



2009 Minerals Yearbook

CENTRAL AMERICA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND PANAMA

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BELIZE

Adverse effects from two major floods in 2008 contributed to reduced production in Belize in 2009 as industry had been disrupted and some water-borne diseases reportedly had affected the citizens in the workforce. The service and agricultural sectors and their related exports were negatively affected in the first half of the year by the lingering effects of the international economic downturn in 2008. Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2009 was reported by the Central Bank of Belize to be 0% compared with a 3.6% growth rate in 2008. The manufacturing sector, which included mining and quarrying, grew by 6.9% and that growth was attributed to a 24.3% increase in petroleum production. In 2008, total GDP growth for 2009 had been projected to decrease to 1.8%. That growth was expected to come from increased petroleum extraction and increased revenue from agriculture, the latter of which did not happen (Central Bank of Belize, 2009, p. 1; 2010, p. 16).

Minerals in the National Economy

The contribution of mining and quarrying to the nominal GDP (at current prices) was about 0.5% in 2008; starting in that same year, mining and quarrying came to be included in the manufacturing sector's balance, and thus the direct contribution of mining and quarrying to the economy in 2009 was not readily available. It could be expected, however, that even with increased petroleum production, the contribution from mining and quarrying activities would have remained at or below about 1% of the total GDP. The Central Bank reported that including petroleum extraction in its manufacturing sector, which was dominated by citrus products and beverages and had been marked by uneven performance, was a statistical practice. In 2009, petroleum extraction accounted for the 6.9% increase in the value of the manufacturing sector compared with that of 2008 (Central Bank of Belize, 2009, p. 3; 2010, p. 24).

Production

Data on mineral production are in table 1. Petroleum extraction in Belize had increased slightly each year since 2006, and in 2009, production increased again to about 1.6 million barrels (Mbbbl) from 10 production wells; this represented an increase in production of about 100% between 2006 and 2009 (Central Bank of Belize, 2010, p. 24).

In 2009, Erin Ventures Inc. continued exploration at its Ceibo Chico gold project in the Cayo District. The company held four prospecting licenses for an area of about

34 square kilometers (km²) and a mining license for an area of about 40 km². The company had been mining placer gold from the Ceibo Chico Creek, which was thought to be cutting an ore body, to offset exploration costs. The geology of the project area was described as intrusive and metasedimentary rocks bounded by volcanic rocks to the south and Upper Cretaceous limestones to the north. In 2009, after mapping roads, streams, and historic trenches, the company identified quartz veins believed to be prospective for mineralization and reported that it would undertake a drilling and trenching program (Erin Ventures, Inc., 2009; 2010).

Mineral Trade

For the first 10 months of 2009, total imports to Belize were 22.7% less than for the same period in 2008; the largest decline was recorded for the imports of minerals, fuels, and lubricants, which decreased in value by about \$106 million compared with the value in 2008 (the exact value of mineral, fuels, and lubricants imported in 2008 was not found). This decrease was the result of the significant reduction in fuel acquisition costs (related to the rebalancing of international fuel prices after the surge in 2008), as the actual volume of fuels imported by the country in 2009 increased compared with that of 2008.

Lower international prices for petroleum in 2009 compared with those of 2008 contributed to a 52% decrease in the value of domestic petroleum exports from Belize despite a 21% increase in the volume of sales. The amount of exported petroleum in 2009 was slightly more than 1 Mbbbl compared with about 895,000 barrels (bbl) in 2008. The amount exported in 2009 exceeded the amount produced domestically that year, so there must have been some quantity held in storage from the previous year or some quantity of reexported petroleum (Statistical Institute of Belize, 2010).

