



# 2017–2018 Minerals Yearbook

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**BHUTAN AND NEPAL [ADVANCE RELEASE]**

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF BHUTAN AND NEPAL

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## BHUTAN

In 2017 and 2018, the production of mineral commodities— notably cement, coal, dolomite, ferrosilicon, gypsum, iron ore, limestone, marble, quartzite, and talc—represented only a minor part of the economy of Bhutan (World Bank, The, 2018; National Statistics Bureau, 2019, p. 19–21). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Bhutan is provided by the Mines and Minerals Management Act 1995, the Mines and Minerals Management Regulations 2002, and the Mineral Development Policy enacted in May 2017. 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 Bhutan can be found in 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>.

### References Cited

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- World Bank, The, 2018, Bhutan receives World Bank support for reforms in the mining sector: Thimphu, Bhutan, The World Bank press release, June 5. (Accessed January 14, 2020, at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/06/06/bhutan-receives-world-bank-support-for-reforms-in-the-mining-sector>.)

## NEPAL

In 2017 and 2018, the production of mineral commodities— notably cement, clay, coal, gemstones, limestone, marble, quartzite, and talc—represented only a minor part of the economy of Nepal (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2018, p. 340, 480; 2019, p. 373). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Nepal is provided by the Petroleum Act 2040 (1983), the Petroleum Regulation 2041 (1984), the Mines and Minerals Act 2042 (1985), the Mines and Minerals Regulation 2056 (1999) with amendment in 2016, and the National Mineral Policy in 2017. 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 Nepal can be found in 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>.

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- Central Bureau of Statistics, 2018, 2017—Statistical yearbook—Nepal: Kathmandu, Nepal, Central Bureau of Statistics, April, 519 p. (Accessed January 14, 2020, at <https://cbs.gov.np/statistical-year-book-2017-2/>.)
- Central Bureau of Statistics, 2019, Statistical pocket book of Nepal 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal, Central Bureau of Statistics, May, 415 p. (Accessed January 14, 2020, at <https://cbs.gov.np/statistical-pocket-book-of-nepal-2018/>.)

TABLE 1  
BHUTAN AND NEPAL: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity <sup>2</sup>	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
BHUTAN					
Cement, hydraulic thousand metric tons	690	791	940	895	941
Clay, unspecified	10,209	--	--	--	--
Coal, bituminous	121,891	85,164	117,783	161,527	186,824
Ferroalloys, ferrosilicon <sup>3</sup>	79,485	104,406	106,234 <sup>r</sup>	108,670	138,178
Gypsum, mine	414,148	389,265	317,597	328,128	461,128
Iron ore, mine:					
Gross weight	18,997	43,202	28,065	32,974	37,843
Fe content	11,800	26,800	17,400	20,400	23,500
Stone, crushed:					
Dolomite	2,040,691	2,662,310	2,367,659	2,536,693	2,821,166
Granite	4,362	3,889	--	26,364	6,080
Limestone	1,122,825	850,431	1,257,101	1,235,162	1,334,038
Marble	61,921	97,648	75,031	96,567	188,901
Quartzite	83,907	79,819	92,770	175,501	145,714
Other, unspecified	1,474,395	2,203,065	3,414,215	3,828,254	3,730,975
Talc	12,601	5,807	2,261	1,293	2,042
NEPAL					
Cement, hydraulic thousand metric tons	3,100	3,910 <sup>r</sup>	5,000 <sup>r,c</sup>	6,000 <sup>c</sup>	9,000 <sup>c</sup>
Clay, red clay <sup>c,4</sup>	21,800 <sup>r</sup>	11,200 <sup>r</sup>	15,100 <sup>r</sup>	18,800	18,800
Coal, bituminous <sup>4</sup>	6,754 <sup>r</sup>	2,900 <sup>c</sup>	7,270	5,938	6,000 <sup>c</sup>
Gemstones: <sup>4</sup>					
Kyanite kilograms	659	105	23	10	10 <sup>c</sup>
Quartz do.	249	1,044	521	--	-- <sup>c</sup>
Tourmaline do.	24	50	--	--	-- <sup>c</sup>
Stone: <sup>4</sup>					
Crushed:					
Limestone	3,453,782 <sup>r</sup>	4,703,056	4,893,587	4,621,363	6,930,000 <sup>c</sup>
Marble, chips	5,212 <sup>r</sup>	14,787 <sup>r</sup>	15,687 <sup>r</sup>	5,561	5,500 <sup>c</sup>
Dimension, quartzite	86	673	714	1,052	1,000 <sup>c</sup>
Talc <sup>4</sup>	5,255 <sup>r</sup>	1,860	3,003	4,873	4,900 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through January 8, 2020. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>In addition to the commodities listed, manganese alloys and steel products in Bhutan, and iron ore, lead, magnesite, steel products, and zinc in Nepal may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

