



# 2020–2021 Minerals Yearbook

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**CENTRAL AMERICA [ADVANCE RELEASE]**

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA

## BELIZE, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND PANAMA

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**Note: In the individual sections of this chapter, information for 2020 is followed by information for 2021.**

In 2020, the countries of Central America covered in this chapter (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama) produced a variety of metals, industrial minerals, and mineral fuels, but not in large quantities. In the metals mining sector, copper, gold, lead, nickel, raw steel, silver, and zinc were produced. In the industrial minerals sector, cement, clays (bentonite and kaolin), diatomite, feldspar, gypsum, lime, limestone, marble, pumice, salt, and sand and gravel were produced. Crude petroleum and refinery products were also produced in Central America in 2020.

The global coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic had a severe impact around the world, including in the countries of Central America. In 2020, the real gross domestic product (GDP) of the Central America region decreased by 8%. The region's annual nominal GDP was \$255.6 billion compared with \$274.5 billion in 2019. The nominal per capita GDP was the greatest in Panama (\$12,510), followed by Costa Rica (\$12,202), Guatemala (\$4,332), Belize (\$3,988), El Salvador (\$3,787), Honduras (\$2,406), and Nicaragua (\$1,900). In 2020, the value added by the mineral sector to the real GDP of each of the countries in Central America ranged from 0.28% to 4.7%. Nicaragua and Panama were the leading countries in Central America in terms of the value added to their economies by their mineral sectors (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

In 2020, the total inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) into Central America's mineral sector totaled about \$3.7 billion. Of the 149 FDI announcements for Central America in 2020, 10 were for the energy sector and the mining and quarrying sector. Inflows of FDI into Central America were the greatest in the countries of Costa Rica (\$2.1 billion) and Guatemala (\$915 million). FDI data for Belize were not available (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021, p. 61–62).

In 2020, the total value of exported goods from Central America was \$33.4 billion, which was an increase of 2.2% compared with that in 2019. Of that value, \$9.6 billion, or about 29%, was through interregional trade. The United States continued to be the leading recipient of exported goods from Central America in 2020, receiving 46.7% of the total exports, by value, and the European Union received 22.1%; other recipients included Mexico (3.6%), China (3%), and Japan (2.5%). In 2020, the total value of imported goods to Central America was \$62.2 billion, which was a decrease of 14.5% from that in 2019. The United States was the leading exporter

of goods to Central America in 2020, supplying 38.3% of the total, by value, followed by China (15.8%), Mexico (10.4%), the European Union (10%), and Colombia (2.4%) (Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana, 2021, p. 4, 7).

In 2021, the mining and quarrying sector's contribution to the real GDP of the countries of Central America ranged from 0.28% to 5.8% (including an estimated 0.5% for Belize). Panama was the first-ranked country in Central America in terms of the value added by its mineral sector, followed by Nicaragua. In 2021, the total value of exported goods from Central America was \$42.1 billion, which was an increase of about 28% from that in 2020. Of that value, \$12.1 billion, or about 29%, was through interregional trade. The United States continued to be the leading recipient of exported goods from Central America in 2021, accounting for 45.1% of the total. The countries of the European Union accounted for 20.5% of the total value of exported goods. Other recipients included China (5.3%), Mexico (4.1%), and Japan (3.2%). In 2021, the total value of imported goods to Central America was \$88.6 billion, which was an increase of 42.7% compared with that in 2020. The United States was the leading exporter of goods to Central America in 2021, accounting for 37.8% of the total, followed by China (17%), the European Union (9.6%), and Mexico (9.2%) (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022; Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana, 2022).

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## BELIZE

In 2020, Belize was not a globally or regionally significant mineral-producing country. The mining and quarrying sector was estimated to have accounted for about 0.5% of the country's nominal GDP in 2020. The production of crude petroleum represented only a minor part of the country's economy. Industrial minerals may have been produced in Belize, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output. The nominal GDP of Belize was about \$2 billion, which was the lowest GDP among the countries of Central America. The country's real GDP decreased by 14% in 2020 compared with an increase of 4.5% in 2019. The decreased rate of economic growth was largely owing to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (Central Bank of Belize, 2021, p. 5; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

Only two oilfields were operating in Belize in 2020—the Never Delay Field and the Spanish Lookout Field, both of which were owned by Belize Natural Energy Ltd. Crude petroleum production in Belize decreased for the 11th consecutive year to 194,435 barrels (bbl) for the year. Belize's crude petroleum exports in 2020 also decreased by 64% compared with those in 2019, to 74,920 bbl. This decrease was in response to reduced global demand for crude petroleum. Five companies held petroleum-exploration licenses in Belize. Belize did not operate a petroleum refinery in 2020 (Central Bank of Belize, 2021, p. 18, 23; Ministry of Economic Development, 2021).

