



2019 Minerals Yearbook

ERITREA [ADVANCE RELEASE]

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF ERITREA

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In 2019, 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, 2021). 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, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/africa-and-middle-east>.

Reference Cited

African Development Bank Group, 2021, Eritrea, *in* African statistical yearbook 2021: Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, African Development Bank Group, January 12, p. 351–356. (Accessed May 28, 2021, at <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/african-statistical-yearbook-2020>.)

TABLE 1
ERITREA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

| Commodity ² | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| METALS | | | | | |
| Copper, mine, concentrates, Cu content | 61,600 | 25,300 | 7,900 | 17,000 ^r | 16,008 |
| Gold, mine, Au content | 1,390 ³ | 1,400 ^e | 2,700 ^e | 3,700 ^e | 3,700 ^e |
| Silver, mine, Ag content | 70,330 | 13,200 | 49,921 | 31,000 ^r | 44,836 |
| Zinc, mine, Zn content | -- | 40,900 | 95,400 | 125,000 ^r | 121,260 |
| INDUSTRIAL MINERALS | | | | | |
| Cement, hydraulic ^e | 200,000 | 200,000 | 210,000 | 280,000 | 280,000 |
| Clay, common ^c | 86,000 | 88,000 | 91,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Gypsum, mine ^{e,4} | 17,000 | 17,000 | 18,000 | 18,000 | 18,000 |
| Lime ^c | 15,000 | 16,000 | 16,000 | 16,000 | 16,000 |
| Pumice and related minerals, pumice ^c | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,400 | 7,200 | 7,200 |
| Salt, sea ^c | 300,000 | 310,000 | 320,000 | 320,000 | 330,000 |
| Stone, sand, and gravel, construction: ^e | | | | | |
| Sand and gravel, unspecified ⁴ | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 2,100,000 | 2,200,000 | 2,200,000 |
| Stone: | | | | | |
| Crushed: | | | | | |
| Basalt | 34,000 | 36,000 | 36,000 | 36,000 | 36,000 |
| Limestone ⁵ | 330,000 | 340,000 | 350,000 | 460,000 | 460,000 |
| Dimension: | | | | | |
| Granite: | | | | | |
| Block | 47,000 | 49,000 | 49,000 | 49,000 | 49,000 |
| Slab | 6,900 | 7,200 | 7,200 | 7,200 | 7,200 |
| Marble, slab | 2,800 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 |

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

¹Table includes data available through July 7, 2020. 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 2019

(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, mine | | Bisha Mining Share Co. [Zijin Mining Group Company Ltd., 55%, and Eritrean National Mining Corp. (ENAMCO), 45%] | Bisha Mine near Bishia | 18,000 |
| Gold, mine | 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 ^e |
| 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, mine | kilograms | Bisha Mining Share Co. | Bisha Mine near Bishia | 50,000 ^e |
| Stone, dimension: | | | | |
| Granite | | Margran plc | Gheleb | 13,500 |
| Marble | | do. | Gogne | 7,700 |
| Zinc, mine | | Bisha Mining Share Co. | Bisha Mine near Bishia | 114,000 |

^eEstimated. Do., do. Ditto.

¹Not operating at the end of 2019.