



2014 Minerals Yearbook

CENTRAL AMERICA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND PANAMA

By Susan Wacaster

The rate of growth of the Central America region's real gross domestic product (GDP) was about 4% in 2014. The rate of growth of the region's GDP had been decreasing since 2011 owing in large part to decreased capital investment and external demand; private consumption, on the other hand, remained stable and was the largest component of aggregate demand for the region in 2014. The nominal per capita GDP was the greatest in Costa Rica (\$10,388) followed by Panama (\$10,387), Belize (\$4,826), El Salvador (\$4,012), Guatemala (\$3,663), Honduras (\$2,456), and Nicaragua (\$1,962) (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015; Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana, 2015, p. 16).

The year-on-year rate of growth in the value of exported goods from Central America increased modestly in 2014 to 1.4% from -1.8% in 2013, but remained significantly lower than the rate of growth in 2011 and 2012, which was about 7% and 20%, respectively. In 2014, the value of exported goods from the countries of Central America amounted to \$30.2 billion, of which \$9 billion, or about 30%, was accounted for by interregional trade. The United States was the leading recipient of exported goods from Central America in 2014, accounting for 45.8% of the total. The second-ranked recipient of exported goods (by value) was the European Union (19.2%). Others that received the most exports from the Central America region were Mexico (3.8%), Venezuela (2.7%), and China (2.6%) (Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana, 2015, p. 32).

With the exception of 2002, 2009, and 2014, the value of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to Central America increased each year since 2000. In 2014, FDI to Central America decreased by 1.4% compared with that of 2013. Inward FDI to Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole decreased by 16% in 2014 owing to weak economic growth in some countries with advanced economies and decreased international export prices for some raw materials that are produced in the region. As a percentage of the GDP, the FDI received by El Salvador and Honduras increased slightly compared with that of 2013 (by 0.4% and 0.1%, respectively); the percentage remained constant in Guatemala and decreased in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama (by 1.2%, 0.4%, and 0.1%, respectively) (Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana, 2015, p. 38–40).

Since at least 1990, the mineral sector in all countries of Central America had accounted for 3% or less per year of each country's GDP in real terms. Guatemala was the leading country in the region in terms of the cumulative value of its mineral sector activity since 1990, followed by Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Belize. In 2014, Guatemala was the leading country in Central America in terms of the value of its mineral sector, followed by Panama,

Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Belize (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015).

References Cited

- Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015, CEPALSTAT database—Estadísticas e indicadores—Económicos—Sector real—Cuentas nacionales—Anuales—En dólares [Statistics and indicators—Economy—Real sector—National accounts—Annual—In dollars]: United Nations. (Accessed November 1, 2014, at http://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/web_cepalstat/estadisticasIndicadores.asp?idioma=s.)
- Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana, 2015, Informe económico regional 2014 [Regional economic report 2014]: Guatemala City, Guatemala, Dirección de Inteligencia Económica, September, 64 p.

BELIZE

Belize was not a globally or regionally significant mineral-producing country in 2014, nor was it prospective for mineral commodity production. The country's real GDP growth rate more than doubled in 2014 to 3.4% compared with a revised 1.5% in 2013, but was less than the revised 3.8% rate of growth in 2012. The rate of change in the growth of the country's real GDP had remained positive and oscillated biennially between greater and lesser rates of growth since 2004, although the reason for that regular variation was not obvious. The increased rate of economic growth in 2014 was owing to increased output and exports of agricultural products and increased levels of merchandise sales and tourism that offset decreases in the construction and petroleum industries. Mining and quarrying accounted for 0.4% to 0.5% of the country's nominal GDP every year from 1996 through 2013 and accounted for 0.5% in 2014 (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015).

Belize Natural Energy Ltd.'s annual petroleum production volume, which had been in decline since 2010, decreased by about 20% in 2014 compared with that of 2013 to 642,432 barrels. Production from the Never Delay oilfield decreased by 53% to 2,624 barrels per day in 2014, and operations were suspended indefinitely. The average daily rate of production at the Spanish Lookout oilfield decreased by 18.7% to 1,753 barrels. After 9 years of commercial production, further investment at both oilfields was halted indefinitely owing to declining prices for crude petroleum (Central Bank of Belize, 2015, p. 32).

References Cited

- Central Bank of Belize, 2015, 2014 Annual report and statement of accounts: Belize City, Belize, Central Bank of Belize, 133 p.

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015, CEPALSTAT database—Estadísticas e Indicadores—Económicos—Sector real—Cuentas nacionales—Anuales—En dólares [Statistics and indicators—Economy—Real sector—National accounts—Annual—In dollars]: United Nations. (Accessed December 19, 2015, at http://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/web_cepalstat/estadisticasIndicadores.asp?idioma=s.)