### MINERAL INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021

In 2021, the nominal GDP of Belize was about \$2.1 billion, and the country's real GDP increased by 16.3%. In 2021, the country's nominal GDP was about \$2.1 billion, which was the lowest GDP in Central America. The mining and quarrying sector was estimated to have accounted for slightly more than 0.5% of the nominal GDP in 2021. The country's real GDP increased by 16.3% in 2021 compared with a decrease of 13.7% in 2020. Crude petroleum production in Belize decreased for the 12th consecutive year to 177,186 bbl for the year. The Never Delay and Spanish Lookout Fields were approaching the final stage of their respective life cycles after more than 16 years in operation. Crude petroleum exports from Belize totaled 74,358 bbl in 2021, which was similar to the amount exported in 2020. Despite the value of crude petroleum exports increasing by about 76% from that in 2020, the value of crude petroleum exports accounted for only slightly more than 2% of the country's total export value in 2021. The majority of the crude petroleum extracted in Belize came from the Spanish Lookout Field, located in Cayo District in western Belize (Central Bank of Belize, 2022, p. 24, 34; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

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## COSTA RICA

In 2020, the nominal GDP of Costa Rica was \$62.2 billion, and the country's real GDP decreased by 4.1% compared with that in 2019. Although Costa Rica was the second-ranked economy in Central America, mining and quarrying continued to represent only a minor part of the national economy, contributing 0.3% to the nominal GDP. Mineral commodities produced in Costa Rica included cement, crushed stone, diatomite, gold, petroleum refinery products, raw steel, and sand and gravel. Other industrial minerals may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

Although Costa Rica banned all future open pit metal mining in the country in 2010, artisanal and small-scale production of gold continued in 2020. Costa Rica produced an estimated 4,500 kilograms (kg) of gold in 2020. Costa Rica's mineral exports to the United States decreased by 8% and totaled more than \$115 million in 2020. Of that amount, gold exports to the United States totaled nearly \$28.7 million, and exports of other precious metals to the United States totaled \$38 million (La Gaceta, 2010, p. 1; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022).

### MINERAL INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021

In 2021, the nominal GDP of Costa Rica was about \$64.4 billion, and the country's real GDP increased by 7.8%. The mining and quarrying sector continued to play a minor role in the national economy, contributing 0.3% to the nominal GDP. Newlox Gold Venture Corp. of Canada's wholly owned subsidiary, Oro Roca, S.A., announced that it had begun commercial production at its first gold-producing plant in Costa Rica. The Oro Roca project was focused on the reprocessing of artisanal tailings and toll milling of artisanal mined ore. Artisanal miners often lack access to efficient or environmentally friendly processing methods, and, through its toll-milling service, Newlox processed the raw ore mined by artisanal groups. Once it reaches full production capacity (expected in 2022), the Oro Roca plant was projected to have the capacity to process 150 metric tons per day of tailings to yield approximately 620 kilograms (kg) of gold (Newlox Gold Ventures Corp., 2021a, b; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

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## EL SALVADOR

In 2020, the nominal GDP of El Salvador was \$24.6 billion, and the country's real GDP decreased by 8.2% compared with that in 2019. The production of cement and raw steel represented only a minor part of El Salvador's economy. The mining and quarrying sector was valued at \$70 million, which accounted for less than 0.3% of the nominal GDP in 2020. In 2017, El Salvador became the first country in the world to prohibit the mining of gold and all other metals. The decision to ban all exploration, extraction, and processing of metals in the country (which included both open pit and underground metal mining) was largely a consequence of strong public opposition to mining activities in order to protect the country's water supply. The legislation also prohibited the use of cyanide and mercury for mining (Hares, 2017; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

In 2020, the total value of exports from El Salvador decreased by 15% to a little more than \$5 billion compared with \$5.9 billion in 2019. The value of El Salvador's total imports in 2020 decreased to about \$10.6 billion from \$12 billion in 2019, or by 12%. El Salvador's total exports to the United States totaled more than \$1.9 billion in 2020 compared with \$2.5 billion in 2019, and exports of mineral commodities to the United States totaled about \$21.7 million. Notable mineral commodities exported to the United States included gemstones valued at \$9.6 million and gold valued at \$4.3 million. In 2020, the United States was El Salvador's leading export trade partner, followed by Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica (Banco Central de Reserva de El Salvador, 2021, p. 11–12; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022).

