



2015 Minerals Yearbook

CENTRAL AMERICA [ADVANCE RELEASE]

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA

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

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The region of Central America has many natural resources. In 2015, the mineral industries of Central America produced a variety of metals, industrial minerals, and mineral fuels. In the metals mining sector, antimony, gold, lead, nickel, silver, and zinc were produced. In the industrial minerals sector, cement, clay, gypsum, limestone, marble, pumice, salt, and sand and gravel were produced. Crude petroleum and various petroleum refinery products were also produced in Central America in 2015.

Central America is divided into two main geologic and tectonic regions—northern Central America, which includes El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and northern Nicaragua; and the Isthmian link, which includes Costa Rica, southern Nicaragua, and Panama. In November 2015, a new Central American mining federation was formed to organize and promote the emerging mineral industry in the region. The Mining Federation of Central America and the Caribbean was made up of trade associations, chambers of mines, consulting firms, and suppliers of mining goods and services from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama (table 1; Browne and Scheffers, 2010, p. 265; Camara Minera de Nicaragua, 2016).

The annual nominal gross domestic product (GDP) for the Central America region in 2015 was \$230.6 billion compared with \$215.7 billion in 2014. The year-on-year real GDP rate of growth of the Central America region was about 3.7% in 2015. The nominal per capita GDP was the greatest in Panama (\$13,268) followed by Costa Rica (\$11,233), Belize (\$4,911), El Salvador (\$4,104), Guatemala (\$3,894), Honduras (\$2,499), and Nicaragua (\$2,086) (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2016a).

In 2015, the total value of exported goods from Central America was \$28 billion, which was a decrease of 7.3% from that of 2014. Of that value, \$9.2 billion, or about 33%, was accounted for by interregional trade. The United States continued to be the leading recipient of exported goods from Central America in 2015, accounting for about 49.1% of the total. The countries of the European Union (EU) accounted for about 20.5% of the total value of exported goods. Other recipients included Mexico (3.7%), the Dominican Republic (3.0%), and Venezuela (2.6%). In 2015, the total value of imported goods to Central America was \$67.8 billion, which was a decrease of 5% compared with that of 2014. The United States was the leading exporter of goods to Central America in 2015, accounting for about 40% of the total, followed by China (12.9%), the EU (9.9%), Mexico (9.7%), and the Republic of Korea (2.4%) (Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana, 2016).

In 2015, the mineral sector's contribution to the annual real GDP of Central America averaged 1.2% (including an estimate of 0.5% for Belize). Since 2011, the mineral sector in all countries of Central America had accounted for an average of 3.4% or less of each country's respective annual GDP in real terms. Nicaragua was the leading country in the region in terms of the value of its mineral sector since 2011, followed by Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. In 2015, Nicaragua and Panama were the leading countries in Central America in terms of the value of the mineral sectors. In 2015, total foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to Central America amounted to about \$11.9 billion compared with \$11.2 billion in 2014. The majority of FDI was absorbed by Panama (\$5.0 billion), and Costa Rica (\$3.1 billion), and was followed by Guatemala and Honduras (\$1.2 billion each) (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2016a; 2016b, p. 78).

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BELIZE

Belize was not a globally or regionally significant mineral-producing country in 2015. In 2015, Belize's nominal GDP was about \$1.8 billion, which was the lowest in Central America. The country's year-on-year rate of growth of real GDP decreased significantly in 2014 to 1.2% compared with a revised 4.1% in 2014. The decreased rate of economic growth in 2015 was a result of decreased levels of crude petroleum production

in the country. Mining and quarrying accounted for an estimated 0.5% of the country's nominal GDP in 2015 (table 1; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2016).

Belize Natural Energy Ltd. (BNE) made the first commercial discovery of petroleum in 2005 in the Spanish Lookout oilfield. The petroleum discovered was a light crude oil located in the Mike Usher No. 1 well. Annual petroleum production from the Spanish Lookout oilfield, which had been in decline since 2011, decreased to 527,741 barrels (bbl) in 2015, or by about 18% compared with that of 2014. Production from the Never Delay oilfield, which was also operated by BNE, decreased by about 82% to 468 bbl in 2015 owing to ongoing field testing of the oilfield. After 10 years of commercial production, further investment at both oilfields was canceled indefinitely owing to declining prices for crude petroleum. Six companies held exploration licenses in Belize in 2015 (Central Bank of Belize, 2016, p. 34; Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, and Public Utilities, 2016).

