



2019 Minerals Yearbook

NIGER [ADVANCE RELEASE]

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF NIGER

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In 2019, the production of mineral commodities—notably uranium, but also cement, coal, gold, petroleum (crude and refinery products), salt, and silver—represented only a minor part of the economy of Niger (International Monetary Fund, 2020, p. 28; World Nuclear Association, 2020). The legislative framework for the mineral industry in Niger is provided by law No. 2006–26 of August 9, 2006. Law No. 2007–01 of January 31, 2007, further clarifies the framework for Niger’s petroleum sector. 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 Niger 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>.

References Cited

- International Monetary Fund, 2020, Niger—Sixth review under the Extended Credit Facility and request for waiver for nonobservance of performance criterion—Press release; staff report; and statement by the Executive Director for Niger: Washington, DC, International Monetary Fund Country Report No. 2020/292, November 3, 140 p. (Accessed November 15, 2020, at <https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/CR/2020/English/INEREA2020003.ashx>.)
- World Nuclear Association, 2020, Uranium in Niger: London, United Kingdom, World Nuclear Association, July. (Accessed November 12, 2020, <https://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-g-n/niger.aspx>.)

TABLE 1
NIGER: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
METALS						
Gold, mine, Au content ³	kilograms	1,220	999	1,000 ^e	1,000 ^e	1,000 ^e
Silver, mine, Ag content	do.	119	120 ^e	120 ^e	120 ^e	120 ^e
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement, hydraulic		50,531	51,000 ^e	51,000 ^e	52,000 ^e	260,000 ^e
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS						
Coal, bituminous		221,024	246,631	233,792	221,580	222,000 ^e
Petroleum:						
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	5,459	6,014	6,665	6,065	6,100 ^e
Refinery	do.	4,500 ^e	4,110 ^e	5,700 ^e	5,990	5,990 ^e
Uranium, mine, U content		4,116	3,477	3,477 ^r	2,911 ^r	2,983

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Table includes data available through November 30, 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, salt may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Includes artisanal and small-scale production of gold, which was reported to be 346 kilograms in 2015. Information after 2015 was inadequate to make reliable estimates of artisanal and small-scale mining output.

TABLE 2
NIGER: 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
Cement		Société Nigérienne de Cimenterie (Damnaz Cement Company Ltd.)	Plant at Malbaza Uzine, southwestern Niger	280,000
Coal		Société Nigérienne de Charbon (SONICHAR)	Mine at Anou Araren, central Agadez Region	300,000
Gold	kilograms	Société de Patrimoine des Mines du Niger S.A. (SOPAMIN) (Government, 100%)	Samira Hill Mine, 90 kilometers west of Niamey	2,000
Do.	do.	Artisanal production	Various regions around the country	NA
Petroleum	thousand 42-gallon barrels	China National Petroleum Corp. 100%	Agadem oilfields, onshore, Diffa Region	7,300
Petroleum refinery products	do.	China National Petroleum Corp., 60%, and Government, 40%	Soraz refinery, city of Zinder, 900 kilometers east of Niamey	20,000
Salt		Artisanal miners	Bilma salt pans, Tenere Desert, northern Niger	33,000
Silver	kilograms	Société de Patrimoine des Mines du Niger S.A. (SOPAMIN) (Government, 100%)	Samira Hill Mine, 90 kilometers west of Niamey	NA
Do.	do.	Artisanal production	Various regions around the country	NA
Uranium		Compagnie Minière d'Akouta (COMINAK) [Areva Group, 34%; Société de Patrimoine des Mines du Niger S.A. (SOPAMIN), 31%; Overseas Uranium Resources Development Co., 25%; ENUSA Industrias Avanzadas S.A., 10%]	Akouta underground mine, northern Niger	2,000
Do.		Société des Mines de l'Aïr (SOMAIR) [Areva Group, 63.4%, and Société de Patrimoine des Mines du Niger S.A. (SOPAMIN), 36.6%]	Arlit open pit mine, 6 kilometers northwest of Arlit, Agadez Region	3,000
Do.		Société des Mines d'Azelik S.A.	Azelik Mine, ¹ (Ingal), Agadez Region	700

Do. do. Ditto. NA Not available.

¹On care-and-maintenance status.