## MINERAL INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021

In 2021, the nominal GDP of El Salvador was \$28.7 billion, and the real GDP increased by 10.3%. El Salvador produced cement and raw steel; however, this production represented only a minor part of the country's economy. Other industrial minerals may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output. The output value

of the mining and quarrying sector was \$81.9 million, which accounted for less than 0.3% of the nominal GDP. In 2021, the value of El Salvador's total exports increased to \$6.6 billion, or by 32% compared with that in 2020. The value of El Salvador's total imports in 2021 increased to \$15.1 billion, or by 47%, of which imports of mineral fuels accounted for about \$3.2 billion (Banco Central de Reserva de El Salvador, 2022, p. 3–4; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

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## GUATEMALA

Guatemala had the highest-ranked economy in Central America, and the mining and quarrying sector's contribution to the national economy was nearly 0.5% of the nominal GDP. In 2020, the nominal GDP of Guatemala was \$77.6 billion, and the country's real GDP decreased by 1.8%. Minerals produced in Guatemala in 2020 included antimony, crude petroleum, raw steel, gemstones, gold, gypsum, limestone, nickel, petroleum refinery products, and other industrial minerals (table 1; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

In 2020, the value of Guatemala's total exports increased to \$11.5 billion from \$11.2 billion in 2019. The value of total imports decreased to \$18.2 billion from \$19.9 billion in 2019. Guatemala's total exports to the United States were valued at more than \$3.8 billion in 2020 compared with \$4 billion in 2019. Of that amount, mineral commodity exports to the United States were valued at more than \$119 million. Notable mineral commodity exports to the United States included crude petroleum valued at \$75 million; iron and steel products valued at \$11 million; and gold valued at \$10 million. In 2020, the United States was Guatemala's leading export trade partner, followed by El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua (Banco de Guatemala, 2021, p. 42–43; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022).

In 2020, Compañía Guatemalteca de Níquel, S.A., which was a subsidiary of Solway Investment Group of Switzerland and owner of the Fenix project, increased ferronickel production at the Fenix project by about 13% to about 22,900 metric tons (t)



despite the challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fenix project was a fully integrated ferronickel production facility in eastern Guatemala. Fenix provided jobs for more than 1,900 employees and hundreds of local contractors (Solway Investment Group, 2021a, b).

## MINERAL INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021

In 2021, the nominal GDP of Guatemala was \$86 billion, and the country's real GDP increased by 8% compared with that in 2020. The estimated value of production from the mining and quarrying sector was \$494 million, which accounted for less than 0.6% of the nominal GDP. In 2021, the value of Guatemala's total exports increased to \$13.6 billion from \$11.1 billion (revised) in 2020. Of that amount, iron and steel exports increased in value to \$596 million from \$434 million in 2020. The United States was Guatemala's leading export trade partner, followed by El Salvador and Honduras. The value of Guatemala's total imports increased to \$26.6 billion from \$18.2 billion in 2020. Mineral fuels and lubricants imports increased in value to \$4 billion from \$2.1 billion in 2020 (Banco de Guatemala, 2022, p. 40–43; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

Pan American Silver Corp. of Canada's Escobal Mine remained on care-and-maintenance status in 2021. In July 2017, the mining license for the Escobal Mine was suspended in response to a court filing. The suspension stemmed from a legal challenge brought by environmental and human rights organizations, which argued that the Government of Guatemala had not properly consulted with the local Xinca indigenous people before granting the mining license. The license for the Escobal Mine was expected to remain suspended until a consultation process by the Government's Ministry of Energy and Mines, in accordance with International Labor Organization rules relating to the rights of indigenous communities in the country, was completed. The company announced that the consultation process, which began in May 2021, would continue into 2022 (Pan American Silver Corp., 2022, p. 128).

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## HONDURAS

In 2020, the nominal GDP of Honduras was \$23.8 billion, and the country's real GDP decreased by 9%. The estimated value of production by the mining and quarrying sector totaled \$152 million, which accounted for about 0.64% of the nominal GDP in 2020. Notable mineral commodities produced in Honduras included cement, gold, lead, silver, and zinc. Other industrial minerals may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output (table 1; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

In 2020, the total value of exported goods from Honduras decreased by 2.2% to \$4.1 billion. Mineral commodity exports from Honduras included zinc (valued at \$27.9 million), silver (\$19.1 million), and lead (\$17.7 million). According to the Central Bank of Honduras, gold export data for 2020 were not available; however, based on the United States Census Bureau's import data, the value of gold exported from Honduras to the United States totaled \$156 million in 2020 (Banco Central de Honduras, 2021, p. 64; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022).

