

SOMALIA

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Continued political instability adversely affected the Somali economy. In 1998, the last year for which data are available, the country's gross domestic product was estimated to be \$4 billion. Also in 1998, the northeastern part of Somalia proclaimed itself to be the autonomous state of Puntland. Somaliland, the self-declared independent republic in northwestern Somalia, has been seeking international recognition since 1991.

Officially reported mineral production and trade data have not been available for a number of years, but mineral production

has presumably continued in a limited way because construction material, salt, and sepiolite (meerschaum) production from small-scale artisanal operations continued throughout the country. Infrastructure was rather limited. The economic difficulties that face war-torn Somalia are expected to continue until the political situation is settled.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Somalia, see the 1995 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

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

(Metric tons)

Commodity	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Cement, hydraulic	25,000	--	--	--	--
Gypsum	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500
Limestone 3/	40,000	--	--	--	100
Salt, marine	1,000	1,000	800	600	1,000
Sepiolite (meerschaum)	6	6	6	6	6

-- Zero.

1/ Includes data available through July 19, 2000.

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; available information, however, is inadequate to make estimates of output.

3/ For cement manufacture only.