



2008 Minerals Yearbook

NAMIBIA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF NAMIBIA

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Diamond remained the most economically significant mineral commodity to Namibia's economy. In 2008, Namibia was the second ranked producer of gem-quality diamond in terms of dollars per carat, the sixth ranked producer of gem-quality diamond in terms of the total value of diamond production, and the eighth ranked producer of diamond in terms of volume. Namibia was also the fourth ranked producer of uranium, producing about 10% of the world's uranium. Other metals produced in the country included arsenic, copper, gold, lead, manganese, silver, tantalite, tin, and zinc. Industrial minerals included dolomite, fluorspar, granite, marble, salt, semiprecious stones, sodalite, sulfur, and wollastonite (Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, 2009; World Nuclear Association, 2009).

The Ministry of Mines and Energy and its Diamond Affairs, Energy, and Mining Directorates regulate Namibia's mining and petroleum industries. The Ministry grants exploration and mining licenses for minerals in Namibia, compiles national exploration and mining databases, and develops exploration and mining policy and regulations. The Ministry's Geological Survey of Namibia undertakes geologic mapping and research. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is responsible for regulating manufacturing activity, which includes mineral beneficiation, the production of cement, and the processing of semiprecious stones. The Ministry of Trade and Industry also promotes resource-based development.

Production

In the metals sector, the most significant increase in output was for lead concentrates, which increased by 33.4%

compared with 2007 output levels, and copper concentrate, which increased by 17%; the output of manganese and zinc concentrates decreased by 40% and 17.3%, respectively. Output levels for most industrial minerals decreased during the year with the exception of sodalite, marble, and diamond, which showed increases of 129%, 108%, and 17.3%, respectively. Data on mineral production are in table 1.

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities. More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Namibia can be found in the 2006 and 2007 U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area reports—International—Africa and the Middle East, which is available on the Internet at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country>.

References Cited

- Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, 2009, Annual global summary—2008 production, imports, exports, and KPC counts: Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, 1 p. (Accessed October 9, 2009, at https://mmsd.mms.nrcan.gc.ca/kimberleystats/public_tables/Annual_Summary_Table_2008.pdf.)
- World Nuclear Association, 2009, World uranium mining: World Nuclear Association, November. (Accessed October 9, 2009, at <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/default.aspx?id=430&terms=namibia>.)

TABLE 1
NAMIBIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
METALS					
Arsenic, white, 99% arsenic trioxide	1,264	89	-- ^e	813 ^r	763
Copper:					
Mine output, concentrate (26%–30% Cu):					
Gross weight	58,792	40,542	25,000 ^e	32,450 ^r	37,956
Cu content	11,174	10,157	6,262	6,580 ^r	7,471
Metal, blister:					
From domestic concentrates ^e	11,000	10,000	6,200	8,000	NA
From imported toll concentrates ^e	13,700	13,600	15,700	12,600	NA
Total	24,704	23,551	21,918	20,600 ^e	16,271 ^p
Gold, Au content of mine output kilograms	2,205	2,703	2,790	2,496 ^r	2,126
Lead, mine output, concentrate:					
Gross weight	27,338	24,689	21,402	21,875 ^r	27,656
Pb content of Pb and Pb-Zn concentrates	14,338	14,320	11,830	10,543 ^r	14,062
Manganese, mine output, gross weight	--	7,320	18,918	47,620 ^r	28,387

