

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

SUDAN

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Mineral commodities produced in Sudan, 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 were a minor contribution to Sudan's economy. The 15-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.

In 1998, LaSource Compagnie Minière continued gold exploration around the Ariab gold mine, and McVicar Minerals Ltd. of Canada acquired the Shulai gold property. Billiton Plc. of the United Kingdom was awarded a 3-year concession for

copper exploration in the Hofrat an-Nahas area. Nile Cement Co. was expanding its 100,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr)-capacity plant to 400,000 t/yr. Despite rebel military operations, the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Co. drilled 29 development wells and 18 wildcat wells. Construction of the 1,500-kilometer, 71-centimeter-diameter pipeline from the Muglad Basin oilfields to Port Sudan continued during the year. Talisman Energy Inc. of Canada acquired Arakis Energy Corp. and its 25% interest in the Greater Nile Oil Project in October.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of the Sudan, see the 1995 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East, pages 150-151.

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Cement, hydraulic	250,000	391,000	380,000	380,000	380,000
Chromite, mine output, gross weight 3/	25,000	44,988 4/	15,000	10,000	10,000
Gold, mine output, Au content	3,000	3,700	4,500	5,000	5,000
Petroleum:					
Crude (including lease condensate)	730	730	1,000	2,000 r/	1,200
Refinery products	6,500	6,600	7,000	7,000	7,000
Salt	75,000	75,000	50,000	50,000	45,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Includes data available through May 20, 1999.

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 metric ton of clay and/or shale per metric 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.

4/ Reported figure.