



2019 Minerals Yearbook

FRENCH GUIANA [ADVANCE RELEASE]

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF FRENCH GUIANA

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In 2019, the production of mineral commodities—notably cement, gold, construction laterite, sand (construction), and stone (crushed)—represented only a minor part of the economy of French Guiana (Institut d’Emission des Départements d’Outre-Mer, 2020, p. 14, 45–46). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in French Guiana is provided by Act No. 98–297 of 1998. The Schéma Départemental d’Orientation Minière [Framework on Mining] was approved in 2011 and entered into force on January 1, 2012. 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 French Guiana 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>.

Reference Cited

Institut d’Emission des Départements d’Outre-Mer, 2020, Guyane rapport annuel 2019 [French Guiana annual report 2019]: Paris, France, Institut d’Emission des Départements d’Outre-Mer, June, 168 p. (Accessed July 21, 2020, at <https://www.iedom.fr/guyane/publications/rapports-annuels/rapports-d-activite/article/rapport-annuel-2019-de-l-iedom-guyane>.)

TABLE 1
FRENCH GUIANA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Thousand metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
METALS						
Gold, mine, Au content	kilograms	1,374 ^r	1,321 ^r	1,486 ^r	1,320 ^r	1,300 ^e
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement, hydraulic	metric tons	76,030	91,301	79,766	93,049 ^r	95,000 ^e
Sand, stone and gravel:						
Sand and gravel, construction:						
Common sand		263	265 ^e	265 ^e	476 ^r	1,747
Laterite ore		108	110 ^e	110 ^e	96 ^r	972
Stone, crushed, unspecified		774	775 ^e	775 ^e	457 ^r	2,458

^eEstimated. ^rRevised.

¹Table includes data available through August 12, 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, clays may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2
FRENCH GUIANA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2019

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity ^e
Cement		Ciments Guyanais S.A. (Cementos Argos, 100%)	Clinker grinding plant at Degrad des Cannes, about 10 kilometers southeast of Cayenne	200
Gold, mine	kilograms	Auplata S.A., 100%	Dieu Merci Mine, near Saint-Elie, about 120 kilometers west of Cayenne	600
Do.	do.	Société Minière Yaou Dorlin S.A.S. (Auplata S.A., 100%)	Yaou underground mine, ¹ about 255 kilometers southwest of Cayenne	NA
Do.	do.	Compagnie Minière Dorlin S.A.S. (Auplata S.A., 100%)	Dorlin placer mine in Maripasoula, 190 kilometers southwest of Cayenne	100
Do.	do.	Numerous legal and illegal placer mines	Various locations	1,000
Sand		About 10 sand pits	do.	2,000
Stone, crushed		About 9 rock quarries	do.	2,500

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

¹On care-and-maintenance status.