



# 2015 Minerals Yearbook

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**CABO VERDE [ADVANCE RELEASE]**

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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 in western Africa. The contribution of the mineral industry to the economy of Cabo Verde was negligible. The economy depended mainly on tourism, which accounted for about 20% of the gross domestic product (GDP). In 2015, the country's real GDP growth rate increased by 1.8% (the same rate as in 2014) (International Monetary Fund, 2016, p. 174; World Bank, The, 2016).

Cabo Verde has very limited natural resources. Most of the country's mineral requirements were met by imports. In 2015, mineral commodities and mineral fuels accounted for about 20% of the total value of the country's imports. Domestic production of mineral commodities was limited to clay, gypsum, kaolin, limestone, pozzolana (a volcanic ash), salt, and sand and gravel. Historically, salt had been mined on the islands of Boa Vista, Maio, and Sal. At present, there was only limited artisanal production of salt for local consumption. Production figures for locally produced mineral commodities were not reported, and available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output (table 1; Notesfromcamelidcountry, 2013; International Trade Center, 2015; U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2016; Almeida, undated).

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, which provided 25% of the country's electricity, with a peak of 35%. A 32-acre 5-megawatt (MW)-capacity solar-energy farm on the island of Sao Tiago was Africa's largest solar-energy facility. The country's total installed capacity for renewable energy was 34 MW, with 24 MW attributed to wind energy production and 10 MW attributed to solar energy production. The country's renewable energy efforts, coupled

with the decreased global price of crude petroleum, helped reduce the cost of its mineral fuel imports by about 43% in 2015 (U.S. Department of State, 2014; International Trade Center, 2015; International Renewable Energy Agency, 2016, p. 1, 19, 26; Utilidata, 2016).

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TABLE 1  
CABO VERDE: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2015

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 Sal and Santiago	NA
Salt	Artisanal miners	Salinas de Pedra de Lume, Sal	NA
Do.	do.	Salinas de Porto Ingles, Maio	NA

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.