<sup>3</sup>Data based on exports.

<sup>4</sup>Production is based on fiscal year, which began on July 16 of the stated year and ended on July 15 of the following year.

TABLE 2  
BHUTAN AND NEPAL: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2018

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity <sup>e</sup>
<b>BHUTAN</b>			
Cement	Dungsam Cement Corp. Ltd. (Druk Holding & Investments Ltd., 80%)	Nganglam, Pemagatshel District	1,300
Do.	Lhaki Cement Pvt. Ltd.	Gomtu, Samtse District	198
Do.	Penden Cement Authority Ltd. (Druk Holding & Investments Ltd., 40.3%; His Majesty's Kidu Fund & Sunchob Fund, 11.0%; others, 48.7%)	do.	850
Do.	Yangzom Cement Industry (Pvt.) Ltd.	Tashicholing, Samtse District	33
Coal	SD Eastern Bhutan Coal Co. (Goob Sonam Drukpa and family, 70%, and public, 30%)	Eastern Bhutan coalfields, Samdrupjongkhar District	120
Do.	State Mining Corp. Ltd. (SMCL) (Druk Holding & Investments Ltd., 100%)	Habrang Mine, Samdrupjongkhar town, Dzongkhag District	30
Do.	do.	Tshophangma Mine, Bhangtar District	NA
Ferroalloys, ferrosilicon	Bhutan Ferro Alloys Ltd. (Government of Bhutan, Marubeni Corp., and Tashi Commercial Corp.)	Phuentsholing, Chukha District	34
Do.	Druk Ferro Alloys Ltd.	Phuentsholing, Chukha District	13
Do.	SD Eastern Bhutan Ferro Silicon Pvt. Ltd.	Motanga Industrial Estate, Dewathang, Samdrup Jongkhar District	NA
Gypsum	Druk Satair Corp. Ltd.	Khothakpa Mine, Pemagatshel District	400
<b>Steel:</b>			
Raw steel	Druk Metallurgy Ltd. (Druk Holding & Investments Ltd. and Mr. Dilip Kumar Goenka)	Billet plant, Motanga Industrial Park, Samdrup Jongkhar District	200
Products	do.	Bar plant, Motanga Industrial Park, Samdrup Jongkhar District	200
Do.	Lhaki Steels & Rolling Pvt. Ltd.	Phuentsholing, Chukha District	120
<b>Stone:</b>			
Dolomite	Jigme Industries Pvt. Ltd. (Jigme Mining Corp. Ltd. of the Lhaki Group)	Chunaikhola Mine, Samtse District	2,000
Limestone	Bhutan Coal Co. Ltd.	Haurikhola Mine, Samtse District	NA
Do.	Dungsam Cement Corp. Ltd. (Druk Holding & Investments Ltd., 100%)	Kangrezi Mine and Marung Ri Mine, Pemagatshel District	NA
Do.	Penden Cement Authority Ltd.	Penden Mine and Uttare Mine, Samtse District	NA
Quartzite	Bhutan Ferro Alloys Ltd. (Government of Bhutan, Marubeni Corp., and Tashi Commercial Corp.)	Pakchina Mine, Chukha District, and Tintale Mine, Samtse District	71
Do.	Druk Mining Pvt. Ltd.	30 kilometers from Phuentsholing, Chukha District	NA
Other	Natural Resources Development Corp. Ltd.	Homdhar quarry, Zhemgang District	NA
Do.	do	Ngangsing quarry, Pemagatshel District	NA
Do.	do.	Tsangkhara quarry, Monggar District	NA
<b>NEPAL</b>			
Cement	Agni Cement Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Gurwaniya, Rupandehi District	100
Do.	Araniko Abukhaireni Cement Industries Pvt. Ltd. (Advance Group)	Abukhaireni plant, Tanahun District	330
Do.	Araniko Cement Industries Pvt. Ltd. (Advance Group)	Jitpur factory, Bara District	330
Do.	Argkhanchi Cement Pvt. Ltd.	Birpur, Kapilvastu District, and Mainahiya, Rupandehi District	330
Do.	Cosmos Cement Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Janakpur, Dhanusha District	132
Do.	Chaudhary Group Cement Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Dumkibas, Nawalparasi District	1,320
Do.	Dang Cement Industries Pvt. Ltd. (Ambuja Cement Ltd., 91.6%, and others, 8.4%)	Purandhara, Dang Deokhuri District	396
Do.	Ghorahi Cement Industry Pvt. Ltd.	Laxmipur, Dang Deokhuri District	248

