



# 2006 Minerals Yearbook

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## DJIBOUTI

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF DJIBOUTI

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In 2006, the small East African country of Djibouti was a producer of salt and such construction materials as basalt. Djibouti's production and consumption of minerals were not globally significant.

## Production

Salt production started on a semi-industrial scale at Lake Assal in 1998; Djibouti replaced Eritrea as Ethiopia's source of salt imports because of the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Output declined sharply in 2004 because of a 53% tariff that Ethiopia imposed in October 2003 on salt imports from Djibouti. In 2005 and 2006, production recovered because of the resumption of exports to Ethiopia (Banque Centrale de Djibouti, undated, p. 22).

## Structure of the Mineral Industry

Salt production at Lake Assal was carried out by small privately owned companies. The number of active producers declined to 8 in 2004 (the latest year for which information was available) from 15 in 2000. From 1999 to 2004, Société du Lac, Société Moussa Ali, Société Saline de Djibouti, and Société Sel de Djibouti accounted for 76% of semi-industrial production. At Doraleh, artisanal miners produced about 8,400 metric tons per year (t/yr) of salt (Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et de la Planification, undated).

## Commodity Review

### Industrial Minerals

**Salt.**—Domestic salt consumption amounted to between 10,000 and 12,000 t/yr; most of Djibouti's salt production was exported to Ethiopia. In 2004, salt exports amounted to 1% of Djibouti's total exports compared with 8% in 2003 (Banque Centrale de Djibouti, undated, p. 50; Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et de la Planification, undated).

Djibouti reportedly planned a new project to increase salt production and exports. The new project involved increasing production by 1.2 million metric tons per year; salt was expected to be exported to markets in Europe and Japan. The cost for the project was estimated to be \$2 million. Development of the project depended upon upgrades to road and harbor infrastructure and the availability of a power source (Banque Centrale de Djibouti, undated, p. 22).

## References Cited

Banque Centrale de Djibouti, [undated], Rapport annuel 2005: Djibouti, Djibouti, Banque Centrale de Djibouti, 70 p.  
Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et de la Planification, [undated], Bulletin d'information économique—4ème trimestre 2004—L'extraction du sel: Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et de la Planification. (Accessed May 10, 2007, at [http://www.ministere-finances.dj/EF/Economie\\_Finances/BIE04/sel04\\_4.htm](http://www.ministere-finances.dj/EF/Economie_Finances/BIE04/sel04_4.htm).)

TABLE 1  
DJIBOUTI: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Salt</b>					
Industrial producers	162,263	128,494	17,745	70,000 <sup>e</sup>	130,000 <sup>e</sup>
Artisanal producers <sup>e</sup>	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400
Total <sup>e</sup>	171,000 <sup>f</sup>	137,000 <sup>f</sup>	26,000 <sup>f</sup>	78,000 <sup>f</sup>	138,000

<sup>e</sup>Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. <sup>f</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through May 11, 2007.

TABLE 2  
DJIBOUTI: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2006

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies <sup>1</sup>	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity <sup>2</sup>
Salt	Société Sel de Djibouti	Mines at Lake Assal	52,000
do.	Société du Lac	do.	42,000
do.	Société Moussa Ali	do.	34,000
do.	Société Saline de Djibouti	do.	21,000
do.	Société Mont Goda	do.	18,000
do.	Société Mahad	do.	13,000
do.	Société Kalou	do.	11,000
do.	Société Mont Garbi	do.	4,000
do.	Artisanal miners	Mines at Doraleh	8,400

<sup>2</sup>Estimated.

<sup>1</sup>Capacity for producers at Lake Assal based on maximum production in 1 year between 1999 and 2004.