



# 2014 Minerals Yearbook

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**CABO VERDE**

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CABO VERDE

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Cabo Verde (formerly Cape Verde) is an island country composed of 10 principal volcanic islands located 570 kilometers off the coast of Senegal, western Africa. The contribution of the mineral industry to the economy of Cabo Verde was negligible. The economy depended mainly on service industries, with transportation, commerce, and tourism accounting for 76% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2014. Light industry accounted for an additional 16% of the GDP. In 2014, the country's nominal GDP increased by 1.8% to \$1.87 billion from \$1.84 billion in 2013 (World Bank, The, 2015).

Cabo Verde has very limited natural resources. Most of the country's mineral requirements were met by imports. Domestic production of mineral commodities was limited to clay, gypsum, limestone, and pozzolana (a volcanic ash). Salt had been mined on the islands of Maio and Sal, and historically on the island of Boa Vista. Commercial salt production at the Salinas de Pedra de Lume on Sal ceased by 1985; only limited artisanal production for local consumption continued on Sal and at Porto Ingles on Maio (table 1; Newman, 2010; United Nations, 2010; Almeida, undated).

Cimpor Cabo Verde S.A., which was a subsidiary of CIMPOR Cimentos de Portugal, SGPS, S.A., produced concrete and aggregate and distributed imported cement. Increased construction activity related to the tourism sector and public investment programs led to increases of more than 60% in the sales of concrete and aggregate in 2014 compared with those of 2013. The region had no onshore or offshore oil or gas reserves and no upstream oil industry. The downstream oil industry was entirely dependent on refined petroleum products imported from Portugal and mainland African countries (CIMPOR Cimentos de Portugal, SGPS, S.A., 2015, p. 30; MBendi Information Services, 2015).

The Government planned to reduce the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels through increased energy production from renewable resources and had set a goal of supplying 50% of the country's energy needs from renewable sources by 2020.

Toward this end, Cabo Verde had built wind farms on four islands with a total capacity of 28 megawatts (MW), which provided 10% to 20% of the country's electricity. A 32-acre 5-MW-capacity solar energy farm on the island of Sao Tiago was Africa's largest facility of this type. Another solar facility on Sal had a capacity of 2.5 MW. Production figures for locally produced mineral commodities were not reported, and available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output (U.S. Department of State, 2014, 2015).

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TABLE 1  
CABO VERDE: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2014

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location	Annual capacity
Aggregate	Cimpor Cabo Verde S.A. (CIMPOR-Cimentos de Portugal, SGPS, S.A., 98.13%)	Quarries on Boa Vista, Sal, and Santiago	NA
Salt	Artisanal	Salinas de Pedra de Lume, Sal	NA
Do.	do.	Salinas de Porto Ingles, Maio	NA

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available