

# DJIBOUTI

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The gross domestic product for this 23,000-square-kilometer nation of 636,000 people in northeastern Africa was estimated to be \$500 million in 1997, the last year for which data are available (World Bank, [undated], Djibouti, accessed May 4, 2000, via URL <http://www.worldbank.org/data/wdi2000/index.html>). As a result of the Eritrean-Ethiopian war, most Ethiopian mineral imports and exports were transshipped through Djibouti, significantly swelling the impact of the mineral industry on the country's economy.

Occasional production of small quantities of clays, granite, limestone, marble, and sand and gravel and small-scale commercial salt production at Lake Assal constituted the mineral industry of Djibouti. Indications of other mineral

occurrences of potential economic interest included diatomite, geothermal fluids and mineral salts, gold, gypsum, perlite, petroleum, and pumice.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Djibouti, see the 1994 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

## Major Sources of Information

Ministry of Energy, Industry, and Mines  
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