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COSTA RICA

In 2009, the Costa Rican economy was still affected by the global recession of 2008. The Central Bank reported that although the nominal GDP growth rate (at current prices) was -1.1%, the economy began to show signs of improvement in the second half of the year, especially in the fourth quarter, when the GDP grew by 2.9% compared with negative growth rates in each quarter before that since the fourth quarter of 2008. In the first half of 2009, the agricultural, construction, hotel and restaurant, and industrial manufacturing (including minerals) sectors experienced growth that varied from about -4.0% to about -10% compared with that of 2008, whereas some sectors of the economy, including communication, financial services, housing, real estate, transportation, and other service sectors, experienced growth of as much as 4.0%. In the second half of 2009, the industrial manufacturing sector, which recorded zero growth in the first half of the year, grew by 4.0%, and performance in the agricultural sector also improved. Although the construction and hotel and restaurant sectors showed little improvement in the second half of the year, the rest of the aforementioned service sectors maintained their same levels of positive growth (Central Bank of Costa Rica, 2010b, p. 13).

Minerals in the National Economy

Since 2005, the Costa Rican GDP increased each year to \$29.9 billion in 2009 from about \$17 billion in 2005. The contribution of mining and quarrying to the GDP ranged from 0.15% to 0.23% from 2005 through 2008 and decreased slightly in 2009 to 0.17%. The value contribution of the mining and quarrying sector from 2005 through 2008 increased to \$63.4 million from \$25.9 million but decreased slightly to \$52.9 million in 2009 (Central Bank of Costa Rica, 2010a).

Production

Data on mineral production are in table 1.

Mineral Trade

In 2009, Costa Rica reported decreased external demand for its products. The country was not a significant trader of mineral commodities. It imported \$1.24 billion worth of hydrocarbon products, which was a 41% decrease compared with the value in 2008 (Central Bank of Costa Rica, 2010b, p. 36).

Commodity Review

Metals

Gold.—In October 2009, Infinito Gold Ltd. of Canada announced that a hearing had been scheduled in Costa Rica's Constitutional Court to review the technical and legal aspects of the company's Crucitas gold project. In 2008, the Government had issued Infinito Gold a Change in Land Use permit that authorized the cutting of trees to facilitate the construction of the mine and related infrastructure. The Government had

declared that the project was in the national interest, but on October 21, 2008 (four days after tree-clearing activities had begun), the company received a court order to suspend activities because of a challenge from individuals in Costa Rica. (Costa Rican citizens were entitled to challenge decisions of the Constitutional Court directly including, as in this case, decisions regarding the environmental protection provision in the country's Constitution.) In November, the company received notice from the Court that it had ruled that it was not contrary for the President and the Minister of the Environment to issue the Presidential decree in 2008 that declared the project to be in the national interest, but that there were still legal injunctions in place that prohibited activity on the project and that a hearing had been scheduled for November 12, 2009. As of December 18, 2009, the company reported that the Constitutional Court had not come to a decision on the remaining legal challenges and that a decision would not be given until after the Court's yearend recess (Infinito Gold, Ltd., 2009a, b).

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EL SALVADOR

The effect of the international economic recession of 2008 on the Salvadoran economy in 2009 was that for the first time since 1990, the GDP growth rate decreased in all four quarters of the year relative to each previous quarter; this decrease resulted in a -3.5% growth rate for the year compared with the average annual GDP growth rates of 4.6% from 1991 through 2000 and 2.8% from 2001 through 2008. The value contribution of mining and quarrying activities was included in the value reported for the manufacturing sector, which decreased by 3.4% compared with that of 2008. The mining industry accounted for between 0.7% and 1.2% of the GDP from 2004 through 2008 (Commission Economica de America Latina y el Caribe, 2009; Banco Central de Reserva de El Salvador, 2010, p. 12-13).

In 2009, there were several precious and base-metal projects in El Salvador that were at various stages of development. Most of these projects, however, were on hold for financing, in litigation, otherwise inactive, or their status was unknown.

