

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

MALI

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Mali's economy was dominated by agriculture, which accounted for about 47% of the gross domestic product. The mineral sector, the significance of which has increased in recent years, was dominated by gold production. Interest in gold exploration resumed in 1999 when 11 research and prospecting permits were issued compared with 2 in 1998; low international gold prices, however, resulted in limited operations (Direction Nationale de la Géologie et des Mines, 2000). During 1999, feasibility studies were submitted to the Government for the Morila gold prospect by Randgold Resources Ltd. of the United Kingdom and for the Yatela gold project by subsidiaries of

AngloGold Ltd. of South Africa and IAMGOLD Corp. of Canada.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Mali, see the 1998 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

Reference Cited

Direction Nationale de la Géologie et des Mines, 2000, Commerce de l'or—La fluctuation du cours et ses effets: Infomines, no. 00, p. 9-10.

TABLE 1
MALI: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 2/		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Cement, hydraulic		13,000	12,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Gold, mine output, gold content 3/	kilograms	3,996 r/	4,329 r/	16,323 r/	20,562 r/	23,688
Gypsum		450	500	100	500	500
Iron	kilograms	69	--	--	--	--
Phosphate rock		3,000	--	--	--	--
Salt		5,000	6,000	5,000	6,000	6,000
Silver 4/	kilograms	250	270	800	900	1,000

r/ Revised. -- Zero.

1/ Includes data available through October 27, 2000.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, Mali produced clays, stone, and sand and gravel for local construction purposes in addition to diamond, marble, and tin, but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output levels.

3/ Excludes artisanal production, estimated to be about 2,000 kilograms per year.

4/ Estimated silver content of doré bullion.