

# 2019 Minerals Yearbook

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**SRI LANKA [ADVANCE RELEASE]**

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF SRI LANKA

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In 2019, the production of mineral commodities—primarily graphite, phosphate rock, salt, titanium mineral concentrates, and zircon—represented only a minor part of the economy of Sri Lanka (Central Bank of Sri Lanka, 2020, p. 3, 20). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Sri Lanka is provided by the Mines and Minerals Act (law No. 33 of 1992), as amended by law No. 66 of 2009. 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 Sri Lanka 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/national-minerals-information-center/asia-and-pacific>.

## Reference Cited

Central Bank of Sri Lanka, 2020, Statistical appendix: Colombo, Sri Lanka, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, 145 p. (Accessed August 21, 2020, at [https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/sites/default/files/cbslweb\\_documents/publications/annual\\_report/2019/en/15\\_Appendix.pdf](https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/sites/default/files/cbslweb_documents/publications/annual_report/2019/en/15_Appendix.pdf).)

TABLE 1  
SRI LANKA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity <sup>2</sup>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
METALS						
Iron and steel, products, semimanufactured	78,000	30,000	30,000 <sup>e</sup>	30,000 <sup>e</sup>	30,000 <sup>e</sup>	
Lead, refinery, secondary <sup>e</sup>	3,000 <sup>r</sup>	2,900 <sup>r</sup>	3,400 <sup>r</sup>	3,600 <sup>r</sup>	3,700	
Titanium, mineral concentrates:						
Ilmenite and leucoxene	39,439	26,159	51,940	60,847	43,779	
Rutile	1,808	2,237	2,174	2,319	1,959	
Zirconium, zircon	38,000	25,000	4,800	4,800 <sup>e</sup>	5,000	
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement, hydraulic	thousand metric tons	2,287	2,695	2,819	2,841	3,960 <sup>e</sup>
Clay:						
Ball clay	34,785	38,745	17,730	18,000 <sup>e</sup>	18,000 <sup>e</sup>	
Common clay, for cement <sup>e</sup>	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	
Kaolin	2,238 <sup>r</sup>	1,767 <sup>r</sup>	1,941 <sup>r</sup>	2,000 <sup>r,e</sup>	2,000 <sup>e</sup>	
Feldspar, crude and ground	22,683 <sup>r</sup>	25,211 <sup>r</sup>	26,137 <sup>r</sup>	26,000 <sup>r,e</sup>	26,000 <sup>e</sup>	
Gemstones: <sup>3</sup>						
Alexandrite	carats	4,587	3,934	4,993	4,650	4,700 <sup>e</sup>
Cat's eye	do.	102,701	74,183	71,724	61,852	62,000 <sup>e</sup>
Pathmaraga	do.	5,325	4,311	7,390	5,706	5,700 <sup>e</sup>
Ruby	do.	24,477	31,800	34,488	27,520	28,000 <sup>e</sup>
Sapphire <sup>4</sup>	do.	3,528,248	2,120,440	3,168,034	2,935,576	2,900,000 <sup>e</sup>
Other, unspecified	do.	8,254,290	9,838,707	6,030,051	5,581,319	5,600,000 <sup>e</sup>
Graphite, vein, all grades	3,479 <sup>r</sup>	3,908 <sup>r</sup>	3,769 <sup>r</sup>	3,800 <sup>e</sup>	4,000 <sup>e</sup>	
Gypsum, mine	1,120	1,996	2,213	2,200 <sup>e</sup>	2,200 <sup>e</sup>	
Mica, schist	4,120 <sup>r</sup>	5,021 <sup>r</sup>	4,957 <sup>r</sup>	5,000 <sup>r,e</sup>	5,000 <sup>e</sup>	
Phosphate rock:						
Gross weight	52,518	38,848	42,435	46,530 <sup>r</sup>	47,438	
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> content	18,000	14,000	15,000	17,000	17,000	
Salt	35,017 <sup>r</sup>	150,357 <sup>r</sup>	116,912 <sup>r</sup>	99,300 <sup>r,e</sup>	81,700 <sup>e</sup>	
Sand and gravel, industrial, unspecified	65,195 <sup>r</sup>	50,308 <sup>r</sup>	41,201 <sup>r</sup>	41,000 <sup>r,e</sup>	41,000 <sup>e</sup>	
Stone, sand and gravel, construction:						
Sand and gravel	thousand metric tons	14,900	17,500	29,000	30,000 <sup>e</sup>	30,000 <sup>e</sup>
Stone:						
Crushed:						
Dolomite	71,778	100,615	123,235	125,000 <sup>e</sup>	125,000 <sup>e</sup>	
Limestone	thousand metric tons	1,270 <sup>r</sup>	1,308 <sup>r</sup>	1,269 <sup>r</sup>	1,300 <sup>r,e</sup>	1,300 <sup>e</sup>
Quartzite	29,323 <sup>r</sup>	33,402 <sup>r</sup>	43,404 <sup>r</sup>	45,000 <sup>r,e</sup>	45,000 <sup>e</sup>	
Dimension	1,907	2,863	3,425	3,500 <sup>e</sup>	3,500 <sup>e</sup>	
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS						
Petroleum, refinery:						
Distillate fuel oil	thousand 42-gallon barrels	3,810	4,350	3,780	4,230	4,658
Gasoline	do.	1,320	1,410	1,400	1,410	1,586
Jet fuel	do.	1,280	1,220	1,960	1,960	2,142
Kerosene	do.	580	810	460	270	296
Naphtha	do.	1,110	1,190	1,170	1,160	1,332
Residual fuel oil	do.	3,680	3,190	2,870	2,830	3,218
Total	do.	11,800	12,200	11,600	11,900	13,200

