



2017–2018 Minerals Yearbook

NEW ZEALAND

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF NEW ZEALAND

By Spencer D. Buteyn

In 2017 and 2018, the production of mineral commodities— notably aluminum, crude petroleum, gold, and raw steel— represented only a minor part of the economy of New Zealand (New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, 2019; Statistics New Zealand, 2019). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in New Zealand is provided by the Crown Minerals Act 1991 as amended by the Crown Minerals Amendment Act 2013. 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 New Zealand can be found in previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—Asia and the Pacific,

which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/asia-and-pacific>.

References Cited

- New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, 2019, 2018 mining production statistics: Wellington, New Zealand, New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, November 18. (Accessed November 27, 2019, at <https://www.nzpam.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/our-industry/statistics/2018-mining-production-statistics.xlsx>.)
- Statistics New Zealand, 2019, Gross domestic product—December 2018 quarter—Supplementary tables: Wellington, New Zealand, Statistics New Zealand, March 21. (Accessed November 11, 2019, at <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/gross-domestic-product-december-2018-quarter>.)

TABLE 1
NEW ZEALAND: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
METALS					
Aluminum, primary, metal	328,269	335,292	339,000 ^r	337,000	341,000
Gold, mine, Au content kilograms	11,989	12,687	9,866	10,288	10,500 ^c
Iron ore, mine, iron sand, titaniferous magnetite:					
Gross weight thousand metric tons	3,245	3,194	3,496	3,496	3,496
Fe content do.	1,850	1,820	1,990 ^r	1,990	1,990
Iron and steel:					
Pig iron thousand metric tons	680	678	670	683	679
Raw steel do.	859	793	577	657	652
Silver, mine, Ag content kilograms	15,811	12,498	7,960	8,022	5,000 ^c
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement, hydraulic ^c thousand metric tons	1,100	1,200	900 ^r	360	450
Clay:					
Common clay, for brick and tile manufacture	125,508	6,513	6,500 ^{c,r}	4,299	4,000 ^c
Kaolin, pottery	61,382	13,659	61,650	50,454	51,369
Diatomite, diatomaceous earth	43,624	40,000 ^c	40,000 ^c	40,000 ^c	40,000 ^c
Lime ^c	180,000	180,000	170,000	180,000	180,000
Perlite ^c	22,000	25,000	25,000	17,000	17,000
Pumice and related materials	68,835	42,037	17,653	91,861	223,888
Sand and gravel:					
Construction:					
For roads and ballast thousand metric tons	21,497	18,237	16,843	19,076	22,072
For building aggregate do.	11,654	9,976	7,144	9,671	9,502
Industrial:					
Silica	113,602	43,135	25,125	53,165	53,165
Other thousand metric tons	1,412	1,457	1,355	2,262	1,566
Stone:					
Crushed:					
Dolomite:					
For agriculture	--	173,819	--	24,679	25,297
For other industrial uses	22,925	27,092	--	--	--
Limestone, including marl:					
For agriculture thousand metric tons	2,219	976	675	1,536	1,254
For cement do.	1,949	1,995	602	600	--
For industrial use do.	466	867	995	791	2,117
Dimension, unspecified	13,061	13,516	12,729	162,465	16,745
Zeolites ^c	50,000	65,000	80,000	100,000	100,000
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Coal:					
Bituminous thousand metric tons	180	66	59	61	66
Lignite do.	318	324	285	319	307
Metallurgical do.	1,768	1,334	1,169	1,152	1,261
Subbituminous do.	1,728	1,666	1,454	1,387	1,577
Total do.	3,990 ^r	3,390	2,970 ^r	2,920	3,210
Coke, metallurgical do.	503 ^r	504 ^r	502 ^r	509	500 ^c
Natural gas:					
Gross million cubic meters	5,874 ^r	5,392 ^r	5,558	5,412	4,591
Marketable do.	5,015	4,596	4,843	4,757	4,200
Petroleum:					
Crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	14,448 ^r	14,934 ^r	12,701	11,281	8,949
Refinery do.	37,443	40,342	40,314	39,474	40,058

^cEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through December 9, 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.

