The Central African Republic is a landlocked agrarian nation with a resident population of about 3.5 million. Agriculture accounted for more than 50% of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP), which was estimated to be about $1.2 billion (World Bank, [undated], Macro-economic profile for Central African Republic, accessed May 2, 2000, via URL http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/afis/af3rief.nsf/). The mining sector, which was dominated by the production of diamond, accounted for about 4% of the GDP.


Other mineral occurrences reported in the Central African Republic included clay, copper, graphite, ilmenite, iron ore, lignite, limestone, manganese, monazite, rutile, tin, and uranium (Direction Générale des Ressources Minérales, 1995, p. 14-18). The lack of adequate transportation and industrial infrastructure hindered the development of the nation's mineral industry, consequently, little of the country’s 400,000-square-kilometer Precambrian terrane has been explored by using modern techniques (Knopf, 1999).

References Cited


Major Source of Information

Ministère des Ressources Energétiques et Minérales
Direction Générale des Ressources Minérales
Bangui, Central African Republic
Telephone: (236) 61-20-54
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diamond</td>
<td>530,000</td>
<td>470,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>530,000</td>
<td>550,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>kilograms</td>
<td>97 3/</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

1/ Includes data available through May 2, 2000.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, modest quantities of unlisted varieties of crude construction materials (clays, gravel, sand, and stone) presumably are produced, but output is not reported, and available information is inadequate to make estimates of output levels.

3/ Reported figure.