

EGYPT OIL&GAS RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Pharaoh's Treasure

A Dive into Egypt's Gold Mining Landscape

JULY 2025

Pharaoh's Treasure
A Dive into Egypt's Gold Mining Landscape

By Mariam Ahmed & Mahmoud Yasser

Egypt is home to a treasure trove including gold, copper, phosphate, and quartz that lays the foundation for the country's Mineral Development Strategy. The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR) is tapping several tracks to meet the Egypt 2030 vision target of increasing the sector's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) to 5 % by 2030 from less than 1% currently.

To this aim, it introduced changes aiming to attract more investments. These include transforming the Egyptian Mineral Resources Authority (EMRA) into an economic body, modernizing gold exploitation models to be in line with global standards, and removing regulatory overlaps.

Gold has played a central role in Egypt's history since ancient times, with evidence of extraction dating back to the pre-dynastic period. The Eastern Desert and the Nubian region were home to most of the earliest gold mines in the world, using remarkably advanced techniques for their time. Currently, most of Egypt's gold deposits lie within the Arabian-Nubian Shield, a geologically rich area that continues to attract substantial investment.

Egypt holds proven gold reserves of approximately 7.3 million ounces (Moz). Looking ahead, production is projected to reach 800,000 ounces of gold by 2030, in line with MoPMR's vision to increase the mining sector's GDP share.

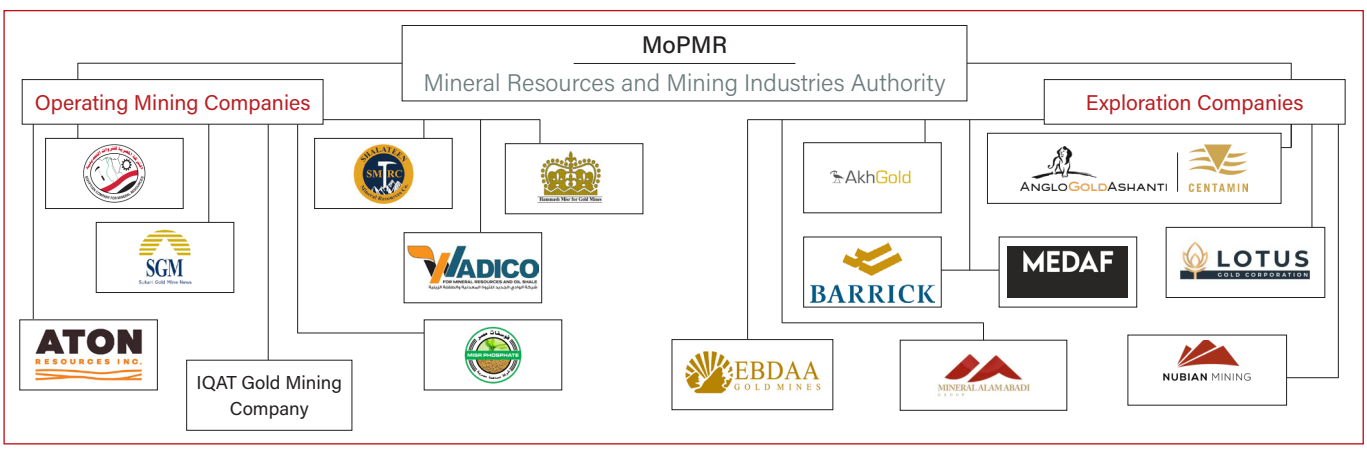
This renewed momentum is already bearing fruit, as manifested by the increase in the share of gold to the total value of net international reserves kept at the Central Bank of Egypt(CBE) from 7.53% in January 2020 to 24.15% by January 2025 more than tripling over the five years. This sharp increase highlights a strategic move to strengthen the role of gold within the country's reserve composition.

Moreover, the CBE has recently signed multiple agreements with mining companies to expand domestic gold refining and storage capacity, aligning monetary policy with national mining objectives.

Egypt now ranks 21st globally, 3rd in Africa, and 5th in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, with gold holdings reaching 126.88 tons (t), underscoring its rising prominence in the global gold landscape, according to the World Gold Council (WGC).

Egypt's gold mining sector is experiencing a transformative revival, blending its ancient legacy with modern ambitions. This report explores the key drivers behind the sector's renewed momentum from key market players and production to major investments, export dynamics, and regulatory reforms charting Egypt's path to becoming a regional gold powerhouse.

Gold Market Players



Mining Legislative & Legal Framework

The MoPMR has taken several measures to develop the Egyptian Mining Sector, on top of which came the mining law to reflect the new legislative amendments and available opportunities, providing transparency and flexibility to face the challenges confronting the investments.

Egypt's mining sector had been operating according to a profit-sharing model in mining agreements. According to this model, annual profits were split between the partner and the Egyptian government, with each party receiving 50%.

Additionally, the model guaranteed that the government will collect an annual fee from the total production, under the name "Royalty."

In August 2019, the Mineral Resources Law was amended, and in January 2020, the Executive Regulations were issued. The Profit Sharing Agreement model, which had previously discouraged investments in the Egyptian mining and mineral exploration sector for many years, was abolished, and a Royalty & Taxes model framework was introduced instead.

The Royalty & Taxes model was applied for the gold bid round of 2020, according to the MoPMR.

