



2005 Minerals Yearbook

LIBERIA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF LIBERIA

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The Republic of Liberia continued to recover from civil war and political instability. A new Government was elected in October 2005 (United Nations Mission in Liberia, 2005a, b). The Ministry of Lands, Mines, and Energy reported that the new Government was committed to setting effective policy guidelines to assist in the country's economic reconstruction and, to this effect, the Ministry was in the process of formulating new energy, mineral, land, and water policies (Eugene H. Shannon, Minister of Lands, Mines, and Energy, written commun., July 18, 2006).

According to the U.S. Department of State (2006§¹) prior to Liberia's civil conflicts, mining was the most important sector of the economy and accounted for about two-thirds of the country's exports; iron ore production accounted for about one-half of the Government's revenues. In 2005, mining was limited to the production of cement, gold, crushed stone, and sand. The Government enacted a voluntary ban on the issuance of alluvial diamond mining licenses. In June 2005, the United Nations Security Council renewed sanctions on the export of diamond from Liberia, citing both the lack of transparency in a contract between the National Transitional Government of Liberia and West Africa Mining Corporation and the country's inability

to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. U.S. Department of State (2006§) reports indicate that the infrastructure that had supported the iron ore mines was either looted during the civil war or decayed as a result of neglect; therefore, all iron ore mines remained closed during the year.

More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Liberia can be found in the 2003 and 2004 U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—Africa and the Middle East, which are available on the World Wide Web at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country>.

References Cited

- United Nations Mission in Liberia, 2005a, Liberia's elections commission announces final results of the runoff election, declares Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf president-elect: Monrovia, Liberia, United Nations Mission in Liberia press release, November 23, 1 p.
- United Nations Mission in Liberia, 2005b, Liberia's national elections commission certifies winners of the October 11 and November 8 elections: Monrovia, Liberia, United Nations Mission in Liberia press release, December 19, 2 p.

Internet Reference Cited

- U.S. Department of State, 2006, Doing business in Liberia, accessed July 25, 2006, at URL http://usembassy.state.gov/liberia/img/assets/5816/Doing_Business_in_Liberia.pdf.

¹A reference that includes a section mark (§) is found in the Internet Reference Cited section.

TABLE 1
LIBERIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ²
Cement, hydraulic	62,897	53,622	25,000 ^c	40,000 ^c	40,000 ^c
Diamond ^c carats	170,000	80,000	40,000	10,000	10,000 ^c
Gold ^c kilograms	57	42	20	110 ^{r, 2, 3}	16 ³
Sand	NA	NA	NA	213,892 ^{2, 3}	222,274 ³
Stone, crushed	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,964 ³

^cEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Table includes data available through July 26, 2006.

²Reported figure.

³Source: Ministry of Lands, Mines, and Energy of Liberia.