



2013 Minerals Yearbook

**BENIN, THE GAMBIA, GUINEA-BISSAU, AND
SAO TOME E PRINCIPE**

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF BENIN, THE GAMBIA, GUINEA-BISSAU, AND SAO TOME E PRINCIPE

By Philip M. Mobbs¹

BENIN

Mining did not play an important role in Benin's economy. The country produced mostly industrial minerals, which included cement, clay, limestone, marble, and sand and gravel. Gold was also produced in small quantities by artisanal miners. In 2013, Minergy Metals BVI Ltd., which was a subsidiary of Minergy Resources Ltd. of India, was exploring the Loumbou-Loumbou and the Madekali iron ore deposits. The iron ore deposits have been explored intermittently since the 1940s, most recently by subsidiaries of Earthstone Holdings Ltd. of Indonesia and by Neo Global Trading LLC of Canada. Information on mineral production, with the exception of cement, was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output (tables 1 and 2). Data on cement production are in table 1.

THE GAMBIA

Mining did not play an important role in The Gambia's economy. Mineral output was limited to the intermittent production of industrial minerals, such as clay, ilmenite, silica sand, and zircon, but the available data were inadequate to make reliable estimates of output. In recent years, several international petroleum companies have explored for crude oil offshore. Petroleum exploration was expected to continue in 2014.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Mineral production in Guinea-Bissau was limited to small-scale production of industrial minerals, such as clay, granite,

limestone, and sand and gravel, but available data were not sufficient to estimate the level of output of these commodities. BG Minerals Ltd. of Canada (formerly Plains Creek Phosphate Corp.) continued work on the development of the Farim phosphate rock project, which is located in north-central Guinea-Bissau about 120 kilometers northeast of Bissau.

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE

Mining did not play an important role in Sao Tome e Principe's economy. Mineral production was limited to clay and volcanic rock, but information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output for these commodities. Exploration for petroleum in the Joint Development Zone, which comprised offshore acreage in an area that straddled the maritime border between Nigeria and Sao Tome e Principe, had returned noncommercial results since the initial well was drilled in 2006. The country's other deepwater territory (the Exclusive Economic Zone) remained undrilled (Siebert, 2013).

Reference Cited

Siebert, Gerhard, 2013, São Tomé e Príncipe—The end of the oil dream?: Portuguese Institute of International Relations and Security IPRIS Viewpoints, no. 134, September, 3 p. (Accessed January 4, 2015, at <http://www.ipris.org/php/download.php?fid=777>.)

¹Deceased.

TABLE 1
 BENIN: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cement, hydraulic	1,315	1,305	1,460	1,390	1,422

¹Table includes data available through January 12, 2015.

²In addition to the commodity listed, clay, gold, limestone, marble, and sand and gravel were produced, but available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

TABLE 2
 BENIN: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2013

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Cement	Cimbenin S.A. (HeidelbergCement AG, 52.51%, through its subsidiary Scancem International SA)	Cotonou plant	300,000
Do.	Onigbolo Cement Co. (OCC) (Dangote Industries Ltd., 43%, and Société des Ciments du Benin, 51%)	Onigbolo plant	600,000
Do.	Société des Ciments du Benin (Government, 50%, and LaFarge Group, 50%)	do.	700,000

Do., do. Ditto.