

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# LIBERIA

By Philip M. Mobbs

The mineral economy of Liberia was attempting to recover from the civil war that started in 1989. Liberian Resources Co., a joint venture between the Government and subsidiaries of Amalia Gold Mining & Exploration Co. of South Africa, was formed in 1997 to manage the rehabilitation of the mineral industry.

Mineral production consisted mainly of artisanally mined diamond and gold. (*See table 1.*) For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Liberia, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Cement, hydraulic	8,300	--	--	--	--
Diamond carats	150,000	100,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Gold kilograms	700	700	800	700	500

r/ Revised.

1/ Includes data available through August 13, 1998.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, a variety of industrial minerals and construction materials (clays, gypsum, sand and gravel, and stone) are produced; but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.