COSTA RICA

The rate of growth of Costa Rica's real GDP increased by 3.5% in 2014, and mining and quarrying continued to be insignificant to the national economy. In 2014, the value contributed to the nominal GDP by mining and quarrying was about \$65 million, accounting for 0.1% of the total GDP. In 2014, Costa Rica imported about \$2.1 billion worth of unspecified hydrocarbon products, which was a 3.5% decrease compared with that of 2013, and \$4.2 billion worth of other unspecified raw materials. Artisanal production of gold was estimated to have amounted to about 1 metric ton (t) in 2014 (Banco Central de Costa Rica, 2015, p. 37; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015a, b).

References Cited

- Banco Central de Costa Rica, 2015, Memoria anual [Annual report] 2014: San Jose, Costa Rica, Banco Central de Costa Rica, 79 p.
- Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015a, CEPALSTAT database—Estadísticas e indicadores—Económicos—Sector real—Cuentas nacionales—Anuales—En dólares [Statistics and indicators—Economy—Real sector—National accounts—Annual—In dollars]: United Nations. (Accessed December 19, 2015, at http://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/web_cepalstat/estadisticasIndicadores.asp?idioma=s.)
- Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015b, Costa Rica—Perfil nacional económico [Costa Rica—National economic profile]: United Nations. (Accessed December 19, 2015, at http://interwp.cepal.org/cepalstat/Perfil_Nacional_Economico.html?pais=CRI&idioma=spanish.)

EL SALVADOR

In 2014, the rate of growth of El Salvador's real GDP was 2% compared with 1.7% in 2013. The estimated value of production from mines and quarries was \$69.9 million, which accounted for about 0.3% of the nominal GDP in 2014. Strong opposition to mining persisted in El Salvador in 2014, and the Government maintained its unofficial ban on mining, which had prevented any new mining permits from being issued in the country since 2008. Oceana Gold Corp. (previously Pacific Rim Mining Corp.) brought a legal suit against the Government of El Salvador in 2009 seeking a \$300 million award because the company had been unable to continue work at its El Dorado gold mine project for which it had completed exploration and submitted an application for a mining permit. The case was still in arbitration in 2014 (Westervelt, 2015; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015).

References Cited

- Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015, El Salvador—Perfil nacional económico: United Nations. (Accessed December 19, 2015, at http://interwp.cepal.org/cepalstat/Perfil_Nacional_Economico.html?pais=SLV&idioma=spanish.)
- Westervelt, Amy, 2015, Lawsuit against El Salvador mining ban highlights free trade pitfalls: The Guardian (U.S. edition) [New York, New York]. (Accessed December 17, 2015, at <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/may/27/pacific-rim-lawsuit-el-salvador-mine-gold-free-trade>.)

GUATEMALA

In 2014, the nominal GDP of Guatemala was about \$58.8 billion, and the rate of growth of the GDP in real terms was 4.2%. The real GDP rate of growth, owing in large part to mine production and high international commodity prices, had reached its maximum (since at least 1990) of 6.3% in 2007 but decreased to its minimum (since 1990) of -1.9% during the global economic downturn in 2009. Since 2010, the real GDP rate of growth ranged between 2.9% and 4.2%. Mining and quarrying activities (including production of crude petroleum and natural gas) accounted for 2.2% of the nominal GDP in 2014. In 2014, 97% of the value of mine production in Guatemala was accounted for by the production of metallic minerals (\$754.7 million),¹ and the rest, by nonmetallic minerals (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015; Dirección General de Minería, 2015).

In December 2014, the Government of Guatemala published the Law for Implementation of Tax Measures (Decree No. 22–2014) as part of the General Budget of the State of Guatemala for Tax Year 2015 and the Financing Plan for Tax Year 2014, which contain amendments to the Mining Act (Decree No. 48–97) and the Specific Tax Law on Cement Distribution (Decree No. 79–2000). The amendments to the Mining Act increased the royalty to 10% from 1% on production from mines and quarries in general. The royalties on production of jade and nickel specifically were increased to 6% and 5% from 1%, respectively. The tax applied to domestic distribution of cement increased to \$0.65 from \$0.13 per 42.5 kilogram (kg) bag of cement and clinker (Ernst and Young Global Ltd., 2014).

In June 2014, Cunico Resources NV of the Netherlands completed its acquisition (100%) of Mayaniquel S.A. and the Mayaniquel nickel laterite project from Anfield Nickel Corp. of Canada. The Mayaniquel project included (or is also known as) the Chatala and the Sechol concessions, which are located within the nickel-laterite belt of northeastern Guatemala in the municipalities of Cahabon, El Estor, Panzos, and Senahu in Alta Verapaz Department. Production from the Mayaniquel Mine was projected to be 36,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of nickel, and the mine was expected to have a 29-year mine life. The Government of Guatemala issued a mining license to Anfield for Mayaniquel in September 2013. It was unclear how the increased royalties that were announced in December would affect the Mayaniquel project (Business News Americas, 2015).

