



# 2019 Minerals Yearbook

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## SOLOMON ISLANDS [ADVANCE RELEASE]

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

By Jaewon Chung

In 2019, the economy of the Solomon Islands was based largely on the production of bauxite (Central Bank of Solomon Islands, 2020, p. 9–10, 14, 62). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in the Solomon Islands is provided by the Mines and Minerals (Amendment) Act 2014. 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 the Solomon Islands can be found in the 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/national-minerals-information-center/asia-and-pacific>.

## Reference Cited

Central Bank of Solomon Islands, 2020, Quarterly review—December 2019: Honiara, Solomon Islands, Central Bank of Solomon Islands, April, 68 p. (Accessed June 29, 2020, at <http://www.cbsi.com.sb/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Q4-2019-Report.pdf>.)

TABLE 1  
SOLOMON ISLANDS: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Kilograms, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>METALS</b>						
Bauxite	metric tons	292,000	238,000	1,502,896	1,608,647	1,161,047
Gold, mine, Au content		--	--	--	--	NA <sup>2</sup>
Silver, mine, Ag content		--	--	--	--	NA <sup>2</sup>

NA Not available. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through June 19, 2020. All data are reported unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup>Mining operations resumed in October 2019, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2  
SOLOMON ISLANDS: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2019

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity <sup>c</sup>
Bauxite	metric tons	Asia Pacific Investment and Development Ltd. (APID)	Mine in Rennell Island	1,700,000
Gold, mine, Au content		Wanguo International Mining Group Ltd.	Gold Ridge Mine, Guadalcanal Province	500 <sup>1</sup>
Silver, mine, Ag content	do.		do.	300 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. do. Ditto.

<sup>1</sup>The mine was closed in July 2014 and resumed operations in October 2019.