



# 2019 Minerals Yearbook

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**NEW ZEALAND [ADVANCE RELEASE]**

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF NEW ZEALAND

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In 2019, the production of mineral commodities—notably aluminum, crude petroleum, gold, and raw steel—represented only a minor part of the economy of New Zealand (New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, 2020; Statistics New Zealand, 2020). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in New Zealand is provided by the Crown Minerals Act 1991 as amended by the Crown Minerals Amendment Act 2013. 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 New Zealand 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

New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, 2020, 2019 mining production statistics: Wellington, New Zealand, New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, November 18. (Accessed February 18, 2021, at <https://www.nzpam.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/our-industry/statistics/2019-mining-production-statistics.xlsx>.)

Statistics New Zealand, 2020, Gross domestic product—December 2019 quarter – supplementary tables: Wellington, New Zealand, Statistics New Zealand, March 20. (Accessed February 18, 2021, at <https://www.stats.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Gross-domestic-product/Gross-domestic-product-December-2019-quarter/Download-data/gross-domestic-product-december-2019-quarter-supplementary-tables.xlsx>.)

TABLE 1  
NEW ZEALAND: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>METALS</b>					
Aluminum, primary, metal	335,292	339,000	337,000	341,000	351,000
Gold, mine, Au content kilograms	12,687	9,866	10,288	10,045 <sup>r</sup>	8,217
Iron ore, mine, iron sand, titaniferous magnetite:					
Gross weight thousand metric tons	3,194	3,496	4,008 <sup>r</sup>	4,000 <sup>r</sup>	4,000 <sup>e</sup>
Fe content do.	1,820	1,990	2,280 <sup>r</sup>	2,270 <sup>r</sup>	2,270
Iron and steel:					
Pig iron do.	678	670	683	679	672
Raw steel do.	793	577	657	652	667
Silver, mine, Ag content kilograms	12,498	7,960	8,022	6,332 <sup>r</sup>	4,060
<b>INDUSTRIAL MINERALS</b>					
Cement, hydraulic <sup>e</sup> thousand metric tons	1,200	900	360	450	940
Clay:					
Common clay, for brick and tile manufacture	6,513	6,500 <sup>e</sup>	4,299	4,000 <sup>e</sup>	4,000 <sup>e</sup>
Kaolin, pottery	13,659	61,650	50,454	51,369	51,000 <sup>e</sup>
Diatomite, diatomaceous earth <sup>e</sup>	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Lime <sup>e</sup>	180,000	170,000	180,000	180,000	180,000
Perlite <sup>e</sup>	25,000	25,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
Pumice and related materials	42,037	17,653	91,861	223,888	220,000 <sup>e</sup>
Sand and gravel:					
Construction					
For roads and ballast thousand metric tons	18,237	16,843	19,076	22,072	24,317
For building aggregate do.	9,976	7,144	9,671	9,502	5,809
Industrial:					
Silica	43,135	25,125	53,165	53,000 <sup>e</sup>	53,000 <sup>e</sup>
Other thousand metric tons	1,457	1,355	2,262	1,566	1,600 <sup>e</sup>
Stone:					
Crushed:					
Dolomite:					
For agriculture	173,819	--	24,679	25,297	20,000 <sup>e</sup>
For other industrial uses	27,092	--	--	41,484 <sup>r</sup>	40,000 <sup>e</sup>
Limestone, including marl:					
For agriculture thousand metric tons	976	675	1,536	1,254	997
For cement do.	1,995	602	600	--	1,281
For industrial use do.	867	995	791	2,117	805
Dimension, unspecified	13,516	12,729	162,465	16,745	38,212
Zeolites	65,000	80,000	100,000	100,000 <sup>e</sup>	100,000 <sup>e</sup>
<b>MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS</b>					
Coal:					
Bituminous thousand metric tons	66	59	61	66	90
Lignite do.	324	285	319	307	289
Metallurgical do.	1,334	1,169	1,152	1,261	1,201
Subbituminous do.	1,666	1,454	1,387	1,577	1,455
Total do.	3,390	2,970	2,920	3,210	3,040
Coke, metallurgical do.	504	502	509	486 <sup>r</sup>	425
Natural gas:					
Gross million cubic meters	5,392	5,558	5,412	4,614 <sup>r</sup>	4,851
Marketable do.	4,596	4,843	4,757	4,109 <sup>r</sup>	4,426
Petroleum:					
Crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	14,934	12,701	11,281	8,788 <sup>r</sup>	8,813
Refinery do.	40,342	40,314	39,474	40,273 <sup>r</sup>	41,254

