



2013 Minerals Yearbook

GUINEA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF GUINEA

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In 2013, Guinea was estimated to be among the world's top five producers of bauxite and to account for nearly 7% of world bauxite output. Bauxite also accounted for 96% of the country's total exports in 2013. In addition to bauxite, Guinea also produced alumina, cement, diamond, and gold. Although the country also produced iron ore, salt, and modest quantities of crude construction materials, such as clay, gravel, sand, and stone, information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output for 2013 (Bray, 2014, p. 27; Institut National de la Statistique, 2014, p. 166).

Bauxite in Guinea was produced from the Debele, Friguia, and the Sangaredi Mines located in the northern part of the country. Cement was manufactured in the capital city of Conakry, diamond was produced throughout the country by artisanal miners in more than 10 prefectures, and gold was produced from the Kiniero, the Lefa, and the Siguiiri open pit mines in the northern and northeastern parts of the country. The Friguia alumina refinery, which was closed temporarily in April 2012 as a result of a dispute over wages between the country's trade unions and United Company RUSAL plc, remained closed in 2013 (United Company RUSAL plc, 2014, p. 15, 34).

In December, Semafo Inc. of Canada placed the Kiniero Mine on care-and-maintenance status as it sought potential buyers to acquire its interest in the mine. The Kiniero Mine produced 569 kilograms (kg) of gold in 2013. Gold production at the Lefa Mine decreased by 5.4% to 5,061 kg owing to the recovery of lower ore grades. Netherlands-based Nordgold N.V., which was the operator of the mine, planned to conduct an infill drilling program at the Lefa Mine in 2014, and invest about \$4.6 million in exploration. The Lefa Mine employed a total of 1,852 people in 2013. The Siguiiri Mine produced 9,798 kg of gold during the year and employed 3,674 people (AngloGold Ashanti Ltd., 2014; Nordgold N.V., 2014, p. 18, 46–47, 64, 127, 189; Semafo Inc., 2014, p. 20).

Iron ore projects pending development included the Simandou North (Blocks 1 and 2), the Simandou South (Blocks 3 and 4), the Simandou South (Zogota), the Forécariah, and the Kalia projects. In February, the Government approved a social and environmental impact assessment for the Simandou South (Blocks 3 and 4) project. An investment framework for the project was expected to be completed by the first half of 2014 (Rio Tinto plc, 2014, p. 31). The development of the Simandou South (Zogota) and the Simandou North (Blocks 1 and 2) projects remained on hold pending the resolution of a mining rights dispute between the Government and joint-venture partners BSG Resources Ltd. of the United Kingdom and Vale S.A. of Brazil (Bain, 2013).

Bellzone Mining plc. of the United Kingdom, which had announced its first preproduction of iron ore from the

Forécariah Mine in December 2012, reported that it would not proceed with further development of the mine in 2013. The company announced that it would instead shift its priorities to the development of its other iron ore asset in Guinea, the Kalia project, which it deemed had better prospects for development given the recent decrease in the international price of iron ore. A bankable feasibility study for the Kalia project was completed in September. The study yielded an updated Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) reserve estimate for the Kalia project of 59.8 million metric tons (Mt) at 54.1% iron and estimated resources (inclusive of the 59.8 Mt of reserves) of 124.2 Mt at 53.5% iron. The development plan for Kalia envisioned the construction of a mine with the capacity to produce about 7 million metric tons per year of iron ore at a grade of 58% iron. Capital costs were estimated to be \$865 million (Bellzone Mining plc, 2014, p. 3–4).

Table 1 provides data on the principal mineral commodities produced in Guinea from 2009 to 2013, and table 2 provides a list of major mineral industry facilities in 2013. More-extensive coverage of the mineral sector of Guinea can be found in the 2011 and 2012 U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—Africa and the Middle East (available on the Internet at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country/>).

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TABLE 1
GUINEA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Alumina	530	597	574	150	--
Bauxite:					
Mine production:					
Wet basis ³	15,600	17,633	17,440 ^r	17,823	18,763
Dry basis ^{e,4}	14,000 ^r	15,900 ^r	15,700 ^r	16,000 ^r	16,900
Shipments (dry basis), metallurgical ⁵	13,900	15,600	15,600	17,900 ^r	18,500
Cement	298 ⁶	237 ⁶	365 ^{r,7}	317 ⁷	377 ⁷
Diamond ⁸ carats	696,731 ^r	374,096 ^r	303,785 ^r	266,800 ^r	202,365
Gold, mine output, Au content ⁹ kilograms	18,091	15,217	15,695	14,790	15,428

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through December 30, 2014.

²In addition to the commodities listed, Guinea produced modest quantities of crude construction materials (clay, gravel, sand, and stone), iron ore, and salt, but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Metallurgical ore estimated to be 13% water.

⁴Data are for wet-basis ore estimated to be 13% water reduced to dry basis estimated to be 7% water.

⁵Data are for shipments of bauxite ore as reported by importing countries.

⁶Reported figure by the Banque Centrale, Ministères du Plan, de l'Économie et des Finances.

⁷Reported figure by the Institut National de la Statistique.

⁸Production is approximately 70% to 80% gem quality. Includes artisanal production.

⁹Does not include artisanal gold mining production, which has historically ranged between 1,500 and 5,000 kilograms per year.

TABLE 2
GUINEA: 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
Alumina	Alumina Company of Guinea Ltd. (ACG) (United Company RUSAL plc, 100%)	Friguia refinery, Fria	650,000
Bauxite	Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée S.A. (CBG) [Halco Mining Inc. (Alcoa Inc., 45%; Rio Tinto plc, 45%; and Dadco Group, 10%) through Boké Investment Company, 51%, and Government, 49%]	Sangaredi Mine, Kamsar	14,000,000
Do.	Compagnie des Bauxites de Kindia S.A. (CBK) (United Company RUSAL plc, 100%)	Debele Mine, Kindia	3,300,000
Do.	Alumina Company of Guinea Ltd. (United Company RUSAL plc, 100%)	Friguia Mine, Fria	2,100,000
Cement	Ciments de Guinée S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 60%, and Government, 40%)	Conakry grinding plant, 35 kilometers from Conakry Port	600,000
Do.	Ciments d'Afrique (CIMAF)	Dubrèka industrial zone, 40 kilometers from Conakry	500,000
Diamond carats	Association pour la Recherche et l'Exploitation du Diamant et de l'Or (Batax Bouna International Mining Corp.)	Aredor Mine	38,000
Do. do.	Artisanal miners	Mainly in Banankoro	NA
Gold kilograms	Société Ashanti de Guinée (AngloGold Ashanti Ltd., 85%, and Government, 15%)	Siguiri Mine, 850 kilometers northeast of Conakry	10,300
Do. do.	Société Minière de Dinguiraye S.A. (Nordgold N.V., 85%, and Government, 15%)	Lefa (Lero-Karta) Mine, 700 kilometers northeast of Conakry	6,100
Do. do.	Semafo Guinée S.A. (Semafo Inc., 85%, and Government, 15%)	Kiniero Mine, 650 kilometers east of Conakry	1,250
Iron ore	Forécariah Guinea Mining S.A. (Bellzone Mining plc, 42.5%; China International Fund Ltd., 42.5%; Government, 15%)	Forécariah Mine, 160 kilometers southeast of Conakry	1,000

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.