



# 2020–2021 Minerals Yearbook

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## AFGHANISTAN [ADVANCE RELEASE]

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF AFGHANISTAN

By Karine M. Renaud

**Note: In this chapter, information for 2020 is followed by information for 2021.**

In 2020, minerals mined in Afghanistan included chromite, coal, crushed stone, fluorspar, gypsum, marble, natural gas, petroleum, salt, sand and gravel, precious and semiprecious stones, and talc. The mineral-processing industry produced cement, lime, and steel. Afghanistan also had deposits of copper, iron, lithium, and rare-earth minerals, which had not been developed (table 1; Hussein and Haddad, 2021).

In 2019, peace talks began between the United States and the nonofficial entity in Afghanistan. In 2020, the United States, the Afghanistan Government, and the nonofficial entity signed the “Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan” (“Agreement”) as a first step to intra-Afghan negotiations. The Agreement, which was preceded by a ceasefire, outlined some goals (which stalled shortly thereafter) as well as mining opportunities in Afghanistan (Boot, 2020; Center for Preventive Action, 2020; International Monetary Fund, 2020, p. 7; Deutsche Welle, 2021; Sediqi and Greenfield, 2021).

## Minerals in the National Economy

The real gross domestic product (GDP) of Afghanistan decreased by 2.4% in 2020 compared with an increase of 3.9% in 2019 owing to the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic as well as continued violence and instability in the country; the nominal GDP was \$20.1 billion. The pandemic caused border closures with neighboring countries that in turn caused domestic supply chain disruptions. Industrial output decreased by 5.0% in 2020 compared with that in 2019. Afghanistan continued to rely on foreign direct investment, which decreased by 43% to \$13 million in 2020 from \$23 million in 2019 (International Monetary Fund, 2020, p. 4, 7; 2022, p. 142; World Bank, The, 2020; Asian Development Bank, 2021, p. 231; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2022, p. 212).

Afghanistan’s total exports were valued at \$776 million in 2020 compared with \$864 million in 2019. In 2020, Afghanistan’s main export partners were India (which received 52% of Afghanistan’s exports), Pakistan (27%), and China (7%). The major recipients of Afghanistan’s talc exports were Pakistan [91,029 metric tons (t)], Turkey (997 t), China (837 t), Iran (187 t), and India (134 t). The major recipients of Afghanistan’s crude marble exports were Pakistan (7,433 t) and Iran (1,541 t), and of processed marble exports, Iran (3,687 t). The sole recipient of Afghanistan’s coal exports was Pakistan (285,997 t) (National Statistics and Information Authority, 2020, p. 2, 404, 415, 416, 422, 423, 425, 438).

Afghanistan’s total imports were valued at \$6.5 billion in 2020 compared with \$6.8 billion in 2019. In 2020, the main import partners were Iran (which supplied 17% of Afghanistan’s total imports), China (15%), and Pakistan (11%). In 2020, Afghanistan imports from China were 175 t of aluminum,

5 t of chrome metal, 14,086 t of marble, and 4,726 t of silica. Afghanistan imported 3,675 t of clay (fire clay) and 2,317 t of marble from Pakistan. Afghanistan imported 1,621 t of clay (fire clay); 7,761 t of granite; 2,148 t of marble; and 728 t of zinc from Iran (National Statistics and Information Authority, 2020, p. 2, 75, 79, 158, 159, 161, 201, 204).

Afghanistan’s exports to the United States were valued at \$17.0 million in 2020 compared with \$38.7 million in 2019. Gemstones (other) exports to the United States were valued at about \$731,000. Imports from the United States were valued at \$670.7 million in 2020 compared with \$757.8 billion in 2019. Major imports from the United States included iron and steel products (others), which were valued at \$462,000; petroleum products (other), \$397,000; excavating machinery, \$270,539; iron and steel mill products, \$253,000; natural gas liquids, \$119,000; nonmetallic minerals, \$32,135; aluminum and alumina and copper, \$26,000 each; gem diamond, \$19,000; drilling and oilfield equipment, \$3,000; nonferrous metals (others), \$10,000; and coal and fuels, \$9,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022a, b).

According to the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF), the revenue lost from informal mining activities was estimated to be \$300 million per year. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) estimated the nonofficial entity’s revenue from the mineral industry to be \$464 million, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated the Government’s revenue from royalty and export duties to be \$123 million (Afghanistan Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, 2021, p. 51).