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through February 19, 2021. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Totals and estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>In addition to the commodities listed, New Zealand produced salt, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2  
NEW ZEALAND: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2019

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Facilities, major operating companies, and major equity owners		Location of main facilities <sup>1</sup>	Annual capacity <sup>c</sup>
Aluminum	New Zealand Aluminium Smelters Ltd. (NZAS) (Pacific Aluminium, 79.36%, and Sumitomo Chemical Co., 20.64%)		Tiwai Point smelter, Southland, Invercargill	350
Cement	Golden Bay Cement (Fletcher Building Ltd.)		Whangarai plant	967
Clay, kaolin	Imerys Tableware New Zealand Ltd.		Quarry 80 km northwest of Whangarei	25
Coal	Birchfield Coalmines Ltd.		Strongman Mine, Greymouth	200
Do.	BT Mining Ltd. (Bathurst Resources Ltd., 65%, and Talleys Energy Ltd., 35%)		Maramarua Mine, 45 km north of Huntly	250
Do.	do.		Rotowaro Mine, 10 km west of Huntly	650
Do.	do.		Stockton Mine, 35 km north of Westport	2,500
Do.	Francis Mining Co. Ltd.		Echo Mine, 10 km southeast of Reefton	70
Do.	Moore Mining Ltd.		Burkes Creek Mine, 2 km northeast of Reefton	NA
Do.	New Vale Ohai Coal (Greenbriar Ltd.)		New Vale Mine, Invercargill	300
Do.	do.		Ohai Mine, Ohai	200
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	OceanaGold Corp.	Waihi operations (Correnso Mine)	4,000
Do.	do.	do.	Macraes operation (Macraes Mine and Frasers Mine)	5,000
Iron ore, mine, iron sand, Fe content	New Zealand Steel Ltd. (BlueScope Steel Ltd.)		Waikato North Head, 30 km south of Auckland	1,200
Do.	Taharoa Mining Investments Ltd. (TMIL) (Taharoa C Block Inc., 60%, and Melrose Private Capital, 40%)		Taharoa, 150 km south of Auckland	1,400
Natural gas	million cubic meters	OMV New Zealand Ltd., 100%	Maui Field, 35 km southwest offshore from New Plymouth	900
Do.	do.	OMC New Zealand Ltd., 74%, and Todd Energy Ltd., 26%	Pohokura Field, 25 km northeast offshore from New Plymouth	2,000
Do.	do.	Todd Taranaki Ltd. (Todd Energy Ltd., 100%)	Mckee Mangahewa Field, 20 km northeast of New Plymouth	900
Perlite	Blue Pacific Minerals Ltd.		Quarries in Ngakuru	NA
Petroleum:				
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	OMV New Zealand Ltd., 100%	Maui Field, 35 km southwest offshore from New Plymouth	2,900
Do.	do.	OMC New Zealand Ltd., 74%, and Todd Energy Ltd., 26%	Pohokura Field, 25 km northeast offshore from New Plymouth	2,800
Refinery	do.	New Zealand Refining Co. Ltd.	Marsden Point Oil Refinery, Marsden Point	41,000
Salt	Dominion Salt Ltd.		Lake Grassmere, 30 km south of Blenheim	100
Silver, mine, Ag content	metric tons	OceanaGold Corp.	Waihi operations (Correnso Mine)	10
Do.	do.	do.	Macraes operation (Macraes Mine and Frasers Mine)	1
Steel	New Zealand Steel Ltd. (BlueScope Steel Ltd.)		Glenbrook mill, Glenbrook	650
Do.	Pacific Steel Group (Fletcher Building Ltd.)		Otahuhu mill, Auckland	300
Zeolites	Blue Pacific Minerals Ltd.		Quarries in Ngakuru	NA

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Abbreviations used for units of measure in this table are as follows: km—kilometers.