



2013 Minerals Yearbook

NAMIBIA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF NAMIBIA

By Omayra Bermúdez-Lugo

The diamond sector continued to be a significant contributor to Namibia's economy. In 2013, although Namibia accounted for less than 2% of world rough diamond production by weight (carats), it ranked number one in terms of the value per unit weight in dollars per carat. The average value of Namibia's diamond was about \$805 per carat; this value was nearly \$220 more than the value per unit weight of diamond from Lesotho, which was the world's second-ranked diamond producer by value per unit weight in 2013. Namibia's total diamond exports were valued at \$1 billion in 2013. The country was also the world's fifth-ranked producer of uranium, accounting for about 7.3% of world output in 2013. Metals produced in Namibia included arsenic, copper, gold, lead, manganese, silver, and zinc concentrates. In addition to diamond, other industrial minerals produced in the country included cement, dolomite, fluorspar, granite, marble, salt, semiprecious stones, and wollastonite (Kimberley Process Rough Diamond Statistics, 2014; World Nuclear Association, 2014).

The Namibian economy was estimated to have grown by 5.1% in 2013. This was partly attributed to an increase in construction projects in the mineral sector led by private industry and to an increase in diamond output, although improved performance in nonmineral-related sectors of the economy was also reported as a contributing factor. Namibia's mineral sector contribution to gross domestic product, as reported by the Namibia Statistics Agency, was estimated to be 13% in 2013. In terms of real value added, the mineral sector as a whole increased by an estimated 0.6% compared with 25.1% in 2012. The sector's decrease in performance resulted from lower output by most of Namibia's mineral producers, with the exception of cement, lead concentrates, and diamond (table 1; Namibia Statistics Agency, 2014, p. 12, 15, 22).

Cement output increased by about 32% to 662,000 metric tons (t) and lead concentrate by 17% to 20,551 t. Diamond production, as reported by the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, increased by about 4% to nearly 1.7 million carats. Production of copper concentrates decreased by about 10% to 20,646 t containing 4,896 t of copper. The decrease in the production of copper concentrates was attributed to the temporary shutdown of the Matchless Mine and to problems with ground subsidence at the Otjihase Mine, which impeded the recovery of ore from the affected area. The Matchless Mine was temporarily shut down in April 2013 as a result of a safety audit of the mine's electrical facilities following the death of a mining contractor at the facility in March (Chamber of Mines of Namibia, 2014, p. 6, 62; Kimberley Process Rough Diamond Statistics, 2014; Weatherly International plc, 2014, p. 6, 9).

Gold production decreased by 14.9% to 1,960 kilograms, mostly as a result of the mining of lower grade ore; production of zinc in concentrate and zinc metal decreased by 5.3% and 14%, respectively, owing to the mining of lower grade ore at the

Skorpion zinc mine and to the unplanned maintenance shutdown of the Namzinc refinery. Estimated fluorspar production data were based on trade information. The latest reported data available for dolomite, granite, and marble output were for 2011. Production data for semiprecious stones and wollastonite were inadequate to make reliable estimates of output. Data on mineral production are in table 1 (AngloGold Ashanti Ltd., 2014, p. 68; Vedanta Resources plc, 2014, p. 53).

Mineral development projects underway included United Kingdom-based Weatherly International plc's 17,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) copper cathode Tschudi project; Canada-based B2Gold Corp.'s 3,300- to 4,400-kilogram-per-year Otjikoto gold mine, which was on schedule to be commissioned during the fourth quarter of 2014; Canada-based Dundee Precious Metals Inc.'s 340,000-t/yr sulfuric acid plant; and Namibia-based Swakop Uranium's Husab uranium mine. Weatherly invested \$2.7 million in 2013 to complete a feasibility study for the Tschudi project. The company also secured full funding for the development of the project through the signing of a \$91 million loan to be provided by Orion Mine Finance Fund I on September 19. Kombat Copper Inc. of Canada continued with its plans to reopen the Kombat copper mine, which was closed in 2008 as a result of problems with flooding caused by the irregular supply of electricity to the processing plant. The company planned to complete a preliminary economic assessment of the project during the first half of 2014 (B2Gold Corp., 2013; Dundee Precious Metals Inc., 2013; Kombat Copper Inc., 2014, p. 5; Weatherly International plc, 2014, p. 4, 68).

