



# 2019 Minerals Yearbook

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**NAURU [ADVANCE RELEASE]**

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF NAURU

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In 2019, the economy of Nauru was largely dependent on the production and export of phosphate rock, mainly to Australia and other countries in the Asia and the Pacific region (Government of the Republic of Nauru, 2020). Phosphate rock was produced by the Government-owned Republic of Nauru Phosphate Corp. (RONPHOS). The RONPHOS Act 2005 provides the legislative framework under which RONPHOS is permitted to operate in Nauru (Parliament of Nauru, 2013; Republic of Nauru Phosphate Corp., 2020). Data on mineral production are in table 1. Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities. Historic coverage of the mineral industry of Nauru can be found in previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—Asia and the Pacific, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/asia-and-pacific>.

## References Cited

- Government of the Republic of Nauru, 2020, Economy: Yaren, Nauru, Government of the Republic of Nauru. (Accessed June 14, 2020, at <http://www.naurugov.nr/about-nauru/economy.aspx>.)
- Parliament of Nauru, 2013, RONPHOS Act 2005: Yaren, Nauru, Parliament of Nauru, March 1, 25 p. (Accessed June 17, 2020, at [http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru\\_lpms/files/acts/57deb7ebbeca44034155d1d523e2abf0.pdf](http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/files/acts/57deb7ebbeca44034155d1d523e2abf0.pdf).)
- Republic of Nauru Phosphate Corp., 2020, About us: Yaren, Nauru, Republic of Nauru Phosphate Corp. (Accessed June 14, 2020, at <http://ronphos.com.au/About-Us-pg23613.html>.)

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

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>INDUSTRIAL MINERALS</b>					
Phosphate rock: <sup>c</sup>					
Gross weight	180,000	175,000	130,000	90,000 <sup>r</sup>	90,000
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> content	67,000	66,000	49,000	35,000 <sup>r</sup>	35,000

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

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through June 8, 2020. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

TABLE 2  
NAURU: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2019

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Phosphate rock	Republic of Nauru Phosphate Corp. (RONPHOS) (Government, 100%)	Aiwo District	NA

NA Not available.