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

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through September 16, 2020. 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, secondary aluminum, construction materials (such as calcite, clay for brick and tile, and varieties of stone), gold, finished steel products, and sulfur may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

<sup>3</sup>Export data from National Gem & Jewellery Authority

<sup>4</sup>Sapphires include blue sapphire, pink sapphire, yellow sapphire, and star sapphire.

TABLE 2  
SRI LANKA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2019

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity <sup>e</sup>
Aluminum, secondary	Alumex Ltd. (Hayleys Plc., 100%)	Sapugaskanda, Makola, Western Province	24
Do.	Castalloy (Pvt.) Ltd.	Colombo District, Western Province	1
Do.	Lanka Aluminium Industries Plc.	do.	NA
Do.	Lanka Refractories Ltd.	Meepe, Padukka, Colombo District	8
Do.	Zenith Aluminium Co.	Colombo District, Western Province	NA
Cement	Siam City Cement (Lanka) Ltd. (SCCLK) (Siam City Cement Public Co. Ltd., 100%)	Cement plant in Puttalam, North Western Province, and grinding unit in Galle, Southern Province	3,500
Do.	Tokyo Cement Co. (Lanka) Plc.	Grinding unit and 2 mills in China Bay, Trincomalee, Eastern Province	3,000
Clay	Lanka Ceramic Plc (Royal Ceramic Lanka Plc., 73.6%)	Dediyawala, Western Province	44
Gemstones	thousand carats National Gem and Jewellery Authority	Balagoda, Elahera, Kamburupitiya, Moneragala, Okkampitiya, Ratnapura	14,500
Graphite	Bogala Graphite Lanka Plc [Graphit Kropfmuhl GmbH, (AMG Graphite), 79.6%, and Alterna GK LLC, 10.3%]	Bogala Mine, Kegalle District, Sabaragamuwa Province	7
Do.	Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Ltd. (Ministry of Industry and Commerce, 100%)	Kahatagaha Mine, Kurunegala District, North Western Province	6
Do.	Sakura Graphite Pvt. Ltd. (KWA Holdings, 60%, and Elcora Advanced Materials Corp., 40%)	Ragedara Mine, Melsiripura, North Western Province	4
Do.	Operator: Sarcon Development (Pvt.) Ltd., and owner: Ceylon Graphite Corp. (Sasha Jacob, 18.62%; Optimal Energy B.V., 8.5%; others, 72.88%)	K1 Mine, Karasnagla, Western Province	NA
Iron and steel, steel, products	Bhuwaka Steel Industries (Sri Lanka) Ltd. (Bhuwaka Premier Group, 100%)	Madampe, Puttalam District, Northwestern Province	169
Do.	Ceylon Steel Corp. Ltd. (Onyx Group U.A.E., 100%)	Oruwala, Athurugiriya, Colombo District	250
Do.	Confab Steel Pvt. Ltd. (Bhuwaka Premier Group, 100%)	Medagampitiya, Western Province	144