The San Andres Mine increased its gold production from 1,816 kg in 2019 to 1,890 kg in 2020. The San Andres Mine, an open pit heap-leach mine located in the highlands of western Honduras in the Department of Copan, was granted special authorization from the Government of Honduras to fully resume operations in May after a brief work stoppage in March that was a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2020, Ascendant Resources of Canada entered into a purchase agreement with the Kirungu Corp. of Panama to acquire El Mochito's lead and zinc mine. The sale was completed in April (Ascendant Resources Inc., 2021, p. 5; Aura Minerals Inc., 2021a, 2021b, p. 8).

## MINERAL INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021

In 2021, the nominal GDP of Honduras was \$28.5 billion, and the country's real GDP increased by 12.5% compared with that in 2020. The value of the mining and quarrying sector during the year totaled \$215 million, which accounted for about 0.75% of the country's nominal GDP. In 2021, the total value of exported goods from Honduras increased to \$5 billion from \$4.1 billion in 2020. The country's mineral commodity exports included zinc (valued at \$46.7 million), silver (\$25.7 million), and lead (\$22.5 million). Gold export data for 2021 were not disclosed by the Central Bank of Honduras. In July, Aura Minerals announced that it had restarted mining operations at the San Andres Mine after a temporary suspension of operations owing to local community unrest. Despite the temporary suspension of mining operations at the San Andres Mine, gold production increased to 2,750 kg in 2021 from 1,980 kg produced in 2020

(Aura Minerals Inc., 2022a, 2022b, p. 12; Banco Central de Honduras, 2022, p. 62; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

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## NICARAGUA

In 2020, the nominal GDP of Nicaragua was \$12.6 billion, and the country's real GDP decreased by 1.8%. The estimated value of production from the mining and quarrying sector totaled \$593 million, which accounted for about 4.7% of the country's nominal GDP in 2020. Notable mineral commodities produced in Nicaragua included cement, crushed stone, gold, gypsum, lime, petroleum refinery products, and silver. In 2020, the total value of exported goods from Nicaragua increased by 5.8% to about \$2.9 billion. Of that value, gold exports made up \$665 million and silver exports made up \$14.8 million. The United States was Nicaragua's leading export trade partner, accounting for nearly one-half of Nicaragua's total exports, followed by El Salvador (11%) and Costa Rica (5%) (table 1; Banco Central de Nicaragua, 2021, p. 92, 94; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022).

In 2020, gold production in Nicaragua totaled 8,087 kg, which was a decrease of 12% compared with that in 2019. Nicaragua's leading gold-producing mines included the Hemco Mine and the La Libertad Mine. In 2019, Canada's Calibre Mining Corp. acquired the El Limon Mine and the La Libertad Mine from B2Gold Corp. of Canada for a total of \$100 million. The transaction also included the Pavón Norte gold project located in the Matagalpa Department and additional mineral concessions in Nicaragua. In 2020, Calibre obtained the environmental permits to begin drilling on concession areas located within the Pavón Norte gold project area (table 2; Calibre Mining Corp., 2021, p. 6).

## MINERAL INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021

In 2021, the nominal GDP of Nicaragua was \$14 billion, and the country's real GDP increased by 10.3%. The estimated value of production of the mining and quarrying sector totaled \$769 million, which accounted for about 5.5% of the country's nominal GDP in 2021. The total value of exported goods from Nicaragua increased by 23.1% to \$3.5 billion in 2021. Of that value, \$867.6 million (25%) was gold exports and \$22.2 million (0.6%) was silver exports. In 2021, gold production in Nicaragua totaled 11,144 kg, which was an increase of 38% compared with that in 2020. Canada's Calibre Mining Corp. and Mako Mining Corp. announced that they had begun commercial gold production in Nicaragua. In July, Mako Mining announced that it had reached commercial production at its San Albino gold mine, located in the Nueva Segovia Department. The San Albino Mine had an annual gold-production capacity of 1,200 kg. In January, Calibre announced that open pit mining had commenced at the Pavón Norte Mine. The Pavón Norte Mine had an annual gold production capacity of 1,460 kg. Nicaragua continued to be Central America's leading gold-producing country in 2021 (table 1; Banco Central de Nicaragua, 2022, p. 86–87; Calibre Mining Corp., 2022, p. 7; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022; Mako Mining Corp., 2022).

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## PANAMA

In 2020, the nominal GDP of Panama was about \$54 billion, and the country's real GDP decreased by 18%. The value contributed to the nominal GDP from the mining and quarrying sector in 2020 was slightly more than \$2 billion, which was the highest of any country in Central America in terms of value and accounted for 3.8% of the country's nominal GDP. Production of notable mineral commodities in Panama included cement, copper, gold, lime, salt, and silver. In 2020, the total value of exported goods from Panama increased by 14.7% to about \$1.7 billion. Of that value, approximately \$1 billion were copper

exports, which was an increase of 34% compared with the value of copper exports in 2019. In 2020, Panama's copper exports to the United States totaled \$3.9 million. China was Panama's leading export trade partner in 2020, followed by Spain (table 1; Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censo, 2021a, b; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022).