Minerals in the National Economy

Monetary data for the mining and quarrying sector for 2009 were not available, but there was likely little or no increase in

the sector's contribution to the GDP compared with that of 2008 when the sector contributed about \$146 million to the GDP and accounted for about 1% of the total. For the period 2004 through 2008, the Salvadoran GDP increased to \$22.4 billion from about \$15.0 billion. The contribution of mining and quarrying to the GDP was about 0.35% from 2004 through 2006; it increased to 0.60% in 2007 and decreased slightly to 0.56% in 2008. The value of mining increased from \$56.5 million in 2004 to \$59.2 million in 2005, \$64.4 million in 2006, \$123.1 million in 2007, and \$126.3 million in 2008 (Comisión Económica de América Latina y el Caribe, 2009; Banco Central de Reserva de El Salvador, 2010, p. 12-13).

Production

Data on mineral production are in table 1.

Mineral Trade

In 2009, total exports from El Salvador were valued at about \$3.8 billion, which was a decrease of almost 20% compared with the value in 2008. The country was not a significant exporter of mineral products. In 2009, the total amount of imports to El Salvador was valued at \$7.3 billion, which was a 25.6% decrease compared with the value in 2008. El Salvador imported \$1.1 billion worth of petroleum products, which was a 41.8% decrease compared with imports in 2008; the decrease was attributable to the reduction in petroleum prices in 2009 and a 19.5% reduction in the volume of imported petroleum products for the year (Banco Central de Reserva de El Salvador, 2010, p. 15-17).

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HONDURAS

In 2009, the Honduran GDP growth rate decreased by about 2% compared with that of 2008. The decrease was attributable to decreased external demand, decreased internal consumption, and decreased investment, especially in the public sector. In 2009, numerous precious and base-metal projects were at various stages of development in Honduras, but many were on hold, care-and-maintenance status, closed, or the status was otherwise unknown. Production continued, however, from Breakwater Resources Ltd. of Canada's El Mochito lead, silver, and zinc operation in the Department of Santa Barbara and Aura Minerals Inc. of Canada's San Andres gold operation in the Department of Copan, which had previously been wholly owned by Yamana Gold Inc., also of Canada, until August 2009.

Minerals in the National Economy

For the period 2006 through 2009, the Honduran GDP increased to \$14.8 billion (at current prices) from \$11.4 billion. The contribution of the mining and quarrying sector to the GDP was about 1.2% in 2006 and 2007; it decreased to 0.8% in 2008 and was estimated to have decreased to about 0.8% in 2009. The value of mining and quarrying was about \$127 million in 2006; this value increased to \$148 million in 2007, decreased to \$111 million in 2008, and was expected to have contributed about \$99.4 million to the GDP in 2009 (Comisión Económica de América Latina y el Caribe, 2009; Banco Central de Honduras, 2010, p. 94).

Production

Data on mineral production are in table 1. Gold production decreased by 17% in 2009 compared with that of 2008; production of lead concentrate increased by 15%, production of silver decreased by about 19%, and production of zinc concentrate increased by 27%.

Mineral Trade

The total value of exports from Honduras, which was about 15% of the GDP in 2009, decreased by 20% compared with that of 2008. The country was not a significant trader of mineral products. The volume of imported combustibles and lubricants decreased by 28.3% in 2009 compared with that of 2008 and the value of those imports decreased by 38.3% compared with that of 2008 (Banco Central de Honduras, 2010, p. 30-31).

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NICARAGUA

About 20 precious- and base-metal projects were at various stages of development in Nicaragua in 2009. Some were on hold or inactive, but about one-half of them were active for exploration, resource development, and (or) target outline in the past 2 years. The Limon Mine in Leon Province and La Libertad gold mine in Chontales Province were acquired by B2 Gold Corp. of Canada when it acquired the Central Sun Mining Co. of Canada in March 2009. Operations at La Libertad had been suspended in 2007 to install a semiautonomous grinding (SAG) and ball mill circuit, carbon-in-pulp recovery tanks, and a tailings storage facility. The company estimated that it could improve the gold recovery from about 40% with the current heap-leach operation to more than 90% with a new milling system. The mine was expected to produce about 2,500 kilograms per year of gold for 7 years starting in 2010. The Limon Mine, which had been operating since 1941, was

expected to produce about 1,250 kg of gold in 2010 and had an expected mine life of 3.5 years; the company, however, was conducting further exploration and reportedly anticipated the discovery of new mineralized veins that could extend production at the mine.

