



2016 Minerals Yearbook

SOLOMON ISLANDS [ADVANCE RELEASE]

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

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In 2016, the production of mineral commodities—notably bauxite—represented only a minor part of the economy of the Solomon Islands (table 1; International Monetary Fund, 2016, p. 6). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in the Solomon Islands is provided by the Mines and Minerals Act 2014. Data on mineral production are in table 1. Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities. More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of the Solomon Islands can be found in the previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—

International—Asia and Pacific, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/asia-and-pacific>.

Reference Cited

International Monetary Fund, 2016, 2016 article IV consultation and fifth and sixth reviews under the extended credit facility arrangement—Press releases—Staff report—And statement by the executive director for Solomon Islands: Washington, DC, International Monetary Fund, March. (Accessed November 28, 2017, at https://www.imf.org/~media/Websites/IMF/Imported/external/pubs/ft/scr/2016/_cr1690pdf.ashx.)

TABLE 1
SOLOMON ISLANDS: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

| Commodity | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| METALS | | | | | | |
| Bauxite | metric tons | -- | -- | -- | 292,000 | 238,000 |
| Gold, mine production, Au content | | 2,180 | 1,886 | 1,403 | -- | -- |
| Silver, mine production, Ag content | | 932 | 413 | 280 | -- | -- |

-- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through November 28, 2017. All data are reported unless otherwise noted.

TABLE 2
SOLOMON ISLANDS: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2016

(Kilograms)

| Commodity | Major operating companies and major equity owners | Location of main facilities | Annual capacity ^e | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|---------|
| Bauxite | metric tons | Asia Pacific Investment and Development Ltd. (APID) | West Rennell Islands | 300,000 |
| Gold: ¹ | | | | |
| Ore, Au content | St Barbara Ltd., 100% | Gold Ridge Mine, Guadalcanal, Guadalcanal Province | | 1,400 |
| Refined | Meekom Gold Exchange and Refinery Corp. Ltd. | NA | | 600 |
| Silver, in ore ¹ | St Barbara Ltd., 100% | Gold Ridge Mine, Guadalcanal, Guadalcanal Province | | 300 |

^eEstimated. NA Not available.

¹The mine was closed from July 2014 through 2016.