The Cobre Panamá Mine, which was located in Colon Province and was the county's only large open pit copper mine, achieved its first full year of production in 2020. First Quantum Minerals Ltd. of Canada held a 90% interest in Cobre Panamá and was the operator of the mine; the remaining 10% was held by Korea Resources Corp. of the Republic of Korea. Production from the Cobre Panamá Mine in 2020 totaled 205,548 t of copper, 2,634 kg of gold, and 49,627 kg of silver. The mine was expected to produce more than 300,000 t of copper and more than 3,700 kg of gold in 2021 (First Quantum Minerals Ltd., 2021, p. 20–21).

## MINERAL INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021

In 2021, the nominal GDP of Panama was about \$63.6 billion, and the country's real GDP increased by 15.3%. The value contributed to the nominal GDP from the mining and quarrying sector was slightly under \$3.7 billion, which remained the highest of any country in Central America in terms of value, accounting for 5.5% of the country's nominal GDP in 2021. The total value of exported goods from Panama during the year increased to \$3.6 billion from \$1.7 billion in 2020. Of that value, 79% (\$2.8 billion) was copper ore and concentrate exports. Panama's copper exports to the United States more than doubled in 2021 compared with those in 2020, totaling nearly \$8 million. The Cobre Panamá Mine achieved its second full year of production in 2021. Total copper production from the mine increased to 331,000 t from 205,548 t in 2020; gold, to 4,405 kg from 2,634 kg; and silver, to 78,419 kg from 49,627 kg. Cobre Panamá was expected to produce up to 360,000 t of copper

and up to 4,700 kg of gold in 2022 (Dirección de Estadística y Censo, 2022, p. 23, 24; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022; First Quantum Minerals Ltd., 2022, p. 56, 58; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022).

