



2019 Minerals Yearbook

ETHIOPIA [ADVANCE RELEASE]

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF ETHIOPIA

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In 2019, the production of mineral commodities—notably gemstones, gold, pumice, and tantalum—represented only a minor part of the economy of Ethiopia (BDO LLP, 2019, p. 35). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Ethiopia is provided by the Mining Proclamation No. 52/1993 as amended by Proclamation Nos. 22/1996 and 118/1998, the Transaction of Minerals Proclamation No. 1144/2019, the Mining Income Tax Proclamation No. 53/1993 as amended by Proclamation No. 23/1996, the Transaction of Precious Minerals Proclamation No. 651/2009, the Mining Operations Proclamation No. 678/2010, the Mining Operations Amendment Proclamation No. 816/2013, and the Mining Operations Council of Ministers Regulations No. 182/1994. 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 Ethiopia 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

BDO LLP, 2019, Ethiopia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative—EITI report for the year ended 7 July 2017: London, United Kingdom, BDO LLP, August, 97 p., including 7 annexes. (Accessed November 3, 2020, at https://eiti.org/files/documents/ethiopia_eiti_report_2016-17.pdf.)

TABLE 1
ETHIOPIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES^{1,2}

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ³		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
METALS						
Gold, mine, Au content	kilograms	9,040 ⁴	8,577 ⁴	5,390	3,495	3,480
Niobium and tantalum, mineral concentrate, columbite-tantalite:						
Gross weight	do.	180,000 ^e	191,000 ⁴	118,876	76,302	161,582
Nb content ^e	do.	15,000	16,000	22,000	26,000	7,000
Ta content ^e	do.	59,000	63,000	65,000	70,000	70,000
Platinum-group metals, mine, platinum, Pt content ^e	do.	5	5	4 ^r	4 ^r	2
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement, hydraulic ^e	thousand metric tons	7,500	8,300	9,000	9,300	10,100
Clay:						
Brick clay ^e		16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Kaolin, china clay		4,600 ^e	4,600 ^e	4,600 ^e	10,000	250
Unspecified ^e		990,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000
Diatomite ^e		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Feldspar, mine ^e		600	600	600	600	600
Gemstones:						
Aquamarine	kilograms	3,200 ^e	420 ^e	95 ^r	69 ^r	65 ^e
Citrine	do.	16 ^e	2 ^e	2 ^e	5 ^r	5 ^e
Emerald	do.	70 ^e	9 ^e	2,293 ^r	2,650	556
Garnet	do.	140 ^e	19 ^e	9 ^r	10 ^r	10 ^e
Morganite ^e	do.	6	1	1	1	1
Opal	do.	64,000 ^e	8,385	693	2,711	3,591
Peridot	do.	46 ^e	6 ^e	5 ^r	6 ^e	6 ^e
Ruby ^e	do.	260	34	34	34	34
Sapphire	do.	220 ^e	29 ^e	23 ^r	53 ^r	284
Tourmaline	do.	500 ^e	66 ^e	53 ^r	95 ^r	90 ^e
Gypsum, including anhydrite		290,000 ^e	80,556	85,236	253,165	56,313
Lime ^e		55,000	75,000	83,000	85,000	85,000
Pumice and related materials		720,000 ^e	672,133	958,707	2,435,518	505,581
Salt, rock salt ^e		440,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1—Continued
ETHIOPIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES^{1,2}

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ³	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS—Continued					
Sand and gravel, industrial:					
Quartz ^c	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Sand	10,443	10,000 ^c	10,000 ^c	10,000 ^c	10,000 ^c
Soda ash, natural	6,878	4,326	6,476	18,105	18,000 ^c
Stone, sand, and gravel, construction:					
Stone:					
Crushed:					
Basalt	148,078	246,656	453,890	959,724	358,533
Limestone	4,800,000 ^c	4,120,288	4,335,085	10,896,332	6,755,309
Rhyolite ^c	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000
Sandstone	35,896	35,900 ^c	35,900 ^c	64,617	64,600 ^c
Shale	110,000 ^c	110,000 ^c	45,129	95,361	58,961
Dimension:					
Granite ^c	1,600	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800
Marble:					
Block ^c	9,700	9,700	9,700	10,000	10,000
Slab and tiles ^c	12,000	12,000	12,000	13,000	13,000
Other, unspecified	43,000 ^c	38,409	159,969	607,084	3,178
Other, size and shape unspecified, dolomite ^c	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Coal, lignite	34,131	35,000 ^c	35,000 ^c	2,767	2,700 ^c

^cEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Table includes data available through November 12, 2020. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data are for the Ethiopian fiscal year ending July 7 of the year listed, except for steel, which are for the calendar year ending December 31 of the year listed.