In 2020, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP) approved 49 new areas for auction in the Provinces of Badghis, Balkh, Bamyán, Daykundi, Herat, Kabul, Laghman, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nimruz, and Uruzgan. The tenders were for industrial minerals, including stone (gneiss, granite, gypsum, limestone, and quartzite) and sand and gravel (Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, 2020).

## Production

According to the National Statistics and Information Authority and the MoMP, Afghanistan’s production of bituminous coal decreased by 75% in 2020; rock salt, by 66%; travertine, by 60%; gypsum, by 41% (estimated); natural gas, by 38%; chromium (mine, chromite), by 23% (estimated); crushed marble, by 15%; and raw steel and talc, by 12% each. Production of cast iron increased by 321% (estimated); sand and gravel, by 40%; and onyx, by 20%. Data on mineral production are in table 1.

## Structure of the Mineral Industry

According to Pajhwok Afghan News reporting, the MoMP collected information between 2018 and 2020 on mining sites throughout Afghanistan and shared the data with Pajhwok Afghan News. The data collected between 2018 and 2020 indicated that out of 748 mining sites, 283 were controlled by a nonofficial entity, 281 were controlled by the Government, and 184 were controlled by powerful individuals. The sites included deposits of industrial minerals, including gypsum, fluorite, salt, and talc; metals, including chromite, gold, and precious and semiprecious stones (aquamarine, emerald, ruby, and other stones); and mineral fuels, including coal. Of the 283 mining sites under the control of the nonofficial entity, 165 were located in Badakhshan Province; 16, in Helmand Province; 11, in Nuristan Province; 11, in Kunduz Province; 8, in Uruzgan Province; and 72, in 21 other Provinces. Of the 281 Government-controlled mining sites, 139 were located in Kabul Province; 37, in Badakhshan Province; 24, in Farah Province; 19, in Logar Province; 13, in Khost Province; and 49, in 11 other Provinces. Of the 184 mining sites controlled by powerful individuals, 127 were located in Kunar Province; 10, in Samangan Province; 10, in Baghlan Province; 9, in Maidan Wardak Province; 6, in Kunduz Province; and 27, in 7 other Provinces (Hasrat, 2021). Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities operating in 2020.

## Commodity Review

### Metals

**Copper and Gold.**—As of 2020, the Mes Aynak copper project had not been developed. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, Metallurgical Corp. of China Ltd. (MCC) was still in discussions with the MoMP concerning amendments to the Aynak mining contract. The MCC completed and submitted a feasibility study report on the underground mining proposal for the project, which was required by the Government. The MCC was awaiting the final decisions by the Government on relic protection and the mining proposal. The resources at Mes Aynak were estimated to be 662 million metric tons (Mt) of ore grading 1.67% copper, or 11.08 Mt of contained copper (Metallurgical Corporation of China Ltd., 2021, p. 32).

In 2018, the Government approved a contract with Silk Road Mining and Development Co. (SRMDC) for the Shaida porphyry copper prospect in the Province of Herat. In 2019, SRMDC was granted licenses for exploration and mining. In 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SRMDC's exploration program was delayed. The company restarted collection of soil and rock samples that were sent to SGS SA for assaying and mapping the site (Silk Road Mining and Development Co., 2018; Business Insider, 2019, Cadastre Department, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, written commun., December 26, 2020).

In 2020, the shareholders of Turkish Afghan Mining Co. (TAMC) of Turkey planned to meet virtually to discuss the issues for potential mining of gold and copper in the country. (TAMC was an operating company of Central Asian Resources Ltd., or CENTAR, of the United Kingdom.) In 2018, TAMC

and Afghan Gold and Mineral Co. (AGMC; another operating company of CENTAR) had won tenders for the Badakhshan gold prospect and the Balkhab copper prospect. According to the Government, the project was canceled in 2018 owing to TAMC's inability to fulfill its commitments. CENTAR had previously announced that, once fully developed, the mines were expected to generate \$1 billion in revenue and to create approximately 13,000 jobs (Gimbel, 2018; Leotaud, 2019; Salahuddin, 2019; Murphy, 2020).

Civil society organizations had lobbied the Government to cancel the contracts, stating that the contracts had been awarded in violation of a provision in the Minerals Law that requires a "cooling off" period lasting 5 years before former ministers or their direct relatives could hold mining contracts. The president of AGMC (who was also reported to be a vice president of TAMC) was the Minister of Housing and Urban Development in 2018. The drilling and extraction equipment in 2020 was in the hands of unofficial entity forces, who mined gold for their benefit. According to the Financial Times, the delays in drilling activities at the mine site were caused by instability in the country (Mining Watch Afghanistan, 2018; Murphy, 2020).

