## THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# DJIBOUTI

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Occasional production of small quantities of clays, granite, limestone, marble, and sand and grave, and small-scale commercial production of salt at Lake Assal constituted the mineral industry of Djibouti. Other mineral occurrences of potential economic interest included diatomite, geothermal fluids and mineral salts, gold, gypsum, perlite, pumice, and, possibly, petroleum. Most of these are near Lake Assal, although some gold indications were farther west near Yoboki and in the south near Ali Sabieh (Indian Ocean Newsletter, 1994). Oil interest was focused in the south and offshore in the Gulf of Aden.

Seven Star Minerals of the United States, in a joint venture with Quest International Resources Corp. of the United States, received gold and base-metal exploration permits for seven prospects in December 1997. The joint venture was dissolved in mid-1998 when Seven Star purchased Quest's interest. Seven Star continued surface exploration of the prospects.

As a result of the Eritrean-Ethiopian war, Djibouti recaptured

most of Ethiopian foreign trade that had passed through Eritrea in 1997. The Port Autonome International de Djibouti transshipped 1,205,461 metric tons (t) of Ethiopian cargo in 1998 compared with 278,350 t in 1997. Petroleum product imports, much of which were transported to Ethiopia by truck, jumped to 807,864 t in 1998 compared with 211,679 t in 1997.

### **Reference Cited**

Indian Ocean Newsletter, 1994, Mineral studies: Indian Ocean Newsletter, no. 634, July 30, p. 7.

#### **Major Source of Information**

Ministry of Energy, Industry, and Mines P.O. Box 175 Djibouti Djibouti