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CENTRAL AMERICA

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The Mineral Industries of Central America

Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama

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In 2012, the Central American region as a whole continued to grow economically despite external economic challenges, including the continuing financial crisis in the euro area. Domestic demand generally increased, however, because of generally low interest rates and higher foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows. Panama led the region with a real gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 10.7%, which was owing in part to a public sector infrastructure investment program that included the construction of a metropolitan train system, housing and highway projects, and the continued expansion of the Panama Canal (Central Bank of Belize, 2013, p. 7–8; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2013).

Economic activity in other countries was more dependent on such factors as a gradual recovery in exports and an increase in tourism and in remittances from the United States. Belize and Nicaragua followed Panama in terms of economic growth; their real GDP growth rates were 5.3% and 5.2%, respectively. Costa Rica's communications and transportation sectors led the country's economic expansion whereas in Nicaragua, financial services, industrial manufacturing, and an expansion in the fishing industry contributed to increased economic growth (Central Bank of Belize 2013, p. 7–8; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2013).

Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador recorded increased GDP growth rates of 3.3%, 2.0%, and 1.6%, respectively. Guatemala's growth was attributed to increased activity in the construction sector and in the financial and commercial services sectors. In Honduras, merchandise exports and inward remittances increased. El Salvador's growth was primarily attributed to agriculture and distributive trade (Central Bank of Belize, 2013, p. 7–8; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2013).

The regional inflation rate decreased from 5.8% to 4.4%, which reflects the lower food and energy prices, and in some cases, lower prices for imported goods and services resulting from domestic currency appreciation. El Salvador and Nicaragua recorded fiscal surpluses, and the other countries in the region reported deficits ranging from 0.4% to 2.2% of the GDP. Nicaragua and El Salvador achieved overall surpluses of 0.2% and 0.1% of the GDP, respectively, whereas Costa Rica recorded the largest overall deficit in the region of 4.6% of the GDP. Trade gaps increased because of increased spending on imports that reflected volume and price increases, whereas lower prices, on average, for coffee, sugar, and metals negatively affected export earnings (Central Bank of Belize, 2013, p. 7–8).

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BELIZE

Belize was not a globally or regionally significant mineral producing country in 2012, but the petroleum industry was important to the domestic economy in terms of the revenues it generated from petroleum exports. Despite the Government's active encouragement of oil sector development and granting of new exploration licenses (often with significant opposition from environmental advocates), no new commercially viable oil finds had been made in Belize since 2005. Although crude oil accounted for as much as 36% of Belize's domestically produced exports, the country imported virtually all refined petroleum products and remained a net petroleum product importer overall (Central Bank of Belize, 2012; 2013, p. 28).

Oil production was projected to be one-half of its 2009 level by 2015 if no new discoveries are made. Private sector interest in petroleum exploration had waned because of the lack of new finds, unsuccessful exploratory drilling, and the below-forecast production levels at the Never Delay field, which was the second commercial field in Belize. Public opposition to offshore oil and gas exploration in the vicinity of the Belize Barrier Reef on environmental grounds had increased significantly. The opposition included a public campaign by groups that sought to put the issue to a referendum, whereas the Government continued to argue against a complete ban. Production rates at the Spanish Lookout and Never Delay oilfields in 2012 decreased by 24.5% and 57.4%, respectively, compared with their output in 2011. The total (combined) production volume from the two fields was 1,029,938 barrels in 2012 (table 1; Central Bank of Belize, 2012, p. 7).

The growth rate of Belize's real GDP in 2012 was estimated to be 5.3% compared with a revised 1.9% in 2011. Increased growth in the national economy in 2012 was attributed to increased agricultural exports, construction, and tourism. Growth in the manufacturing sector, however, declined because of the 28.6% decrease in petroleum production in 2012. The value contributed to the GDP from mining and quarrying was about $7.1 million, or 0.55% of the GDP, in 2011 (the most recent year for which data were available) compared with a revised $6.9 million and 0.55% of the GDP in 2010 (Central Bank of Belize, 2012, p. 8).

