

2017–2018 Minerals Yearbook

RWANDA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF RWANDA

By Thomas R. Yager

In 2017 and 2018, the production of mineral commodities—notably gold, tantalum, tin, and tungsten—represented only a minor part of the economy of Rwanda (African Development Bank Group, 2019). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Rwanda is provided by law No. 13/2014 of May 20, 2014, On Mining and Quarrying Operations. The legislative framework for the petroleum sector is provided by law No. 13/2016 of May 2, 2016, Governing Petroleum Exploration and Production Activity.

Rwanda was the world's second-ranked producer of tantalum in 2018. Reported production of columbite-tantalite was 1,642 metric tons (t) in 2018 compared with 1,725 t in 2017. Domestically mined columbite-tantalite had average tantalum pentoxide (Ta_2O_5) and niobium pentoxide (Nb_2O_5) contents of 26% and 18%, respectively. In 2018, reported cassiterite production was 4,729 t, which was nearly unchanged from that of 2017. Domestically mined cassiterite had an average tantalum content of between 1% and 2% (National Bank of Rwanda, 2019; Padilla, 2020; Christophe Barthelemy, Director General, Phoenix Metal Ltd., oral commun., February 18, 2015;

David Bensussan, Chief Executive Officer, Minerals Supply Africa Ltd., oral commun., February 20, 2015).

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 Rwanda 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 <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country/africa-and-middle-east.html>.

References Cited

- African Development Bank Group, 2019, Rwanda, *in* African statistical yearbook 2019: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, African Development Bank Group, p. 360–365. (Accessed July 31, 2019, at <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/document/the-african-statistical-yearbook-2019-109564>.)
- National Bank of Rwanda, 2019, Formal monthly exports 2018: Kigali, Rwanda, National Bank of Rwanda, February 28. (Accessed August 7, 2019, at <https://www.bnr.rw/browse-in/statistics/external-sector-statistics/>.)
- Padilla, A.J., 2020, Tantalum: U.S. Geological Survey Mineral Commodity Summaries 2020, p. 164–165.

TABLE 1
RWANDA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
METALS						
Beryl ³	kilograms	NA	22,856	20,001	20,000 ^e	20,000 ^e
Gold, mine, Au content ³	do.	160 ^e	319	336	300 ^e	300 ^e
Iron and steel, raw steel ^{e, 4}		15,000	15,000	19,000 ^r	23,000	23,000
Niobium and tantalum, mine:						
Cassiterite concentrate:						
Gross weight		5,930	3,846	3,550 ^s	4,760 ^s	4,729 ^s
Nb content ^e	kilograms	53,000 ^r	34,000 ^r	32,000 ^r	42,000	42,000
Ta content ^e	do.	89,000 ^r	58,000 ^r	53,000 ^r	71,000	71,000
Columbite-tantalite concentrate:						
Gross weight	do.	2,302,520	1,651,712	1,269,939 ^s	1,725,182 ^s	1,641,857 ^s
Nb content ^e	do.	290,000	210,000	160,000	220,000	210,000
Ta content ^e	do.	490,000	350,000	270,000	370,000	350,000
Tin:						
Mine, cassiterite concentrate:						
Gross weight		5,930	3,846	3,550 ^s	4,760 ^s	4,729 ^s
Sn content ^e		3,700	2,400	2,200	3,000	3,000
Smelter, primary		--	400 ^e	-- ^e	-- ^e	--
Tungsten, mine, concentrate:						
Gross weight		2,166	1,784	1,716 ^s	1,524 ^s	1,944 ^s
W content ^e		1,000	850	820	720	920
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement, hydraulic ^e		140,000	180,000 ^r	350,000 ^r	390,000	400,000
Clay, common		7,100 ^e	16,839	42,000 ^{r, e}	48,000 ^e	50,000 ^e
Gemstones: ³						
Amethyst	kilograms	-- ^{r, e}	27,019	8,986	-- ^e	--
Sapphire	do.	NA	1	--	-- ^e	-- ^e
Tourmaline	do.	NA	10,591	3,934	3,900 ^e	3,900 ^e
Lime ^e		2,700	2,800	2,900	2,900	3,000
Pumice and related minerals, pozzolan, pozzolanic material		20,056	48,955	120,000 ^{r, e}	140,000 ^e	140,000 ^e
Stone, sand, and gravel, construction:						
Sand and gravel, unspecified ^e		3,000,000	3,100,000	3,400,000	3,600,000	3,800,000
Stone:						
Crushed:						
Limestone		67,732	187,657	480,000 ^{r, e}	540,000 ^e	560,000 ^e
Sandstone		9,651	20,292	51,000 ^{r, e}	57,000	60,000 ^e
Dimension, granite		5,964 ^r	6,027	9,000 ^{r, e}	12,000 ^e	18,000 ^e
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS						
Natural gas, marketable, dry basis ^e	million cubic meters	5 ^r	7	69 ^r	69	69
Peat, unspecified ^e		13,000	13,000	13,000	100,000	100,000

^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, other crude construction materials may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Data are for the Rwandan fiscal year ending on June 30 of the year listed.

