

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

JAMAICA

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In 1997, the mineral industry of Jamaica was small in comparison with other countries. The most important minerals to the country's economy were bauxite and alumina. Jamaica was the fourth leading producer of bauxite, accounting for about 10% total world output. It was the third leading producer of alumina with about 7% of the total world production. The country also

produced small amounts of cement, gypsum, lime, limestone, petroleum refinery product, salt, silica sand, and construction materials for domestic consumption. (*See tables 1 and 2.*) For more-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Jamaica, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, International Review of Latin America and Canada.

TABLE 1
JAMAICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Aluminum:						
Bauxite, dry equivalent, gross weight	thousand tons	11,307	11,564	10,858	11,863 r/	11,875
Alumina	do.	2,989	3,221	3,030	3,199 r/	3,414
Cement, hydraulic	do.	451	445	523	555	550 e/
Gypsum		152,190	203,700	208,020	338,875 r/	263,662
Iron and steel: Steel, crude e/		24,500	-- r/	-- r/	-- r/	--
Lead, refined (secondary) e/		800	800	800	800	800
Lime		151,000	170,000	170,000 e/	245,000 r/ e/	196,000 e/
Petroleum refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	5,774	5,886	5,364	6,100	6,200 e/
Salt		17,970	17,543	19,730	17,866	18,000 e/
Silica sand		21,300	18,400	16,300	15,790 r/	12,089
Stone:						
Limestone	thousand tons	3,319	3,319	3,385	3,351	3,349
Marble, cut and/or polished		5,780	5,720	2,800	2,000	1,500
Marl and fill	thousand tons	3,627	3,809	3,920	4,116	4,198
Sand and gravel	do.	1,549	1,700	1,800	1,836	1,928

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through June 15, 1998.

TABLE 2
JAMAICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1997

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Alumina	Alcoa Minerals of Jamaica Inc. (Jamalco) (Aluminum Co. of America, 50%; Clarendon Alumina Production Ltd. (Government), 50%)	Halse Hall plant at Clarendon, Clarendon Parish	850
Do.	Alumina Partners of Jamaica (Alpart) (Kaiser Aluminum Corp., 65%; Hydro Aluminum Jamaica AS, 35%)	Nain, St. Elizabeth Parish	1,450
Do.	Alcan Jamaica Co. (Jamalcan) (Alcan Aluminium Lat. Canada, 93%; Government, 7%)	Kirkvine, Manchester Parish, and Ewarton, St. Catherine Parish	548
Bauxite	Jamalcan Bauxite Mines	St. Ann and St. Catherine Parishes	1,600
Do.	Jamaica Bauxite Mining Ltd. Lydford Mines	Lydford, St. Ann Parish	2,500
Do.	Jamalco Bauxite Mines	Mocho Mountains, Clarendon Parish	2,500
Do.	Kaiser Jamaica Bauxite Co. Ltd.	Kirkvine, Manchester Parish; Water Valley, Discovery Bay, St. Ann Parish	4,500
Cement	Caribbean Cement Co. Ltd.	Rockfort. St. Andrews Parish	1,700
Petroleum products	Petrojam Ltd. (Petroleum Development Ltd., 70%; Government, 30%)	Kingston, St. Andrews Parish	36,000 1/

1/ 42-gallon barrels per day.