THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

CAMEROON

By Philip M. Mobbs

Crude oil production continued to be of major economic importance to Cameroon, although production from existing oilfields has declined since 1994. (*See table 1.*) The most prolific crude- oil-producing regions were the offshore Rio del Rey Basin, northwest of Victoria, and the adjacent Lokélé concession, about 35 kilometers offshore. According to Oil & Gas Journal estimates cited by the U.S. Department of Energy, recoverable crude oil reserves in Cameroon's oilfields were about 400 million barrels (Energy Information Agency, January 29, 1998, Table 8.1 World crude oil and natural gas reserves, January 1, 1997, accessed September 8, 1998, at URL http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/iea/ table81.html). Reserves of natural gas were estimated to be 100 billion cubic meters (Energy Information Agency, January 29, 1998, Table 8.1 World crude oil and natural gas reserves, January 1, 1997, accessed September 8, 1998, at URL http://www.eia.doe. gov/emeu/iea/table81.html). As reported by the Government, Cameroon hosted a variety of mineral occurrences, including bauxite, chromite, cobalt, copper, dimension stone, gemstones, gold, iron ore, lead, nickel, phosphate, salt, tin, titanium, and uranium (Ministry of Mines, Water, and Energy Resources, 1995). For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Cameroon, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

References Cited

Ministry of Mines, Water, and Energy Resources, 1995, Mineral and energy potential of Cameroon: Yaoundé, Cameroon, 2 p.

TABLE 1 CAMEROON: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 2/		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 e/
Aluminum metal, primary	-	86,500	88,836 r/	79,300	82,000 e/	82,000
Cement, hydraulic e/		620,000	620,000	620,000	600,000	600,000
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	1,000 e/	800 r/	800 r/	1,000 e/	1,000
Petroleum:						
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	42,705	47,140	39,400	33,945 r/	33,000
Refinery products e/	do.	8,400	8,000	9,000	9,200	9,200
Pozzolana e/		130,000	101,870 r/ 3/	100,000 r/	100,000	100,000
Stone: e/						
Limestone		57,000	57,000	57,000	50,000	50,000
Marble		200	200	200	200	200
Tin, ore and concentrate: e/						
Gross weight	kilograms	4,300	3,000	2,000	1,000	1,000
Sn content	do.	3,000	2,300	1,500	750	750

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Includes data available through August 12, 1998.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, modest quantities of unlisted varieties of crude construction materials (clays, gravel, sand, and stone) presumably are produced, but output is not reported, and available information is inadequate to make estimates of output levels.

3/ Reported figure.