See footnotes at end of table

TABLE 2—Continued  
 BHUTAN AND NEPAL: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2018

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity <sup>e</sup>
NEPAL—Continued			
Cement—Continued	Hetauda Cement Industries Ltd.	Hetauda, Makawanpur District	260
Do.	Hongshi Shivam Cement Pvt. Ltd. [Hong Kong Red Lion Cement No. 3 (Hongshi group), 70%, and Shivam Holding, 30%]	Dumkibass plant, Sardi, Nawalparasi District	1,980
Do.	Jagdamba Cement Industries Pvt. Ltd. (Saurabh Group)	Bhairahawa, Rupandehi District and Birgunj, Parsa District	594
Do.	Kepy Cement Industry Pvt. Ltd.	Naubise, Dhading District	54
Do.	Manasa Cement Industry	Chandragadhi, Jhapa District	33
Do.	Maruti Cement Ltd.	Chandraudaipur, Siraha District	158
Do.	Rolpa Cement Pvt. Ltd. (Advance Group)	Budhagaon, Rolpa District	330
Do.	Sarbotam Cement Pvt. Ltd. (Saurabh Group)	Sunwal, Nawalparasi District	396
Do.	Shivam Cement Public Ltd. Co.	Hetauda, Makawanpur District	990
Do.	Shubhashree Jagdamba Cement Mill Pvt. Ltd. (Saurabh Group)	Birgunj, Parsa District	495
Do.	Sonapur Minerals & Oil Pvt. Ltd.	Bijauri, Dang Deokhuri District	413
Do.	Udayapur Cement Industry Ltd.	Jaljale, Udayapur District	264
Lead and zinc, mine	Black Head Mines Nepal Pvt. Ltd.	Ranishikhar Village Development Committee, Darchula District	NA
Do.	Nepal Metal Co. Ltd. (Ministry of Industry, 71%, and Khetan Group, 13%)	Ganesh Himal, Dhading District	NA
Do.	Torex Mines Nepal Pvt. Ltd.	Dhap of Api Municipality, Darchula District	NA
Magnesite	metric tons Nepal Orind Magnesite Ltd. (Government, 75%; Khetan Group, 12.5%; Orissa Industries Ltd., 12.5%)	Lakuridada, Dolakha District	30 <sup>1</sup>
Steel, products	Hulas Steel Industries Ltd. (RH Golchha and Comcraft Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.)	Simra, Bara District	NA
Do.	Hama Iron and Steel Industries Pvt. Ltd. (Hamasteel)	Simara, Bara District	NA
Do.	Laxmi Steels Pvt. Ltd.	Sunwal, Nawalparasi District	120
Stone, marble	Godavari Marble Industries Ltd. (MC Group)	Godawari, Latitpur District	8

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Inactive facility since 2015.