



2007 Minerals Yearbook

GHANA [ADVANCE RELEASE]

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF GHANA

By Omayra Bermúdez-Lugo

Mining, in particular gold production, continued to be a key industry in Ghana's economy. In 2007, the mining sector contributed 6.16% to the country's gross domestic product, represented about 41% of export earnings, and was one of the leading contributors (14%) to the Internal Revenue Service through the payment of mineral royalties, employee income taxes, and corporate taxes and ancillary levies (Ghana Chamber of Mines, 2008). The country also produced aluminum, bauxite, diamond, manganese, salt, and silver. The Ministry of Mines and Energy oversaw all aspects of Ghana's mineral sector and was the entity responsible for granting mining and exploration licenses. Ghana National Petroleum Corp. (GNPC) was the Government entity responsible for petroleum exploration. The Precious Minerals Marketing Corp. (PMMC) was the entity responsible for promoting the development of small-scale gold and diamond mining in Ghana and for purchasing the output of such mining, either directly or through licensed buyers. In 2007, the mining industry was adversely affected by the country's energy crisis, which forced mining companies to incur additional operations costs by acquiring powerplants to make up for the shortfall in electricity from the national grid and avoid curtailment of production (Ghana Chamber of Mines, 2008).

Production

In 2006, the Tema aluminum smelter operated at about 38% capacity and, in 2007, it was fully idled owing to limited power availability that resulted from low water levels at Lake Volta (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 2007). In 2007, manganese production decreased by about 29.7% to

1.17 Mt.; bauxite production, by about 15.6% to 748,232 metric tons (t); and diamond production, by 8% to 895,000 carats. Gold production increased by 10.8% to 77,349 kilograms. The increase in gold production was mostly owing to increases in output from the Ahafo Mine, the Bogosso/Prestea Mine, and the Wassa Mine, and from a 50% increase in artisanal mining output. The decrease in bauxite and manganese production was partly owing to the inability of the Ghana Railways Company to haul the ore produced from the mines to the Takoradi Port given the poor conditions of the railway lines (Ghana Chamber of Mines, 2008). Data on mineral production are in table 1.

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities. More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Ghana can be found in the 2005 and 2006 U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—Africa and the Middle East, which are available on the World Wide Web at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country>.

References Cited

- Ghana Chamber of Mines, 2008, The performance of the mining industry in 2007: Accra, Ghana, Ghana Chamber of Mines, 9 p.
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 2007, Alcoa Inc. form 10-K: Washington DC, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. (Accessed March 31, 2009, at <http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/4281/000119312508032695/d10k.htm>.)

TABLE 1
GHANA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 ^e
Aluminum, primary	16	--	13	80 ^{r, e}	--
Bauxite, gross weight	495	498	727 ^r	886 ^r	748 ³
Cement, hydraulic ^{e, 4}	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900
Diamond:					
Gem ^e thousand carats	724	740	810	780	720
Industrial ^e do.	180	180	200	190	180
Total do.	904 ⁵	920 ⁶	1,013 ⁶	973 ⁶	895 ^{3, 6}
Gold kilograms	70,749	63,139	66,852	69,817 ^r	77,349 ³
Manganese:					
Ore, processed	1,509	1,597	1,715	1,659 ^r	1,167 ³
Mn content ^e	528	559 ³	600	580 ^r	410
Natural gas ^{7, 8} million cubic meters	9	9 ^e	--	--	--
Petroleum:					
Crude ⁷ thousand 42-gallon barrels	400	400 ^e	--	--	--
Refinery products ^e do.	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Salt	250 ^e	265	250	250	250
Silver, content of exported doré kilograms	3,379	3,329	3,571	3,142	3,000
Steel, secondary, rebar ^e	25 ^r	25 ^r	25 ^r	25 ^r	25

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. ^rRevised. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through March 31, 2009.

²In addition to the commodities listed, a variety of crude construction materials (clays, sand and gravel, and stone) are produced, as are limestone and lime for the processing of some gold ore and salt. Output of these commodities is not reported, however, and information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Reported figure.

