

# 2016 Minerals Yearbook

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## MALAWI

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF MALAWI

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In 2016, the production of mineral commodities—notably cement, coal, crushed stone, gemstones and lime—represented only a minor part of the economy of Malawi (Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, 2016, p. 8, 54). The legislative framework for the mineral sector in Malawi is provided by the Mines and Minerals Act 1981 and the Mines and Minerals (Mineral Rights) Regulations 1981. The legislative framework for the petroleum sector is provided by the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act 1983. Data on mineral production are in table 1. Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities. More-extensive coverage of the

mineral industry of Malawi can be found in previous editions of the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—Africa, which are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/africa-and-middle-east>.

## Reference Cited

Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, 2016, Annual economic report 2016: Lilongwe, Malawi, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, 165 p. (Accessed June 23, 2017, at <https://miningmalawi.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/malawi-economic-report-2016-final.pdf>.)

TABLE 1  
MALAWI: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity <sup>2</sup>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>INDUSTRIAL MINERALS</b>					
Cement, hydraulic <sup>c</sup>	240,000 <sup>r</sup>	230,000 <sup>r</sup>	270,000 <sup>r</sup>	280,000 <sup>r</sup>	310,000
Clay and shale, brick clay <sup>c</sup>	1,400,000	1,500,000	1,500,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,600,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,600,000
Gemstones:					
Ornamental	7,200	7,800 <sup>c</sup>	7,800 <sup>c</sup>	8,000 <sup>c</sup>	8,000 <sup>c</sup>
Other kilograms	122,400 <sup>r</sup>	116,300 <sup>r</sup>	110,000 <sup>r,c</sup>	140,000 <sup>r,c</sup>	170,000 <sup>c</sup>
Lime	95,543	92,000 <sup>r,c</sup>	90,000 <sup>r,c</sup>	93,000 <sup>r,c</sup>	95,000 <sup>c</sup>
Phosphate rock, gross weight	12,403	11,783	11,000 <sup>c</sup>	12,000 <sup>c</sup>	12,000 <sup>c</sup>
Stone, crushed:					
Limestone, for cement <sup>c</sup>	96,000 <sup>r</sup>	91,000 <sup>r</sup>	87,000 <sup>r</sup>	98,000 <sup>r</sup>	150,000
For aggregates	1,150,325 <sup>r</sup>	1,092,808 <sup>r</sup>	1,000,000 <sup>r,c</sup>	1,150,000 <sup>r,c</sup>	1,250,000 <sup>c</sup>
Sulfur, sulfuric acid	73,000 <sup>c</sup>	75,000 <sup>c</sup>	25,000 <sup>c</sup>	--	--
<b>MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS</b>					
Coal, bituminous	70,552 <sup>r</sup>	67,024 <sup>r</sup>	64,000 <sup>r,c</sup>	59,000 <sup>r,c</sup>	55,000 <sup>c</sup>
Uranium, U content <sup>3</sup>	1,101 <sup>r</sup>	1,132 <sup>r</sup>	369 <sup>r</sup>	--	--

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through August 24, 2017. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>In addition to the commodities listed, gypsum and salt may have been produced in Malawi, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

<sup>3</sup>Series revised to U content from U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> content. Production was 1,298 metric tons (t) of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> in 2012; 1,335 t in 2013; and 435 t in 2014.

TABLE 2  
MALAWI: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2016

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Cement	Portland Cement Company Ltd. (Lafarge S.A., 100%)	Plant at Blantyre	200,000.
Do.	Shayona Cement Corp.	Plant at Livwezi	200,000.
Do.	Cement Products Ltd.	Plant at Njereza	80,000.
Coal, bituminous	Mchenga Coal Mines Ltd. (Coal Products Ltd.)	Mchenga Mine in Rumphi District	90,000.
Do.	Malcoal Mining Ltd. [Intra Energy Corp. (IEC), 90%]	Nkhachira Mine near Kayelekera <sup>1</sup>	75,000.
Do.	Eland Coal Mining Co. (Allied Procurement Agency)	Mine at Lufira coalfield <sup>1</sup>	72,000. <sup>c</sup>
Do.	Kaziwiziwi Mining Co.	Mine at Kaziwiziwi in Rumphi District	5,000. <sup>c</sup>
Gemstones:			
Amethyst, aquamarine, garnet, and tourmaline	Mzimba Gemstone Mining Cooperative Society Ltd.	Mines in Mzimba District	NA.
Aquamarine kilograms	Silver Hills Gems	NA	10,000. <sup>c</sup>
Quartz, rose do.	Artisanal miners	Mine near Mzimba	56,000. <sup>c</sup>
Ruby and sapphire do.	Nyala Mines Ltd.*	Nyala Mine at Chimwadzulu Hill	300 sapphire; 150 ruby. <sup>2*,c</sup>
Lime	Various producers, including the following: Zalewa Agricultural Lime Co. LimeCo Balaka Limeworks Supply Co. Ltd.	Various sites, including the following: Blantyre NA Balaka	42,000.
Do.	Lirangwe Lime Makers Assoc.	Lirangwe	NA.
Do.	Balaka Lime Makers Assoc.	Balaka	NA.
Nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium fertilizers	Malawi Fertilizer Co. (Meridian Group)	Plant at Liwonde	150,000.
Do.	Optichem Ltd.	Plant at Blantyre	120,000.
Phosphate rock	do.	Mine at Tundulu	13,000. <sup>c</sup>
Stone, crushed:			
Aggregates	Various companies and artisanal miners	At least 19 operations at various sites in Malawi	1,800,000. <sup>c</sup>
Limestone	Shayona Cement Corp.	Mine at Wimbe	300,000. <sup>c</sup>
Sulfuric acid	Paladin Energy Ltd.	Plant near Kayelekera <sup>1</sup>	84,000.
Uranium, U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	do.	Mine near Kayelekera <sup>1</sup>	1,500.

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Not in operation at the end of 2016.

<sup>2</sup>Includes all qualities of ruby and sapphire. Gem-quality was estimated to be less than 10%.

\*Correction posted on 2/26/2025. Nyala Mines Ltd. was erroneously reported to be a subsidiary of Columbia Gem House Inc., and footnote was added.