³In addition to the commodities listed, caustic soda, glass, silver, sulfuric acid, and talc may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

⁴Reported exports.

TABLE 2
ETHIOPIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2019

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners		Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Caustic soda	Caustic Soda Share Co.		Plant at Ziway in Oromia Regional State	10,000.
Cement	Derba MIDROC Cement plc		Plant at Derba, 70 kilometers north of Addis Ababa	2,500,000.
Do.	do.		do.	90,000.
Do.	do.		Plant at Dejen, 229 kilometers north of Addis Ababa	90,000.
Do.	Dangote Cement plc		Plant at Mughher	2,500,000.
Do.	Mughher Cement Enterprise (Government, 100%)		do.	2,276,000.
Do.	Messebo Cement Factory plc (Government, 100%)		Plant at Mekele	2,100,000.
Do.	Habesha Cement Share Co.		Plant in Oromia Region	1,400,000
Do.	National Cement Share Co.		Plants at Dire Dawa	1,200,000.
Do.	East Cement Share Co.		Plant at Dukem	750,000.
Do.	TURE Private Limited, Co.		Plant at Dire Dawa	500,000.
Do.	Capital Clinker and Packaging plc		Plant at Addis Ababa	450,000.
Do.	Pioneer Cement Manufacturing plc		Plant at Dire Dawa	450,000.
Do.	Huang Shan Cement plc		Plant near Modijo	435,000.
Do.	Jiangsu Zhongshun Import and Export Trade Company Ltd.		Plant at Dukem	250,000.
Do.	Red Fox International Investment plc		Plant at Adama	100,000.
Do.	Abyssinia Cements plc		Plant at Chancho	90,000.
Do.	Debressina Business and Industry PLC		Plant at Holleta	90,000.
Do.	Jema Cement plc		Plant in North Shoa zone	45,000.
Clay and shale:				
Kaolin	Ethiopian Mineral Development Share Co. (Government, 100%)		Mine at Bamba Wuha	7,500.
Shale	Messebo Cement Factory plc (Government, 100%)		Mine in Tigray Regional State	170,000. ^c
Other, unspecified	East Cement Share Co.		Mine in Oromia Regional State	1,800,000. ^c
Do.	National Cement Share Co.		Mine in Amhara Regional State	280,000. ^c
Do.	Pioneer Cement Manufacturing plc		Mine at Dire Dawa	120,000. ^c
Do.	Mughher Cement Enterprise (Government, 100%)		Mine near Mughher	67,000. ^c
Coal, lignite	Delbi Coal Mining Share Co.		Mine at Delbi	30,000. ^c
Feldspar	Ethiopian Minerals, Petroleum and Biofuel Co.		Kenticha Mine in Oromia Regional State ¹	600. ^e
Gemstones, opal	kilograms	Artisanal miners	Mine at Wegel Tena	NA.
Do.	do.		Mine near Gashena	NA.
Glass	Ethiopia Hansom International Glass plc [CGC Overseas Construction Ltd. (CGCOC) and China-Africa Development Fund]		Plant at Addis Ababa	42,000.
Do.	Addis Ababa Bottle and Glass Share Co.		do.	8,000.
Gold	kilograms	MIDROC Gold Mine plc (MIDROC Group)	Lega Dembi and Sakaro Mines in Oromia Regional State ²	3,600. ^e
Do.	do.	Artisanal miners	Mines in Oromia Regional State	3,400. ^e
Do.	do.	do.	Mines in Tigray Regional State	2,200. ^e
Do.	do.	do.	Mines in Gambella Regional State	1,200. ^e
Do.	do.	do.	Mines in Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State	1,100. ^e
Do.	do.	do.	Mines in Southern Nations Nationalities, and Peoples' Regional State	600. ^e
Do.	do.	do.	Mines in Amhara Regional State ³	300. ^e