Government oil revenue, however, had increased in recent years because of previous peaks in production at the principal commercial well, elevated world crude prices, and the implementation of taxes, and reached the equivalent of 3.1% of the GDP in fiscal year 2012. The Government's share of the value of oil exported since 2006 had averaged about 25% on an annual basis. During fiscal years 2009 through 2011, the Government received about $100 million in revenues from Belize Natural Energy (BNE), 60% of which was in the form of income tax, 24% was in royalties, and 16% was in working interest and production sharing. Based on BNE's production forecasts and current contracts, the Government anticipated that oil revenue would decrease to 2.4% of the GDP in fiscal year 2013 and 1.4% of the GDP in fiscal year 2015. Those forecasts presumed that world prices would remain at elevated levels for a protracted period, effectively implying realized values of greater than 15% of what had been achieved by BNE since 2006 (Central Bank of Belize, 2012, p. 8).

Reference Cited

Central Bank of Belize, 2012, Belize—2012—Economic and financial update: Belize City, Belize, Central Bank of Belize, April, 19 p.

COSTA RICA

Mining and quarrying remained insignificant to the national economy of Costa Rica. Mining and quarrying activities contributed only between 0.1% and 0.2% of real GDP each year from 2008 through 2012, and economic projections through fiscal year 2014 were expected to remain virtually unchanged. The country had taken an anti-mining position despite having gold deposits that have at times been exploited. The mineral industry was primarily associated with quarrying of construction materials and industrial minerals for use in the domestic economy and for some degree of regional trade. In 2012, the value contributed to real GDP by mining and quarrying was about $29.0 million compared with a revised $27.5 million in 2011. In 2012, the country imported about $2.18 million worth of hydrocarbon products compared with a revised $2.2 million in 2011 (Banco Central de Costa Rica, 2013, p. 34; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2013).

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EL SALVADOR

In 2012, El Salvador's real GDP increased by about 1.6% compared with a revised 2.0% in 2011. The estimated value of production from mines and quarries was $48.9 million, which accounted for about 0.3% of the total GDP compared with a revised $47.4 million in 2011. In 2011, El Salvador exported about $11.1 million worth of products derived from mining and quarrying activities (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2013).

The Government of El Salvador had essentially shut down exploration for and development of metal mines since about 2008 when it declared that no new mining permits would be issued. This was done in response to previous unsustainable mining practices that reportedly contaminated certain fresh water supplies in El Salvador. In 2012, tests completed by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) revealed high concentrations of cyanide and iron at a location in the San Sebastian River, which flows by the site of the San Sebastian gold mine, including 0.450 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of cyanide and 393.4 mg/L of iron. The established maximum allowable concentrations of cyanide and iron in drinking water in El Salvador are 0.05 mg/L and 0.3 mg/L, respectively. It was reported that approximately 25% of the population lacked access to safe drinking water (Mining Journal, 2012; Guardian, The, 2013).

Pacific Rim Mining Corp. of Canada used international arbitration through the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) to seek greater than $77 million it claimed to have invested in El Salvador since 2002, primarily at its El Dorado gold project. The ICSID dismissed the case as Pacific Rim attempted to use a subsidiary in the United States to make its claims under the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). The ICSID, however, ruled that the company's case could proceed under El Salvador's domestic investment law, which allows disputes with foreign investors to be referred for arbitration (Mining Journal, 2012).

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Guardian, The, 2013, El Salvador mining ban could establish a vital water security precedent: Guardian News and Media Ltd. (Accessed June 30, 2013, at http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/jun/10/el-salvador-mining-ban-water-security.)
Mining Journal, 2012, Central America—High potential: Mining Journal, December 7. (Accessed June 29, 2013, at www.corazongold.com/i/pdf/CentralAm.pdf.)

