

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

SOMALIA

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The continued civil war and political instability since the overthrow of the Somali Government in 1991 has destroyed much of the economy. Mineral production presumably continued in a limited way despite the political situation, because construction material, salt, and sepiolite (meerschaum) production was from small-scale artisanal operations throughout the country.

The Government of Somaliland, the self-declared republic in northwestern Somalia, invited foreign investment to the area. A foreign investment proposal submitted in 1997 was for the rehabilitation of the Berbera cement plant; however, the promised investment dissolved as 1998 progressed (Maroodi Jeex, Winter 1998, Egal's first foot steps in the private sector, accessed June 25, 1999, at URL <http://www.anaserve.com/~mbali/issue10t.htm>). In April 1998, Collins Engineering Co. of the United States and British-American Energy were contracted to repair the 25-megawatt power station in Hargeisa.

Infrastructure was rather limited. Bridges and roads destroyed by late 1997 floods in southern Somalia were being rebuilt. The United Nations Conference on Trade and

Development proposed to renovate the ports of Berbera and Bossaso in Somaliland (Journal of Commerce, 1998). Earlier in 1998, the attempt by the regional warlords to officially reopen the port of Mogadishu was aborted when the inaugural ship came under mortar fire while attempting to dock (George Sunguh, September 7, 1998, Reopening of Mogadishu port suffers major drawback, *The East African*, accessed September 11, 1998, at URL <http://www.nationaudio.com/News/EastAfrican/Current/Maritime/MA3.html>).

The economic difficulties facing wartorn Somalia are expected to continue until the political situation is settled.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Somalia, see the 1997 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East, pages 149-150.

Reference Cited

Journal of Commerce, 1998, UN group campaigns to rebuild Somali ports destroyed by war: *Journal of Commerce*, October 27, p. 4B.

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Cement, hydraulic	25,000	25,000	-- r/	-- r/	--
Gypsum	2,000	2,000	1,000 r/	1,000 r/	1,500
Limestone 3/	40,000	40,000	-- r/	-- r/	--
Salt, marine	1,000	1,000	1,000	800 r/	600
Sepiolite (meerschaum)	5	6	6	6	6

r/ Revised.

1/ Includes data available through June 25, 1999.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, various crude construction materials (e.g., clays, sand and gravel, crushed and dimension stone) and limestone for lime manufacture and/or agriculture are presumably produced; however, available information is inadequate to make estimates of output.

3/ For cement manufacture only.