THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

PARAGUAY

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Paraguay's economy remained largely oriented toward services, but 45% of the population derived their living from agriculture and cattle ranching with a small mineral industry that accounted for less than 1% of its gross domestic product of about \$9.7 billion. The mineral industry of Paraguay was concentrated in the manufacture of cement and the extraction of industrial materials. Mineral-related activities included production of pig iron and steel and petroleum refining, all derived from imported raw material. (*See table 1*.)

Paraguay's continued integration into the Mercado Común del Cono Sur (Southern Common Market), which offers great potential for growth and is closely linked with the success of foreign investment promotion. A mineral concession contract, the largest one in Paraguay, was completed between Yamana Resources Inc. of Canada and the Government and was promulgated into law. Mineral exploration by other foreign

companies continued throughout the country. Cía. Siderúrgica del Paraguay S.A. (COSIPAR), a group of private sector Paraguayan investors, has purchased the country's only steel works, Aceros del Paraguay S.A. (ACEPAR) from the Government, as part of the country's current privatization program. COSIPAR is owned by metal-working and steelworks supply business interests, as well as former employees of ACEPAR (Metal Bulletin, 1997). For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Paraguay, see the 1996 Mineral Yearbook, Volume III, International Review of Latin America and Canada.

Reference Cited

Metal Bulletin, 1997, Paraguay privatises its only steelworks: Metal Bulletin, v. 1, no. 8235, p. 18.

TABLE 1
PARAGUAY: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 2/	1993	1994	1995	1996 e/	1997 e/
Cement, hydraulic thousand tons	597 r/	659 r/	635 r/	620 r/ 3/	640
Clays:					
Kaolin	74,000	74,000	66,300 3/	66,500 r/	66,700
Other e/ thousand tons	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	2,000
Gypsum e/	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Iron and steel:					
Pig iron	81,233	90,000	103,000	100,000	120,000
Steel, crude	86,000	85,000	96,000	95,000	96,000
Lime e/	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Petroleum, refinery products:					
Liquefied petroleum gas thousand 42-gallon barrels	26 r/	r/	r/	r/	
Gasoline do.	631 r/	580 r/	290 r/	600	500
Jet fueldo	174 r/	159 r/	143 r/	200	200
Kerosene do.	54 r/	70 r/	54 r/	50	50
Distillate fuel oil do.	851 r/	918 r/	661 r/	800	800
Lubricants: e/					
Oil do.	20	20	r/	20	20
Grease do.	5	5	r/	5	5
Residual fuel oil do.	461 r/	489 r/	489 r/	350	490
Refinery fuel and losses do.	30 r/	25 r/	6 r/	25	25
Total do.	2,252 r/	2,266 r/	1,643 r/	2,050 r/	2,090
Pigments, mineral, natural, ocher e/	330	330	300	300	300
Sand, including glass sand e/	2,000 r/	2,000 r/	2,000 r/	10,000 r/	10,000
Stone: e/					
Dimension thousand tons	70	70	70	70	70
Crushed and broken:					
Limestone (cement and lime) do.	600	600	600	600	600
Marble	750	750	750	750	750
Other thousand tons	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Talc, soapstone, pyrophyllite e/	200	200	200	200	200

e/Estimated. r/ Revised.

^{1/} Includes data available through April 1998.

^{2/} In addition to commodities listed, construction materials (clays, gravel, miscellaneous rock, sand, and weathered tuffs) were produced. Available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output levels of these commodities.

^{3/} Reported figure.