Production of antimony had been reported, and increasing, since 2012, which coincided with the issuance of a mining license for the Cantera Los Manantiales Mine. Large increases in the production of lead, silver, and zinc were owing to Tahoe Resources Inc. of Canada's Escobal Mine having completed its first year of commercial operation in 2014. The Escobal deposit is a fault-controlled epithermal vein system located southeast of Guatemala City in Santa Rosa Department. In 2014, Tahoe Resources processed 12 million metric tons (Mt) of ore at Escobal from which were produced 13,394 t of zinc, 10,359 t of lead, 631 t of silver, and 338 kg of gold (tables 1, 2; Tahoe Resources Inc., 2015, p. 11).

¹Where necessary values have been converted from Guatemalan quetzal (GTQ) to U.S. dollars (US\$) at an average annual rate of GTQ 7.7=US\$1.00 in 2014 and GTQ7.6=US\$1.00 for 2013.

References Cited

- Business News Americas, 2015, Mayaniquel: Business News Americas. (Accessed December 17, 2015, at <http://subscriber.bnamericas.com/Subscriber/project-profile/es/mayaniquel-mayaniquel>.)
- Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015, Guatemala—Perfil nacional económico [National economic profile]: United Nations. (Accessed December 19, 2015, at http://interwp.cepal.org/cepalstat/Perfil_Nacional_Economico.html?pais=GTM&idioma=spanish.)
- Dirección General de Minería, 2015, Anuario estadístico minero 2014 [Mining statistics yearbook]: Guatemala City, Guatemala, Ministerio de Energía y Minas, 12 p.
- Ernst and Young Global Ltd., 2014, Guatemala introduces a tax on telephone lines and amends tax laws: London, United Kingdom, Ernst and Young Global Ltd., December 18, 4 p.
- Tahoe Resources Inc., 2015, Management's discussion and analysis: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Tahoe Resources Inc., March 11, 30 p.

HONDURAS

In 2014, the nominal GDP of Honduras was about \$19.6 billion and the rate of growth of the GDP in real terms was 3.1%. The growth in 2014 was attributable to increased internal consumption and to increased external demand, which supported growth in the financial services (8.3%), communications (5.2%), fisheries (4.4%), agriculture (2.4%), and manufacturing (1.5%) industries. The annual real GDP rate of growth of Honduras (since at least 1990) fluctuated greatly in response to global economic downturns and domestic natural disasters, reaching the lowest value in 2009 (-4.3%). Since 2010, the rate of growth of real GDP remained positive and ranged between 2.8% and 3.1%. Mineral industry activities (including production of crude petroleum and natural gas) accounted for 1% of the nominal GDP and 0.7% of real GDP in 2014. The annual contribution of the mining sector to real GDP since 1990 reached a high of 2.1% in 1999 but decreased steadily thereafter, whereas real GDP increased steadily. The value of the construction and the mining sectors, which were the only sectors of the economy to have decreased in value in 2014 compared with that of 2013, decreased by 8.2% and 5.1%, respectively (Banco Central de Honduras, 2015, p. 6, 17; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015).

In 2013, the Government of Honduras passed the country's mining law, the Ley General de Minería [General Mining Law] Decreto No. 32–2013 [Decree No. 32–2013] and created the Instituto Hondureño de Geología y Minas (INHGEOMIN), which replaced the Dirección de Fomento de la Minería (DEFOMIN). Unlike DEFOMIN, INHGEOMIN was created as a decentralized entity under the Executive Branch of the Government (Ministry of the Presidency) as opposed to being administered by the Secretaría de Recursos Naturales [Secretary of Natural Resources (SERNA)]. INHGEOMIN was given the legal authority to execute the national mining policy; to develop plans, programs, and projects related to mining; and to create administrative, operational, and technical units within the mining sector. Honduras became a candidate country of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in 2013 (Diario la Presna, 2013; Instituto Hondureño de Geología y Minas, 2015).