Minerals in the National Economy

From 2005 through 2009, the value of the Nicaraguan GDP increased to about \$6.3 billion from about \$5.0 billion. The contribution of mining and quarrying to the GDP was 1.1% in 2005, 1.2% in 2006, 1.2% in 2007, 1.2% in 2008, and 1.1% in 2009. The value contribution of mining and quarrying to the GDP was \$56.8 million in 2005, \$69.1 million in 2006, \$67.4 million in 2007, \$77.9 million in 2008, and \$71.4 in 2009 (Banco Central de Nicaragua, 2010, p. 4).

Production

Data on mineral production are in table 1. Gold production increased by 9% in 2009 compared with that of 2008. Production of refinery products increased by 12.4% and included 2,629,583 bbl of fuel oil, 1,590,836 bbl of diesel fuel, 825,291 bbl of gasoline, 229,159 bbl of jet fuel, 140,164 bbl of liquid petroleum gas, 126,868 bbl of solvents, and 93,885 bbl composed of fuel gas and other (Ministerio de Energia y Minas, 2010).

Mineral Trade

In 2009, Nicaragua imported crude petroleum valued at \$346.80 million and other combustible and lubricant products valued at \$337.10 million and exported \$11.3 million worth of refinery products. Nicaragua was not a producer of iron and steel products; however, it exported \$9.4 million worth of iron and steel products, so the export of those products was assumed to be reexported goods. Data for the volume of traded iron and steel finished products between Nicaragua and other countries was not available for 2009; however, in 2008, the country exported about 5% of the volume of its total imported finished and semifinished steel products. In 2008 and 2009, the country reexported 16% and 12.8%, respectively, of the reported value of its imported iron and steel finished products (Banco Central de Nicaragua, 2010, p. 97; United Nations Statistics Division, 2010; World Steel Association, 2010, p. 65-66).

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PANAMA

In 2009, at least 20 precious and base-metal projects in Panama were at various stages of development or in production. About half a dozen of them were active within the past 2 years for reserved development, feasibility study, or, in the case of Petaquilla Minerals Ltd. of Canada's Molejon gold project in the Colon Province, to prepare to commence production. The company performed its first gold pour in April, and in November, it received approval from the Panamanian Government to commence commercial production at the mine (Petaquilla Minerals Ltd., 2009).

Minerals in the National Economy

From 2005 through 2009, the Panamanian GDP increased to \$19.7 billion from \$14.4 billion. The contribution of mining and quarrying to the GDP increased from a little less than 1% in 2005 to 1.4% in 2009. The value of mining and quarrying was \$138.2 million in 2005, \$165.5 million in 2006, \$203.1 million in 2007, \$263.6 million in 2008, and \$278.6 million in 2009 (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censo, 2010b).

Production

Data on mineral production are in table 1. Between April and December, the Petaquilla Mine produced about 800 kg of gold (Petaquilla Minerals Ltd., 2009).

Mineral Trade

The value of total exports from Panama in 2009 was estimated to be \$11.4 billion and the value of total imports was estimated to be \$8.0 billion. The country was not a significant trader of mineral products. It exported \$7.2 million worth of petroleum refinery products (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censo, 2010a).