GUATEMALA

In 2011, Guatemala's real GDP increased by about 2.0% compared with a revised 4.2% in 2011. The value contributed to the GDP from mining and quarrying activities in 2012 decreased to about $401.6 million, or by 21.4% compared with that of 2011, and accounted for about 1.1% of the GDP. Gold and silver production decreased by 45.6% and 25.0%, respectively, in 2012 compared with that of 2010. The decreased production was associated with a 57% decrease in gold grades and 41% lower grades for silver at Goldcorp Inc. of Canada's Marlin Mine. The decreased grades had been partially offset by an 18% increase in tonnage as low-grade stockpiled ore was processed to finalize the open pit mining operations as was planned. Underground operations were continuing (table 1; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2013; Mining Journal, 2013).

In January 2012, Goldcorp announced that it would voluntarily increase the royalties it pays on the production of precious metals from 1% to 4% of gross revenue. Goldcorp was expected to complete a final feasibility study for its Cerro Blanco project

in southwestern Guatemala by early 2013. As of yearend 2011, Cerro Blanco contained an estimated 39,500 kilograms (kg) of measured and indicated gold resources (Mining Journal, 2013).

The value of exports derived from mining and quarrying activities in 2011, which was the latest year for which data available, increased to $308 million, or by 26% compared with that of 2010 (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2013).

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HONDURAS

In 2012, the Honduran real GDP increased by about 3.3% compared with a revised 3.7% in 2011. The value contributed to real GDP from mining and quarrying activities in 2012 increased by 2% to about $46.5 million and accounted for about 0.4% of the GDP. Because of the combined effects of political instability, a large bureaucracy with regard to mining, and significant environmental activism, most exploration companies had left Honduras, but two secure metal producing operations remained active in the country (Mining Journal, 2012; Comisión Económica pare América Latina y el Caribe, 2013).

Gold production at Aura Minerals Inc. of Canada's San Andres Mine for the 6 months ending on March 31, 2012, had decreased by 30% compared with the same period in the previous year; the total for all of 2012 decreased by 1.9% to 1,858 kg compared with annual production in 2011. The 30% decrease was attributed to processing lower-recovery mixed ore that had a higher component of clay and a lower gold grade (Mining Journal, 2012).

Metal production at Nystar NV of Switzerland's El Mochito Mine included 12,400 metric tons (t) of lead, 26,000 t of zinc, and about 50,600 kg of silver, which constituted decreases in production of lead and silver by 26.9% and 4.8%, respectively, compared with that of 2011 whereas zinc production reportedly remained the same. Despite the decreased production volume for silver, the company had a 3-month record production in the quarter ending in September 2012 when it produced almost 14,000 kg of silver. The increased recovery rate was attributed to improvements in mill head grades above the proven and probable reserve grade (Mining Journal, 2012).

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NICARAGUA

Nicaragua, which is the largest country in Central America in terms of area, had the highest historical gold production in the region. Foreign investment in mining has been encouraged in recent years, and the country had a less complicated exploration permitting process than some other countries in Central America. Nicaragua's real GDP increased by 5.2% in 2012 compared with a revised 5.4% in 2011. The value contributed to the GDP from mining and quarrying activities increased by 8.2% to $83.2 million and accounted for about 1% of the GDP (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2013; Mining Journal, 2012).

In 2012, gold production increased by 9.2% compared with that of 2011 and silver production increased by 28.8%. The increased gold production came from B2 Gold Corp. of Canada's La Libertad Mine, which was in its second year of commercial operation since the company acquired the operation in 2009 (tables 1, 2).

References Cited

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2013, CEPALSTAT—Estadisticas e Indicadores Economicos: United Nations. (Accessed June 30, 2013, at http://websie.eclac.cl/sisgen/ConsultaIntegrada.asp.)
Mining Journal, 2012, Central America—High potential: Mining Journal, December 7. (Accessed June 30, 2013, at www.corazongold.com/i/pdf/CentralAm.pdf.)