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TABLE 1  
CENTRAL AMERICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity <sup>2</sup>	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
BELIZE					
Petroleum, crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	360	301	0	194	177
COSTA RICA					
Cement, hydraulic thousand metric tons	1,364 <sup>r</sup>	1,340 <sup>r</sup>	1,220 <sup>r</sup>	972 <sup>c</sup>	975 <sup>c</sup>
Diatomite do.	7	7	6	13	19 <sup>c</sup>
Gold, mine, Au content kilograms	4,255	5,200	4,500	4,500 <sup>c</sup>	4,600 <sup>c</sup>
Petroleum, refinery thousand 42-gallon barrels	20,873 <sup>r</sup>	21,298 <sup>r</sup>	21,785 <sup>r</sup>	17,632	20,400
Stone, sand, and gravel, construction:					
Sand and gravel thousand metric tons	7,700 <sup>c</sup>	9,621 <sup>r</sup>	10,321 <sup>r</sup>	11,118	11,200 <sup>c</sup>
Stone, crushed:					
Limestone, including calcareous materials do.	1,950 <sup>c</sup>	1,652 <sup>r</sup>	1,702 <sup>r</sup>	1,702	1,710 <sup>c</sup>
Sandstone do.	150 <sup>c</sup>	--	--	--	--
Other, unspecified do.	12,000 <sup>r, c</sup>	8,995 <sup>r</sup>	8,072 <sup>r</sup>	7,541	7,600 <sup>c</sup>
EL SALVADOR					
Cement, hydraulic thousand metric tons	900 <sup>r</sup>	1,089 <sup>r</sup>	1,280 <sup>r</sup>	1,000 <sup>c</sup>	1,070 <sup>c</sup>
Iron and steel:					
Raw steel	96,000	99,000	105,000	82,000	103,000
Products, semimanufactured <sup>c</sup>	95,000	95,000	99,000	75,000	93,000
GUATEMALA					
Barite	43	63	60 <sup>c</sup>	--	--
Cement, hydraulic thousand metric tons	3,440 <sup>r</sup>	3,030 <sup>r</sup>	2,890 <sup>r</sup>	3,230 <sup>c</sup>	3,380 <sup>c</sup>
Clays:					
Bentonite	20,542	16,953	17,000 <sup>c</sup>	17,000 <sup>c</sup>	17,000 <sup>c</sup>
Kaolin	657	725	700 <sup>c</sup>	402	400 <sup>c</sup>
Feldspar, mine	29,145	30,257	28,771 <sup>r</sup>	25,578	30,000 <sup>c</sup>
Gemstones, jadeite	1,891	1,611	-- <sup>r</sup>	63	100 <sup>c</sup>
Gold, mine, Au content kilograms	1,646	200 <sup>c</sup>	200 <sup>c</sup>	200 <sup>c</sup>	200 <sup>c</sup>
Gypsum, mine thousand metric tons	135	133	141 <sup>r</sup>	423	400 <sup>c</sup>
Iron and steel, raw steel do.	294	300	306 <sup>r</sup>	243	310
Lead, mine, concentrate, Pb content	13,803	264	--	--	--
Magnesite	16,298	4,745	6,900 <sup>c</sup>	7,200 <sup>c</sup>	5,000 <sup>c</sup>
Nickel, ferronickel, Ni content	12,416	14,688	20,323	22,894	20,000 <sup>c</sup>
Petroleum:					
Crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	3,519	3,363	3,506	2,852	3,000
Refinery:					
Asphalt 42-gallon barrels	278,514	589,552	887,889	669,353	801,425
Diesel do.	240,250	338,591	422,158 <sup>r</sup>	364,539	397,932
Kerosene do.	--	521	1,801	1,764	3,596
Refinery fuel do.	17,000 <sup>c</sup>	21,613	28,619 <sup>r</sup>	24,928	36,760
Pumice and related materials, pumice sand <sup>c</sup>	570,000	570,000	570,000	570,000	570,000
Sand and gravel, industrial, silica	1,900,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,900,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,900,000 <sup>c, r</sup>	1,900,000 <sup>c</sup>	1,900,000 <sup>c</sup>
Silver, mine, Ag content kilograms	336,943	--	--	--	--
Stone, sand, and gravel, construction:					
Sand and gravel:					
River sand thousand metric tons	591 <sup>r</sup>	728 <sup>r</sup>	337 <sup>r</sup>	1,185	1,100 <sup>c</sup>
Other, unspecified do.	591	239 <sup>r</sup>	294 <sup>r</sup>	290	290 <sup>c</sup>
Stone, crushed:					
Basalt	60,000 <sup>c</sup>	60,000 <sup>c</sup>	129,000 <sup>r</sup>	120,000 <sup>c</sup>	120,000 <sup>c</sup>
Basaltic andesite	3,030,955	5,503,883	3,551,667 <sup>r</sup>	2,844,000	2,800,000 <sup>c</sup>
Dolomite	20,000 <sup>c</sup>	14,994	15,000 <sup>c</sup>	15,000 <sup>c</sup>	15,000 <sup>c</sup>
Limestone	5,583,172	2,072,312	5,027,360 <sup>r</sup>	6,574,117	6,500,000 <sup>c</sup>
Marble <sup>c</sup>	71,000 <sup>r</sup>	71,000 <sup>r</sup>	63,000 <sup>c</sup>	63,000	63,000
Schist	394,315	846,600 <sup>r</sup>	1,637,000 <sup>r</sup>	766,400	760,000 <sup>c</sup>
Talc	1,981	2,187	2,100 <sup>c</sup>	2,000 <sup>c</sup>	2,000 <sup>c</sup>
Zinc, mine, Zn content	6,100	--	--	--	--

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1—Continued  
CENTRAL AMERICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity <sup>2</sup>		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>HONDURAS</b>						
Antimony, mine, concentrate, Sb content		3 <sup>e</sup>	12 <sup>e</sup>	--	--	--
Cement, hydraulic	thousand metric tons	2,140 <sup>r</sup>	1,960 <sup>r</sup>	1,800	1,490	1,650 <sup>e</sup>
Gold, mine, Au content	kilograms	2,657	2,064	1,931	1,980 <sup>e</sup>	2,845
Lead, mine, concentrate, Pb content		6,760	9,893	12,308	14,104	14,500
Silver, mine, Ag content	kilograms	21,785	31,182	43,579	45,000 <sup>e</sup>	46,500 <sup>e</sup>
Zinc, mine, concentrate, Zn content		20,436	28,421	29,223	29,911	34,000
<b>NICARAGUA</b>						
Cement, hydraulic <sup>e</sup>	thousand metric tons	780 <sup>r</sup>	680 <sup>r</sup>	580 <sup>r</sup>	510 <sup>e</sup>	512
Gold, mine, Au content	kilograms	7,377	7,703	9,190	8,087	11,144
Gypsum, including anhydrite		66,740	70,341	39,925 <sup>r</sup>	64,573	20,000
Lime <sup>e</sup>		5,200	5,000	4,800	4,700	5,200
Petroleum, refinery:						
Asphalt	42-gallon barrels	101,510	128,071	22,201 <sup>r</sup>	--	--
Diesel	do.	1,221,340	1,520,128	1,738,273 <sup>r</sup>	1,992,481	2,744,092
Fuel oil	do.	2,118,070	1,776,491	191,982 <sup>r</sup>	--	--
Gasoline	do.	854,620	819,070	923,082 <sup>r</sup>	944,762	1,139,745
Kerosene, turbo fuel	do.	287,310	200,028	178,359 <sup>r</sup>	95,311	117,481
Liquefied petroleum gas	do.	231,260	202,284	242,576 <sup>r</sup>	187,679	225,971
Silver, mine, Ag content	do.	15,149	11,263	17,362	20,411	21,460
Stone, sand and gravel, construction:						
Sand and gravel	thousand metric tons	296	218	129	96	128
Stone, crushed:						
Quarried unspecified	do.	9,419	5,828	2,941 <sup>r</sup>	3,195	4,458
Tuff, volcanic	do.	222	199	190	184	218
Other, unspecified	do.	1,232	2,265	1,951	1,768	1,014
<b>PANAMA</b>						
Cement, hydraulic	thousand metric tons	1,920 <sup>r</sup>	1,640 <sup>r</sup>	1,370 <sup>r</sup>	754 <sup>e</sup>	821 <sup>e</sup>
Copper, mine, Cu content		--	--	147,480	205,548	331,000
Gold, mine, Au content	kilograms	400 <sup>e</sup>	400 <sup>e</sup>	1,869	2,634	4,405
Lime <sup>e</sup>		4,200	4,400	4,500	3,700	4,200
Salt		41,094	38,107	40,000 <sup>e</sup>	40,000 <sup>e</sup>	40,000 <sup>e</sup>
Silver, mine, Ag content	kilograms	--	--	35,217	49,627	78,419