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COSTA RICA

In 2015, Costa Rica's nominal GDP was about \$54.2 billion, which was the second highest in Central America after Guatemala. The country's real GDP rate of growth increased by 3.7% in 2015. Mining and quarrying continued to be insignificant to the national economy, contributing 0.4% to the annual nominal GDP (the second lowest in Central America after El Salvador). During the year, Costa Rica imported about \$1.2 billion worth of unspecified hydrocarbon products, which was about a 43% decrease compared with that of 2014, and \$4.0 billion worth of other unspecified raw materials. In 2010, Costa Rica banned open pit gold mining in the country; however, artisanal production of gold continued and was estimated to have amounted to about 400 kilograms (kg) in 2015 (La Gaceta, 2010, p. 2–3; Banco Central de Costa Rica, 2016, p. 41; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2016).

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EL SALVADOR

In 2015, El Salvador's nominal GDP was \$25.9 billion, and the rate of growth of real GDP was 2.5% compared with 1.4% (revised) in 2014. The estimated value of production from mines and quarries was \$77.7 million, which accounted for about 0.3% of the nominal GDP in 2015. The Central Bank of El Salvador sold about 80%, or 5.4 metric tons (t), of the nation's gold reserves for \$206 million in 2015 in an effort to take advantage of appreciating gold prices. Strong opposition to mining continued in El Salvador, and the Government maintained an unofficial ban on mining activities in 2015; the ban had prevented any new mining permits from being issued in the country since 2008, when mining operations polluted the water supply in the municipality of San Sebastian. OcenaGold Corp. of Australia (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 2015 (Jamasmie, 2015; Westervelt, 2015; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2016).

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GUATEMALA

In 2015, the nominal GDP of Guatemala was about \$63.8 billion, which was the highest of any Central American country. The rate of growth of the country's real GDP increased by 4.1% in 2015, and the mining and quarrying sector's contribution to the national economy was 1.8% of the nominal GDP. Since 2011, the mining and quarrying sector's contribution to the national economy averaged 2.2%, which was the second highest in Central America after Nicaragua (2.9%) (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2016).

In 2015, Compañía Guatemalteca de Níquel, S.A., which was a subsidiary of Solway Investment Group of Switzerland, mined a total of 2,569 million metric tons (Mt) of wet ore in Guatemala and delivered 10.8 million dry tons of ferronickel from its Fenix

nickel project. Since 2011, the group had invested more than \$600 million in the development of the project, which began operating in 2014. The mine is located west of El Estor on the north shore of Lake Izabel. The Fenix Mine had 36.2 Mt of mineral reserves averaging 1.86% nickel, and the mine would have a production capacity of 20,000 metric tons per year of nickel once rampup was completed in 2017. The 25-year renewable mining license was issued in 2006. Solway had a 98.2% interest in the Fenix nickel project, and the Government of Guatemala held the remaining 1.8% (table 2; U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 2010; Central America Data, 2014; Solway Investment Group, 2016a, b).

In 2015, gold production in Guatemala decreased by about 5% to 5,641 kg from 5,928 kg in 2014. Goldcorp Inc. of Canada's wholly owned Marlin Mine produced about 93% of Guatemala's gold in 2015. Located in the western highlands of Guatemala in the municipality of San Miguel Ixtahuacan, the Marlin Mine (lode deposit) was expected to close in 2017 owing to mine depletion. Goldcorp concluded that there was insufficient drilling success to support the extension of the mine's life. The underground operation produced about 3,200 metric tons per day of ore (table 1; Goldcorp Inc., 2016a; 2016b, p. 19, 121).

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HONDURAS

In 2015, the nominal GDP of Honduras was about \$20.2 billion and the year-on-year GDP rate of growth in real terms was 3.6%. The estimated value of production from mines and quarries was \$141.4 million, which accounted for about 0.7% of the nominal GDP in 2015. Since 2011, the average contribution to the nation's economy from mines and quarries had been insignificant, averaging just below 1% of the nominal GDP. In 2015, the total value of exported goods from Honduras decreased slightly to \$3.8 billion from \$4.0 billion in 2014. Exports in 2015 included

zinc (valued at \$21.3 million), silver (\$16.3 million), and lead (\$10.3 million). According to the Central Bank of Honduras, gold export data were not available; however, based on production data, the value of gold exports totaled about \$100 million in 2015 (table 1; Banco Central de Honduras, 2016, p. 54; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2016).