PANAMA

In 2012, Panama's real GDP increased by 10.7% compared with a revised 10.8% in 2011. The value contributed to the GDP from mining and quarrying activities increased to $510.4 million, or by 30.1% compared with that of 2011, and accounted for 1.8% of the GDP. Sustained economic growth in Panama (the GDP has averaged about 8% in recent years) was driven by its service-based economy and was maintained by the country's construction industry, container ports, communications sector, international banking sector, the Panama Canal (and its expansion), ship registry services, real estate, and tourism. In fiscal year 2011, about 5% of world trade transited through the Panama Canal. Mineral commodities made up about 43 million metric tons, or about 20% of the canal's traffic. The Panama Canal Authority accounted for about $1 billion in revenue for the Panamanian Government in 2011 (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2013; Mining Journal, 2013).

Gold production increased by 26.3% in 2012 to about 2,115 kg compared with the output in 2011. The increase was attributable to continued ramping up at Petaquilla Minerals Ltd. of Canada's Molejon Mine, which was in its second year of commercial production and which was the only operating gold mine in Panama in 2012 (tables 1, 2).

Panama is expected to become a major copper-exporting country when First Quantum Minerals Ltd. of Canada's Cobre Panama project begins commercial production. The project is expected to reach commercial production in mid-2016. Planned production was expected to be 298,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of copper for the first 15 years, which would make it the 11th-ranked producing copper mine in the world and potentially result in replacing Mexico as the 3d-ranked copper producer in Latin America. Over the life of the mine (estimated at greater than 31 years), annual production would also include about 2,700 kg of gold, 46,700 kg of silver, and 2,900 t of molybdenum (Mining Journal, 2013).

References Cited

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Mining Journal, 2013, Central America—High potential: Mining Journal, December 7, 2013. (Accessed June 30 at www.corazongold.com/i/pdf/CentralAm.pdf.)

TABLE 1
CENTRAL AMERICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES[1]

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity[2]		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
BELIZE[e]						
Clay, unspecified	thousand cubic meters	217 [3]	300	300	300	300
Dolomite (aggregate):						
Agricultrual	do.	3,834 [r, 3]	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Aggregate	do.	3,124 [3]	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total	do.	6,958	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Gold, mine output, Au content	grams	28,200 [3]	--	--	--	--
Limestone (aggregate)	do.	333 [3]	300	300	300	300
Marl	do.	91,253 [3]	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Petroleum, crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	1,200 [3]	1,609 [3]	1,514 [3]	1,442 [r, 3]	1,030
Sand and gravel:						
Gravel (Pine Ridge)	thousand cubic meters	8,247 [3]	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Sand (coastal, Pine Ridge, and unspecified)	do.	597 [r, 3]	500	500	500	500
Sand and gravel	do.	168 [r, 3]	200	200	200	200
COSTA RICA						
Cement[e]	thousand metric tons	2,100	2,100	1,276	1,600	1,500
Clays, unspecified[e]		349,724 [3]	350,000	350,000	300,000	300,000
Diatomite		5,000 [r, e]	5,000 [r]	5,000 [r, e]	13,844 [r, e]	4,029
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	198	150	300	500	400
Iron and steel, semimanufactures	thousand metric tons	657	319	400	400 [e]	400
Petroleum, refinery products[e]	thousand 42-gallon barrels	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Stone, sand and gravel:						
Crushed rock and rough stone	thousand cubic meters	3,847 [r]	3,500 [r, e]	7,142	6,187 [r]	5,000 [e]
Limestone and calcareous materials	do.	1,506	1,500 [e]	900	1,500	2,284
Sand and gravel	do.	4,348	3,500 [e]	2,667	3,476	3,000 [e]
Sandstone	do.	164	150 [e]	124	122	125 [e]
EL SALVADOR						
Cement, hydraulic[e]	thousand metric tons	1,300	1,212 [3]	1,200	1,200	1,200
Iron and steel, metal:						
Steel, crude		71,000 [r]	56,000 [e]	64,000 [r]	100,000 [r]	102,000
Semimanufactures		126,000	69,000	78,000	97,000	100,000 [e]
GUATEMALA						
Metals:						
Antimony, mine output, Sb content		--	--	--	--	62
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	7,837	8,897	9,213	11,898	6,473
Iron and steel:						
Iron ore, gross weight		452	5,463	1,604	1,160	1,000 [e]
Steel, crude	thousand metric tons	250	224	274	445	334
Semimanufactures	do.	306	288	300	300 [e]	250 [e]
Silver, mine output, Ag content	kilograms	99,923	129,280	194,683	272,771	204,555
Zinc, run of mine, Zn content[e]		14,000	--	--	--	--
Industrial minerals:						
Cement, hydraulic[e]	thousand metric tons	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,700
Clays:						
Bentonite		62,749	14,284	22,423	44,463	131,843
Ferruginous (includes clay and sand)	thousand metric tons	190	219	201	152	150 [e]
Kaolin		2,803	1,879	2,143	4,057	1,866
Unspecified		33,620	40,029	41,123	41,198	66,392
Feldspar		45,854	5,762	402	2,890	19,356
Gypsum, crude	thousand metric tons	127	19	59	46	NA
Jadeite		41	18	8	27	33