### Industrial Minerals

**Cement.**—As of 2020, there were two operational Government-owned cement plants in Afghanistan—the Ghorī cement plant in Pul-e-Khumri Province and the Jabal-e Saraj cement plant in Parwan Province. Both plants were transferred to National Development Corp., which was created by Presidential Decree 28 in 2020. The Jabal-e Saraj plant was producing 26,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of cement. The factory employed approximately 200 people. The annual production of the Ghorī plant was about 22,000 t (table 2; Arman, 2019; International Cement Review, 2019; Shah Omid, 2019; Subh, 2020; Afghanistan Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, 2021, p. 62, 103, 108; Muhammad, 2021).

In 2020, Afghanistan imported 505,000 t of cement from Tajikistan. Also, and for the first time, an additional 500 t of cement was imported from Iran to Afghanistan's Ghorian District by train through the Herat-Khar train station. The railway was recently completed (the exact date was not indicated) (Pajhwok Afghan News, 2020; Global Cement, 2021).

**Talc.**—In 2020, Afghanistan had 36 talc mines located in the Provinces of Kapisa and Nangarhar and 22 talc-processing plants located in the Province of Nangarhar. As of 2020, all the talc-processing plants in Afghanistan were closed owing to the lack of raw material, which was a result of a Government delay in issuing licenses on various talc mines (table 2; Jahanmal, 2020).

## MINERAL INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021

In 2021, the country's economy faced several challenges, including drought, increased violence, and the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the regime change on August 15 resulted in increased international isolation, decreased demand and production in all sectors, and increased unemployment. The new regime placed restrictions on women working in the private and public sectors and caused a large number of high-skilled Afghans to flee the country. As a result, many industries halted

operations. The GDP may have decreased by as much as 30% in 2021. Foreign direct investment in Afghanistan increased by 62% to \$21 million in 2021 from \$13 million in 2020. On April 14, 2021, the United States announced a withdrawal of all troops by September 2021 (National Statistics and Information Authority, 2018; 2019a, b; International Monetary Fund, 2020, p. 4, 7; World Bank, The, 2020, 2022; FactCheck.org, 2021; Jahanmal, 2021a; Asian Development Bank, 2022, p. 235, 236, 237; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2022, p. 212).

After the regime change, the new acting Minister of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum awarded 15 contracts for the mining of nephrite (jade). The minister announced that illegal mining in the country would be punished (Shaheer, 2021). In early September, a spokesperson of the new regime announced that the main partner in Afghanistan's economic development would be China. China expressed interest in developing Afghanistan's mineral resources, and it already held contracts for the Aynak copper deposit (Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, 2021, p. 129–130).

Afghanistan's exports of stone (including ecaussine, marble, travertine, and other calcareous stone) increased by 93% to 48,456 t in 2021; the top export partners for marble were Pakistan (which received 47,911 t of Afghanistan's stone exports) and Italy (407 t). Afghanistan's exports of talc increased by 223% to 298,838 t in 2021; the top export partners for talc were Pakistan (which received 295,643 t of Afghanistan's talc) and Uzbekistan (1,295 t) (Xinhuanet, 2021; United Nations Comtrade Database, 2022a–c).

Afghanistan's exports to the United States were valued at \$22.0 million in 2021 and gemstone (other) accounted for about \$1.98 million. In 2021, imports from the United States were valued at \$247.41 million, of which finished metal shapes accounted for \$1.54 million; excavating machinery, \$895,000; iron and steel products (others), \$383,000; petroleum products (other), \$192,000; iron and steel mill products, \$138,000; drilling and oil equipment, \$69,200; aluminum and alumina, \$54,000; nonferrous metals (others), \$17,300; natural gas liquids, \$4,220; and fuels, \$3,510 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022a, b).

As a result of the regime change in Afghanistan, production of some commodities was estimated to have decreased notably, although there were also notable increases in production of some other commodities. In 2021, production of talc increased by 238%; rock salt, by 34%; onyx, by 16% (estimated); crushed marble, by 15%; and natural gas, by 10%. Production of sand and gravel decreased by 51% (estimated); chromium, iron and steel products, hydraulic cement, and fluorspar, by 50% each.

As of 2021, the Mes Aynak copper project had not been developed. MCC and Jiangxi Copper Co. Ltd. of China (MCC-JCC Ltd.) announced that, owing to significant changes in the situation in Afghanistan, the company had taken action to secure project assets and personnel. Company representatives indicated that the company intended eventually to continue negotiations on all issues related to further development of the project (Metallurgical Corporation of China Ltd., 2021, p. 31; 2022, p. 32; Zhang and others, 2021).