The total number of people employed in mining in Namibia in 2013, including temporary employees and full-time contractors, was 16,709. About 23% of the 7,126 people permanently employed in the mineral sector worked for Namdeb Holdings (Pty.) Ltd., 16% for Rössing Uranium Ltd., and 10% for Skorpion Mining Co. (Pty.) Ltd. and Namzinc (Pty.) Ltd. (Chamber of Mines of Namibia, 2014, p. 11–12, 86–87).

Table 1 provides data on the principal mineral commodities produced in Namibia from 2009 to 2013, and table 2 provides a list of major mineral industry facilities in 2013. More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Namibia 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/africa.html#na>).

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TABLE 1
NAMIBIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
METALS					
Arsenic, white, 99% arsenic trioxide ^c	860	1,280	1,750	1,590	1,520
Copper:					
Mine output, concentrate (26%–30% Cu):					
Gross weight	--	--	13,553	23,032	20,646
Cu content	--	--	3,366	5,304	4,896
Metal blister, from domestic and imported concentrates	21,543	31,900	43,800	39,800	38,100
Gold, Au content of mine output ³ kilograms	2,022	2,675	2,053	2,302	1,960
Lead, mine output, concentrate:					
Gross weight	20,258	19,202	15,776	17,557	20,551
Pb content of Pb and Pb-Zn concentrates	10,129	10,301	9,139	10,000 ^{r, e}	11,000 ^e
Manganese, mine output, concentrate (44% Mn):					
Gross weight ⁴	62,100	104,300	109,900	176,200	174,400
Mn content ^c	27,300	45,900	48,400	77,500	76,100
Silver:					
Mine output, Ag content of concentrates ^e kilograms	43,500 ^r	44,700 ^r	44,300 ^r	47,000 ^r	45,100
Metal, refined, primary ^{e, 5} do.	11,800	17,500	24,100	21,900	21,000
Zinc:					
Zn content of ore and concentrates (52% Zn)	197,400 ^r	204,229 ^r	192,173 ^r	194,380 ^r	184,109
Metal, refined, primary	150,400	151,688	145,639	145,342	124,924
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement, hydraulic thousand metric tons	--	5 ^e	390	501	662
Diamond ⁶ thousand carats	1,192	1,693	1,256	1,629	1,689
Fluorspar, acid grade (97% CaF ₂) ⁷	73,580	95,092	84,480	67,500 ^e	61,400 ^e
Salt	807,348	770,636	738,000	725,000	717,612
Stone:					
Dolomite	27,000 ^e	33,822	33,800	34,000 ^e	34,000 ^e
Granite	34,869	10,742	15,312	15,000 ^e	15,000 ^e
Marble	11,008	8,584	9,330	9,000 ^e	9,000 ^e
Sulfur, pyrite concentrate:					
Gross weight (49% to 51% S)	--	--	-- ^r	-- ^r	--
S content	--	--	-- ^r	-- ^r	--
Uranium oxide, U content	4,626	4,496	3,258	4,495	4,323

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1—Continued
NAMIBIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

⁶Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. ¹Revised. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through December 30, 2014.

²In addition to the commodities listed, Namibia produced semiprecious stones such as agate, aquamarine, amethyst, basalt, blue chalcedony, lead dusts, picture stone, pietersite, rose quartz, sand and gravel, sepiolite, smokey quartz, topaz, tourmaline, and wollastonite but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Excludes gold recovered as a byproduct of copper mining.

⁴Reported by the International Manganese Institute.

⁵Includes products of imported concentrate.

⁶Reported by the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

⁷Production data prior to 2011 were for acid grade. Beginning in 2011, data include an unspecified amount of metallurgical grade fluorspar. Data are reported in dry metric tons.