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1—Continued
CENTRAL AMERICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES[1]

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity[2]		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
GUATEMALA—Continued						
Industrial minerals—Continued:						
Magnesium compounds (magnesite)		11,758	17,247	--	311	27,132
Pumice	thousand cubic meters	394	395	34	NA	NA
Quartz		--	1,550	777	800	NA
Salt[e]	thousand metric tons	60	50	50	50	60
Stone, sand and gravel:						
Sand and gravel, natural:						
Building (foundation) sand	thousand cubic meters	14	14	--	5	10 e
River sand and gravel	do.	192	174	88	81	261
Sand and gravel, common	do.	287	118	204	702	500 e
Silica sand		65,343	35,933	62,098	60,000 e	48,664
Stone dust	cubic meters	36,674	9,446	2,845	8,607	1,531
Volcanic ash and sand	thousand cubic meters	359	418	1,246	1,448	1,500 e
Stone, crude:						
Basalt	do.	1,583	56	1,156	1,051	1,000 e
Dolomite	do.	7,351	2,051	3,817	4,908	1,948
Flagstone, phyllite	do.	84	86	67	70 e	230
Granite		3,783	1,584	336	161 r	1,667
Limestone, crude	thousand metric tons	4,120	6,090	4,910	NA	2,000 e
Marble, block	cubic meters	33,143	20,720	72,063	738	5,928
Marl	do.	--	14,942	500	500	500 e
Schist, slate	thousand cubic meters	160	174	149	181	185
Talc and steatite		1,030	6,355	2,175	8,817	NA
Tuff	cubic meters	22,096	39,222	184,541	126,138	NA
Mineral fuels and related materials:						
Coal, lignite		3	--	2	--	2
Natural gas, gross[e]	thousand cubic meters	430	410	360	400	400
Petroleum:						
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	5,158	4,933	4,363	3,995	4,000 e
Refinery products:						
Asphalt	do.	210	389	300	300 e	300 e
Naphtha	42-gallon barrels	550	590	470	500 e	500 e
Kerosene	thousand 42-gallon barrels	5	8	3	5 e	5 e
Diesel	do.	144	167	153	160 e	160 e
Refinery gas	do.	20	16	16	15 e	15 e
Total	do.	929	1,170	942	1,000 e	1,000 e
HONDURAS						
Cement	thousand metric tons	1,784	1,800	1,800	1,710	1,700
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	2,561	2,127	2,197	1,893 r	1,858
Lead, mine output, Pb content		12,545	14,471	16,944	16,954	12,400
Silver, mine output, Ag content	kilograms	59,934	57,697	58,158	53,167	50,605
Zinc, mine output, Zn content		28,462	36,370	33,839	26,000	26,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1—Continued
CENTRAL AMERICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES[1]

