



2013 Minerals Yearbook

CABO VERDE

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CABO VERDE

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The mineral industry's contribution to the economy of Cabo Verde (formerly known as Cape Verde), which is an archipelago of 10 islands and 8 islets that are located about 600 kilometers off the western coast of Africa, was minimal. Cabo Verde's nominal gross domestic product was estimated to be \$1.9 billion¹ in 2013 (International Monetary Fund, 2014).

Most of the country's mineral commodity needs were satisfied by imports. In 2013, the provisional value of total exports from Cabo Verde was about \$201 million and the value of total imports was about \$833 million. The value of imports of mineral fuels accounted for about 19% of Cabo Verde's total imports in 2013; cement, about 3%; and steel products, about 2%. Most of the imported cement and steel products were sourced from Portugal. Compared with those of 2012, imports of building materials declined in 2013 and imports of cement declined for the first half of the year but increased in the second half (Banco de Cabo Verde, 2014, p. 12, 14; United Nations Statistics Division, 2014).

Salt was recovered from the Saline de Pedra Lume, which is located in the crater of an extinct volcano on the island of Sal, and from the salt marshes of Porto Ingles on Maio Island. In 2013, an area of 535 hectares of the Salinas de Porto Ingles was added to the Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance. Artisanal production of salt was expected to continue. Historically, salt also had been produced at Curral Velho on the island of Boa Vista. Crude construction materials, such as aggregate and clay, were produced primarily to meet local demand. Cimpor Cabo Verde S.A., which was a subsidiary of Cimpor-Cimentos de Portugal SGPS, S.A., produced concrete and distributed imported cement. Mineral commodity production amounts were not reported, and available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output (table 1; Smith, 2010; Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, The, 2014).

¹Deceased.

²Where necessary, values have been converted from Cabo Verdean Escudos (ECV) to U.S. dollars (US\$) at the average rate of ECV81.95=US\$1.00 for 2013.

Outlook

With four international airports and available nonagricultural land adjacent to sandy beaches, the archipelago is slowly making the transition to a tourist destination. Domestic mineral production is not expected to change in the near future, although imports of cement and steel could increase with additional housing and infrastructure construction. The potential increase in the transient population is expected to increase demand for electrical power and potable water. The separation of the islands limits the economies of scale associated with centralized desalination and electrical powerplants but enhances the attractiveness of supplementing the local power supply with electrical power generated by wind farms.

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TABLE 1
CABO VERDE: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2013

| Commodity | Major operating companies and major equity owners | Location of main facilities | Annual capacity |
|-----------|--|--|-----------------|
| Aggregate | Cimpor Cabo Verde S.A. (Cimpor-Cimentos de Portugal. SGPS, S.A., 98.13%) | Quarries on Boa Vista, Sal, and Santiago | NA |
| Salt | Artisanal | Saline de Pedra Lume, Sal | NA |
| Do. | do. | Salinas de Porto Ingles, Maio | NA |

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available