In 2021, because of a shortage in raw material, Afghanistan's steel factories were on the edge of closure and the owners of

steel plants requested the Government to stop the smuggling of scrap out of the country. The Afghanistan Steel Melting and Manufacturing Union was established in 2021. The objectives of the union were to establish coordination among industries and help the development of the metal industry in the country. In 2021, to help local factories obtain scrap for production of raw steel, the Economic Commission issued a ban on exports of ferrous metal from Afghanistan to the neighboring countries. Despite the ban, however, approximately 500 to 1,000 t of scrap was smuggled through the town of Spin Bolak in Kandahar Province to the city of Anghor Ada in Paktika Province to neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan. The total steel scrap collection in Kandahar was estimated to be 60,000 t/yr. In 2021, Maihan Folad Steel Mill Co. stopped operations owing to the lack of raw material (Business Journal, 2021; Hakimi, 2021; Jahanmal, 2021b, c; Salam Wantadar, 2021a, b; Zarifi, 2021).

In November, representatives from five Chinese companies (names were not listed) visited Afghanistan to conduct onsite inspection for potential lithium projects. Despite growing interest in Afghanistan, the uncertainties surrounding the regime change in Afghanistan remained an issue for Chinese companies. These uncertainties included concerns regarding the political, security, and economic situation in the country and the status of infrastructure projects (Global Times, 2021; Mining.com, 2021).

In October 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the new regime's interim government discussed the implementation of the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline project. Once completed, the pipeline would carry 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to India; of this amount, India and Pakistan would receive 14 billion cubic meters each and Afghanistan would receive 5 billion cubic meters. In addition, Afghanistan could potentially earn \$500 million in transition fees annually. The current issue faced by the project, however, was the financing for the 775-kilometer pipe section that goes through Afghanistan (Pannier, 2021).

## Outlook

The pre-August 15, 2021, Government of Afghanistan had been working on development of mineral resources by implementing changes in the minerals law and mining regulations, improving Government transparency and accountability, and providing responsible security around mine sites through peace agreement talks. However, as a result of the regime change in 2021, Afghanistan has entered a period of international isolation and is facing other social and economic challenges that may have significant effects on the country's mineral industry in the future. Despite these difficulties, some domestic and foreign companies are expressing interest in continuing with exploration and mining activities in the country. Chinese companies might pursue opportunities for exploration of lithium deposits in Afghanistan and, if the security situation allows, will continue with the development of the Mes Aynak copper mine. The new regime's interim government is also making efforts to attract foreign investment into the country's mineral industry. The steel industry in Afghanistan might increase its production in the short term owing to the ban on the export of ferrous scrap.



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

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity <sup>2</sup>	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
<b>METALS</b>						
Chromium, mine, chromite <sup>e</sup>	4,500 <sup>r</sup>	4,500	1,300 <sup>r</sup>	1,000	500	
Iron and steel:						
Raw steel, from scrap	33,000	33,000 <sup>e</sup>	33,000 <sup>e</sup>	29,000 <sup>e</sup>	29,000 <sup>e</sup>	
Products, cast iron	3,945	3,790	3,800 <sup>e</sup>	16,000 <sup>e</sup>	8,000 <sup>e</sup>	
<b>INDUSTRIAL MINERALS</b>						
Cement, hydraulic <sup>e</sup>	thousand metric tons	80 <sup>r</sup>	80 <sup>r</sup>	80 <sup>r</sup>	80	40
Fluorspar		7,500 <sup>e</sup>	11 <sup>r,e</sup>	10,812 <sup>r</sup>	10,000 <sup>e</sup>	5,000 <sup>e</sup>
Gemstones:						
Precious stones <sup>e</sup>	kilograms	610	610	610	600	600
Semiprecious stones <sup>e</sup>		4,500	4,500	4,000	4,000	4,000
Gypsum, mine		40,000	79,800 <sup>r</sup>	68,100 <sup>r</sup>	40,000 <sup>e</sup>	40,000 <sup>e</sup>
Lime		66,000	49,000	35,970	NA	NA
Salt, rock salt		63,645 <sup>r</sup>	56,270 <sup>r</sup>	170,144 <sup>r</sup>	57,422	77,000
Stone, sand, and gravel, construction:						
Sand and gravel, unspecified		1,580,000	607,000 <sup>r</sup>	3,620,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,084,000	2,500,000 <sup>e</sup>
Stone:						
Crushed, marble		18,919 <sup>r</sup>	43,594 <sup>r</sup>	49,179 <sup>r</sup>	42,032	48,300
Size and shape unspecified:						
Onyx		6,367	26,068	500	602	700 <sup>e</sup>
Travertine		2,315	9,891	3,848	1,520	1,500 <sup>e</sup>
Talc		726,154	52,295	211,465	186,000	628,000
<b>MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS</b>						
Coal, bituminous		2,217,864 <sup>r</sup>	2,444,600 <sup>r</sup>	2,445,600	616,367	650,000 <sup>e</sup>
Natural gas, marketable	million cubic meters	165 <sup>r</sup>	153 <sup>r</sup>	129 <sup>r</sup>	80	88
Petroleum, crude, including condensates	thousand 42-gallon barrels	95 <sup>e</sup>	90 <sup>e</sup>	NA	NA	NA