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1—Continued
NAMIBIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
METALS—Continued					
Silver:					
Mine output, Ag content of concentrates kilograms	27,153	30,003	31,307	30,000 ^e	30,000 ^e
Metal, refined, primary ³ do.	14,815	--	--	--	--
Tantalite:					
Gross weight, concentrates ^e	30	--	--	--	--
Ta content (36%)	11 ^e	--	--	--	--
Tin:					
Gross weight, concentrates	25 ^e	--	--	--	--
Sn content (60%)	15 ^e	--	--	--	--
Zinc:					
Gross weight, mine output, concentrate (49%–56% Zn)	123,372	126,123	100,000 ^e	94,323 ^r	92,190
Zn content of Zn and Pb-Zn concentrates ⁴	66,028	69,368	55,455	46,335 ^r	38,319
Metal, refined, primary	120,533	132,818	129,897	150,080	145,396
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Diamond thousand carats	2,004	1,902	2,356	2,266	2,435
Fluorspar, acid grade (97% CaF ₂) ⁵	104,785	114,886	132,249	118,766	118,263
Salt	754,351	573,248	603,501	810,942 ^r	732,000
Semiprecious stones: ^e					
Agate	158 ⁶	150	150	141 ^{r,6}	141 ⁶
Amethyst kilograms	41,367 ⁶	40,000	40,000	7,020 ^{r,6}	7,000 ^e
Blue chalcedony do.	69 ⁶	50	50	5 ^{r,6}	5 ⁶
Garnet do.	115 ⁶	100	100	88 ^{r,6}	-- ⁶
Picture stone	240 ⁶	200	200	200	200
Pietersite	9 ⁶	--	--	17 ^{r,6}	23 ⁶
Rose quartz	--	--	--	22,878 ^{r,6}	19,975 ⁶
Sodalite	--	--	--	104 ^{r,6}	1,450 ⁶
Tourmaline kilograms	102 ³	100	100	100	100
Stone:					
Dolomite	13,536	14,000 ^e	14,000 ^e	27,150 ^r	27,000 ^e
Granite	25,492	21,380	21,000 ^e	36,390 ^r	22,664
Marble	8,356	5,112	5,100 ^e	4,538 ^r	9,438
Sodalite	138	100	100 ^e	--	--
Sulfur, pyrite concentrate:					
Gross weight (49%–51% S)	3,658	1,035	-- ^e	8,500 ^e	8,500 ^e
S content	1,835	520	-- ^e	4,300 ^e	4,000 ^e
Wollastonite	406	253	55	55 ^e	50 ^e
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Uranium, U ₃ O ₈ content	3,583	3,711	3,617	3,680 ^r	5,074

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through October 9, 2009.

²In addition to the commodities listed, Namibia produced blister copper, which contained gold and silver coproducts, and lead dusts, but available information is inadequate to estimate output.

³Includes products of imported concentrate.

⁴Ore from the Skorpion Mine is leached on site and the zinc is recovered by solvent extraction-electrowinning; the zinc ore mined at Skorpion is therefore not included in the zinc concentrate data.

⁵Fluorspar production shown in wet metric tons; approximately 9% moisture content.

⁶Reported figure.

