

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

RWANDA

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The landlocked, 26,340-square-kilometer Central African nation of Rwanda is located between Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo [Congo (Kinshasa)]. In 1998, the population was estimated to be 8.1 million people, and the gross domestic product was estimated to be \$2.1 billion. The economy was predominantly agrarian. The civil unrest, violence, and population dislocations of the 1990's have been disincentives to new foreign investment.

The Rwandan mineral industry consisted mostly of a number of small cooperatives and individual artisanal miners that produced gold ores and concentrates of columbium (niobium)-tantalum, tin, and tungsten from scattered locations, generally

in a zone about 30 kilometers (km) wide extending east-west through Kigali. Cement was also produced. Mineral reserves data were not available.

Transportation complications constrained the nation's mineral exports. The Indian Ocean ports of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Mombasa, Kenya, were about 1,500 km by truck and rail from Kigali. Rwanda's electricity generating capacity was about 25-megawatts.

For more extensive coverage of the minerals industry of Rwanda, see the 1994 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Area reports: International, pages 633-634.

TABLE 1
RWANDA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

Commodity		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Cement e/	metric tons	10,000	10,000	42,000 r/ 2/	60,000 r/ 2/	50,000
Columbite-tantalite, ore and concentrate: e/						
Gross weight	kilograms	100,000	149,000 2/	99,000 r/ 2/	256,000 r/ 2/	250,000
Nb content	do.	34,000	40,000 2/	30,000	75,000 r/	75,000
Ta content	do.	22,000	28,000	25,000	50,000 r/	50,000
Gold, mine output, Au content	do.	1,000 e/	26	4 r/	13 r/	25 e/
Natural gas, gross e/	thousand cubic meters	970	970	970	100	100
Tin, mine output, Sn content	metric tons	50 e/	242	150 r/	75 r/	100 e/
Tungsten, mine output, W content	do.	30 e/	47	109 r/	57 r/	40 e/

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Includes data available through December 1, 1999.

2/ Reported figure.