

Brazil has a broad mineral wealth which tends to concentrate in ten main substances. Indeed, if oil and natural gas are excluded, the following minerals represent about 70% of the MPV: iron (20.46%), gold (11.72%), granite (8.88%), limestone (5.98%), clay (5.61%), bauxite (4.29%), cassiterite (3.68%), coal (3.68%), phosphate (3.59%), and sand (2.11%).

## 2.2 Exports

Exports play an important role in Brazilian mineral economy. Between 1973 and 1988, exports of mineral substances, excluding oil and gas, grew from US\$ 447 million to as much as US\$ 2,240 million. At the same time, exports of industrialized products made with mineral inputs plummeted from US\$ 130 million to US\$ 6,100 million, as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1

### Brazilian exports of products with mineral origin, 1973/88\* - US\$ million

Year	Mineral Substances	Downstream Products	Total
1973	447	130	577
1974	686	211	897
1975	1,067	249	1,316
1976	1,120	300	1,420
1977	1,012	355	1,367
1978	1,143	630	1,773
1979	1,443	1,091	2,534
1980	1,800	1,341	3,141
1981	2,050	1,614	3,664
1982	2,017	1,443	3,460
1983	1,757	2,304	4,061
1984	1,877	3,166	5,043
1985	1,898	3,063	4,961
1986	1,872	3,072	4,944
1987	1,846	5,311	7,157
1988	2,240	6,100	8,340

Source: Anuário Mineral Brasileiro

\* Excluding oil and gas

While the annual rate of growth of mineral substances in the period was significant - 11.3% -, the growth rate for downstream products, including metals and more elaborated products, was even more impressive - 29.2%. Iron and manganese ores were the leading mineral export items in the period, joined by bauxite in recent years. In 1988, these three substances accounted for 92.5% of mineral exports. The leading downstream exports were iron and steel products (45%), followed by petroleum by-products (21.6%), aluminum (16.1%) and tin (4.4%).