

Artisanal and Small-scale Mining around the World Map

Update October 10, 2005

This map was originally created using two studies, one from MMSD and one from the ILO. Over the past two years I have received a number of requests to update the map, and a quick web search using Google showed several additional countries with ASM. I added a new designation for countries where ASM exists, but estimates of the extent of ASM are unavailable (in brown).

ASM numbers change, sometimes significantly, from year to year. However, with no formal global tracking of ASM numbers on a country by country basis, the MMSD and ILO estimates remain the best available information. Data showing the intensity of ASM is only taken from these two reports. The exception is Mongolia, where Peter Appel, of the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, provided an estimate of the extent of ASM.

Please note this remains a work in progress. Any comments, suggestions, or estimates of the number of ASM in a particular country would be appreciated, and can be sent to me at info@ajgunson.net.

Definitions:

High Intensity ASM: Over 50 artisanal or small-scale miners per 10,000 people.

Medium Intensity ASM: Between 10 to 50 artisanal or small-scale miners per 10,000 people.

Low Intensity ASM: Less than 10 artisanal or small-scale miners per 10,000 people.

Calculations:

The number of miners in each country was taken to be the average (mean) of the highest and lowest estimate from the ILO and the MMSD reports.

The average number of miners was divided by the population, based on the CIA Factbook, 2001, then multiplied by 10,000.

This study does not examine any country with a GDP/capita over \$US15,000, with a population under 150,000, or with an area less than 4,000 square miles.

Data Sources:

ILO, Social and labour issues in small-scale mines; Report for discussion at the Tripartite Meeting on Social and Labour Issues in Small-scale Mines, 1999.

MMSD, Global Report on Artisanal & Small-Scale Mining, 2002.

Clipart Map Source: www.worldatlas.com, 2003.