



# 2019 Minerals Yearbook

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**MALTA [ADVANCE RELEASE]**

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF MALTA

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In 2019, the production of mineral commodities—notably limestone and salt—represented only a minor part of the economy of Malta (Central Bank of Malta, 2020, p. 53–54; Malta Resources Authority, 2020, p. 9). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Malta is provided by the Malta Resources Act of 2001 and the Regulator for Energy and Water Services Act of 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 Malta can be found in previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—Europe and Central Eurasia, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/europe-and-central-eurasia>.

## References Cited

- Central Bank of Malta, 2020, Fifty-second annual report and statement of accounts 2019: Valletta, Malta, Central Bank of Malta, March, 126 p. (Accessed June 30, 2020, at <https://www.centralbankmalta.org/site/excel/publications/AR-2019.pdf>.)
- Malta Resources Authority, 2020, Annual report 2019: Marsa, Malta, Malta Resources Authority, March, 26 p. (Accessed September 2, 2020, at <http://mra.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/1397/Annual-Report-2019-Financial-Statements.pdf>.)

TABLE 1  
MALTA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight)

| Commodity <sup>2</sup>           | 2015                   | 2016                   | 2017                   | 2018                   | 2019                   |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>INDUSTRIAL MINERALS</b>       |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| Salt, solar <sup>e</sup>         | 1,600                  | 2,000                  | 2,000 <sup>r</sup>     | 2,000                  | 2,000                  |
| <b>Stone:</b>                    |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| <b>Crushed:</b>                  |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| Hardstone, coralline limestone   | 1,512,714 <sup>r</sup> | 1,468,423 <sup>r</sup> | 1,291,010 <sup>r</sup> | 1,548,536 <sup>r</sup> | 1,690,000 <sup>e</sup> |
| Softstone, globigerina limestone | 41,162 <sup>r</sup>    | 39,347 <sup>r</sup>    | 49,395 <sup>r</sup>    | 49,615 <sup>r</sup>    | 54,000 <sup>e</sup>    |
| <b>Dimension:</b>                |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| Hardstone, coralline limestone   | 68,536 <sup>r</sup>    | 52,168 <sup>r</sup>    | 55,828 <sup>r</sup>    | 68,816 <sup>r</sup>    | 74,900 <sup>e</sup>    |
| Softstone, globigerina limestone | 119,994 <sup>r</sup>   | 134,729 <sup>r</sup>   | 88,512 <sup>r</sup>    | 94,015 <sup>r</sup>    | 102,000 <sup>e</sup>   |

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through June 29, 2020. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>In addition to the commodities listed, cement, fertilizer, and plaster may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2  
MALTA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2019

(Metric tons)

| Commodity | Major operating companies and major equity owners | Location of main facilities                           | Annual capacity <sup>e</sup> |
|-----------|---|---|------------------------------|
| Limestone | Various small, locally owned companies            | 65 quarries located on the islands of Malta and Gozo  | 1,900,000                    |
| Salt      | Artisanal miners                                  | 40 salt pans located on the islands of Malta and Gozo | 2,000                        |

<sup>e</sup>Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.