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through May 26, 2022. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. 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, aluminum, barite, gold, petroleum (refinery), and other stones may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2  
AFGHANISTAN: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2021

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities**	Annual capacity <sup>c</sup>
Cement	thousand metric tons	National Development Corp. (Government, 100%)	Ghori plant, Pul-e Khumri, Baghlan	22
Do.	do.	do.	Jabal-e Saraj plant, Parwan	26
Chromium, mine, chromite		Abdul Rahman Baba Co.	Mine in Lalander area, Charasyab District, Kabul	400
Do.		Astana Baba Co.	Mines in Babus and Mughal Khel Sarkunjak areas, Puli Alam District, Logar	1,900
Do.		Hashemi Mining Co.	Mine in Daud Khil area, Da Naw District, Logar	18,000
Do.		Hiwad Brothers Co.	Mine in Kohi Sari area, Gadakhil District, Parwan	2,500
Do.		Metal Mining UK Co.	Mine in Badam area, Nirkh District, Wardak	600
Coal		Afrasiab Mining Co.	Mine in Chul area, Khajjabar District, Kabul	NA
Do.		Bradran Khalid Aziz Co.	Mine in Kazstan District, Takhar	3,000
Do.		Hashimi Group Co.	Mine in Nahrin District, Baghlan	18,100
Do.		Koshak Brothers Co.	Mine in Garmak area, Dara Suf District, Samangan	27,400
Do.		Madan Karan Co.	Mine in Rahiq Qoobi area, Dara Suf District, Samangan	5,700
Do.		Misaq-e Sharq Co.	Mine in Roi Doaab District, Samangan	24,600
Do.		Muhmand Shamal Co.	Mine in Garmak District, Samangan	3,700
Do.		do.	Mine in Sabzak area, Karkh District, Herat	32,400
Fluorspar		Amania Mining Co.	Bakhud Mine, Nish District, Kandahar	10,800
Gemstones:				
Precious stones:				
Emerald	kilograms	NA	Bakhi, Butak, Darun, Kench, Miken Mines, Buzmal Mines, Panjshir	510
Ruby	do.	Partially under Government control	Jegdalek Mine, Sorobi District, Kabul	100
Semiprecious stones:				
Lapis-lazuli		Ljewardeen Mining Co.	Mine in Sar-e-Sang area, Kuran Wa Munjan District, Badakhshan	NA
Do.		NA	Mine in Jurm District, Badakhshan	NA
Do.		NA	Mine in Zebak District, Badakhshan	NA
Tourmaline		NA	Deo Darrah Mine, Kash District, Badakhshan	NA
Gypsum		Ahmad Yar Jangan Construction and Road Construction Co.	Mine in Badam area, Nawor District, Ghazni	23,000
Do.		Almas Ghaznawian	Mine in Nawor District, Ghazni	5,500
Do.		Ariah Falah Mining Co.	Mine in Gagee Rawan area, Sara Rod District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.		Beta United Mining Co.	Mine in Dar-e-Noor area, Nawor District, Ghazni	2,000
Do.		Emsatullah Asem Co.	Mine in Sayed Abad District, Wardak	7,800
Do.		Farooq Amirian Co.	do.	10,100
Do.		Gowara Kohestan Mining Co.	Mine in Dasht Safed area, Kohmard District, Bamyan	NA
Do.		Hamid Arsalan Mining Co.	2d block, Wazir Tatang area, Khogyani District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.		Nazir Mayar	Mine in Sayed Abad District, Wardak	20,400
Do.		Shapoor Sadat Mining Co.	Mines in Nawadan and Shayedan areas, Khulm District, Balkh	NA
Do.		Shahab Mahbob Talc Extraction and Processing Co.	1st block, Wazir Tatang area, Khogyani District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.		Tawakal Behsoodi Mining Co.	Mine in Behsood District, Wardak	NA

See footnotes at end of table.



