



# 2013 Minerals Yearbook

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**SOMALIA [ADVANCE RELEASE]**

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF SOMALIA

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Somalia, which is an East African country located on the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, produced small quantities of gemstones, granite, marble, niobium (columbium), salt, sand, sandstone, and tantalum in recent years. The mineral industry made only a small contribution to Somalia's exports and economy in general. The country also holds deposits of feldspar, iron ore, kaolin, limestone, natural gas, quartz, silica sand, tin, and uranium, based on previous exploration activity.

Somalia enacted a new constitution and held elections in 2012; however, the civil war continued in Somalia in 2013. Military forces of the African Union and those of the Governments of Kenya and Somalia engaged in combat with the Al-Shabab militia, especially in the southern part of the country. In mid-2013, clan-based militias also engaged in combat with each other in Kismayu in Lower Juba Province (Kron, 2013; Kulish, 2013).

In 2013, the Government declared that petroleum licenses issued by the self-declared Republic of Somaliland (which maintains a separate regional governing authority) and the self-declared semiautonomous Puntland State in northern Somalia were invalid. The governing authority of Puntland announced its support for existing petroleum production-sharing agreements within its claimed boundaries. Khatumo State in northern Somalia also claimed to be semiautonomous. Somaliland's declaration of independence in 1991 and Puntland's and Khatumo's declarations of autonomy in 1998 and 2012, respectively, were not internationally recognized (Addis Fortune, 2013; Puntland Petroleum and Minerals Agency, 2013).

## Production

Mineral production data have continued to be unavailable because of the lack of a fully functioning central Government since 1991 and the armed conflict that pervaded most of the country. In 2008, niobium and tantalum mining operations in Somaliland by Green African Development AB of Sweden started; it is unclear if production continued after a labor dispute in April 2009 (Indian Ocean Newsletter, 2009).

## Structure of the Mineral Industry

Berbera Marble & Granite Factory produced granite, marble, and sandstone. Gemstone-mining and salt-mining operations in Somaliland appeared to be artisanal or small scale in nature.

## Commodity Review

### *Industrial Minerals*

**Cement.**—In 2012, plans by Dahabshiil of the United Arab Emirates and TeleSom Co. (a local company) to restart the

country's only cement plant at Berbera in Somaliland were halted by local opposition. National cement consumption was estimated to be about 250,000 metric tons in 2012 (the latest year for which data were available) (International Cement Review, 2013).

### *Mineral Fuels*

**Natural Gas and Petroleum.**—Horn Petroleum Corp. of Canada and its joint-venture partners Range Resources Ltd. of Australia and Red Emperor Resources NL of Australia held the Dharoor Valley and the Nugaal Valley onshore blocks in Puntland. At the end of 2013, the companies planned to engage in a seismic surveying and drilling program through the end of 2014 or mid-2015 (Range Resources Ltd., 2014).

Genel Energy plc of the United Kingdom had a joint-venture agreement with East Africa Resource Group to explore Blocks SL-10B and SL-13 and a joint-venture agreement with Sterling Energy plc of the United Kingdom and Petrosoma to explore Blocks SL-6, SL-7, and SL-10A. In September 2013, Genel temporarily suspended operations because of problems with security. At yearend, Genel was in negotiations with the governing authority of Somaliland regarding the resumption of exploration. Other companies exploring in Somaliland included DNO International ASA of Norway and RAK Gas LLC of the United Arab Emirates (Harvey, 2013; Genel Energy plc, 2014).

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