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity[2]		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
NICARAGUA						
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	2,965	2,590	4,900	6,395	6,981
Gypsum and anhydrite, crude		49,930	37,400	20,330	29,710	34,890
Lime		3,643	3,127	2,065	2,140	2,000 e
Pumice, stone	cubic meters	270	150	950	20	70
Sand, unspecified	thousand cubic meters	250	144	174	266	243
Silver, mine output, Ag content	kilograms	3,440	4,492	6,995	7,927	10,207
Stone:						
Crushed	thousand cubic meters	871	722	743	929	1,084
Quarried, unspecified	thousand metric tons	7,011	6,932	7,452	8,083	9,216
Tuff, volcanic	do.	163	118	134	117	142
PANAMA						
Cement	thousand cubic meters	1,843	1,679	1,700 e	897	1,000 e
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	--	800	870	1,675	2,115
Salt, marine[e]		18,000	16,722 [3]	17,000	17,000	17,000
Stone, sand and gravel[e]		2,300	2,300	1,700	1,800	19,000

[e]Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. [r]Revised. do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero.
[1]Table includes data available through June 30, 2013.
[2]In addition to the commodities listed, additional construction materials, semimanufactures, and refinery products are produced, but available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.
[3]Reported figure.

TABLE 2
CENTRAL AMERICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2012

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity[e]
BELIZE			
Dolomite (agricultural)	Belize Minerals Ltd. (private, 100%)	Punta Gorda, Toledo District	6,320
Limestone	Caribbean Investors Ltd. (private, 100%)	Georgeville, Cayo District	1,140
Petroleum thousand 42-gallon barrels	Belize Natural Energy Ltd. (BNE), 100%	Spanish Lookout and Never Delay, Cayo District	1,000
COSTA RICA			
Cement, limestone, including marl	Holcim Costa Rica S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 59.8%, and other private, 40.2%)	Cartago cement plant, Aguas Calientes	1,200
Do.	CEMEX Costa Rica S.A. (CEMEX S.A.B de C.V., 98.7%, and other private, 1.3%)	Colorado de Abangares cement plant, Guancaste Province, and Guatuso de Patarra cement grinding and bagging plant, San Jose	900
Clays	do.	Tajo Finca clay quarry, near city of Platanar	100
Limestone	do.	Cerro Pena Blanca limestone quarry, Guancaste Province	300
Do.	Holcim Costa Rica S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 59.8%, and other private, 40.2%)	La Chilena and three other quarries near Cartago cement plant, Cartago Province	650
Petroleum, refinery products thousand 42-gallon barrels	Refinadora Costarricense de Petróleo S.A. (RECOPE S.A.) (Government, 100%)	Moín refinery, city of Limon, Limon Province	25,000
Steel, semimanufactures	Laminadora Costarricense S.A. (Mittal Steel Company N.V., 50%, and Grupo Pujol-Martí, 50%)	Rolling mill, steel manufacturing complex, Guapiles, Jimenez de Pococi, Alajuela, y Tibas	450
EL SALVADOR			
Cement	Cemento de El Salvador S.A. de C.V. (Holcim Ltd., 64.25%, and other private, 35.75%)	El Ronco and Maya Plants, near Metapan, Santa Ana Department	1,900
Limestone	do.	Quarries near Aldea El Zapote and Santa Ana, Santa Ana Department	440
Petroleum, refinery products thousand 42-gallon barrels	Refinería Petrolera Acajutla S.A. de C.V. (RASA de C.V.) (Exxon Mobil Corp., 65%, and Royal Dutch/Shell Group, 35%)	Puerto de Acajutla, Sonsonate Department	8,000
Steel:			
Crude	Corporación Industrial Centroamericana S.A. de C.V. (private, 100%)	Electric arc furnace, Quetzaltepeque, La Libertad Department	60
Semimanufactures	do.	Billet casting machine and rolling mill, Quetzaltepeque, La Libertad Department	92
GUATEMALA			
Antimony metric tons	Minas de Guatemala S.A. (private, 100%)	Clavito, La Florida, and Los Lirios Mines, Ixtahuacan, Huehuetenango Department	NA
Cement	Cementos Progreso S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 20%, and other private, 80%)	San Miguel plant, Sanarate, El Progreso Department, and La Pedrera plant, Guatemala City	3,000
Gold kilograms	Goldcorp Inc., 100%	Marlin Mine, near municipalities of San Miguel Ixtahuacan and Sipakapa, San Marcos Department	9,500
Lead, run of mine	Tenango Mining Company S.A., 100%	Caquipec Mine, Alta Verapaz Department	NA
Lime	HORCALSA S.A. (Cementos Progreso S.A., 100%)	San Miguel plant, Sanarate, El Progreso Department	180
Petroleum, crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	Perenco plc, 100%	Rubelsanto and West Chinaja fields, Alta Verapaz Department, and Caribe, Tierra Blanca, and Xan fields, Peten Department	6,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued
CENTRAL AMERICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2012

