



2017–2018 Minerals Yearbook

SOLOMON ISLANDS [ADVANCE RELEASE]

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

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In 2017 and 2018, the production of mineral commodities— notably bauxite—represented only a minor part of the economy of the Solomon Islands (table 1; Central Bank of Solomon Islands, 2018, p. 11, 58). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in the Solomon Islands is provided by the Mines and Minerals (Amendment) Act 2014. 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 the Solomon Islands can be found in the previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook,

volume III, Area Reports—International—Asia and the Pacific, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/asia-and-pacific>.

Reference Cited

Central Bank of Solomon Islands, 2018, Quarterly review: Honiara, Solomon Islands, Central Bank of Solomon Islands, v. 30, no. 5, September, 64 p. (Accessed March 21, 2019, at <http://www.cbsi.com.sb/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/QR-SEPT2018.pdf>.)

TABLE 1
SOLOMON ISLANDS: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Kilograms, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

| Commodity | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------|------|------|------|
| METALS | | | | | |
| Bauxite | | | | | |
| | metric tons | | | | |
| Gold, mine, Au content | 531 ^r | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Silver, mine, Ag content | 271 ^r | -- | -- | -- | -- |

^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through May 28, 2019. All data are reported unless otherwise noted.

TABLE 2
SOLOMON ISLANDS: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2018

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

| Commodity | Major operating companies and major equity owners | Location of main facilities | Annual capacity ^e |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bauxite | Asia Pacific Investment and Development Ltd. (APID) | West Rennell Islands | 1,700,000 |
| Gold, mine, Au content | Gold Ridge Community Investments Ltd. | Gold Ridge Mine, ¹ Guadalcanal Province | 500 |
| Silver, mine, Ag content | do. | do. | 300 |

^eEstimated. do. Ditto.

¹The mine was closed from July 2014 through 2018 and was expected to resume production in 2019.