Article 6 of the Mining Law implements the system of concession permits for mining, except for artisanal and small-scale mining, which require participation in a registration

system. Article 13 asserts that prospecting is free in the national territory except within exclusion zones, which are defined in a subsequent article, and in areas that already have a permit. Exploration permits for nonmetallic minerals and gemstones or other precious stones are issued for 2 years, and exploration permits for metallic metals are issued for 5 years; permits for both nonmetallic and metallic minerals may be renewed once. Mining permits for nonmetallic minerals and for gemstones or other precious stones are issued for 10 years, and those for metallic minerals are issued for 15 years. In both cases, an extension of the mining permit may be requested 3 months prior to the expiration of the mining permit, but extensions are subject to proven reserves and the mine plan. Processing permits are required for an enterprise to perform any mechanical separation, metallurgy, or refining. In an effort to encourage domestic beneficiation, the Government may offer incentives to mining enterprises that conduct value-added processing in the country. Article 37 of the Mining Law implies that there would be no specific royalties associated with marketing mineral products either domestically or through exports. Mined products may be exported by other individuals or companies than the mining permit holder, but regardless of who conducts the trade, a trader must register with the Government and provide INHGEOMIN and the municipality with quarterly declarations of the value and volume of sales (table 1; La Gaceta, 2015).

Gold production at Aura Minerals Inc. of Canada's San Andres Mine in 2014 increased to 2,762 kg from 1,985 kg, or by 40% compared with that of 2013. The production increase was attributed to increased throughput after the addition of a new secondary crusher in 2013 and to improved recovery in the leaching and carbon-stripping processes at the mine (Aura Minerals Inc., 2015). Lead production at Nyrstar NV of Switzerland's El Mochito Mine increased to 15,500 t from 11,600 t in 2013; zinc production increased to 30,000 t from 25,000 t; and silver production increased to about 59 t from 51 t in 2013. Total metal output increased owing to an increase in the millhead grade of the ore (Nyrstar NV, 2014, p. 25).

References Cited

- Aura Minerals Inc., 2015, Aura Minerals announces year end 2014 financial and operating results: Aura Minerals Inc., March 24. (Accessed December 21, 2015, at <http://www.auraminerals.com/News-Events/News-Releases/News-Release-Details/2015/Aura-Minerals-Announces-Year-End-2014-Financial-and-Operating-Results/default.aspx>.)
- Banco Central de Honduras, 2015, Memoria 2014 [2014 annual report]: Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Banco Central de Honduras, 64 p.
- Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015, Honduras—Perfil nacional económico [National economic profile]: United Nations. (Accessed December 12, 2015, at http://interwp.cepal.org/cepalstat/Perfil_Nacional_Economico.html?pais=HND&idioma=spanish.)
- Diario la Presna, 2013, Crean Instituto de Geología y Minas [Institute of Geology and Mines created]: Diario la Presna [Tegucigalpa, Honduras]. (Accessed December 21, 2015, at <http://www.laprensa.hn/csp/mediapool/sites/LaPresna/Honduras/Tegucigalpa/story.csp?cid=331356&sid=275&fid=98#UQVThL-PiCo>.)
- Instituto Hondureño de Geología y Minas, 2016, Misión y visión [Mission and vision]: Instituto Hondureño de Geología y Minas. (Accessed December 22, 2015, at http://www.inhgeomin.gob.hn/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=95&Itemid=555.)
- La Gaceta, 2015, Ley General de Minería (Decreto No 32–2013) [General Mining Law (Decree No. 32–2013)]: La Gaceta [Tegucigalpa, Honduras]. (Accessed December 21, 2015, at <http://inhgeomin.gob.hn/images/Documentos/Portal-Transparencia/Leyes/Ley-General-de-Mineria.pdf>.)

NICARAGUA

The rate of growth of Nicaragua's real GDP was 4.7% in 2014 owing to relatively stable internal demand and net exports. The value of the nominal GDP was \$11.8 billion, and the nominal value of mining and quarrying activities (including production of crude petroleum and natural gas) was \$319 million in 2014, which accounted for 2.7% of the total. The annual rate of growth of real GDP in Nicaragua fluctuated since the early 1990s, with several years of decreases owing to periods of domestic or global economic downturn (the greatest decreases took place between 2007 and 2009, when the rate of growth reached a low of -2.8% in 2009) (Banco Central de Nicaragua, 2015, p. 5–6; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015a, b).

Gold production at the Bonanza Mine decreased to 2,019 kg in 2014, or by 3% compared with that of 2013. Gold production at La Libertad Mine decreased by 17% to 4,657 kg. With the exception of 2008 and 2009, the annual amount of gold produced in Nicaragua increased every year from 2000 through 2014 for a cumulative total of 70.4 t. Production of silver during the same period increased every year except for a slight decrease in 2006, for a cumulative total of 81 t. Production of calcite and limestone decreased annually since about 2007. The annual value of exported gold and silver from Nicaragua increased every year since 2000 except for in 2014, whereas the volume of exports fluctuated. Production targets may have been set to meet a minimum export value, but the relatively rapid slump in commodity prices in 2014 may have had a greater effect than anticipated. In 2014, the country had a total of 277 mineral concessions and 137 concession holders. Of the 277 concessions, 172 were for metallic minerals and the rest were for nonmetallic minerals. Also of the 277 concessions, 229 were inactive, 34 were active for exploitation, 13 were active for exploration, and 1 was active for prospecting (B2Gold Corp., 2015; Mineros S.A., 2015; Ministerio de Energia y Minas, 2015, p. 2–4, 7).