TABLE 2—Continued  
AFGHANISTAN: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2021

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities**	Annual capacity <sup>e</sup>
Natural gas	million cubic meters	Afghan Gas Ltd. (Government, 100%)	Blocks in Sheberghan, Jowzjan	70
Do.		Dragon Oil plc, 40%; Türkiye Petrolleri A.O., 40%; Ghazanfar Group, 20%	Sanduqli and Mazar-i-Sharif blocks, Balkh	NA
Petroleum, refinery	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Ghazanfar Group	Ghazanfar oil refinery, Hairatan Town, Balkh	150,000
Salt		Nasir Omid Salt Co.	Mine in Ghorian District, Herat	NA
Do.		Qarizada Rebsazi Co.	Mine in Andakhoy District, Faryab	57,400
Sand and gravel, unspecified		Akamal Akramzada Mining Co.	Quarry in Dorahi Hayratan District, Balkh	NA
Do.		Ali Akhtar Mineral Extraction & Processing Co.	Quarry in Shela Kambo area, Sorkhob District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.		Atiq Sahrahi Mining Extraction Co.	Quarry at Murwandi area, Daman District, Kandahar	NA
Do.		Bakhtar Crystal Construction and Production Co.	Quarry in Tokhta area, Dahdadi District, Balkh	23,000
Do.		Balkh Sedaghat Mining Co.	Quarry in Rebat area, Chemtal District, Balkh	NA
Do.		Ehsanullah Musazai Co.	Bareak Aab Block II, Bagram District, Parwan	11,400
Do.		Elham Nasim Mining Co.	Quarry in Khakdarkohi Zuhrahi area, Aybak District, Samangan	NA
Do.		Etimad Qarabagh Co.	Quarry in Istalif District, Kabul	10,400
Do.		Ford Bamika Co.	Quarry in Tokhta area, Dahdadi District, Balkh	9,000
Do.		Hashmatullah Qari Zada Mining Co.	Quarry in Shakarak area, Markaz District, Jowzjan	NA
Do.		Hayat Hesar Mining & Extraction Co.	Quarry in Nawabad Shar Kohna area, Markaz District, Takhar	NA
Do.		do.	Quarry in Shaghal Tapa area, Markaz District, Takhar	NA
Do.		Kabul Guldara Gravel Co.	Quarry in Guldara District, Kabul	3,300
Do.		Mihan Omran Mining Co.	Quarry in Ablaa Sialbor Shadiayn area, Nahar Shahi District, Balkh	NA
Do.		Mohammad Zahir Muradi Co.	Quarry in Pashtoonkot District, Faryab	NA
Do.		Mohsen Rasoli Mining Co.	Quarry in Saripul Ankshikeh area, Markaz District, Samangan	NA
Do.		Nawzad Daman Extraction Co.	Quarry in Pul Arghastan area, Daman District, Kandahar	NA
Do.		Nigin Azizi Co.	Quarry in Anjil District, Herat	NA
Do.		Pamir Tarank Mining Co.	Quarry in Ghara Kalai area, Daman District, Kandahar	NA
Do.		Shahab Saqib Mining Extaction Co.	Quarry in Chara Sarak area, Khan Abad District, Kunduz	NA
Do.		Vesta Constcution and Materials Co.	Quarry in Paghman District, Kabul	7,500
Do.		Yamar Arman Mining Co.	Quarry in Cheshma Shefa area, Pul-e-Khumri District, Baghlan	NA
Steel, raw, from scrap		Afghan Folad Steel Mill Corp. Ltd.	Plant in Herat	20,000
Do.		Faqiri Group	Plant in Pole Charkhi Industrial Park, Kabul	NA
Do.		Khan Steel Co.	do.	NA
Do.		Javed Afghan Steel Mill Co.	Plant in Jalalabad District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.		Maihan Folad Steel Mill Co.	Plant in Paktia Kot District, Kabul <sup>1</sup>	NA
Do.		Sino-Afghan Steel Co. (Watan Group, 100%)	Plant in Pole Charkhi Industrial Park, Kabul	NA

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued  
AFGHANISTAN: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2021

