

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

SIERRA LEONE

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Mineral production in Sierra Leone consisted mainly of artisanal recovery of diamond and gold. A significant proportion of mineral production was in areas that remained under the control of the rebel forces of the Revolutionary United Front. The ongoing civil strife has adversely affected investment in natural resource development, although

conditions could improve with the implementation of the July 1999 peace agreement.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Sierra Leone, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

TABLE 1
SIERRA LEONE: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Thousand metric tons unless other wise specified)

Commodity	1995	1996	1997	1998 e/	1999 e/
Cement 2/	100 e/	160	50	100	100
Diamond 3/	214	270	400	250	500
Gold e/	4	16	20	15	30
Gypsum e/	4	5	2	4	4
Salt e/	--	50 r/	10 r/	1 r/	1

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised. -- Zero.

1/ Table includes data available through October 27, 2000.

2/ Production from imported cement clinker.

3/ Includes gem-quality and industrial diamond.