References Cited

- Banco Central de Nicaragua, 2015, Informe anual 2014 [Annual report 2014]: Managua, Nicaragua, Banco Central de Nicaragua, June, 20 p.
- B2Gold Corp., 2015, B2Gold Corp. achieves record 2014 fourth quarter and full-year gold production: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, B2Gold Corp., January, 21. (Accessed December 21, 2015, at <http://www.b2gold.com/news/display/index.php?news=1913264>.)
- Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015a, CEPALSTAT—Estadísticas e indicadores—Económicos—Sector real—Cuentas nacionales—Anuales—En dólares [Statistics and Indicators—Economy—Real sector—National accounts—Annual—In dollars]: United Nations. (Accessed December 19, 2015, at http://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/web_cepalstat/estadisticasIndicadores.asp?idioma=s.)
- Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015b, Nicaragua—Perfil nacional económico [National economic profile]: United Nations. (Accessed December 19, 2015, at http://interwp.cepal.org/cepalstat/Perfil_Nacional_Economico.html?pais=NIC&idioma=spanish.)
- Mineros S.A., 2015, Mineros centrará más inversión en Nicaragua que en Colombia [Mineros focuses more investment in Nicaragua than in Colombia]: Mineros S.A., March 19. (Accessed December 21, 2015, at <http://mineros.com.co/es/noticias/historico-de-noticias/278-mineros-sa-mineros-centrara-mas-inversion-en-nicaragua-que-en-colombia>.)

PANAMA

In 2014, Panama's real GDP rate of growth was 6.1% compared with 8.4% in 2013. The value contributed to the nominal GDP from mining and quarrying was \$404.7 million and accounted for 1% of the total. The mining sector's share of real GDP had increased by 0.1% per year since 2010; it more than doubled between 2006 and 2014 and was projected to account for about 10% of the country's total by 2018 when First Quantum Minerals Ltd. of Canada's Cobre Panama project begins commercial production. Gold production in Panama was estimated to have increased by about 43% to 3,000 kg in 2014 compared with the output in 2013. All the gold output was from Petaquilla Minerals Ltd. of Canada's Molejon Mine, which was the only operating gold mine in Panama (table 1; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015; Durling, 2015).

The country's current mining code (Código de Recursos Minerales de Panamá) is law No. 23 [Decreto Ley 23] of 1963. Amendments to the law were passed in 2012, including law No. 11—a law that prohibits the exploitation of mineral resources within the Ngübe-Buglé territory, which accounts for about 10% of the area of Panama. The Dirección General de Recursos Minerales [General Directorate of Mineral Resources] is the entity that administers mining concessions. The Mining Code defines two types of concession-granting systems. Concessions may be granted to domestic or foreign Government or to private entities. Most mining concessions in Panama are privately held. Concessions for some of the largest infrastructure projects are granted by means of special legislation, whereas most other agreements are granted by the Government under the terms of the Mining Code. Exploration concessions are granted for 4 years, and two 2-year extensions may be granted. Mining concessions are granted for 25 years for a maximum area of 5,000 hectares (ha) for base-metal projects; 20 years for a maximum area of 2,000 ha for alluvial precious metals; and 10 years for a maximum area of 3,000 ha for nonalluvial precious metals. Mining concessions may be renewed for one 10-year period followed by two 5-year periods. Mining concessions for construction materials are granted for a maximum of 500 ha for 10 years and may be renewed for one 10-year period (Durling, 2015).

Law No. 13 of 2012 defines a progressive annual surface tax of between \$1 and \$3 per hectare for exploration concessions. The surface tax rate and royalty charges for mining concessions vary depending on the type of mineral being mined. The surface tax ranges from \$1.50 per hectare to \$8 per hectare, and the royalty ranges from 4% to 8% of gross negotiable production. The definition of gross negotiable production depends on whether the royalty is to be paid in cash or in kind, but variables include production losses, transportation expenses, and other expenses. The amendments passed in 2012 also require concessionaires to post performance bonds that range from \$0.10 per hectare for exploration concessions to \$0.25 per hectare for mining concessions (Durling, 2015).