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity[e]
GUATEMALA—Continued				
Steel:				
Crude		Siderúrgica de Guatemala S.A. (SIDEGUA) {Corporación Aceros de Guatemala S.A. [Corporación Centroamericana del Acero S.A. (Gerdau S.A., 30%, and other private, 70%), 100%], 100%}	Electric arc furnace, near City of Escuintla, Escuintla Department	500
Semimanufactures		Indeta S.A. (INDETA) {Corporación Aceros de Guatemala S.A. [Corporación Centroamericana del Acero S.A. (Gerdau S.A., 30%, and other private, 70%), 100%], 100%}	Rolling mill at Colonia San Ignacio, Mixco, near Guatemala City	250
Do.		Industria Galvanizadora, S.A. (INGASA) (Industrias Monterrey S.A. de C.V., 100%)	Plant near Guatemala City	74
HONDURAS				
Cement		Cementos del Norte S.A. de C.V. (Holcim Ltd., 24.2%, and Inversiones Continental S.A., 75.8%)	Rio Bijao plant, municipality of San Pedro Sula, Cortes Department	1,100
Do.		Lafarge Incehsa S.A. de C.V. (Lafarge Group, 52.8%, and other private, 47.2%)	Piedras Azules plant, municipality of Comayagua, Comayagua Department	1,300
Gold	kilograms	Aura Minerals Inc., 100%	San Andres Mine, municipality of La Union, Copan Department	4,800
Lead	metric tons	Nyrstar NV, 100%	El Mochito Mine, Santa Barbara Department, 90 kilometers south of San Pedro Sula	650
Silver	kilograms	do.	do.	650
Zinc	metric tons	do.	do.	650
NICARAGUA				
Cement		CEMEX Nicaragua S.A. (CEMEX S.A.B de C.V., 100%, but on lease from Government)	San Rafael del Sur plant, 45 kilometers from Managua, and milling plant in Managua	600
Cement, clinker		Holcim de Nicaragua S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 70%, and other private, 30%)	Nagarote grinding plant, San Rafael del Sur	350
Gold	kilograms	B2 Gold Corp., 95%	El Limon Mine, Talavera deposit, 160 kilometers north of Managua	1,400
Do.	do.	B2 Gold Corp., 100%	La Libertad Mine, 110 kilometers east of Managua	540
Petroleum, refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Refinería Esso Managua S.A. (Exxon Mobil Corp., 100%)	Capital city of Managua, 64-kilometer pipeline to the refinery from Puerto Sandino	7,300
PANAMA				
Cement		Cemento Panamá S.A. (Cementos del Caribe S.A., 50%, and Holcim Ltd., 50%)	Grinding plant in Quebrancha, Panama Province	800
Do.		Cemento Bayano S.A. (CEMEX S.A.B de C.V., 99.3%, and other private, 0.7%)	Plant in Calzada Larga, Panama Province	450
Gold	kilograms	Petaquilla Minerals Ltd., 100%	Molejon Mine, Panama Province	1,500

[e]Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.