In 2015, gold production at Aura Minerals Inc. of Canada's San Andres Mine decreased to 2,598 kg from 2,762 kg, or by about 6% compared with that of 2014. The San Andres Mine is an open pit heap-leach mine located in the highlands of western Honduras in the Department of Copan. The mine had been in production since 1983 and had a production capacity of 2,800 kilograms per year. The San Andres Mine was classified as an epithermal deposit, and it produced the majority of the gold in the country. Lead production at Nyrstar NV of Switzerland's El Mochito Mine decreased by 37% to 9,800 t from 15,500 t in 2014; zinc production decreased by 22% to 22,992 t from 29,509 t; and silver production decreased by 39% to about 34 t from 56 t in 2014. Total metal output decreased owing mainly to the lower grade ores (table 2; Nyrstar NV, 2015, p. 12, 23; Aura Minerals Inc., 2016a, b).

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NICARAGUA

In 2015, the nominal GDP of Nicaragua was about \$12.7 billion and the year-on-year GDP rate of growth in real terms was 4.9%, which was the second highest rate of growth in Central America after Panama. The estimated value of production from mines and quarries was about \$292.1 million, which accounted for about 2.3% of the nominal GDP in 2015. Since 2011, the average contribution to the nation's economy from mines and quarries had been averaging 2.9% of the annual nominal GDP, which was the highest percentage of any Central American country. In 2015, the total value of exported goods from Nicaragua decreased by about 8% to \$2.4 billion from \$2.6 billion in 2014. Of that value, \$317.9 million was gold exports and \$9.1 million was silver exports (Banco Central de Nicaragua, 2016, p. 29; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2016).

In 2015, gold production in Nicaragua totaled about 6,814 kg, which was a decrease of about 16% compared with that of 2014. The gold was sourced from the following three mining

operations in the country: the Bonanza Mine, el Limon Mine, and La Libertad Mine. B2Gold of Canada's La Libertad Mine produced the majority of the country's gold with a total of 3,716 kg. Located approximately 110 kilometers east of Managua in the Department of Chontales in central Nicaragua, the 10,950-hectare mining concession was issued in 1994 for a term of 40 years pursuant to Ministerial Decree No. 032–RN–MC/94. In 2015, the country also reported production of cement, gypsum, lime, petroleum refinery products, pumice, sand (unspecified), stone (crushed and quarried), and tuff (table 1; B2Gold Corp., 2016).

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PANAMA

In 2015, Panama's nominal GDP was about \$52.1 billion, and the GDP rate of growth in real terms was 5.8% compared with 6.1% in 2014, which was the highest of any country in Central America. The value contributed to the nominal GDP from mining and quarrying was \$1.2 billion and accounted for 2.3% of the total. In November, the Government of Panama announced plans to start processing and issuing new mining concessions after more than a year of not approving any; however, concessions would be awarded only to companies

engaged in the mining of nonmetallic minerals. Metal mining concessions would remain suspended indefinitely until the Government can revise the current mining code. The country's current mining code (Código de Recursos Minerales de Panamá) is law Decree No. 23 of 1963 (Decreto Ley 23 de 22 Agosto de 1963). In 2015, there were 152 mining concessions for the extraction of nonmetallic minerals and 15 for the extraction of metals. Petaquilla's Minerals Ltd. of Canada produced 2,954 kg of gold at its Molejon Mine in 2014; production decreased to an estimated 2,000 kg in 2015. The company had a case in arbitration with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes of the World Bank against the Government of Panama owing to the country's cancellation of its Molejon mining concession in 2015. The dispute concerned unpaid royalties and failure to pay employee benefits (table 1; Central America Data, 2015a, b; Business News Americas, 2016; Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, 2016; Durling, 2016).

