

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# GUATEMALA

By David B. Doan

The mineral industry of Guatemala comprised a few metallic minerals, a diversity of nonmetallic minerals (largely for domestic construction purposes), and the largest crude oil and natural gas production in Central America. (*See tables 1 and 2.*) Output of some industrial materials, such as gypsum and pumice, differed

greatly from year to year, according to Government statistics. For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Guatemala, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, International Review of Latin America and Canada.

TABLE 1  
GUATEMALA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1993 e/	1994	1995	1996	1997 e/
<b>METALS</b>					
<b>Antimony:</b>					
Mine output, Sb content	90	296 r/	665 r/	880 r/	880
Trioxide	30	105 r/	262 r/	336 r/	350
Gold e/ kilograms	30	12 r/ 3/	30	30	30
<b>Iron and steel:</b>					
Iron ore, gross weight	3,300	3,000 e/	1,680 r/	4,889 r/	3,300
Steel, crude	18,463 r/	-- r/	-- r/	-- r/	-- 3/
Steel, semimanufactures e/	44,576 r/	49,790 r/	50,000 r/	50,000 r/	50,000
Lead metal, including secondary	50	274 r/	8 r/	5 r/	10
<b>INDUSTRIAL MINERALS</b>					
Barite	400	3,591 r/	570 r/	2,776 r/	2,800
Cement thousand tons	1,119	1,200	1,152 r/	1,090 r/	1,200
<b>Clays:</b>					
Bentonite	7,000	4,410	5,839 r/	3,755 r/	3,750
Kaolin	3,000	-- r/	76 r/	109 r/	110
Unspecified	1,600	1,600 e/	6,512 r/	12,871 r/	12,500
Feldspar	7,500	10,085 r/	7,673 r/	11,060 r/	11,000
Gypsum	75,000	89,000	1,011,065 r/	27,761 r/	30,000
Lime e/	70,000	70,000	72,000	73,000	73,000
Pumice cubic meters	6,300	282,185 r/	339,227 r/	64 r/	6,000
Salt e/	47,000	47,500	48,000	48,000	48,000
<b>Stone, sand and gravel:</b>					
Dolomite	10,000	25,413 r/	25,587 r/	16,202 r/	15,000
Limestone thousand tons	1,500	1,146 r/	1,407 r/	1,280 r/	1,500
<b>Marble</b>					
Block cubic meters	7,000 r/	3,067 r/	3,108 r/	1,260 r	2,800
Chips and pieces	1,800	21,973 r/	13,028 r/	16,568 r/	17,000
Sand and gravel thousand tons	950	697 r/	380 r/	623 r/	1,000
Silica sand	27,000	55,521 r/	55,228 r/	47,495 r/	49,000
Stone, crushed e/ thousand tons	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,300
Talc	800	560 r/	807 r/	694 r/	700
<b>MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS</b>					
Gas, natural, gross e/ thousand cubic meters	12,000	12,000	12,500	20,000	25,000
<b>Petroleum:</b>					
Crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	1,700	2,630 r/	8,415 r/	5,326	8,395 3/
Refinery products e/ do.	5,000	5,281 r/ 3/	5,300	6,000	7,300 3/

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Estimated data are rounded to three significant digits or less.

2/ Table includes data available through June 1, 1998.

3/ Reported figure.

TABLE 2  
GUATEMALA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1997

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating company and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Antimony		Minas de Guatemala S.A. (private, 100%)	Los Lirios and Anabella Mines, Ixtahuacan, Huehuetenango Department	1.9
Cement		Cementos Progreso S.A. (Lambert Freres et Cie. 69.8%; other, 30.2%)	San Miguel plant, Sanarate, El Progreso Department, and La Pedrera plant, Guatemala City	1,800
Nickel		Exploraciones y Explotaciones Mineras Izabal, S.A. [(Exmibal) (Inco, 70%; and Government, 30%) ] 1/	Mine and processing plant near El Estor, Izabal Department	9
Iron and steel (semimanufactures)		Grupo Industrial Minera Mexico S.A. de C.V. (IMMSA) , 100%	Guatemala City	80
<b>Petroleum:</b>				
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Basic Petroleum International Ltd. (private, 100%)	Rubelsanto, West Chinaja fields, Alta Verapaz Department, and Caribe, Tierra Blanca and Xan fields, Peten Department	2,000
Products	do.	Texas Petroleum Co. (Texaco Inc., 100%)	Refinery at Escuintla, Escuintla Department	6,200
Do.	do.	Basic (private, 100%)	Refinery near Santa Elena, El Naranjo, Peten Department	720

1/ Ownership equity change in 1991.