References Cited

Durling, R.C., 2015, Panama: Latin Lawyer, June 12. (Accessed December 21, 2015, at <http://latinlawyer.com/reference/topics/46/jurisdictions/34/panama>.)

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2015, CEPALSTAT—Estadísticas e indicadores—Económicos—Sector real—Cuentas nacionales—Anuales—En dólares [Statistics and indicators—Economy—Real sector—National accounts—Annual—In dollars]: United Nations. (Accessed December 19, 2015, at http://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/web_cepalstat/estadisticasIndicadores.asp?idioma=s.)

TABLE 1
CENTRAL AMERICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity ²	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
BELIZE					
Petroleum, crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	1,514	1,442	1,030	792 ^r	642
COSTA RICA					
Cement thousand metric tons	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,500 ^e	1500 ^e
Gold, mine output, Au content kilograms	300	500	400	300	--
Petroleum, refinery products thousand 42-gallon barrels	17,904	18,545	18,249	19,016	20,000 ^e
Stone, sand and gravel:					
Crushed rock and rough stone ^e thousand cubic meters	7,142 ³	6,187 ³	5,000	5,000	5,500
Limestone and calcareous materials ^e do.	900	1,500	2,284 ³	2,000	2,500
Sand and gravel ^e do.	2,667 ³	3,476 ³	3,000	3,000	3,500
Sandstone ^e do.	124 ³	122 ³	125	125	150
EL SALVADOR					
Cement, hydraulic thousand metric tons	1,290	1,320	1,380	1,400 ^e	1,400 ^e
Iron and steel, metal:					
Semimanufactures	78,000	97,000	100,000 ^e	105,000 ^{r,e}	110,000
Steel, crude	64,000	100,000	102,000	118,000 ^r	121,000
GUATEMALA					
Metals:					
Antimony, mine output, Sb content	--	--	62	67 ^{r,e}	159
Gold, mine output, Au content kilograms	9,213	11,898	6,473	6,384	5,928
Lead	--	--	2,300	2,100 ^e	10,359
Silver, mine output, Ag content kilograms	194,683	272,771	204,555	283,204	631,382
Zinc, run of mine, Zn content	--	--	--	--	5,927
Steel, crude thousand metric tons	274	445	334	320	393
Industrial minerals:					
Clay:					
Kaolin	2,143	4,057	1,866	2,953	1,285
Unspecified	41,123	41,198	66,392	78,978	127,301
Feldspar	402	2,890	19,356	19,611	10,410
Gypsum, crude thousand metric tons	59	46	100	118	82
Jadeite	8	27	33	89	521
Magnesium compounds (magnesite)	--	311	27,132	17,200	24,268
Pumice (sand) cubic meters	204,241 ^r	1,447,528	460,817 ^r	90,701	79,969
Stone, sand and gravel:					
Sand and gravel, natural:					
Building (foundation) sand thousand cubic meters	--	5	10	5	4
River sand do.	88	81	261	50	196
Sand and gravel, common do.	204	702	500	333	147
Silica sand	62,098	60,000	48,664	53,242	50,000
Volcanic sand thousand cubic meters	5,834 ^r	6,000 ^{e,r}	6,604	17,196 ^r	19,657
Stone, crude:					
Basalt cubic meters	1,239,720	489,845	35,959	52,756	14,296
Basaltic andesite do.	1,155,959	1,051,132	1,007,465	1,247,957	1,000,000 ^e
Dolomite do.	3,817	4,908	1,948	12,593	6,963
Flagstone, phyllite do.	67	410	230	193	368
Granite	336	161	1,667	1,275	1,500 ^e

