bank of Sierra Leone.

⁴Iron content of ore for the Marampa Mine [3.4 million metric tons (Mt)] is estimated to be 63.6%; iron content of ore for the Tonkolili Mine (16.9 Mt) is estimated to be 57.6%.

TABLE 2
SIERRA LEONE: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2016

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Bauxite		Sierra Mineral Holdings I Ltd. (Vimetco N.V., 100%)	Sierra Minerals Mine, 150 kilometers southeast of Freetown	1,200
Cement		Sierra Leone Cement Corp. Ltd. (HeidelbergCement AG, 100%)	Leocem cement plant, Freetown	600
Diamond	thousand carats	OCTEA Diamond Group (BSG Resources Ltd., 100%)	Two kimberlite pipes, 2 kilometers from the district capital of Koidu	540
Gold	kilograms	Artisanal miners	Various locations throughout the country	NA
Iron ore		Tonkolili Iron Ore (SL) Ltd. (African Minerals Ltd., 75%, and Shandong Iron and Steel Group Co. Ltd., 25%)	Tonkolili Mine, ¹ 190 kilometers northeast of Freetown	20,000
Do.		Timis Corp.	Marampa Mine, ¹ 150 kilometers northeast of Freetown	5,400
Titanium, ilmenite concentrate		Sierra Rutile Ltd. (Iluka Resources Ltd.)	Sierra Rutile Mine, 130 kilometers southeast of Freetown	41
Titanium, rutile concentrate		do.	do.	200
Zirconium, zircon concentrate		do.	do.	10

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.

¹In care-and-maintenance status.