TABLE 2
NAMIBIA: 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
Arsenic	Namibia Custom Smelters (Pty.) Ltd. (Dundee Precious Metals Inc., 100%)		Smelter at Tsumeb, 430 kilometers north of Windhoek	2,000
Cement	Ohorongo Cement (Pty) Ltd. (Schwenk Zement KG, 60%; Industrial Development Corp., 20%; Bank of Namibia, 10%)		Otjozondjupa region, near Otavi	700,000
Copper:				
Copper concentrates	Ongopolo Mining Ltd. (Weatherly International plc, 97.5%, and Labour Investment Holdings, 2.5%)		Central operations, includes the Otjihase Mine and concentrator, about 30 kilometers north of Windhoek; and the Matchless Mine, 80 kilometers southwest of the Otjihase Mine	7,000,000
Metal, blister copper	Namibia Custom Smelters (Pty.) Ltd. (Dundee Precious Metals Inc., 100%)		Smelter at Tsumeb, 430 kilometers north of Windhoek	60,000
Diamond	carats	Namdeb Holdings (Pty) Ltd. (NHPL) (De Beers UK Ltd., 50%, and the Government, 50%)	Atlantic 1 license area, offshore Sperrgebiet	1,200,000
Do.	do.	do.	Mining Area 1, from Orange River to 145 kilometers north of Oranjemund; includes Pocket Beaches	252,000
Do.	do.	do.	Northern Areas and Elizabeth Bay Mines, 24 kilometers south of Luderitz	210,000
Do.	do.	do.	Orange River Mines, from mouth of Orange River east to Sendelingsdrif; includes the Auchas and the Daberas Mines	76,000
Do.	do.	do.	Alluvial contractors	22,000
Do.	do.	Sakawe Mining Corp. (Samicor) (LL Mining Corp., 76%, and Government, 8%)	Offshore mining licenses, near Luderitz Bay	260,000
Fluorspar, acid grade	Okorusu Fluorspar (Pty.) Ltd. (Solvay Fluor GmbH, 100%)		Mine and plant at Okorusu	120,000
Gold:				
Ore	AngloGold Ashanti Ltd.		Navachab Mine, 170 kilometers northwest of Windhoek	1,440,000
Metal	kilograms	Namibia Custom Smelters (Pty.) Ltd. (Dundee Precious Metals Inc., 100%)	Coproduct contained in blister copper produced at the copper smelter at Tsumeb	400
Lead, Pb content of concentrate	Rosh Pinah Zinc Corporation (Pty.) Ltd. (GlencoreXstrata plc, 80%)		Rosh Pinah Mine, near Rosh Pinah	20,000
Manganese	Otjozondju Mining (Shaw River Manganese Ltd., 100%)		Otjozondju Mine, 150 kilometers northeast of Windhoek	120,000
Pyrite, concentrate	Weatherly Mining Namibia Ltd. (Weatherly International plc, 100%)		Otjihase Mine and concentrator, near Tsumeb	32,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued
 NAMIBIA: 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
Salt	Cape Cross Salt (Pty.) Ltd.	North of Henties Bay	40,000
Do.	Salt & Chemicals (Pty.) Ltd. [Walvis Bay Salt Holdings (Pty.) Ltd., 100%]	Salt pan at Walvis Bay	670,000
Do.	Salt Company (Pty.) Ltd.	Swakopmund	120,000
Do.	Walvis Bay Salt Refiners (Pty.) Ltd. [Walvis Bay Salt Holdings (Pty.) Ltd., 100%]	Salt refinery at Walvis Bay	650,000
Silver:			
Concentrate, Ag content	Rosh Pinah Zinc Corporation (Pty.) Ltd. (GlencoreXstrata plc., 80.1%)	Rosh Pinah Mine, near Rosh Pinah	25
Metal	Namibia Custom Smelters (Pty.) Ltd. (Dundee Precious Metals Inc., 100%)	Joint product contained in blister copper produced at the copper smelter at Tsumeb	25
Uranium, uranium oxide	Langer Heinrich Uranium (Pty.) Ltd. (Paladin Energy Ltd., 100%)	Langer Heinrich Mine. 80 kilometers east of Walvis Bay	2,400
Do.	Rössing Uranium Ltd. (Rio Tinto Group, 69%; Government of Iran, 15%; Industrial Development Corp. of South Africa Ltd., 10%; Government of Namibia, 3%; other minority shareholders, 3%)	Rössing Mine, 65 kilometers northeast of Swakopmund	4,800
Wollastonite	Namibia Mineral Development Co. (Pty.) Ltd.	Usakos Mine	800
Zinc:			
Mine:			
Concentrate, Zn content	Rosh Pinah Zinc Corporation (Pty.) Ltd. (GlencoreXstrata plc., 80.1%)	Rosh Pinah Mine, near Rosh Pinah	110,000
Ore	Skorpion Zinc (Pty.) Ltd. (Vedanta Resources plc, 100%)	Skorpion Mine, 25 kilometers north of Rosh Pinah	1,500,000
Metal	Namzinc (Pty.) Ltd. (Vedanta Resources plc, 100%)	Skorpion solvent extraction facilities and electrowinning refinery, 25 kilometers north of Rosh Pinah	150,000

Do., do. Ditto.