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued
ETHIOPIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2019

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Gypsum	Derba MIDROC Cement plc	Mine in Oromia Regional State	150,000. ^c
Do.	East Cement Share Co.	do.	140,000. ^c
Do.	Pioneer Cement Manufacturing plc	Mine in Somali Regional State	85,000. ^c
Iron and steel	Abyssinia Integrated Steel plc	Plant at Debre Zeit	150,000. ^c
Lime	Derba Lime and Chemicals (DLC) (MIDROC Group, 100%)	Plant near Derba	73,000.
Do.	Senkele Lime Factory	Plant at Ambo	6,000. ^c
Do.	Wonji Shoa Sugar Factory	Plant near Wonji	3,000. ^c
Niobium (columbium) and tantalum, ore and concentrate	Ethiopian Minerals, Petroleum and Biofuel Co.	Kenticha Mine in Oromia Regional State ¹	100 tantalum; 20 niobium.
Do.	Artisanal miners	Mines in Oromia Regional State	25 tantalum; ^c 14 niobium. ^c
Platinum	do.	Mine at Yubdo	10. ^c
Pumice and related materials	East Cement Share Co.	Mine in Oromia Regional State	1,100,000. ^c
Do.	Derba MIDROC Cement plc	do.	170,000. ^c
Do.	Mugher Cement Enterprise (Government, 100%)	Mine near Mugher	120,000. ^c
Do.	Messebo Cement Factory plc (Government, 100%)	Mine in Tigray Regional State	110,000. ^c
Quartz	Ethiopian Minerals, Petroleum and Biofuel Co.	Kenticha Mine in Oromia Regional State ¹	3,400. ^c
Salt	Artisanal miners	Mines at Afdera Lake	1,100,000. ^c
Silica sand	Ethiopian Hansom International Glass PLC	Mine in Oromia Regional State	35,000. ^c
Silver	MIDROC Gold Mine plc (Midroc Group)	Mine at Lega Dembi ²	1,100. ^c
Soda ash	Abijata-Shalla Soda Ash Share Co. [National Mining Corp. plc (NMiC), 62%, and Government, 38%]	Mine at Lake Abijata	20,000.
Stone:			
Crushed:			
Basalt	Derba MIDROC Cement plc	Mine in Oromia Regional State	290,000. ^c
Do.	Target Industries plc	Mine near Addis Ababa	14,000. ^c
Limestone	Derba MIDROC Cement plc	Mine in Oromia Regional State	2,700,000. ^c
Do.	National Cement Share Co.	Mine near Dire Dawa	1,600,000. ^c
Do.	Messebo Cement Factory plc (Government, 100%)	Mine in Tigray Regional State	1,500,000. ^c
Do.	Pioneer Cement Manufacturing plc	Mine at Dire Dawa	1,100,000. ^c
Do.	East Cement Share Co.	Mine in Oromia Regional State	770,000. ^c
Do.	Mugher Cement Enterprise (Government, 100%)	Mine near Mugher	390,000. ^c
Rhyolite	National Cement Share Co.	Mine at Dire Dawa	240,000. ^c
Sandstone	Derba MIDROC Cement plc	Mine in Oromia Regional State	70,000. ^c
Do.	Messebo Cement Factory plc (Government, 100%)	Mine in Tigray Regional State	80,000. ^c
Dimension, marble	A Zeyneba Mining Plc	Mine in Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State	32,000. ^c
Do.	National Mining Corp. plc (NMiC)	do.	10,000. ^c
Do.	do.	Plant at Awash in Afar Regional State ⁴	20,000.
Do.	Saba Dimension Stone Factory plc	Plant at Adwa in Tigray Regional State ⁴	14,000.
Dolomite	Ethiopian Minerals, Petroleum and Biofuel Co.	Kenticha Mine in Oromia Regional State ¹	16,000. ^c
Sulfuric acid	Melkasa Aluminum Sulfate and Sulfuric Acid Factory	Plant at Melkasa	14,600.

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

¹Not operating at yearend 2019.

²Mining license suspended in May 2018.

³Operating status unknown as of yearend 2019.

⁴Also includes granite and limestone.