

2016 Minerals Yearbook

SOLOMON ISLANDS

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

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In 2016, the production of mineral commodities—notably bauxite—represented only a minor part of the economy of the Solomon Islands (table 1; International Monetary Fund, 2016, p. 6). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in the Solomon Islands is provided by the Mines and Minerals 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 the Solomon Islands can be found in the previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—

International—Asia and Pacific, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/asia-and-pacific>.

Reference Cited

International Monetary Fund, 2016, 2016 article IV consultation and fifth and sixth reviews under the extended credit facility arrangement—Press releases—Staff report—And statement by the executive director for Solomon Islands: Washington, DC, International Monetary Fund, March. (Accessed November 28, 2017, at https://www.imf.org/~media/Websites/IMF/Imported/external/pubs/ft/scr/2016/_cr1690pdf.ashx.)

TABLE 1
SOLOMON ISLANDS: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
METALS					
Bauxite metric tons	--	--	--	292,000	238,000
Gold, mine production, Au content	2,180	1,886	1,403	--	--
Silver, mine production, Ag content	932	413	280	--	--

-- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through November 28, 2017. All data are reported unless otherwise noted.

TABLE 2
SOLOMON ISLANDS: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2016

(Kilograms)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity ^e
Bauxite metric tons	Asia Pacific Investment and Development Ltd. (APID)	West Rennell Islands	300,000
Gold: ¹			
Ore, Au content	St Barbara Ltd., 100%	Gold Ridge Mine, Guadalcanal, Guadalcanal Province	1,400
Refined	Meekom Gold Exchange and Refinery Corp. Ltd.	NA	600
Silver, in ore ¹	St Barbara Ltd., 100%	Gold Ridge Mine, Guadalcanal, Guadalcanal Province	300

^eEstimated. NA Not available.

¹The mine was closed from July 2014 through 2016.