TABLE 2
NAMIBIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2008

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Copper:				
Copper concentrates		Weatherly Mining Namibia Ltd. (Weatherly International plc, 100%)	Central operations, includes the Otjihase Mine and concentrator, about 30 kilometers north of Windhoek; and the Matchless Mine, 80 kilometers southwest of the Otjihase Mine	1,000,000
Do.		do.	Northern operations, includes the Tschudi and the Tsumeb West Mines, and the and the Tsumeb concentrator	500,000
Do.		do.	Kombat operations, includes Kombat Mine and concentrator, 440 kilometers north of Windhoek	400,000
Metal, blister copper		Namibia Custom Smelters (Pty.) Ltd. (Weatherly International plc, 100%)	Smelter at Tsumeb	30,000
Diamond	carats	Namdeb Diamond Corporation (Pty.) Ltd. (Government, 50%, and De Beers Centenary AG, 50%)	Mining Area 1, from Orange River to 145 kilometers north of Oranjemund; includes Pocket Beaches	1,000,000
Do.	do.	do.	Northern Areas and Elizabeth Bay Mines, 24 kilometers south of Luderitz	180,000
Do.	do.	do.	Orange River Mines, from mouth of Orange River east to Sendelingsdrif; includes the Auchas and the Daberas Mines	120,000
Do.	do.	do.	Beach and marine contractors	68,000
Do.	do.	De Beers Marine Namibia [De Beers Centenary AG, 70%, and Namdeb Diamond Corporation (Pty.) Ltd., 30%]	Atlanta 1 license area, offshore Sperrgebiet	1,050,000
Do.	do.	Sakawe Mining Corp. (LL Mining Corp. BV)	Offshore mining licenses, near Luderitz Bay	260,000
Do.	do.	Joint venture of Diamond Fields (Pty.) Ltd. (Diamond Fields International Ltd., 100%), and Bonaparte Diamond Mines NL	Mining License 111, offshore Luderitz	NA
Do.	do.	Diaz Exploration (Pty.) Ltd.	Offshore operation	15,000
Fluorspar, acid grade		Okorusu Fluorspar (Pty.) Ltd. (Solvay Fluor GmbH, 100%)	Mine and plant at Okorusu	105,000
Gold:				
Ore		AngloGold Ashanti Namibia (Pty.) Ltd.	Navachab Mine, 170 kilometers northwest of Windhoek	1,440,000
Metal	kilograms	Namibia Custom Smelters (Pty.) Ltd. (Weatherly International plc, 100%)	Coproduct contained in blister copper produced at the copper smelter at Tsumeb	400
Lead, Pb content of concentrate		Rosh Pinah Zinc Corporation (Pty.) Ltd. [Exxaro Resources Ltd., 93.9%, and PE Minerals (Namibia) (Pty.) Ltd., 6.1%]	Rosh Pinah Mine, near Rosh Pinah	20,000
Pyrite, concentrate		Weatherly Mining Namibia Ltd. (Weatherly International plc, 100%)	Otjihase Mine and concentrator, near Tsumeb	32,000
Salt:		Salt & Chemicals (Pty.) Ltd. [Walvis Bay Salt Holdings (Pty.) Ltd., 100%]	Salt pan at Walvis Bay	670,000
Do.		Walvis Bay Salt Refiners (Pty.) Ltd. [Walvis Bay Salt Holdings (Pty.) Ltd., 100%]	Salt refinery at Walvis Bay	650,000
Do.		Salt Company (Pty.) Ltd.	Swakopmund	120,000
Do.		Cape Cross Salt (Pty.) Ltd.	North of Henties Bay	40,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued
NAMIBIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2008

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Silver:			
Concentrate, Ag content	Rosh Pinah Zinc Corporation (Pty.) Ltd. [Kumba Resources Ltd., 89.5%, and PE Minerals (Namibia) (Pty.) Ltd., 6.1%]	Rosh Pinah Mine, near Rosh Pinah	25
Metal	Namibia Custom Smelters (Pty.) Ltd. (Weatherly International plc, 100%)	Coproduct contained in blister copper produced at the copper smelter at Tsumeb	23
Uranium, uranium oxide	Rössing Uranium Ltd. (Rio Tinto Group, 68.6%; Government of Iran, 15%; Industrial Development Corp. of South Africa Ltd., 10%; Government of Namibia, 3.5%)	Rössing Mine, 65 kilometers northeast of Swakopmund	4,800
Do.	Langer Heinrich Uranium (Pty.) Ltd. (Paladin Energy Ltd., 100%)	Langer Heinrich Mine. 80 kilometers east of Walvis Bay	1,180
Wollastonite	Namibia Mineral Development Co. (Pty.) Ltd.	Usakos Mine	800
Zinc:			
Mine:			
Concentrate, Zn content	Rosh Pinah Zinc Corporation (Pty.) Ltd. [Exxaro Resources Ltd., 93.9%, and PE Minerals (Namibia) (Pty.) Ltd., 6.1%]	Rosh Pinah Mine, near Rosh Pinah	110,000
Ore	Skorpion Mining Co. (Pty.) Ltd. (Anglo American plc, 100%)	Skorpion Mine, 25 kilometers north of Rosh Pinah	1,500,000
Metal	Namzinc (Pty.) Ltd. (Anglo American plc, 100%)	Skorpion solvent extraction facilities and electrowinning refinery, 25 kilometers north of Rosh Pinah	150,000

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.