

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

BENIN

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The production of mineral commodities, primarily cement and crude petroleum, represented a minor part of the economy of Benin. (*See table 1.*) Mineral resource development opportunities identified by the Office Béninoise des Mines (OBEMINES) included deposits of brick and china clay, feldspar, gold, the Loumbou-Loumbou iron-bearing deposit, marble, peat, the Mékrou phosphate deposit, silica sand, and a number of potential ornamental stone quarrying sites. OBEMINES also documented occurrences of columbium-tantalum, industrial diamond, gypsum, mica, rare earths, rutile, tungsten, and zircon in Benin (Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Hydraulics, 1992).

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Benin see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, International Review of Africa and the Middle East (Mobbs, in press).

References Cited

- Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Hydraulics, 1992, Benin mining resources: Cotonou, Benin, Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Hydraulics, 23 p.
Mobbs, in press, The mineral industries of other countries of Africa: U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook 1996, v. 3.

TABLE 1
BENIN: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1993	1994	1995	1996 e/	1997 e/
Cement, hydraulic	506,196 r/	465,491 r/	578,827 r/	580,000 r/	550,000
Petroleum, crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	1,062 r/	884	654 r/	1,000	1,100
Steel, crude e/	2,000 3/	--	--	--	--

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Includes data available through August 12, 1998.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, a variety of industrial minerals and construction materials (clays, gypsum, sand and gravel, and stone) are produced; but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

3/ Plant closed in 1993.