

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# RWANDA

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The landlocked, 26,340 square kilometer Central African nation of Rwanda is located between Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo [Congo (Kinshasa)]. In 1997, the population was 7.9 million and the gross domestic product per capita, based on 1996 estimates of purchasing power parity, was \$440. The economy was predominantly agrarian with the minerals industry limited to cement production and the mining and export of small quantities of beryl, cassiterite (tin), columbium-tantalum, gold, and wolframite (tungsten) ores. The civil unrest, violence, and population dislocations of the 1990's, culminating in the return of large number of refugees from

Tanzania and Congo (Kinshasa) during 1997, have been a disincentive to new foreign investment. The structure of the industry consisted mostly of a number of small cooperatives and individual artisanal miners that produced the concentrates of tin, tungsten, columbium-tantalum, and gold ores from scattered locations, generally in a zone about 30 kilometers wide extending east-west through Kigali. Mineral production data were estimated. (*See table 1.*) Mineral reserves data were not available. For more-extensive coverage of the minerals industry of Rwanda, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

TABLE 1  
RWANDA: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

Commodity		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Cement	metric tons	60,300 r/	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Columbite-tantalite, ore and concentrate:						
Gross weight	kilograms	100,000	100,000 r/	149,000 2/	100,000	100,000
Cb content	do.	34,000	34,000 r/	40,000 2/	30,000	30,000
Ta content	do.	22,000	22,000 r/	28,000	25,000	25,000
Gold, mine output, Au content	do.	1,000	1,000 r/	26 2/	25	25
Natural gas, gross	thousand cubic meters	970	970	970	970	100
Tin, mine output, Sn content	metric tons	400	50	242 2/	200	200
Tungsten, mine output, W content	do.	175	30	47 2/	40	40

r/ Revised.

1/ Includes data available through June 25, 1999.

2/ Reported figure.