

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# LEBANON

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In 1998, domestic mineral output was limited to the production of salt and the quarrying of raw materials for the construction industry, particularly limestone for cement manufacturing. With the change of government in 1998, the \$2.5 billion reconstruction programs under the Council for Development & Reconstruction and the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon will undoubtedly be reevaluated. Actual production data have not been reported in

recent years, but estimates have been made based on the best available information. In 1998, total imports were valued at \$7.4 billion. Petroleum products and scrap for Lebanon's steel industry accounted for the bulk of imports. Exports for the same year totaled only \$0.6 billion.

For a more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Lebanon, see the 1997 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, International Review of Africa and the Middle East.

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<sup>1</sup>Deceased.

TABLE 1  
LEBANON: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Cement, hydraulic thousand metric tons	3,450	3,538 2/	3,500	2,703 r/ 2/	4,100 2/
Gypsum	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Iron and steel, metal, semimanufactures	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Lime	15,000 r/	15,000 r/	15,000 r/	15,000 r/	15,000
Salt	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,500

r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through December 1, 1999.

2/ Reported figure.