

2017–2018 Minerals Yearbook

ECUADOR

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF ECUADOR

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In 2017 and 2018, the production of mineral commodities— notably cement, feldspar, gold, iron and steel, natural gas, crude petroleum, refined petroleum, silica sand, and silver— represented only a minor part of the economy of Ecuador (Banco Central del Ecuador, 2019, p. 14, 18). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Ecuador is provided by law No. 45/2009. 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 Ecuador can be found in previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey

Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International— Latin America and Canada, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/south-america>.

Reference Cited

Banco Central del Ecuador, 2019, Reporte de minería 2019 [Mining report 2019]: Quito, Ecuador, Banco Central del Ecuador, 18 p. (Accessed December 26, 2019, at <https://contenido.bce.fin.ec/documentos/Estadisticas/Hidrocarburos/ReporteMinero012019.pdf>.)

TABLE 1
ECUADOR: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
METALS					
Antimony, mine, Sb content	6	19	6	53	50 ^e
Copper, mine, concentrates, Cu content ^e thousand metric tons	120	1	40	8	42
Gold, mine, Au content kilograms	7,322	7,723	6,761	6,368	8,213
Iron and steel, raw steel	667,000	720,000	576,000	561,000	583,000
Silver, mine, Ag content kilograms	577	1,494 ^r	934	955	1,000 ^e
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement, hydraulic ^e thousand metric tons	6,600	6,200 ^r	5,600	5,700	5,800
Clay and shale:					
Kaolin	40,236	63,829	40,000 ^{r,e}	40,000 ^e	40,000 ^e
Unspecified thousand metric tons	776	539	966	528	301
Feldspar, mine	183,259	253,253 ^r	148,506 ^r	92,871	43,197
Pumice and related materials, pumice thousand metric tons	1,729	1,008	832	757	800 ^e
Sand and gravel, industrial:					
Iron sand	408	--	--	--	--
Silica, industrial, unspecified thousand metric tons	80,868 ^r	84,473	62,230	41,230	105,821
Stone, sand, and gravel:					
Sand and gravel, construction do.	14,845 ^r	6,653 ^r	5,379 ^r	6,852	2,623
Stone, crushed, limestone do.	6,319	3,862 ^r	4,532	3,517	3,027
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Natural gas, marketable million cubic meters	578	497	530	463	349
Petroleum:					
Crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	203,159	198,231	200,711	193,929	188,789
Refinery:					
Diesel do.	6,433 ^r	5,696 ^r	5,795 ^r	6,052	6,028
Distillate fuel oil do.	1,342 ^r	2,788 ^r	11,439 ^r	13,686	14,904
Gasoline do.	26,927 ^r	29,099	27,990	29,059	30,605
Liquefied petroleum gas do.	2,005 ^r	1,522	2,872	2,921	2,653
Residual fuel oil do.	9,067 ^r	8,698 ^r	6,872 ^r	8,250	10,074
Other do.	19,912 ^r	18,074 ^r	19,337 ^r	17,451	16,648
Total do.	65,700 ^r	65,900 ^r	74,300 ^r	77,400	80,900

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through December 16, 2019. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Totals and estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²In addition to the commodities listed, barite, bentonite, marble, and sulfur may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2
ECUADOR: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2018

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Cement		LafargeHolcim Ecuador S.A. (LafargeHolcim Ltd., 92.2%)	Cerro Blanco plant, Guayaquil, Guayas Province, and San Rafael grinding plant, Latacunga, Cotopaxi Province	5,500
Do.		Unión Andina de Cementos, 98.5%	Cement plant near capital city of Quito, Pichincha Province	1,600
Do.		Cemento Chimbarazo CA (Unión Cementera Nacional, UCEM, C.E.M), 100%	Kriobamba, Chimborazo Province	1,000
Do.		C.E.M. Industrial Guapan S.A., 100%	Agozes, Canar Province	600
Copper		NA	El Oro Province	200
Gold	kilograms	Lundin Gold Inc., 100%	Fruta del Norte Mine, Santiago Province	9,700
Do.	do.	Bella Rica Mining Cooperative	Bella Rica Mine and La Guanache-Tres de Mayo Mine, Azuay Province	3,000
Do.	do.	Dynasty Metals and Mining Inc., 100%	Zaruma gold mine, El Oro Province	2,200
Do.	do.	Elípe S.A., 90%	Cabo de Hornos concessions, Portavelo and Zaruma Provinces	2,000
Natural gas	million cubic meters	Empresa Pública de Hidrocarburos del Ecuador, EP Petroecuador (Government, 100%)	Amistad field, Gulf of Guayaquil	600
Petroleum:				
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	do.	About 26 active fields, led by Auca, Orellana Province; Sacha, Sucumbios Province; and Shushufindi, Napo Province	200,000
Do.	do.	Petroamazonas EP [Empresa Publica de Hidrocarburos del Ecuador (Government, 100%)]	About 85 active fields led by fields in the Amazon basin with operations in Guayas, Napo, Orellana, and Sucumbios Provinces	105,000
Do.	do.	Operaciones Río Napo [Empresa Publica de Hidrocarburos del Ecuador (Government, 100%)]	Sacha oilfield	21,000
Refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels per day	Empresa Publica de Hidrocarburos del Ecuador (Government, 100%)	Esmeraldas refinery, Esmeraldas Province	110
Do.	do.	do.	La Libertad refinery, Santa Elena Province	45
Do.	do.	do.	Shushufindi Industrial Complex	20

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.