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities**	Annual capacity <sup>c</sup>
Stone, construction:			
Crushed, marble	Afghanistan Marble Mining Co.	Quarry in Chest Sharif District, Herat	1,800
Do.	Ariana Stone Process	do.	1,300
Do.	Asia Stone Eagle Industry Co.	do.	1,300
Do.	Bahar Herat Marmar Co.	Quarry in Owba District, Herat	975
Do.	Etifaq Behsod Co.	Quarry in Mahadan Sand-e-Marmar area, Behsod District, Wardak	395
Do.	Eztullah Sahil Marble Mining Co.	Quarry in Markikhil Sherzad District, Nangarhar	244
Do.	Helal Mining Co.	Quarry in Gazak area, Khak Jabbar District, Kabul	1,400
Do.	Herat Mining Co.	Quarry in Zandjan, Herat	1,100
Do.	Jamal Asia Marble Extraction and Processing Co.	Quarry in Chest Sharif District, Herat	949
Do.	Mining Investment Co.	do.	17,000
Do.	Moravid-e-Nili Afghani Mining Co.	Block I, Markaz, Daykundi	10,000
Do.	Natural Stone Co.	Quarry in Kunar-Nangarhar area, Kunar	NA
Do.	do.	Quarry in Sayedabad District, Wardak	8,300
Do.	Rahmat Fazel Construction Material Production Co.	do.	8,300
Do.	Safi Gran Construction and Extraction Co.	do.	23,400
Size and shape unspecified:			
Onyx	Afghan Herat Marble Co.	Mine in Margha, Herat	600
Do.	Afghan Qesmat Co.	Mine in Chest Sharif District, Herat	NA
Do.	Arif Sarvari Mining Co.	Mine in Dishu District, Helmand	6,000
Do.	Chest Sharif Marble Co.	Mine in Chest Sharif District, Herat	40
Do.	Mawarid Herat Co.	do.	NA
Do.	Muntaz Kausar Mining Co.	do.	310
Do.	Siraj Nahr Construction and Road Construction Co.	Mine in Dishu District, Helmand	4,100
Travertine	Ahmadi Behsod Mining Co.	Block Dasht Reza, Shisha Qol Khush, Behsod District, Wardak	NA
Do.	Erfan Ghaznavi Stone Processing Co.	Mine in Behsod District, Wardak	NA
Do.	Kohsaran Brodaran Turkman Mining Co.	Tangi Choli Block C, Behsod District, Wardak	NA
Do.	Malistan Faluad Travertine Co.	Mine in Malistan District, Ghazni	NA
Other	Afghan Eco Mining Co.	Quarry in Shidai area, Injil District, Herat	NA
Do.	Asia Jawed Co.	Quarry in Koh Kanak area, Yakawlang District, Bamyan	NA
Do.	Baba Ler Mining and Processing Co.	Block III, Sumitim Taq District, Jowzjan	NA
Do.	Balkh Sedaghat Mining Co.	Quarry in Shadian area, Nahri Shahi District, Balkh	NA
Do.	Dahan Shurab Mining Co.	Quarry in Orzaq area, Yakawlang District, Bamyan	NA
Do.	Dara Kalan Jokar Mining Co.	Quarry in Dahan Shurab area, Yakawlang District, Bamyan	NA
Do.	Ehsanullah Musazai Co.	Quarry in Chagai area, Tirinkot District, Uruzgan	NA
Do.	Golden Key Construction Co.	Quarry in Karizak area, Injil District, Herat	NA
Do.	Hashmatullah Qari Zada Mining Co.	1st block in Yateem Taaq, Markaz District, Jowzjan	NA
Do.	Hayqyar Mohammad Mining Co.	Quarry in Da Shiekh area, Injil District, Herat	NA
Do.	Karim Wardak Co.	Quarry in Sar Kotal Takht area, Markaz District, Wardak	NA
Do.	Kalu Baba Stone and Sand Mining Co.	Quarry in Jagrakhel area, Bamyan	NA

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued  
AFGHANISTAN: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2021

