



2016 Minerals Yearbook

CAMEROON [ADVANCE RELEASE]

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CAMEROON

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The economy of Cameroon was largely dependent on world demand for the country's principal mineral export commodities, notably crude petroleum, natural gas, and refined oil (International Monetary Fund, 2017, p. 8). In 2016, the country ranked ninth among the world's leading producers of pumice (Crangle, 2018). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Cameroon is provided by law No. 2016/017 and law No. 1999-013. Data on mineral production are in table 1. Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities. More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Cameroon can be found in previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—

Africa, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/africa-and-middle-east>.

References Cited

- Crangle, R.D., Jr., 2018, Pumice and pumicite: U.S. Geological Survey Mineral Commodity Summaries 2018, p. 130–131.
 International Monetary Fund, 2017, Cameroon request for a three-year arrangement under the extended credit facility—Press release; staff report; and statement by the executive director for Cameroon: Washington, DC, International Monetary Fund Country Report no. 17/185, July, 89 p. (Accessed December 26, 2017, at <http://www.imf.org/~media/Files/Publications/CR/2017/cr17185.ashx>.)

TABLE 1
CAMEROON: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
METALS					
Aluminum metal, primary	52,000	75,000	93,000 ^e	60,000 ^e	60,000 ^e
Gold, mine production, Au content ^e	kilograms	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,800
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement, hydraulic	1,275,000	1,400,000 ^e	1,300,000	1,600,000	2,600,000 ^e
Clay and shale	8,922	12,107	22,024	22,000 ^e	--
Diamond, gem, unspecified	carats	799	2,722	3,718	2,245
Gemstones, sapphire	kilograms	1	8	NA	NA
Kyanite and related minerals	do.	325,000 ^r	220,000 ^r	220,000	220,000
Lime	1,251	1,200	1,200 ^e	1,200 ^e	1,000 ^e
Pumice and related materials, pozzolan, ash for cement	400,205	363,655	297,592	300,000 ^e	360,000 ^e
Stone, sand, and gravel:					
Sand and gravel, construction, sand	155,211	157,829	136,453	142,000	142,000 ^e
Sand and gravel, industrial, quartzite	238	6,320	6,000	6,000	6,000 ^e
Silica, mine production, quartzite	149	3,950	4,000 ^e	4,000 ^e	4,000 ^e
Stone, crushed, limestone	164,936	143,463	130,149	143,000	143,000 ^e
Stone, dimension:					
Granite	2,615	1,754	NA	NA	NA
Marble	5,959	10,134	NA	NA	NA
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Natural gas	million cubic meters*	72 ^r	152 ^r	306 ^r	361 ^r
Petroleum:					
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	22,376	24,275	27,501	34,974
Refinery production	do.	11,699 ^r	8,148 ^r	11,433 ^r	12,144 ^r

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through November 29, 2017. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²In addition to the commodities listed, aggregate, gypsum, and silica sand may have been produced in Cameroon, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

*Correction posted January 15, 2021.

TABLE 2
CAMEROON: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2016

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location	Annual capacity
Aluminum		Compagnie Camerounaise de l'Aluminium (Alucam) (Government, 93.4%; Agence Française de Développement (AFD), 5.6%; Alucam staff, 1%)	Smelter at Edea	100
Cement		Cimenteries du Cameroun (LafargeHolcim Ltd., 55%; Government, 43%; Cimentaries du Cameroon staff, 2%)	Plant at Bonaberi near Douala	1,600
Do.		do.	Grinding plant at Figuil	100
Do.		Ciments de L'Afrique (CIMAF)	Plant at Bonaberi near Douala	500
Do.		Dangote Group	Grinding plant in Douala	1,500
Clay		Cimenteries du Cameroun (LafargeHolcim Ltd., 55%; Government, 43%; Cimentaries du Cameroon staff, 2%)	Figuil	NA
Diamond	carats	Artisanal miners	Various locations	12,000 ^e
Gold	kilograms	do.	do.	2,000 ^e
Limestone		Cimenteries du Cameroun (LafargeHolcim Ltd., 55%; Government, 43%; Cimentaries du Cameroon staff, 2%)	Figuil	275
Petroleum:				
Crude	barrels per day	Société National des Hydrocarbures (SNH), and various other companies	Offshore and onshore	NA
Refined	do.	Société Nationale de Raffinage (SONARA) (Government)	Refinery at Limbe	45,000
Pumice, pozzolanic ash		Cimenteries du Cameroun (LafargeHolcim Ltd., 55%; Government, 43%; Cimentaries du Cameroon staff, 2%)	Figuil	NA
Sand		do.	do.	NA

^eEstimated. Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.