

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

SOMALIA

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Continued political instability restricted the contribution of the mineral industry to the Somali economy. Mineral production presumably continued in a limited way during 1997, despite the political situation, because of the artisanal nature of the small marine salt, sepiolite (meerschaum), and crude construction

material operations throughout the country. For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Somalia, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

TABLE 1
SOMALIA: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Cement, hydraulic	25,000	25,000	25,000	30,000	30,000
Gypsum	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Limestone 3/	40,000	40,000	40,000	45,000	45,000
Salt, marine	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sepiolite (meerschaum)	5	5	6	6	6

1/ Includes data available through August 14, 1998.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, various crude construction materials (e.g., clays, sand and gravel, crushed and dimension stone) and limestone for lime manufacture and/or agriculture are presumably produced; also clay and/or shale are normally produced for cement manufacture, however, available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

3/ For cement manufacture only.