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TABLE 1
CENTRAL AMERICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity ²	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^c
BELIZE					
Clays, unspecified thousand metric tons	281	428	400 ^e	400 ^e	400
Dolomite	2,937	5,488	5,000 ^e	5,000 ^e	5,000
Gold, mine output, Au content grams	75	5,040	8,300 ^r	18,200 ^r	NA
Petroleum, crude ³ thousand 42-gallon barrels	14	797	950	1,200 ^r	1,609
Quartz sand (silica) ^e thousand cubic meters	18	11	12	12	12
Sand and gravel do.	154	219	200 ^e	200 ^e	200
Sand, including lime sand, river sand, silt, and mud do.	52	856	800 ^e	800 ^e	800
Stone, natural:					
Limestone, including marl thousand metric tons	126	287	300 ^e	300 ^e	300
Other, unspecified ^e thousand cubic meters	60 ⁴	--	--	--	--
COSTA RICA					
Cement thousand metric tons	2,000	1,900	2,300	2,500	2,500
Clays, unspecified ^e	420,000	400,000	323,381 ⁴	349,724 ⁴	350,000
Diatomite	1,476	2,780	1,712 ^r	1,059 ^r	1,200
Gold, mine output, Au content kilograms	424	1,210	1,036	198	150
Iron and steel, semimanufactures ^e thousand metric tons	444 ^r	736 ^r	659 ^r	657 ^r	319
Lime ^e do.	10	10	-- ⁴	-- ⁴	-- ⁴
Petroleum, refinery products thousand 42-gallon barrels	3,522	4,920	-- ^r	-- ^r	--
Pumice ^e	8,000	8,000	-- ⁴	-- ⁴	--
Salt, marine ^e thousand metric tons	20	NA	NA ⁴	NA ⁴	NA
Stone, sand and gravel: ^e					
Crushed rock and rough stone do.	200	10,400	9,260 ⁴	10,000 ⁴	10,000
Limestone and calcareous materials do.	1,567 ^{r,4}	1,710 ^{r,4}	1,862 ^{r,4}	1,506 ^{r,4}	1,500
Sand and gravel do.	1,550	3,750	3,438 ^{r,4}	4,348 ^{r,4}	3,500
Sandstone do.	3,250	3,000	120 ⁴	164 ⁴	150
EL SALVADOR					
Aluminum, metal, including alloys and semimanufactures ^e	2,600	2,500	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
Cement, hydraulic thousand metric tons	1,131	1,311	1,300	1,300	1,212
Fertilizer materials: ^e					
Phosphatic	13,600	10,000	10,000	10,000	NA
Other mixed materials	56,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	NA
Gypsum ^e	5,600	5,500	5,500	5,500	NA
Iron and steel, metal: ^e					
Steel, crude	48,000	72,000 ^r	73,000 ^{r,4}	73,000 ^{r,4}	56,000 ⁴
Semimanufactures	88,400 ^{r,4}	90,000	121,000 ^{r,4}	100,000 ^{r,4}	100,000
Lead, metal, secondary ^e	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	NA
Limestone ^e thousand metric tons	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,200	NA
Petroleum, refinery products ^e thousand 42-gallon barrels	6,200	6,180	6,180	6,200	6,200
Pozzolan ^e cubic meters	223,000	223,000	223,000	223,000	NA
Salt, marine ^e	31,400	30,000	30,000	30,000	NA
HONDURAS					
Aggregate mineral materials ^e thousand metric tons	1,000	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
Cement do.	1,384	1,668 ^r	1,776 ^r	1,784 ^r	1,800
Clays, unspecified ^e	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
Copper, run of mine, Cu content ^e	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
Gold, mine output, Au content kilograms	4,438	4,100	3,275	2,561	2,127