⁴All from imported clinker.

⁵Production, in thousand carats, includes that of Akwatia Mine: 2003—240 (estimated). The remainder is artisanal sales to the Precious Metals Marketing Corp.

⁶Source: Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

⁷Ghana did not produce natural gas nor petroleum in commercially sustainable quantities.

⁸Source: Ghana Energy Commission.

TABLE 2
GHANA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2007

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Aluminum	thousand metric tons	Volta Aluminum Co. Ltd. (Valco) (Government, 90%, and Alcoa Inc., 10%)	Aluminum smelter at Tema	200.
Bauxite	do.	Ghana Bauxite Co. Ltd. (Alcan Aluminum Ltd., 80%, and Government, 20%)	Bauxite mine at Awaso	1,000.
Cement	do.	Ghana Cement Company Ltd. (HeidelbergCement AG, 94.5%)	Clinker grinding plant at Takoradi	1,200.
Do.	do.	do.	Clinker grinding plant at Tema	1,200.
Do.	do.	Diamond Cement Ghana Ltd.	Cement plant at Aflao; uses imported clinker	600.
Diamond	thousand carats	Ghana Consolidated Diamonds Ltd. (Government, 100%)	Placer mine at Akwatia, Birim Valley	360.
Do.	do.	Artisanal diamond miners	Birim Valley	500 to 900.
Gold	kilograms	AngloGold Ashanti Ltd., 100%	Obuasi underground mine, Ashanti region	17,000.
Do.	do.	AngloGold Ashanti Ltd., 80%, and International Finance Corp., 20%	Iduapriem/Teberebie Mine	8,800.
Do.	do.	Central African Gold plc, 100%	Bibiani Mine	7,000.
Do.	thousand metric tons	Bogoso Gold Ltd. (Golden Star Resources Ltd., 90%, and Government, 10%)	Bogoso processing carbon-in-leach plant	1,500 ore.
Do.	kilograms	do.	Bogoso/Prestea open pit	5,400.
Do.	thousand metric tons	Wexford Goldfields Ltd. (Golden Star Resources, Ltd., 90%, and Government, 10%)	Wassa carbon-in-leach processing plant	3,500 ore.
Do.	do.	do.	Wassa biooxidation processing plant	3,500 ore.
Do.	kilograms	do.	Wassa Mine, 30 kilometers northwest of Tarkwa	5,200.
Do.	do.	Bogoso Gold Ltd. (Golden Star Resources, 90%, and Government, 10%)	Prestea underground mine (not operating)	1,100.
Do.	thousand metric tons	Gold Fields Ltd., 71.1%; Iamgold Corp., 18.9%; Government, 10%	Tarkwa open pit mine and carbon-in-leach and heap-leach plants, 300 kilometers west of Accra	20,000 ore.
Do.	do.	do.	Damang Mine and carbon-in-leach plant, 360 kilometers west of Accra	4,600 ore.
Do.	kilograms	Newmont Mining Corp., 100%	Ahafo Mine, 290 kilometers northwest of Accra	17,100.
Do.	thousand metric tons	Red Back Mining Inc., 100%	Chirano Mine, 100 kilometers from Kumasi, southwest Ghana	2,100 ore.
Do.	kilograms	do.	do.	3,800.
Limestone and lime		Carmeuse Lime Products (Ghana) Ltd. (Carmeuse SA of Belgium)	Takoradi	NA.
Manganese ore	thousand metric tons	Ghana Manganese Company Ltd. (Ghana International Manganese Co., 90%, and Government 10%).	Open pit mine at Nsuta-Wassaw, Western region	1,500.
Petroleum products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Tema Oil Refinery (Government, 100%)	Refinery at Tema	16,425.
Salt	do.	Panbros Salt Industry Ltd.	Salt pan at Mendskrom, near Accra	NA.
Do.	do.	Elmina Salt Producers Association	Artisanal salt pan mining near Elmina	NA.

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.