

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# SUDAN

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Mineral commodities produced in Africa's largest country included cement, chromite, crude construction material, gold, gypsum, limestone, crude oil, petroleum refinery products, and salt. (*See table 1.*) The quantities were relatively small, and the industry contributed very little to Sudan's economy. The 14-year-old civil war in the south adversely affected mineral exploration

in the region. The political climate and continued economic instability were likely to deter major international efforts at further exploiting the remaining mineral potential of Sudan for some time. For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of the Sudan, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Cement, hydraulic	250,000	250,000	391,000	380,000	380,000
Chromite, mine output, gross weight 3/	11,500	25,000	44,988 r/	15,000	10,000
Gold, mine output, Au content	1,600	3,000	3,700	4,500	5,000
Petroleum:					
Crude (including lease condensate)	360	730	730	1,000	6,000
Refinery products	6,200	6,500	6,600	7,000	7,000
Salt	75,000	75,000	75,000	50,000	50,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Includes data available through August 14, 1998.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, the following are presumably produced but available information is inadequate to reliably estimate output: clay and/or shale for cement manufacture (normally about 0.4 ton clay and/or shale per ton of finished cement); gypsum for cement manufacture (about 0.04 ton per ton of finished cement) and plaster; limestone for cement manufacture (normally at least 1.25 ton per ton of finished cement), agriculture, lime manufacture, and construction aggregate and fill; and other locally used construction materials (clays, sand and gravel, stone, et al.).

3/ Presumed to be ores and concentrates with an estimated average grade of about 48% chromic oxide.