

Mineral resources of the State of Pernambuco, Brazil

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The state of Pernambuco comprehends a mosaic of several accretionary Precambrian terranes. Most of the state's area is located on the Borborema Province with a small part on the São Francisco Craton. Phanerozoic sedimentary basins are scattered all over the state and occupy about 15% of its surface.

The state's main mineral deposits are as follows: gold and iron deposits at the Piancó-Alto Brígida Terrane, at the central-north portion of the state; and iron-titanium deposits at the Alto Pajeú, Alto Moxotó and Rio Capibaribe Terranes. Limestone is the most abundant industrial mineral with important deposits exploited near the coast, at the Pernambuco-Paraíba basin, for cement industry. Dolomitic and calcitic limestones appear at different metamorphic backgrounds. Clay and kaolin prospects have been exploited for a long time at the eastern part of the state. On the northwestern portion of Pernambuco the Araripe Sedimentary Basin hosts gypsum deposits, which correspond to 36% of the Brazilian measured reserves and are responsible for an important industry in the state, comprising about 23 gypsum mines and a hundred of gypsum block factories. The state's dimension stone potential is significant, especially on the Pernambuco-Alagoas Terrane, where there are 10 quarries in production.