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1—Continued
CENTRAL AMERICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Industrial minerals—Continued:						
Stone, sand and gravel—Continued:						
Stone, crude—Continued:						
Limestone, crude	cubic meters	1,888,573	1,900,000	1,888,259	1,786,337	1,907,504
Marble	do.	72,063	75,000	81,400	93,482	73,273
Marl ³	do.	15,000	500 ^{r,3}	15,000	15,000	44,526 ³
Schist	do.	148,628	180,553	185,688	182,652	186,802
Steatite		206	150 ^e	138	90	32
Talc		1,969	8,300	2,311	7,084	72,497
Tuff	cubic meters	184,541	126,138	58,656	163,638	213,707
Mineral fuels and related materials:						
Petroleum:						
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	4,363	3,995	3,876	3,645	3,669
Refinery products:						
Asphalt	42-gallon barrels	299,920	301,140 ^r	275,000 ^r	193,740 ^r	237,700 ^r
Diesel	do.	153,240	193,050	227,790	201,700	280,240
Kerosene	do.	3,240	7,130	2,880	2,910	3,520
Refinery gas	do.	15,900	36,510	32,670	18,180	20,000 ^e
Total	do.	472,300	537,830	538,340	416,530	541,500 ^e
HONDURAS						
Cement	thousand metric tons	1,600	1,620	1,730	1,700 ^e	1,700 ^e
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	2,197	1,893	1,858	1,985	2,762
Lead, mine output, Pb content		16,944	16,954	12,400	11,600	15,500
Silver, mine output, Ag content	kilograms	58,158	53,167	50,605	50,910	58,800
Zinc, mine output, Zn content		33,839	26,000	26,000	25,000	30,000
NICARAGUA						
Cement ^e	thousand metric tons	600	700	730	700	700
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	4,900	6,395	6,981	8,610	8,646
Gypsum and anhydrite, crude		20,330	29,710	34,890	36,500	46,570
Lime		2,065	2,140	5,575	6,832	4,679
Pumice, stone	cubic meters	950	20	70	10	--
Sand, unspecified	thousand cubic meters	174	266	243	279	273
Silver, mine output, Ag content	kilograms	6,995	7,927	10,207	13,743	13,585
Stone:						
Crushed	thousand cubic meters	743	929	1,084	1,109	1,310
Quarried, unspecified	thousand metric tons	7,452	8,083	9,216	9,344	10,566
Tuff, volcanic	do.	134	117	142	186	160
Mineral fuels and related materials:						
Asphalt	42-gallon barrels	52,600	74,000	34,900	22,000 ^e	20,000 ^e
Diesel	do.	1,585,800	1,656,600	1,138,800	720,000 ^e	750,000 ^e
Fuel oil	do.	2,480,600	2,354,400	1,558,200	1,000,000 ^e	1,250,000 ^e
Gasoline	do.	818,000	826,600	584,200	370,000 ^e	400,000 ^e
Kerosene turbo fuel	do.	225,400	275,200	200,200	125,000 ^e	150,000 ^e
Liquefied petroleum gas	do.	171,900	192,000	100,400	65,000 ^e	75,000 ^e
PANAMA						
Cement	thousand metric tons	1,491	1,766	2,252	2,000 ^e	2,500 ^e
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	870	1,675	2,115	2,099	3,000 ^e
Salt		27,592	60,800 ^r	36,600 ^r	60,600 ^r	56,500

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

¹Table includes data available through November 9, 2015.

²In addition to the commodities listed, additional cement, clay, construction materials, diatomite, dolomite, gold, gravel, limestone, marl, refinery products, sand, and semimanufactures are produced, but available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Reported figure.

TABLE 2
CENTRAL AMERICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2014

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity ^c
COSTA RICA			
Cement, limestone, including marl	Holcim Costa Rica S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 59.8%, and other private, 40.2%)	Cartago cement plant, Aguas Calientes	1,200
Do.	CEMEX Costa Rica S.A. (CEMEX S.A.B de C.V., 98.7%, and other private, 1.3%)	Colorado de Abangares cement plant, Guancaste Province, and Guatuso de Patarra cement grinding and bagging plant, San Jose	900
Clays	do.	Tajo Finca clay quarry, near city of Platanar	100
Limestone	do.	Cerro Pena Blanca limestone quarry, Guancaste Province	300
Do.	Holcim Costa Rica S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 59.8%, and other private, 40.2%)	La Chilena and three other quarries near Cartago cement plant, Cartago Province	650
Steel, semimanufactures	Laminadora Costarricense S.A. (Mittal Steel Company N.V., 50%, and Grupo Pujol-Martí, 50%)	Rolling mill, steel manufacturing complex, Guapiles, Jimenez de Pococi, Alajuela, y Tibas	450
EL SALVADOR			
Cement	Cemento de El Salvador S.A. de C.V. (Holcim Ltd., 64.25%, and other private, 35.75%)	El Ronco and Maya plants, near Metapan, Santa Ana Department	1,900
Limestone	do.	Quarries near Aldea El Zapote and Santa Ana, Santa Ana Department	440
Steel:			
Crude	Corporación Industrial Centroamericana S.A. de C.V. (private, 100%)	Electric arc furnace, Quetzaltepeque, La Libertad Department	60
Semimanufactures	do.	Billet casting machine and rolling mill, Quetzaltepeque, La Libertad Department	92
GUATEMALA			
Antimony	metric tons	Minas de Guatemala S.A. (private, 100%)	NA
Do.	do.	Clavito, La Florida, Los Lirios, and Torlon Mines, Ixtahuacan, Huehuetenango Department	NA
Do.	do.	Los Angeles Mine, Guatemala Department	NA
Do.	do.	Cantera Los Manantiales Mine, Chiquimula Department	160
Do.	do.	Escobal Mine, Laguna de Ayarza, Santa Rosa Department	NA
Cement	Cementos Progreso S.A., 100%	San Gabriel plant, San Juan, Sacatepéquez Department, San Miguel plant, Sanarate, El Progreso Department, and La Pedrera plant, Guatemala City	6,000
Copper	Minera Quetzal, S.A.	Cubulco municipality, Baja Verapaz Department	NA
Do.	Tahoe Resources Inc., 100%	Escobal Mine, Laguna de Ayarza, Santa Rosa Department	NA
Gold	kilograms	Goldcorp Inc., 100%	6,500
Do.	do.	Exploraciones Mineras de Guatemala, S.A.	NA
Do.	do.	Progreso VII Derivada, San Jose del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc Municipalities, Guatemala Department	NA
Do.	do.	Ricas ek Tanbirm S.A.	NA
Do.	do.	San Antonio La Paz, El Progreso Department	NA
Do.	do.	Entre Mares de Guatemala, S.A.	NA
Do.	do.	Asuncion Mita, Jutiapa Department	NA
Lead	Tenango Mining Company S.A., 100%	Caquipec Mine, Alta Verapaz Department	NA
Do.	Tahoe Resources Inc., 100%	Escobal Mine, Laguna de Ayarza, Santa Rosa Department	800

