

2017–2018 Minerals Yearbook

ERITREA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF ERITREA

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In 2017 and 2018, the production of mineral commodities—notably copper, gold, silver, and zinc—represented only a minor part of the economy of Eritrea (African Development Bank Group, 2019). 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 and the Middle East, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/africa-and-middle-east>.

Reference Cited

African Development Bank Group, 2019, Eritrea, in African statistical yearbook 2019: African Development Bank Group, p. 228–233. (Accessed July 31, 2019, at <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/document/the-african-statistical-yearbook-2019-109564>.)

TABLE 1
ERITREA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
METALS					
Copper, mine, concentrate, Cu content	88,900	61,600	25,300	7,900	16,000 ^e
Gold, mine, Au content kilograms	905 ³	1,390 ³	1,400 ^e	2,700 ^e	3,700 ^e
Silver, mine, Ag content do.	52,668	70,330	13,200	49,921	30,000 ^e
Zinc, mine, Zn content	--	--	40,900	95,400	110,000 ^e
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement, hydraulic ^e	230,000	200,000	200,000	210,000	280,000
Clay, common ^e	84,000	86,000 ^r	88,000 ^r	91,000	100,000
Gypsum ^{e,4}	17,000 ^r	17,000 ^r	17,000 ^r	18,000	18,000
Lime ^e	15,000	15,000 ^r	16,000	16,000	16,000
Pumice and related minerals, pumice ^e	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,400	7,200
Salt, sea ^e	300,000	300,000	310,000	320,000	320,000
Stone, sand, and gravel, construction: ^e					
Aggregates, unspecified ⁴	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,100,000	2,200,000
Stone, crushed:					
Basalt	33,000	34,000 ^r	36,000 ^r	36,000	36,000
Limestone ⁵	330,000	330,000 ^r	340,000	350,000	460,000
Stone, dimension:					
Granite:					
Block	45,000	47,000	49,000 ^r	49,000	49,000
Slab	6,700	6,900	7,200 ^r	7,200	7,200
Marble, slab	2,600 ^r	2,800	2,900 ^r	2,900	2,900

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

¹Table includes data available through July 25, 2019. 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, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Reported sales.

⁴For use in concrete only.

⁵For use in cement and lime only.

TABLE 2
ERITREA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2018

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies	Location	Annual capacity
Cement		Gedem Cement Works	Gedem	350,000
Do.		Eritrea Cement Works ¹	Massawa	45,000
Copper		Bisha Mining Share Co. [Zijin Mining Group Company Ltd., 60%, and Eritrean National Mining Corp. (ENAMCO), 40%]	Bisha Mine near Bishia	18,000
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	540 ^c
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	31,000 ^c
Stone, dimension:				
Granite		Margran plc	Gheleb	13,500
Marble		do.	Gogne	7,700
Zinc		Bisha Mining Share Co.	Bisha Mine near Bishia	114,000

^cEstimated. Do., do. Ditto.

¹Not operating at the end of 2018.