⁴Estimated based on power consumption.

⁵Reported exports.

TABLE 2
RWANDA: 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		Cimenterie du Rwanda Ltd. (Cimerwa) (PPC Ltd., 51%)	Plant at Cyangugu	600,000
Do.		Kigali Cement Co. (ARM Cement Ltd., 100%)	Plant at Muganza ¹	100,000
Do.		Great Lakes Cement Co.	Plant in Musanze District	26,000
Clay		Cimenterie du Rwanda Ltd. (Cimerwa) (PPC Ltd., 51%)	Mine near Muganza	61,000 ^e
Gemstones:				
Amethyst	kilograms	Artisanal miners	Mine in Ruhango District ¹	28,000 ^e
Sapphire	do.	do.	Mines in Rusizi District ¹	1,100 ^e
Tourmaline	do.	do.	Various locations in central Rwanda	11,000 ^e
Lime		ALICOMEC	Plant in Western Province	3,300 ^e
Natural gas	million cubic meters	Kivuwatt Ltd. (ContourGlobal LLC)	Plant at Lake Kivu	61 ^e
Do.	do.	Kibuye Power 1 Ltd.	do.	11 ^e
Niobium (columbium) and tantalum, columbite-tantalite ore and concentrate ²		Various companies and cooperatives	Mines in Rutsiro District	480 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Nyamasheke District	460 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Muhanga District	390 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Gakene District	270 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Rubavu District	260 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Nyaraguru District	150 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Bugesera District	130 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Ngororero District	120 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Ruhango District	75 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Kamonyi District	65 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Gatsibo District	55 ^e
Peat		Peat Energy Co. [Rwanda Investment Group S.A. (RIG)]	Mine at Gishoma in Rusizi District	200,000 ^e
Pozzolan materials		Cimenterie du Rwanda Ltd. (Cimerwa) (PPC Ltd., 51%)	Mine near Muganza	220,000 ^e
Steel, crude		SteelRwa Industries Ltd.	Plant in Rwamagana District	36,000
Stone, crushed:				
Limestone		Cimenterie du Rwanda Ltd. (Cimerwa) (PPC Ltd., 51%)	Mine at Nyakabuye	690,000 ^e
Sandstone		do.	Mine at Nengo	84,000 ^e
Stone, dimension		East African Granite Industries Ltd.	Plant at Rutarka Village	36,000 ^e
Tin:				
Cassiterite, ore and concentrate ²		Rutongo Mines Ltd. (Tinco Investments Ltd.)	Mines in Rulindo District	1,200
Do.		Various companies and cooperatives	Mines in Muhanga District	790 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Nyamasheke District	690 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Rutsiro District	640 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Gakene District	590 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Rubavu District	320 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Kayonza District	290 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Gatsibo District	270 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Bugesera District	230 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Nyaraguru District	210 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Gasabo District	200 ^e
Refined		Luna Smelter Ltd.	Smelter at Karuruma ¹	2,200
Tungsten, wolframite ore and concentrate ²		Eurotrade International S.A. (Tinco Investments Ltd.)	Nyakabingo Mine in Rulindo District	480
Do.		Various companies and cooperatives	Mines in Rwamagana District	300 ^e
Do.		do.	Mines in Burera District	290 ^e
Do.		Rwanda Allied Partners (RAP)	Kilimbari Mine in Kayonza District	270 ^e

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued
RWANDA: 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
Tungsten, wolframite ore and concentrate ² —Continued	Various companies and cooperatives	Mines in Rutsiro District	230 ^e
Do.	do.	Mines in Ngororero District	190 ^e
Do.	do.	Mines in Nyaraguru District	160 ^e
Do.	do.	Mines in Muhanga District	150 ^e
Do.	do.	Mines in Kirehe District	140 ^e
Do.	do.	Mines in Rubavu District	130 ^e

^eEstimated. Do., do. Ditto.

¹Not operating at the end of 2018.

²Gross weight of concentrate.