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Jamaica Economy And Bauxite

Tourism, bauxite and agriculture are the three major contributors to the gross earner of Jamaican economy. However, the largest foreign exchange earner is tourism.

Bauxite

The raw material of aluminium is mined and exported. It is also processed into "alumina" the first stage of aluminium production.



Located at Halse Hall, May Pen, Clarendon, Jamalco was created with the government of Jamaica acquiring a 6% interest in the mining and refining operation and Alcoa retaining management. During the aluminium slump of the 1980s, when Alcoa was preparing to mothball the plant the Jamaican government averted the shutdown by creating another company (Clarendon Aluminium Products Ltd) which assumed responsibility for production, and retained Alcoa on a Management contract. Jamalco is partner with ALCOA, the Aluminium Company of America, the largest aluminium producer in the U.S. was the last bauxite/alumina company to come to Jamaica. In 1960, Alcoa Minerals of Jamaica began mining bauxite in the Mocho Mountains and processing it at their Clarendon Alumina Works 4 miles south of May Pen.



Jamalco mines bauxite and refines it into alumina before exporting the alumina from its port at [Rocky Point, Clarendon](#). On average, 2.5 tonnes of bauxite produce 1 tonne of alumina. The alumina is exported to aluminium smelters where it takes around 2 tonnes of alumina to produce 1 tonne of aluminium metal.

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