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2017–2018 Minerals Yearbook

PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY

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The Mineral Industries of Paraguay and Uruguay

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PARAGUAY

In 2017 and 2018, the production of mineral commodities—notably cement, lime, pig iron, and raw steel—represented only a minor part of the economy of Paraguay (World Steel Association, 2019; 2020, p. 7). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Paraguay is provided by the Mining Law (law No. 3.180/2007), which was modified by law No. 4.269/2011 and law No. 4.935/2013 and regulated by Decree No. 8699/2018 of March 14. 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 Paraguay 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.

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URUGUAY

In 2017 and 2018, the production of mineral commodities—notably cement, clay and shale, gemstones, gold, iron ore, raw steel, stone, (such as dolomite, granite, and limestone), talc, and petroleum refinery products—represented only a minor part of the economy of Uruguay (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, 2018, p. 231; Cámara de Industrias del Uruguay, 2019, p. 4; World Steel Association, 2019). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Uruguay is provided by the Mining Code (law No. 15.242 of January 8, 1982), which was updated in February 28, 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 Uruguay 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.

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TABLE 1

PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES[1]

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity[2]		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
PARAGUAY						
Cement, hydraulic[e]	thousand metric tons	1,000	1,200	1,300 [r]	1,400	1,400
Iron and steel:[3]						
Pig iron		71,000	73,000	50,000	38,000	39,000
Raw steel		47,000	48,000	35,000	24,000	25,000
Lime[e]		90,000	90,000	90,000	80,000	80,000
URUGUAY[4]						
Cement, hydraulic	thousand metric tons	820 [e]	730 [e]	740 [5]	817 [5]	812 [5]
Clay:						
Bentonite		7,800	4,250	6,650 [r]	6,640	6,600 [e]
Unspecified		23,120	30,890 [r]	8,720 [r]	2,390	2,400 [e]
Gemstones, agate, including amethyst		15,620	15,210 [r]	9,780 [r]	13,030	13,000 [e]
Gold, mine, Au content[6]	kilograms	1,875	1,664	1,113	1,100	860
Iron ore, mine:						
Gross weight		15,050	11,520	2,590 [r]	2,530	2,500
Fe content		6,022	4,608	970 [r]	950 [e]	940 [e]
Iron and steel, raw steel[3]		94,000	97,000 [e]	61,000	60,000	60,000
Petroleum, refinery[7]	thousand 42-gallon barrels	14,891	14,862	16,645	4,975	16,000 [e]
Stone, other, size and shape unspecified:						
Dolomite		19,666	17,180	19,730 [r]	15,130	15,000 [e]
Granite		2,900	2,630	2,430 [r]	2,850	2,800 [e]
Limestone	thousand metric tons	1,474	1,542	1,488 [r]	1,363	1,400 [e]
Other	do.	1,552	1,383 [r]	1,918 [r]	1,381	1,400 [e]
Talc		360	590 [r]	290 [r]	100	100 [e]

[e]Estimated. [r]Revised. do. Ditto.

[1]Table includes data available through July 1, 2019. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

[2]In addition to the commodities listed, construction materials (clay, limestone, marble, and sand) may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

[3]Source: World Steel Association.

[4]In addition to the commodities listed, feldspar and marble were produced in small quantities. Source: Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería - Dirección Nacional de Minería y Geología, Data are for fiscal year beginning April 1 and ending March 31.

[5]Based on total sales of cement (domestic and exports).

[6]Source: Orosur Mining Inc. Production is based on fiscal year, with a starting date of April 1 of the year shown.

[7]Source: Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería -Dirección de Energía.

TABLE 2
PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2018

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity[e]
PARAGUAY			
Cement	Industria Nacional del Cemento	Puerto Vallemi plant, about 350 kilometers northwest of Asuncion	1,060
Do.	do.	Villeta plant, about 25 kilometers south of Asuncion	730
Do.	Yguazú Cementos S.A. (Intercement Brasil S.A., 51%, and Concret-Mix S.A., 49%)	Villa Hayes plant in Presidente Hayes Department	400
Iron and steel, raw steel	Aceros del Paraguay S.A. (ACEPAR)	Villa Hayes, about 25 kilometers northeast of Asuncion	150
URUGUAY			
Cement	Cementos Artigas S.A. (Votorantim Cimentos, 51%, and Cementos Molins S.A., 49%)	Minas plant in Lavalleja Department and Sayago Plant in Montevideo	500
Do.	Cementos del Plata S.A. (Administración Nacional de Combustibles, Alcohol, y Portland, 99.74%)	Minas plant in Lavalleja Department Paysandu plant in Paysandu Department	530
Gold, mine, Au content kilograms	Minera San Gregorio S.A. (Orosur Mining Inc., 100%)	Mina de San Gregorio in Rivera Department, about 450 kilometers north of Asuncion[1]	2,000
Iron and steel, raw steel	Gerdau Laisa S.A.	Montevideo	90
Petroleum, refinery products thousand 42-gallon barrels	Administración Nacional de Combustibles, Alcohol, y Portland	La Teja oil refinery near Montevideo	18,000

[e]Estimated. Do., do. Ditto.
[1]The San Gregorio mining operations were placed on care-and-maintenance status in August 2018.