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

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through August 30, 2022. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Additional commodities may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2  
CENTRAL AMERICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2021

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity <sup>e</sup>
<b>BELIZE</b>				
Petroleum, crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Belize Natural Energy Ltd., 100%	Spanish Lookout oilfield, Cayo District	175
Do.	do.	do.	Never Delay oilfield, Cayo District	5
<b>COSTA RICA</b>				
Cement, limestone, including marl		Holcim Costa Rica S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 59.8%, and other private, 40.2%)	Cartago cement plant, Aguas Calientes, Cartago Province	1,200
Do.		CEMEX Costa Rica S.A. (CEMEX S.A.B de C.V., 98.7%, and other private, 1.3%)	Colorado de Abangares cement plant, Guanacaste Province, and Guatuso de Patarra cement grinding and bagging plant, San Jose Province	1,100
Clay		do.	Tajo Finca clay quarry, near city of Platanar	100
Gold	kilograms	Newlox Gold Ventures Corp., 100%	Oro Roca plants Guanacaste Province	820
Do.	do.	Artisanal miners	Various locations	3,700
Petroleum, refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Refinadora Costarricense de Petróleo, S.A., 100%	Recope refinery, Limon Province	22,000
Steel, semimanufactures		Laminadora Costarricense S.A. (ArcelorMitta Brasil S.A., 100%)	Rolling mill, steel manufacturing complex, Limon Province	450
Stone, limestone		do.	Cerro Pena Blanca limestone quarry, Guanacaste Province	300
Do.		Holcim Costa Rica S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 59.8%, and other private, 40.2%)	La Chilena and three other quarries near Cartago cement plant, Cartago Province	650
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>				
Cement		Cemento de El Salvador S.A. de C.V. (Holcim Ltd., 64.25%, and other private, 35.75%)	El Ronco and Maya plants, near Metapan, Santa Ana Department	1,900
Steel:				
Raw		Corporación Industrial Centroamericana S.A. de C.V. (private, 100%)	Plant and electric arc furnace, Quezaltepeque, La Libertad Department	125
Semimanufactures		do.	Billet casting machine and rolling mill, Quezaltepeque, La Libertad Department	110
Stone, limestone		Cemento de El Salvador S.A. de C.V. (Holcim Ltd., 64.25%, and other private, 35.75%)	Quarries near Aldea El Zapote and Santa Ana, Santa Ana Department	440
<b>GUATEMALA</b>				
Antimony		Minas de Guatemala S.A. (private, 100%)	Clavito, La Florida, Los Lirios, and Torlon Mines, Ixtahuacan, Huehuetenango Department	NA
Do.		do.	Los Angeles Mine, Guatemala Department	NA
Do.	metric tons	do.	Cantera Los Manantiales Mine, Chiquimula Department	160
Cement		Cementos Progreso S.A., 100%	San Gabriel plant, San Juan, Sacatepequez Department, San Miguel plant, Sanarate, El Progreso Department, and La Pedrera plant, Guatemala City	6,000
Gold	kilograms	Artisanal miners	Various locations	200
Lead		Pan American Silver Corp., 100%	Escobal Mine, Laguna de Ayarza, Santa Rosa Department	800
Lime		HORCALSA S.A. (Cementos Progreso S.A., 100%)	San Miguel plant, Sanarate, El Progreso Department	180

