

2017–2018 Minerals Yearbook

MALAWI

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF MALAWI

By Thomas R. Yager

In 2017 and 2018, the production of mineral commodities— notably cement, coal, crushed stone, gemstones and lime— represented only a minor part of the economy of Malawi (Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, 2018, p. 8). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Malawi is provided by the Mines and Minerals Act 1981 and the Mines and Minerals (Mineral Rights) Regulations 1981. The legislative framework for the petroleum sector is provided by Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act 1983. 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 Malawi 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

Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, 2018, Annual economic report 2018: Lilongwe, Malawi, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, 203 p. (Accessed August 21, 2019, at <http://www.finance.gov.mw/index.php/blog/documents/annual-economic-reports>.)

TABLE 1
MALAWI: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement, hydraulic	170,800 ^r	154,800 ^r	150,700 ^r	210,500	231,550
Clay, brick ^e	1,500,000	1,500,000 ^r	1,600,000	1,700,000	1,800,000
Gemstones:					
Agate kilograms	NA	NA	NA	14,739	110,288
Epidote do.	NA	NA	NA	--	6
Fluorite do.	NA	NA	NA	--	19
Garnet do.	NA	NA	NA	1,570	393
Quartz do.	190,000 ^e	150,000 ^e	110,000 ^e	74,632	1,054,448
Ruby do.	48 ^e	48 ^e	48 ^e	2	255
Sapphire do.	72 ^e	72 ^e	72 ^e	1	384
Other do.	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	44,283	31,209
Lime, agricultural and hydrated	20,206 ^r	33,158 ^r	38,278 ^r	43,650	48,461
Phosphate rock	11,194 ^r	12,400 ^r	2,500 ^r	10,000 ^e	12,000 ^e
Stone, sand, and gravel, construction:					
Stone, crushed:					
Limestone, for cement	37,000 ^{r, e}	90,097 ^r	128,657 ^r	43,650	48,015
Other, unspecified	1,038,168	1,158,742	1,990,000	2,500,000	2,679,321
Sulfur, compounds, sulfuric acid	25,000 ^e	--	--	--	--
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Coal, bituminous	63,673 ^r	58,774 ^r	43,338 ^r	45,230	49,753
Uranium, mine, U content	369	--	--	--	--

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through September 19, 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, gypsum and salt may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2
MALAWI: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2018

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners		Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Cement	Portland Cement Company Ltd. (Lafarge S.A., 100%)		Plant at Blantyre	200,000.
Do.	Shayona Cement Corp.		Plant at Livwezi	200,000.
Do.	Cement Products Ltd.		Plant at Njereza	80,000.
Coal, bituminous	Mchenga Coal Mines Ltd. (Coal Products Ltd.)		Mchenga Mine in Rumphi District	90,000.
Do.	Malcoal Mining Ltd. [Intra Energy Corp. (IEC), 90%]		Nkhachira Mine near Kayelekera ¹	75,000.
Do.	Eland Coal Mining Co. (Allied Procurement Agency)		Mine at Lufira coalfield ¹	72,000. ^c
Do.	Kaziwiziwi Mining Co.		Mine at Kaziwiziwi in Rumphi District	5,000. ^c
Fertilizer	Malawi Fertilizer Co. (Meridian Group)		Plant at Liwonde	150,000.
Do.	Optichem (2000) Ltd.		Plant at Blantyre	100,000.
Gemstones:				
Agate	kilograms	Artisanal miners	Mines in Chikwawa District	NA.
Garnet	do.	do.	Mines at Salima District	NA.
Quartz:				
Rose	do.	do.	Zumwanda Mine in Mzimba District	220,000. ^c
Smoky and crystal	do.	do.	do.	17,000. ^c
Yellow	do.	do.	Mines in Mzimba District	17,000. ^c
Ruby and sapphire	do.	Mwalawanga Mining Co.	Nyala Mine at Chimwadzulu Hill	300 sapphire; 150 ruby. ^c
Lime	Various producers, including the following: Zalewa Agricultural Lime Co. LimeCo Balaka Limeworks Supply Co. Ltd.		Various sites, including the following: Blantyre NA Balaka	42,000.
Do.	Lirangwe Lime Makers Assoc.		Lirangwe	NA.
Do.	Balaka Lime Makers Assoc.		Balaka	NA.
Stone, crushed:				
Limestone	Shayona Cement Corp.		Mine at Wimbe	300,000. ^c
Other	Various companies and artisanal miners		At least 19 operations at various sites in Malawi	2,800,000. ^c
Phosphate rock	Optichem (2000) Ltd.		Mine at Tundulu	13,000. ^c
Sulfuric acid	Paladin Energy Ltd.		Plant near Kayelekera ¹	84,000.
Uranium, U ₃ O ₈	do.		Mine near Kayelekera ¹	1,500.

^cEstimated. Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.

¹Not in operation at the end of 2018.