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued
CENTRAL AMERICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2014

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity ^c
GUATEMALA—Continued				
Lime		HORCALSA S.A. (Cementos Progreso S.A., 100%)	San Miguel plant, Sanarate, El Progreso Department	180
Nickel		Compania Guatemalteca de Niquel, S.A.	Sechol Mine, Senahu and Panzos municipalities, Alta Verapaz, Department	NA
Petroleum, crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Perenco plc, 100%	Rubelsanto and West Chinaja fields, Alta Verapaz Department, and Caribe, Tierra Blanca, and Xan fields, Peten Department	4,500
Silver	kilograms	Tahoe Resources Inc., 100%	Escobal Mine, Laguna de Ayarza, Santa Rosa Department	6,200
Do.	do.	Goldcorp Inc., 100%	Marlin Mine, near municipalities of San Miguel Ixtahuacan and Sipakapa, San Marcos Department	2,000
Steel:				
Crude		Siderúrgica de Guatemala S.A. (SIDEGUA) {Corporación Aceros de Guatemala S.A. [Corporación Centroamericana del Acero S.A. (Gerdau S.A., 30%, and other private, 70%), 100%], 100%}	Electric arc furnace, near city of Escuintla, Escuintla Department	800
Semimanufactures		Indeta S.A. (INDETA) {Corporación Aceros de Guatemala S.A. [Corporación Centroamericana del Acero S.A. (Gerdau S.A., 30%, and other private, 70%), 100%], 100%}	Rolling mill at Colonia San Ignacio, Mixco, near Guatemala City	200
Zinc	kilograms	Tahoe Resources Inc., 100%	Escobal Mine, Laguna de Ayarza, Santa Rosa Department	6,200
HONDURAS				
Cement		Cementos del Norte S.A. de C.V. (Holcim Ltd., 24.2%, and Inversiones Continental S.A., 75.8%)	Rio Bijao plant, municipality of San Pedro Sula, Cortes Department	1,100
Do.		Cementos Argos SA de CV, 53.3%, and other private, 46.7%	Piedras Azules plant, municipality of Comayagua, Comayagua Department	1,300
Gold	kilograms	Aura Minerals Inc., 100%	San Andres Mine, municipality of La Union, Copan Department	3,300
Lead	metric tons	Nyrstar NV, 100%	El Mochito Mine, Santa Barbara Department, 90 kilometers south of San Pedro Sula	15
Silver	kilograms	do.	do.	60
Zinc	metric tons	do.	do.	49
NICARAGUA				
Cement		CEMEX Nicaragua S.A. (CEMEX S.A.B. de C.V., 100%, but on lease from Government)	San Rafael del Sur plant, 45 kilometers from Managua, and milling plant in Managua	600
Cement, clinker		Holcim de Nicaragua S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 70%, and other private, 30%)	Nagarote grinding plant, San Rafael del Sur	350
Gold	kilograms	B2 Gold Corp., 95%	Limon Mine, Talavera deposit, 160 kilometers north of Managua	1,200
Do.	do.	B2 Gold Corp., 100%	La Libertad, 110 kilometers east of Managua	4,500
Do.	do.	Mineros S.A., 89.99%	Rio Bambana, Atlántico Norte	2,000
Do.	do.	do.	Bonanza, North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region	1,150
PANAMA				
Gold	kilograms	Petaquilla Minerals Ltd., 100%	Molejon Mine, Panama Province	2,800

^cEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.