

## THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# COSTA RICA

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The mineral industry of Costa Rica comprised moderate production of gold and silver, as well as industrial minerals such as cement, diatomite, natural construction materials, pumice, and salt. Petroleum exploration continued, and refined petroleum

products were produced from imported crude. For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Costa Rica, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, International Review of Latin America and Canada.

TABLE 1  
COSTA RICA: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	
Cement	860,000	940,000	865,000 r/ 3/	830,000 r/ 3/	850,000	
Clays, common	400,500	401,000	410,000	410,000	412,000	
Diatomite	7,300	7,000	7,000	7,500	7,500	
Gold	kilograms	260	358 3/	400	510 r/	550
Iron and steel, semimanufactures	86,000	87,000	89,000	88,000	88,000	
Lime	9,500	9,500	9,800	9,800	9,800	
Petroleum refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	4,000	4,000	4,400	4,500	4,500
Pumice	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	
Salt, marine	31,100	31,700	32,200	37,000	37,000	
Silver	kilograms	450	450	450	460	460
Stone, sand and gravel:						
Crushed rock and rough stone	thousand tons	1,000	1,200	1,300	1,350	1,350
Limestone and calcareous materials	do.	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Sand and gravel	do.	1,200	1,400	1,500	1,400	1,400
Sandstone		700	800	850	800	850

r/ Revised.

1/ Estimated data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Table includes data available through April 1998.

3/ Reported figure.

TABLE 2  
COSTA RICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1997

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity e/
Cement		Industria Nacional de Cemento, S.A. (INCSA) (private, 100%)	Aguas Calientes, Cartago, Cartago Province	425
Do.		Cementos del Pacifico, S.A. (CEMPASA) (subsidiary of Corporacion Costarricense de Desarrollo, S.A., Government, 100%)	Near Colorado, Guanacaste Province	400
Clays		CEMPASA	Tajo Finca, near Platanar, Guanacaste Province	100
Gold	kilograms	El Valiente Ascari, S.A. (Ariel Resources, Ltd., Canada, 100%)	Tres Hermanos mine, Las Juntas, Guanacaste Province San Martin mine, Matapalo mill Las Juntas, Guanacaste Province	500
Do.	do.	Lyon Lake Mines Ltd. (90%), Government of Costa Rica (10%).	Beta Vargas mine, Guanacaste Province	160
Limestone		INCSA	La Chilena Quarry, near Cartago, Cartago Province	550
Do.		CEMPASA	Cerro Pena Blanca Quarry, Guanacaste Province	300
Petroleum products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Refinadora Costarricense de Petroleo, S.A. (RECOPE)	Moin Refinery, Limon Province	5,760

e/ Estimated.