

## THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# HONDURAS

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The mineral industry of Honduras included production mainly of lead and zinc; ancillary copper, gold, and silver; and minor amounts of cadmium associated with the zinc. Some antimony has been produced sporadically. Industrial minerals included cement, gypsum, limestone, marble, and salt. Energy requirements were supplied by imported crude oil from Mexico,

Venezuela, and Colombia. Honduras passed a general mining code in 1991.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Honduras, see the 1997 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, The Mineral Industries of Latin America and Canada.

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1994	1995	1996	1997 e/	1998 e/
Antimony, mine output	--	4,800	400 e/	300	--
Cadmium, Cd content of lead and zinc concentrates e/	46	54 r/	74 r/	75 r/	75
Cement	615,000	721,000	952,000	980,000	1,250,000 p/
Copper, Cu content of lead and zinc concentrates	500 e/	--	--	--	--
Gold kilograms	106 e/	111	142	150	150
Gypsum e/	25,500	26,000	26,000	28,000	30,000
Lead, mine output, Pb content	2,810	2,619	3,367	3,400	4,900 3/
Petroleum refinery products e/ 4/ thousand 42-gallon barrels	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,200
Salt e/	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Silver kilograms	24,876	34,665	29,430	35,000	46,800 3/
Building materials: e/					
Limestone	400,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000
Marble square meters	90,000	93,000	94,000	95,000	95,000
Zinc, mine output, Zn content	23,600 r/	27,100 r/	37,000 r/	39,500 r/	39,000 3/

e/ Estimated. p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Estimated data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes data available through March 1999.

3/ Reported figure.

4/ Includes liquefied petroleum gas, aviation and motor gasoline, diesel, kerosene, and distillate fuel oil.

TABLE 2  
HONDURAS: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1998

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity e/
Cement		Cementos del Norte, S.A. (private, 100%)	Río Bijao plant, San Pedro Sula, Cortes Department	600
Do.		Industria Cementera Hondurena, S.A. de C.V. (LaFarge, 53%)	Piedras Azules plant, Comayagua Department	610
Gold kilograms		Compania Minera Santa Barbara (Breakwater Resources Limited, 100%)	El Mochito Mine, Santa Barbara Department	300
Do.	do.	Cia. Minerales de Copan, S.A. (Greenstone Resources Limited, 92%; controls other 8%.)	San Andres Mine, Copan Department	150
Lead		Cía. Minera Santa Barbara (Breakwater Resources Limited, 100%)	El Mochito Mine, Santa Barbara Department	35
Petroleum products thousand 42-gallon barrels		Refineria Texaco de Honduras, S.A. (Texaco, Inc., 100%)	Puerto Cortes, Cortes Department	5,040
Silver kilograms		Cia. Minera Santa Barbara (Breakwater Resources Limited, 100%)	El Mochito Mine, Santa Barbara Department	50
Do.	do.	Cia. Minera El Paso Mining (private, 100%)	La Pochota Mine, Valle Department	20
Zinc		Cia. Minera Santa Barbara (Breakwater Resources Limited, 100%)	El Mochito Mine, Santa Barbara Department	30

e/ Estimated.