TABLE 2
NEW ZEALAND: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2018

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Facilities, major operating companies, and major equity owners		Location of main facilities ¹	Annual capacity ^e
Aluminum		New Zealand Aluminium Smelters Ltd. (NZAS) (Pacific Aluminium, 79.36%, and Sumitomo Chemical Co., 20.64%)		Tiwai Point smelter, Southland, Invercargill	350
Cement		Golden Bay Cement (Fletcher Building Ltd.)		Whangarai plant	900
Do.		Holcim New Zealand Ltd. (LafargeHolcim Ltd.)		Cape Foulwind, Westport	500
Clay, kaolin		Imerys Tableware New Zealand Ltd.		80 km northwest of Whangarei	25
Coal		Birchfield Coalmines Ltd.		Strongman Mine, Greymouth	200
Do.		Francis Mining Co. Ltd		Echo Mine, 10 km southeast of Reefton	NA
Do.		Greenbriar Ltd. (Palmer MH Group)		New Vale Mine, Invercargill	300
Do.		do.		Ohai Mine, Ohai	200
Do.		Moore Mining Ltd.		Burkes Creek Mine, northeast of Reefton	NA
Do.		Phoenix Coal Ltd. (Bathurst Resources Ltd., 65%, and Talleys Energy Ltd., 35%)		Maramarua Mine, 45 km north of Huntly	100
Do.		do.		Rotowaro Mine, 10 km west of Huntly	600
Do.		do.		Stockton Mine, 35 km north of Westport	2,500
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	OceanaGold Corp.		Waihi operations (Correnso Mine)	4,000
Do.	do.	do.		Macraes operation (Macraes Mine and Frasers Mine)	5,000
Iron ore, mine, iron sand		New Zealand Steel Ltd. (BlueScope Steel Ltd.)		Waikato North Head, 30 km south of Auckland	1,400
Do.		Taharoa Mining Investments Ltd. (TMIL) (Taharoa C Block Inc., 60%, and Melrose Private Capital, 40%)		Taharoa, 150 km south of Auckland	1,400
Natural gas	million cubic meters	Todd Taranaki Ltd. (Todd Energy Ltd., 100%)		Mangahewa Field	900
Do.	do.	Royal Dutch Shell plc, 83.75%; OMV AG, 10%; Todd Energy Ltd., 6.25%		Maui Field	900
Do.	do.	do.		Pohokura Field	2,000
Perlite		Blue Pacific Minerals Ltd.		Ngarkuru Quarries	NA
Petroleum:					
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	OMV AG, 69%; Todd Energy Ltd., 16%; Horizon Oil, 10%; Cue Taranaki Resources Ltd., 5%		Maari Field	2,900
Do.	do.	Royal Dutch Shell plc, 48%; OMV AG, 26%; Todd Energy Ltd., 26%		Pohokura Field	2,800
Refinery		New Zealand Refining Co. Ltd.		Marsden Point oil refinery, Marsden Point	35,000
Salt		Dominion Salt Ltd.		Lake Grassmere, 30 km south of Blenheim	100
Silver, mine, Ag content	metric tons	OceanaGold Corp.		Waihi operations (Correnso Mine)	10
Do.	do.	do.		Macraes operation (Macraes Mine and Frasers Mine)	1
Steel		New Zealand Steel Ltd. (BlueScope Steel Ltd.)		Glenbrook mill, Glenbrook	650
Do.		Pacific Steel Group (Fletcher Building Ltd.)		Otahuhu mill, Auckland	300
Zeolites		Blue Pacific Minerals Ltd.		Quarries in Ngakuru	NA

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

¹Abbreviations used for units of measure in this table are as follows: km—kilometers.