Do.	GTB Steel Corp. (Pvt.) Ltd.	Katunayake, Western Province	78
Do.	IWW Steel Industries (Pvt.) Ltd.	Uswetakeiyawa, Western Province	NA
Do.	Lanka Special Steels Ltd. (E.B. Creasey & Co., Plc, 100%)	Makola, Sapugaskanda, Western Province	15
Do.	Melbourne Metal (Pvt.) Ltd.	Ja-Ela, Gampaha District, Western Province	120
Do.	Melwire Rolling (Pvt.) Ltd. (Melwa Group, 100%)	Colombo District, Western Province	500
Do.	Nawaloka Steel (Pvt.) Ltd. (Nawaloka Holdings, 100%)	do.	10
Do.	SR Steel (Pvt.) Ltd.	Factories in Hendala, Wattala and Karabotuwwa, Divullapitiya	30
Do.	Taian Lanka Steel Co. (Pvt.) Ltd.	Colombo District, Western Province	NA
Lead, refined, secondary	Navam Lanka Ltd. (Gravita India Ltd., 52%)	Marigama Export Processing Zone, Gampaha District, Western Province	7
Mica, schist	Imexma Minerals (Pvt.) Ltd.	Kundasale, Kandy City, Central Province	NA
Petroleum, refined	thousand 42-gallon barrels Ceylon Petroleum Corp. (Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development)	Sapugaskanda, Western Province	15,400
Phosphate rock, gross weight	Lanka Phosphate Co. Ltd. (Ministry of State Resources and Enterprise Development)	Eppawala, North Central Province	50
Salt	Lanka Salt Ltd. (State-owned)	Maha Lewaya, Hambantota District	80
Do.	Puttalam Salt Ltd. (Raigam Wayamba Saltern Plc, 30%)	Puttalam saltern, Puttalam District, North Western Province	25
Do.	Southern Salt (Pvt.) Ltd. (Raigam Wayamba Saltern Plc, 100%)	Bata-Atha salterns, Ranna, Southern Province	NA
Sand and gravel, industrial	Ceylon Quartz Industries (Pvt.) Ltd. (Tatsumori Ltd., and Barleet Group)	Dekatana, Western Province	72
Do.	J Lanka Quartz (Pvt.) Ltd.	Dombokka, Kurunegala	22
Do.	Lanka Ceramic Plc	Gurubebila, Matale, Central Province	NA
Stone, limestone	Holcim (Lanka) Ltd. (Siam City Concrete Co. Ltd., 100%)	Arawakalu quarry, Puttalam, North Western Province	750

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued  
SRI LANKA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2019

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity <sup>e</sup>
Titanium, mineral concentrates		Lanka Mineral Sands Ltd. (Ministry of State Resources and Enterprise Development)	Pulmoddai, Eastern Province	105
Do.		Mirama Minerals	Alchemy Heavy Metals factory, Dambulla, Matale District, Central Province	NA
Zirconium, zircon	metric tons	Lanka Mineral Sands Ltd. (Ministry of State Resources and Enterprise Development)	Pulmoddai, Eastern Province	5,500

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