The Gambian economy was dominated by agriculture and tourism. The mineral industry was a minor component of the national economy, with production of clays for brick, laterite, sand and gravel, and silica sand.

In 1997, Interbulk of Switzerland, a subsidiary of the Italcementi Group of Italy, completed a cement import terminal in Banjul. In 1998, the Government received the results of a Chinese mineral survey that documented a deposit of 40 million metric tons of silica sand, in addition to known resources of 660,700 metric tons (t) of ilmenite and 135,200 t of zircon, at a 1% cutoff grade (Carnegie Minerals NL, April 7, 1999, Large licence, measured resources plus exploration potential in The Gambia, accessed April 21, 1999, at URL http://www.ozemail.com.au/~harburn/ann07_04.htm).

During 1998, West Oil NL of Australia and Fusion Investments Ltd. of the United Kingdom signed a technical cooperation agreement to evaluate The Gambia’s offshore prospects. In June, the joint venture of Planet Oil Holdings Ltd. of the United Kingdom (90%) and Balmain Resources Pty. Ltd. of Australia (10%) acquired a 1-year production-sharing contract for offshore block PPL-98E. Planet Oil was subsequently acquired by Hardman Resources NL of Australia.


Major Source of Information

The Geological Unit
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
7 Kairaba Ave.
K S M D
Banjul
The Gambia
### TABLE 1
THE GAMBIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silica sand</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>452,400</td>
<td>302,600</td>
<td>269,773</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ Estimated.

1/ Includes data available through August 3, 1999.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, a variety of construction materials (laterite, sand, and shell) are produced; but information is inadequate to make estimates of output.