



# 2013 Minerals Yearbook

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**BURKINA FASO [ADVANCE RELEASE]**

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF BURKINA FASO

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Gold continued to be Burkina Faso's most valuable mineral commodity in terms of its contribution to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and to Government revenues. In 2013, the country ranked fifth among Africa's leading gold producers. The International Monetary Fund estimated that gold production from six of the country's seven industrial gold mines, together with production from small-scale and artisanal gold miners, accounted for about 71% of the country's total exports by value in 2013 and for about 16% of Government revenues. Artisanal gold production, however, was thought to be underreported. Mining taxes and royalties from industrial gold mining operations accounted for about 65% of reported Government revenues. The mineral sector as a whole, however, accounted for only 4.3% of the GDP in 2013 (International Monetary Fund, 2014, p. 4, 22–23, 26).

Other mineral commodities produced in the country included cement, lead, manganese, silver, and zinc. Industrial minerals, such as dolomite, granite, marble, phosphate rock, salt, and sand and gravel, were also produced, but information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output. Burkina Faso was a participant in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and has been compliant with EITI standards since it became a candidate country in 2009 (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, 2014).

The draft of a new mining code was pending Government approval. The Burkina Faso Chamber of Mines reported that the decrease in the international price of gold had caused a slowdown in gold exploration activities in the country in 2013, as companies struggled to secure funding for mining projects. Gold output, however, increased by 13%, mostly as a result of the commissioning of the Bissa Mine, which began production on January 17. The Bissa Mine produced about 7,900 kilograms of gold during the year. The Perkoa zinc mine was also commissioned in January and, in October, the first shipment of zinc concentrate was transported by truck from the mine to

the Port of Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire from where it was then exported. The Perkoa Mine's joint-venture partners, Blackthorn Resources Ltd. of Australia and GlencoreXstrata plc. of Switzerland, were in the process of securing additional funding for further development of the mine. About 32,200 metric tons of zinc was produced at the Perkoa Mine in 2013 (Blackthorn Resources Ltd., 2013; Chambre des Mines du Burkina, 2014, p. 6; Nord Gold N.V., 2014, p. 7).

Table 1 provides data on the principal mineral commodities produced in Burkina Faso 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 Burkina Faso can be found in the 2011 and 2012 U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—Africa and the Middle East, which are available at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country/>.

## References Cited

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TABLE 1  
BURKINA FASO: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity <sup>2</sup>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cement	563,406	587,014	590,000 <sup>e</sup>	658,595 <sup>f</sup>	579,928
Gold <sup>3</sup>	11,581	22,939	31,774	28,939 <sup>f</sup>	32,714
Lead:					
Pb concentrate produced from ore (45% Pb)	--	--	--	--	2,236
Pb content of concentrate	--	--	--	--	1,017
Manganese:					
Ore, processed	--	57,355	49,715	50,000 <sup>e</sup>	50,000 <sup>e</sup>
Mn content <sup>e</sup>	--	25,800	22,400	24,800 <sup>f</sup>	22,500
Silver, Ag content of Pb concentrate	--	--	--	--	14,541
Zinc:					
Zn concentrate produced from ore (50% to 51% Zn)	--	--	--	--	63,648
Zn content of concentrate	--	--	--	--	32,215

<sup>e</sup>Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. <sup>f</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through January 29, 2015.

<sup>2</sup>In addition to the commodities listed, dolomite, granite, marble, phosphate rock, salt, sand and gravel and other construction materials are produced, but information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

<sup>3</sup>Does not include production from artisanal mining, which is estimated to be between 1,000 and 10,000 kilograms per year.

TABLE 2  
BURKINA FASO: 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	Diamond Cement Burkina S.A. (West African Cement S.A.)	Ouagadougou	700,000.
Gold	kilograms Société des Mines de Bélahouro S.A. (Avocet Mining plc, 90%, and Government, 10%)	Inata Mine, 220 kilometers north of Ouagadougou	5,200.
Do.	do. Burkina Mining Company S.A. (Endeavour Mining Corp., 90%, and Government, 10%)	Youga Mine, 180 kilometers southeast of Ouagadougou	3,100.
Do.	do. Essakane S.A. (IAMGOLD Corp., 90%, and Government, 10%)	Essakane Mine, 330 kilometers northeast of Ouagadougou	9,800.
Do.	do. Kalsaka Mining S.A. (Amara Mining plc, 78%; IMARB Indústria Metalúrgica, 12%; Government, 10%)	Kalsaka-Sega Mine, 150 kilometers west of Ouagadougou	2,300.
Do.	do. Semafo Burkina Faso S.A. (Semafo Inc., 90%, and Government, 10%)	Mana Mine, 200 kilometers west of Ouagadougou	5,900.
Do.	do. Société des Mines de Taparko S.A. (Nord Gold N.V., 90%, and Government, 10%)	Taparko-Boroum Mine, 200 kilometers northeast of Ouagadougou	4,100.
Do.	do. Bissa Gold S.A. (Nord Gold N.V., 90%, and Government, 10%)	Bissa Mine, 85 kilometers north of Ouagadougou	8,000.
Do.	do. Pinsapo Gold S.A. (Pinsapo Group AG)	Sassa-1 small-scale mine, Passore Province	NA.
Lead	GlencoreXstrata plc, 62.7%; Blackthorn Resources Ltd., 27.3%; Government, 10%	Perkoa Mine, 120 kilometers west of Ouagadougou	1,100.
Manganese	ACM Corp. (Burkina Manganèse S.A., 100%)	Kiere Mine, 10 kilometers northeast of Bobo-Dioulasso	60,000 ore.
Silver	kilograms GlencoreXstrata plc, 62.7%; Blackthorn Resources Ltd., 27.3%; Government, 10%	Perkoa Mine, 120 kilometers west of Ouagadougou	15,000.
Zinc	do.	do.	32,300.

Do., do. Ditto. NA, Not available.