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued  
CENTRAL AMERICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2021

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity <sup>e</sup>
GUATEMALA—Continued				
Nickel		Compañía Guatemalteca de Niquel, S.A. (Solway Investment Group, 98.2%, and Government of Guatemala, 1.8%)	Fenix Mine and processing plant, El Estor municipality, Izabal Department	21,000
Petroleum:				
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Perenco Guatemala Ltd., 100%	Rubelsanto and West Chinaja fields, Alta Verapaz Department, and Caribe, Tierra Blanca, and Xan fields, Peten Department	4,500
Refinery products	do.	do.	La Libertad refinery, Peten Department	1,350
Silver	kilograms	Pan American Silver Corp., 100%	Escobal Mine <sup>1</sup> , Laguna de Ayarza, Santa Rosa Department	6,200
Do.	do.	Goldcorp Inc., 100%	Marlin Mine, near municipalities of San Miguel Ixtahuacan and Sipakapa, San Marcos Department	2,000
Steel:				
Raw		Siderúrgica de Guatemala S.A. (SIDEGUA) {Corporación Aceros de Guatemala S.A. [Corporación Centroamericana del Acero S.A. (Gerdau S.A., 30%, and other private, 70%), 100%], 100%}	Plant and electric arc furnace, near city of Escuintla, Escuintla Department	800
Semimanufactures		Indeta S.A. (INDETA) {Corporación Aceros de Guatemala S.A. [Corporación Centroamericana del Acero S.A. (Gerdau S.A., 30%, and other private, 70%), 100%], 100%}	Rolling mill at Colonia San Ignacio, Mixco, near Guatemala City	200
Zinc	kilograms	Pan American Silver Corp., 100%	Escobal Mine <sup>1</sup> , Laguna de Ayarza, Santa Rosa Department	6,200
HONDURAS				
Cement		Cementos Argos SA de CV, 53.3%, and other private, 46.7%	Piedras Azules plant, municipality of Comayagua, Comayagua Department	1,300
Do.		Cementos del Norte S.A. de C.V. (Inversiones Continental S.A., 75.8%, and Holcim Ltd., 24.2%)	Rio Bijao plant, municipality of San Pedro Sula, Cortes Department	1,100
Gold	kilograms	Aura Minerals Inc., 100%	San Andres Mine, municipality of La Union, Copan Department	2,900
Do.	do.	Inception Mining Inc., 100%	Clavo Rico Mine, Choluteca Department	200
Lead		Kirungu Corp., 100%	El Mochito Mine, Santa Barbara Department, 90 kilometers south of San Pedro Sula	15
Silver	kilograms	do.	do.	60,000
Zinc		do.	do.	40
NICARAGUA				
Cement		CEMEX Nicaragua S.A. (CEMEX S.A.B. de C.V., 100%, but on lease from Government)	San Rafael del Sur plant, 45 kilometers from Managua, and milling plant in Managua	600
Cement, clinker		Holcim de Nicaragua S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 70%, and other private, 30%)	Nagarote grinding plant, San Rafael del Sur	350
Gold	kilograms	Calibre Mining Corp., 100%	La Libertad Mine, 110 kilometers east of Managua	4,500
Do.	do.	do.	Limon Mine, Talavera deposit, 160 kilometers north of Managua	1,200
Do.	do.	do.	Pavón Norte Mine, Matagalpa Department, 240 kilometers northeast of Managua	1,460
Do.	do.	Mako Mining Corp., 100%	San Albino Mine, Nueva Segovia Department 173 kilometers north of Managua	1,200
Do.	do.	Mineros S.A., 100%	Hemco Mine, North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region	4,000

See footnotes at end of table.



TABLE 2—Continued  
CENTRAL AMERICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2021

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity <sup>c</sup>
NICARAGUA—Continued				
Petroleum, refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Puna Energy, 100%	Managua refinery, Managua Province	4,300
PANAMA				
Cement		CEMEX Panamá (Cemex Latam Holdings S.A., 100%)	Cement plant, Panama City	2,100
Do.		Argos Panamá S.A. (Cemento del Grupo Argos, 100%)	Quebrada Ancha plant, municipality of Colon, Province of Colon	1,300
Copper		Cobre Panamá [First Quantum Minerals Ltd., 90%, and Korea Resources Corp., 10%]	Cobre Panamá Mine, Donoso District Colon, Province of Colon	350
Gold	kilograms	do.	do.	4,500
Silver	do.	do.	do.	80,000

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

<sup>1</sup>On care-and-maintenance status since 2017.