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TABLE 1
CENTRAL AMERICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity ²	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
BELIZE					
Petroleum, crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	1,442	1,030	792 ^r	642	528
COSTA RICA					
Cement thousand metric tons	1,400	1,400	1,460 ^r	1,500 ^e	1500 ^e
Gold, mine output, Au content kilograms	500	400	400 ^{r,e}	400 ^{r,e}	400 ^e
Petroleum, refinery products thousand 42-gallon barrels	18,545	18,249	19,016	20,000 ^e	20,000 ^e
Stone, sand and gravel:					
Crushed rock and rough stone thousand cubic meters	6,187	5,000 ^e	7,086 ^r	7,241 ^r	7,200 ^e
Limestone and calcareous materials do.	1,500	2,284	1,003 ^r	1,314 ^r	1,400 ^e
Sand and gravel do.	3,476	3,000 ^e	4,724 ^r	4,828 ^r	4,800 ^e
Sandstone do.	122	125	104 ^r	94 ^r	100 ^e
EL SALVADOR					
Cement, hydraulic thousand metric tons	1,320	1,380	1,200 ^r	1,000 ^{e,r}	1,000 ^e
Iron and steel, metal:					
Semimanufactures	97,000	100,000 ^e	105,000 ^{r,e}	110,000	111,000 ^e
Steel, crude	100,000	102,000	118,000 ^r	121,000	124,000
GUATEMALA					
Metals:					
Antimony, mine output, Sb content	--	62	67 ^e	159	--
Gold, mine output, Au content kilograms	11,898	6,473	6,384	5,928	5,641
Lead	--	2,300	2,100 ^e	6,266 ^r	6,000 ^e
Nickel, ferronickel, Ni content	--	--	--	5,000	10,826
Silver, mine output, Ag content kilograms	272,771	204,555	283,204	631,382	862,197
Steel, crude thousand metric tons	445	334	385 ^r	395 ^r	403
Zinc, run of mine, Zn content	--	--	1,221 ^r	13,394 ^r	14,615
Industrial minerals:					
Clay:					
Kaolin	4,057	1,866	2,953	1,285	1,101
Unspecified	41,198	66,392	78,978	127,301	120,000 ^e
Feldspar	2,890	19,356	19,611	10,410	10,340
Gypsum, crude thousand metric tons	46	100	118	82	111
Jadeite	27	33	89	521	589
Magnesium compounds (magnesite)	311	27,132	17,200	24,268	20,000 ^e
Pumice (sand) cubic meters	1,447,528	460,817 ^r	90,701	79,969	160,986
Stone, sand and gravel:					
Sand and gravel, natural:					
Building (foundation) sand thousand metric tons	8	16	8	6	6 ^e
River sand do.	130 ^r	418 ^r	80 ^r	314 ^r	181
Sand and gravel, common do.	1,123 ^r	800 ^r	533 ^r	235 ^r	622
Silica sand do.	60,000	48,664	53,242	50,000	324,658
Volcanic sand do.	9,600 ^{e,r}	10,566 ^r	27,514 ^r	31,451 ^r	30,400 ^e
Stone, crude:					
Basalt cubic meters	783,752 ^r	57,534 ^r	84,410 ^r	22,874 ^r	13,816
Basaltic andesite do.	1,681,811 ^r	1,611,944 ^r	1,996,731 ^r	1,600,000 ^{e,r}	2,481,286
Dolomite do.	7,264 ^r	2,883 ^r	18,638 ^r	10,305 ^r	33,837 ^r
Flagstone, phyllite do.	656 ^r	368 ^r	309 ^r	589 ^r	560 ^e
Granite	161	1,667	1,275	1,500 ^e	1,500 ^e
Limestone, crude	123,984,875 ^r	2,794,623 ^r	2,643,779 ^r	2,823,106 ^r	5,036,552
Marble	120,000 ^r	130,240 ^r	149,571 ^r	75,716 ^r	168,331
Marl	740 ^r	22,200 ^{e,r}	22,200 ^{e,r}	65,898 ^r	60,957
Schist	299,718 ^r	308,242 ^r	303,202 ^r	310,091 ^r	358,382
Steatite	150 ^e	138	90	32	35 ^e
Talc	8,300	2,311	7,084	7,250 ^r	7,500 ^e
Tuff	209,389	97,369	271,639	354,754	332,000 ^e

