

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# NICARAGUA

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The mineral industry of Nicaragua comprised the production of moderate but increasing quantities of gold and silver, as well as cement, gypsum, and sand and gravel. A small amount of refined products were produced for local consumption from imported oil. Near the end of the year, Hurricane Mitch did minor damage to the mining industry, but remediation was

undertaken promptly. Exploration continued in several parts of the country.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Nicaragua, see the 1997 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, The Mineral Industries of Latin America and Canada.

TABLE 1  
NICARAGUA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 3/	1994	1995 e/	1996 e/	1997 r/ e/	1998 e/	
Bentonite	704	800	850	926 4/	875	
Cement	308,800	324,000	360,000 r/ 4/	377,000 4/	377,000 4/	
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	1,241	1,316 4/	1,500	2,562 4/	3,834 4/
Gypsum and anhydrite, crude	27,900	12,500	12,500	15,820 4/	22,660 4/	
Lime	2,280	3,600	3,600	7,285 4/	58,527 4/	
Petroleum refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	4,700	4,800	4,455 r/ 4/	5,559 4/	5,650
Salt, marine e/	15,000	15,000	15,000	13,619 4/	15,132 4/	
Sand and gravel	thousand tons	1,200 e/	1,300	1,350	434 4/	696 4/
Silver, mine output, Ag content	kilograms	2,235	2,400	2,500	1,077 4/	1,945 4/

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Estimated data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes data available through May 1, 1999.

3/ In addition to the commodities listed, Nicaragua produced a variety of industrial minerals to meet domestic needs. Output of these materials was not reported, and information was inadequate to make reliable estimates.

4/ Reported figure.

TABLE 2  
NICARAGUA: STRUCTURE OF THE INDUSTRY IN 1998

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity ownership	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Bentonite		Empresa Rotowa S.A. [Corporacion Nicaraguense de Minas (INMINE), (Government, 100%)]	South of Sebaco, Matagalpa Department	4
Cement		Compania Nacional Productora de Cemento (Government, 100%)	San Rafael del Sur, Managua Department	700
Gold-silver	kilograms	Minera de Occidente S.A. [Blackhawk Mining Corp. (Canada ), 95%]	El Limon Mine, Leon Department	1,550
Do.	do.	Mining of Nicaragua S.A. (Greenstone Resources Ltd., 100%)	Cerro Mojon Mine, Chontales Department. Bonanza Mine, Zelaya Department.	1,600 600
Gypsum		Yesera Centroamericana S.A. (INMINE, 100%)	Santa Rosa del Penon, Leon Department	17
Petroleum products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Esso Standard Oil S.A. Ltd. (100%)	Managua, Managua Department	5,700