Gypsum ^e	5,700	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
Iron oxide, gross weight, for cement additive ^e	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
Lead, mine output, Pb content of concentrate	10,488	11,775	10,215 ^r	12,545 ^r	14,471 ⁴
Limestone ^e thousand metric tons	1,230	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Pozzolan do.	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1—Continued
CENTRAL AMERICA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity ²	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^e	
HONDURAS—Continued						
Rhyolite ^e	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA	
Salt ^e	42,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	
Silver, mine output, Ag content of concentrate	kilograms	53,617	55,036	53,894 ^r	59,934 ^r	48,614
Slate (pizarra), for construction ^e	thousand metric tons	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
Zinc, mine output, Zn content of concentrate		42,698	37,646	29,211 ^r	28,462 ^r	36,370
NICARAGUA						
Cement ^e		530,300 ⁴	530,000	530,000	530,000	530,000
Clays, unspecified ^e		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	3,674	3,395	1,650 ^{r,4}	1,226 ^{r,4}	1,337
Gypsum and anhydrite, crude		36,456	42,191	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
Lime		2,178	2,351	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
Limestone:						
Calcium carbonate, including for cement		1,412	1,133	1,200	1,200	1,200
Other	thousand cubic meters	292	313	313	300	300
Petroleum, refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	5,354 ^r	5,595 ^r	5,586 ^r	5,071 ^r	5,700
Pumice, stone	cubic meters	2,497	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
Pumicite, fine, including pozzolan	do.	9,200	8,370	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
Salt, marine ^e		30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Sand, unspecified	thousand cubic meters	374	435	435	430	430
Silver, mine output, Ag content	kilograms	2,999	2,929	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
Stone:						
Crushed	thousand cubic meters	639	695	700	700	700
Quarried, unspecified	thousand metric tons	5,707	7,272	7,000	7,000	7,000
Tuff, volcanic	do.	117	136	136	140	140
Volcanic ash and sand	thousand cubic meters	205	262	NA ^r	NA ^r	NA
PANAMA						
Cement ^e	thousand cubic meters	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,843 ^{r,4}	1,679 ⁴
Clays: ^e						
For cement	cubic meters	64,000	64,000	64,000	64,000	64,000
For products	do.	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300
Gold, mine output, Au content	kilograms	--	--	--	--	800
Lime ^e		3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Salt, marine ^e		18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	16,722 ⁴
Stone, sand and gravel: ^e						
Limestone	thousand metric tons	270	270	270	270	270
Sand and gravel	thousand cubic meters	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. ^rRevised. do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through July 20, 2010.