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1—Continued
CENTRAL AMERICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity ²	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Mineral fuels and related materials:						
Petroleum:						
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	3,995	3,876	3,645	3,669	3,650
Refinery products:						
Asphalt	42-gallon barrels	301,140	275,000	193,740	237,700	163,671
Diesel	do.	193,050	227,790	201,700	280,240	268,699
Kerosene	do.	7,130	2,880	2,910	3,520	173
Refinery gas	do.	36,510	32,670	18,180	20,000 ^e	18,000 ^e
Total	do.	537,830	538,340	416,530	541,460 ^r	450,543
HONDURAS						
Cement	thousand metric tons	1,620	1,730	1,700 ^e	1,700 ^e	1,700 ^e
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	1,893	1,858	1,985	2,762	2,598
Lead, mine output, Pb content		16,954	12,400	11,600	15,500	9,800
Silver, mine output, Ag content	kilograms	53,167	50,605	50,910	56,826 ^r	34,369
Zinc, mine output, Zn content		25,945 ^r	25,603 ^r	25,223 ^r	29,509 ^r	22,992
NICARAGUA						
Cement ^e	thousand metric tons	700	620 ^r	650 ^r	700 ^e	700 ^e
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	6,395	6,981	8,612 ^r	8,171 ^r	6,814
Gypsum and anhydrite, crude		29,710	34,890	36,500	46,570	49,600
Lime		2,140	5,575	6,832	4,679	4,104
Pumice, stone	cubic meters	20	70	10	--	--
Sand, unspecified	thousand cubic meters	266	243	279	273	215
Silver, mine output, Ag content	kilograms	7,927	10,207	13,743	13,585	14,621
Stone:						
Crushed	thousand cubic meters	929	1,084	1,109	1,310	1,177
Quarried, unspecified	thousand metric tons	8,083	9,216	9,344	10,566	10,005
Tuff, volcanic	do.	117	142	186	160	171
Mineral fuels and related materials:						
Asphalt	42-gallon barrels	74,000	34,900	51,600 ^r	105,900 ^r	132,200
Diesel	do.	1,656,600	1,138,800	1,555,700 ^r	1,591,000 ^r	1,421,700
Fuel oil	do.	2,354,400	1,558,200	2,003,600 ^r	1,942,700 ^r	2,236,700
Gasoline	do.	826,600	584,200	830,100 ^r	815,500 ^r	839,800
Kerosene turbo fuel	do.	275,200	200,200	225,400 ^r	232,200 ^r	256,200
Liquefied petroleum gas	do.	192,000	100,400	127,100 ^r	111,600 ^r	155,300
PANAMA						
Cement	thousand metric tons	1,766	2,310 ^r	2,366 ^r	2,188 ^r	2,200 ^e
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	1,675	2,115	2,141 ^r	2,954 ^r	2,000 ^e
Salt		60,800 ^r	36,600 ^r	60,600 ^r	56,500	60,000 ^e

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

¹Table includes data available through March 31, 2017.

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

TABLE 2
CENTRAL AMERICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2015

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity ^c
BELIZE				
Petroleum, crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Belize Natural Energy Ltd.	Spanish Lookout and Never Delay Oilfields, Cayo District	530
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
Clay		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%)	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, Sacatepequez 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%	Marlin Mine, near municipalities of San Miguel Ixtahuacan and Sipakapa, San Marcos Department	6,500
Do.	do.	Exploraciones Mineras de Guatemala, S.A.	Progreso VII Derivada, San Jose del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc Municipalities, Guatemala Department	NA
Do.	do.	Ricas ek Tanbirm S.A.	San Antonio La Paz, El Progreso Department	NA
Do.	do.	Entre Mares de Guatemala, S.A.	Asuncion Mita, Jutiapa Department	NA

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued
CENTRAL AMERICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2015

(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				
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
Lime		HORCALSA S.A. (Cementos Progreso S.A., 100%)	San Miguel plant, Sanarate, El Progreso Department	180
Nickel		Compañía Guatemalteca de Niquel, S.A. (Solway Investment Group, 98.2%, and Government of Guatemala, 1.8%)	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	595,000
Do.	do.	Goldcorp Inc., 100%	Marlin Mine, near municipalities of San Miguel Ixtahuacan and Sipakapa, San Marcos Department	196,000
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	2,800
Lead	metric tons	Nyrstar NV, 100%	El Mochito Mine, Santa Barbara Department, 90 kilometers south of San Pedro Sula	15,500
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., 95%	Bonanza, North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region	2,500
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.