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities**	Annual capacity <sup>e</sup>
Stone, construction:—Continued			
Size and shape unspecified:—Continued			
Other—Continued	Kohistan Mining and Sand Mining Co.	Quarry in Karizak village, Bamyan	NA
Do.	Mahar Star Co.	Quarry in Koh Tepe area, Bagram District, Parwan	NA
Do.	Mawen Mahdi Mahaz Co.	Quarry in Jfarabad area, Injil District, Herat	NA
Do.	Nangarhar Khawar Mining Co.	Quarry in Khiwa Kokama area, Khiva District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Naqib Mojib Co.	Mine at Khara Moshak area, Feroz Koh District, Daykundi	NA
Do.	Sayed Layeq Hussain Co.	Quarry in District 13, Kabul	1,000
Do.	Shoki Khan, Son of Haji Sakhi Jan	Quarry in Dhaka, Momandara District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Sultan Ali Jami Mining Co.	Quarry in Dara Iraq village, Shiber District, Bamyan	NA
Talc	Mines, <sup>2</sup> including—		
	Afghan Mineral Co.	Shirzad District, Nangarhar	99
Do.	Aftab Muqaddas Mujibi Co.	Mamand valley, Achin District, Nangarhar	42,000
Do.	Ajmir Sami Co.	Haska Mina District, Nangarhar	2,000
Do.	Al-Haj Mohammad Rasool Naseeri Co.	Shirzad District, Nangarhar	3,000
Do.	Ali Shir Shinwari Co.	Chakot area, Spin Ghar District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Amin Karimzai Trading Co.	Makikhel, Shirzad District, Nangarhar	42,000
Do.	Anwar Development Co.	Shirzad District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Asad Haseeb	Hesarak Mina District, Nangarhar	700
Do.	Asif Kharoti Co.	Achin District, Nangarhar	3,200
Do.	Atta Yar Baz	Spin Ghar District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Bab Khyber Co.	Mamand Valley, Achin District, Nangarhar	10,000
Do.	Bradran Muhibullah Safi Co.	Shirzad District, Nangarhar	35,000
Do.	Bilal Mosazai Co.	do.	10,000
Do.	Farhad Son of Noor Agha	Parwan	750
Do.	Habib Shahab Talc and Marble Exploitation and Process Co.	Makikhel, Shirzad District, Nangarhar	14,000
Do.	Hamraz Construction and Circulation Co.	Nejrab District, Kapisa	6,500
Do.	Humayun	Shirzad District, Nangarhar	134
Do.	Jamal Indico	do.	500
Do.	Khalid Ayaz	Achin District, Nangarhar	3,000
Do.	Malang Khogyani Co.	Hesarak Mina District, Nangarhar	2,000
Do.	Mansoor Arsala Co.	do.	800
Do.	Mati Sami	Pachir Agam, Nangarhar	8,000
Do.	Meshal Spinzar	Kodikhel area, Shirzad District, Nangarhar	3,000
Do.	Mirajuddin Shams	Achin District, Nangarhar	28,700
Do.	Mohammad Ajan Safi	Shirzad District, Nangarhar	5,000
Do.	Mohammad Faisal Co.	do.	52,800
Do.	Nangarhar Dubai	do.	500
Do.	Navid Faizal Zada	Mohammad Valley, Kohi Safi District, Nangarhar	985
Do.	New Rahmat Ensaf Co.	Mamand Valley, Achin District, Nangarhar	7,000
Do.	Raihan Yonus	Shirzad District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Rahimullah Zaland	Adam Selgari, Nangarhar	53,000
Do.	Rashid Haidar Co.	Shirzad District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Shahil Bilal Commercial Co.	do.	16,000
Do.	Spin Ghar Afghan Talc	do.	35,000
Do.	Zahid Sami Samim Co.	Nangarhar	46,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued  
 AFGHANISTAN: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2021

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities**	Annual capacity <sup>c</sup>
Talc—Continued	Processing facilities, including—		
	Afghan Shaining Co.	Shirzad District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Afghan Talc	Achin District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Amir Karinzai	Surkhrod District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Bakhtar Afghan Talc	do.	NA
Do.	Bilal Mosazai Co.	NA	NA
Do.	Core Drillers Inc.	Shirzad District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Habib Shahab Talc	do.	NA
Do.	Hamraz Talc	Surkhrod District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Hilal Saba	do.	NA
Do.	Kahibar Gandahara	do.	NA
Do.	Mati Sami	do.	NA
Do.	Nabi Afghan	do.	NA
Do.	Nangarhar Afghan Talc	do.	NA
Do.	Nawi Rahmat Insaf	do.	NA
Do.	Omar Farooq Talc	do.	NA
Do.	Salman Sheirzad Talc	do.	NA
Do.	Sang Safid Talc	do.	NA
Do.	Shikh Sakhi Kamran	do.	NA
Do.	Standard Talc	do.	NA
Do.	Tariq Sherzad	do.	NA
Do.	Trajmeer Talc	Goshta District, Nangarhar	NA
Do.	Yousuf Qazi Zada Talc	Surkhrod District, Nangarhar	NA

<sup>c</sup>Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Operations at the plant were halted in 2021 owing to a lack of available raw material.

<sup>2</sup>All talc licenses had expired and, as of yearend 2021, had not been renewed by the Government.