²In addition to the commodities listed, some additional construction materials are produced, but available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Assumes that all crude petroleum produced was exported.

⁴Reported figure.

TABLE 2
CENTRAL AMERICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2009

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity ^e
BELIZE				
Dolomite		Belize Minerals Ltd. (Danish Development Bank and other private, 100%)	Punta Gorda, Toledo District	6,320
Limestone		Caribbean Investors Ltd. (private, 100%)	Georgeville, Cayo District	1,140
Petroleum	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Belize Natural Energy Ltd. (BNE) (Aspect Energy LLC and CHx LLC), 100%	Spanish Lookout, Cayo District, Blocks 5 and 5a	1,000
Petroleum, crude ³	kilograms	Erin Ventures, Inc. (private, 100%)	Ceibo Chico, Cayo District	160
COSTA RICA				
Cement, limestone, including marl		Holcim Costa Rica S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 59.8%, and other private, 40.2%)	Cartago cement plant, Aguas Calientes	1,200
Do.		CEMEX Costa Rica S.A. (CEMEX S.A. de C.V., 98.7%, and other private, 1.3%)	Colorado de Abangares cement plant, Guancaste Province, and Guatuso de Patarra cement grinding and bagging plant, San Jose	850
Clays		do.	Tajo Finca clay quarry, near City of Platanar	100
Gold	kilograms	B2Gold Corp. (private, 100%)	Bellavista open pit mine, Montes de Oro Region, 70 kilometers west of San Jose	1,500
Limestone		CEMEX Costa Rica S.A. (CEMEX S.A. de C.V., 98.7%, and other private, 1.3%)	Cerro Pena Blanca limestone quarry, Guancaste Province	300
Do.		Holcim Costa Rica S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 59.8%, and other private, 40.2%)	La Chilena and three other quarries near Cartago cement plant, Cartago Province	650
Petroleum, refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Refinadora Costarricense de Petróleo S.A. (RECOPE S.A.) (Government, 100%)	Moin refinery, City of Limon, Limon Province	9,000
Pozzolan		Holcim Costa Rica S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 59.8%, and other private, 40.2%)	La Chilena and three other quarries near Cartago cement plant, Cartago Province	8
Steel, semimanufactures		Laminadora Costarricense S.A. (Mittal Steel Company N.V., 50%, and Grupo Pujol-Martí, 50%)	Rolling mill, steel manufacturing complex, Jimenez de Guapiles, Limon Province	400
Do.		Trefileria Colima S.A. (Mittal Steel Company N.V., 50%, and Grupo Pujol-Martí, 50%)	Wire-drawing unit, City of Jimenez de Guapiles, Limon Province	60
EL SALVADOR				
Cement		Cemento de El Salvador S.A. de C.V. (Holcim Ltd., 64.25%, and other private, 35.75%)	El Ronco and Maya Plants, near Metapan, Santa Ana Department	1,900
Limestone		do.	Quarries near Aldea El Zapote and Santa Ana, Santa Ana Department	440
Petroleum, refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Refinería Petrolera Acajutla S.A. de C.V. (RASA de C.V.) (Exxon Mobil Corp., 65%, and Royal Dutch/Shell Group, 35%)	Puerto de Acajutla, Sonsonate Department	8,000
Pozzolan		Cemento de El Salvador S.A. de C.V. (Holcim Ltd., 64.25%, and other private, 35.75%)	Quarries near Aldea El Zapote and Santa Ana, Santa Ana Department	650
Steel:				
Crude		Corporación Industrial Centroamericana S.A. de C.V. (private, 100%)	Electric arc furnace, Quetzaltepeque, La Libertad Department	60
Semimanufactures		do.	Billet casting machine and rolling mill, Quetzaltepeque, La Libertad	92
HONDURAS				
Cement		Cementos del Norte S.A. de C.V. (Holcim Ltd., 24.2%, and Inversiones Continental S.A., 75.8%)	Rio Bijao plant, municipality of San Pedro Sula, Cortes Department	1,100
Do.		Lafarge Incehsa S.A. de C.V. (Lafarge Group, 52.8%, and other private, 47.2%)	Piedras Azules plant, municipality of Comayagua, Comayagua Department	1,300
Gold	kilograms	Minerales de Occidente S.A. de C.V. (Yamana Gold Inc., 100%)	San Andres Mine, municipality of La Union, Copan Department	2,300

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued
CENTRAL AMERICA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2009

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity ^c
HONDURAS—Continued				
Lead	metric tons	Compañía Minera Santa Bárbara (Breakwater Resources Ltd., 100%)	El Mochito Mine, municipality of Las Vegas, Santa Barbara Department, 88 kilometers southwest of San Pedro Sula	9,000
Silver	kilograms	do.	do.	50,000
Zinc	metric tons	do.	do.	42,000
NICARAGUA				
Cement		CEMEX Nicaragua S.A. (CEMEX S.A. de C.V., 100%, but on lease from Government)	San Rafael del Sur plant, 45 kilometers from Managua, and milling plant in Managua	470
Cement, clinker		Holcim de Nicaragua S.A. (Holcim Ltd., 70%, and other private, 30%)	Nagarote grinding plant, San Rafael del Sur	350
Gold	kilograms	B2Gold Corp., 95%	El Limon Mine, Talavera deposit, 100 miles north of Managua	1,400
Do.	do.	B2Gold Corp., 100%	Orosi Mine, 110 kilometers east of Managua	540
Petroleum, refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Refinería Esso Managua S.A. (Exxon Mobil Corp., 100%)	Capital city of Managua; 40-mile pipeline to the refinery from Puerto Sandino	7,300
PANAMA				
Cement		Cemento Panamá S.A. (Cementos del Caribe S.A., 50%, and Holcim Ltd., 50%)	Grinding plant in Quebrancha, Province of Panama	800
Do.		Cemento Bayano S.A. (CEMEX S.A. de C.V., 99.3%, and other private, 0.7%)	Plant in Calzada Larga, Province of Panama	450
Gold	kilograms	Petaquilla Minerals Ltd. (100%)	Molejon Mine, Province of Panama	1,500

^cEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. Do., do. Ditto.