Furthermore, the new amendments aim at facilitating the license system to create an attractive environment for companies, encourage pumping investments, increase added value, focus on digital transformation, and bolster the skills of the Mineral Sector cadres.

Current Agreement Model Framework

Royalty & Taxes

The contractor bears all the expenses and shall pay to EMRA	
Royalty %	Free Carried Interest Min. (15%)

Taxes

Recently, in June 2025 the Law No. 198 of 2014 was amended to transform EMRA into the Mineral Resources and Mining Industries Authority, with an independent economic structure, to enhance its ability to lead the mining sector with greater efficiency.

It also grants it broad powers to develop sector strategies, regulate mineral exploration and exploitation operations, localize mining industries, and promote transparency and attract investments, as announced by the MoPMR.

Gold Market Dynamics

Annual production

Egypt's gold production over the past five fiscal years (FYs) reflects a dynamic trajectory shaped by internal capabilities and external pressures. In FY 2019/20, the country recorded a solid output, benefiting from stable operational conditions and the early momentum of mining reforms.

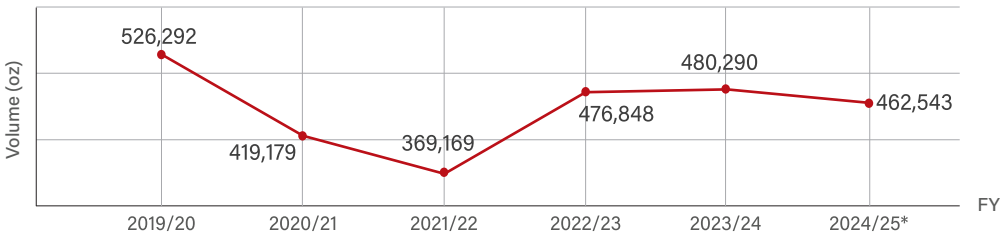
However, between FY 2019/20 and FY 2021/22, production dropped by nearly 30%, marking a significant decline over the two years.

This period was marked by the widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to logistical disruptions, delayed exploration activities, and increased uncertainty in global commodity markets.

As conditions gradually improved, Egypt's gold sector began to recover. In FY 2022/23, production rebounded with a year-on-year growth rate of nearly 29%, driven by stronger global demand for gold and the government's continued push to attract foreign investment through new bid rounds and streamlined licensing processes.

The momentum carried into FY 2023/24, with production reaching 480,290 oz, marking the highest output since the pre-pandemic period. This growth reflects the successful development of active mining concessions and the entry of new players into the market. During the first ten months of FY 2024/25, gold production remained relatively stable, according to MoPMR.

Egypt's Gold Production



*Data from July 2024 to April 2025

Gold Demand

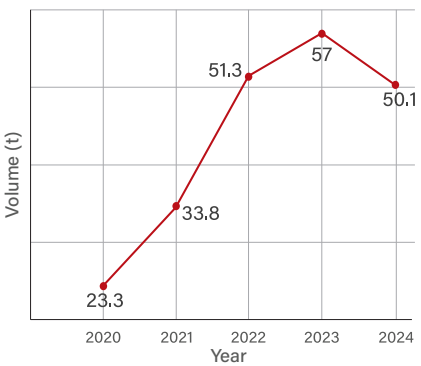
Between 2020 and 2023, Egyptians' gold demand showed an upward trend, growing by an average of 36%. However, in 2024, gold demand in Egypt declined by 12% year-over-year. This drop is a result of gold prices rising in that period due to the economic volatility, driven by movements in the dollar exchange rate, and regional geopolitical tensions.

Nevertheless, there was a growth in gold demand in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2024 in Egypt, due to the slowdown in inflation in that period. Moreover, the drop of gold price in November following the announcement of the United States (US) election results and Donald J. Trump's victory eased market uncertainty, and prices remained relatively stable around $2,600-$2,700 per oz, boosting consumer confidence.

In the first quarter (Q1) of 2025, gold purchases in Egypt dropped by 16% compared with the same period of 2024, according to the WGC data.

Egyptians have bought 11.1 tons (t) of gold between January and March 2025, down from 13.2 t in Q1 of 2024. Gold's historic first-quarter global rally has been driven by US policy risks, global geopolitical conditions, economic slowdown, diverging interest rates, central bank and the expansion in gold exchange-traded fund.

Annual Demand



Gold Exports

Egypt's gold exports hit a record of $3.2 billion in 2024, soaring by nearly 77% compared to 2023, according to TradeMap and the General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC) data.

This revival can be attributed to the eased tariffs and the significant rise in global demand due to the existing geopolitical tensions.

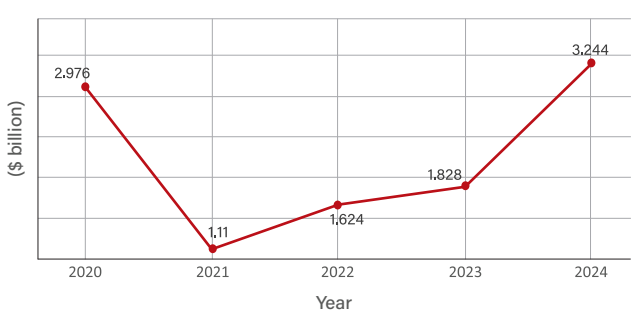
In 2024, the main destination of Egypt's gold exports was the United Arab Emirates (UAE), accounting alone for about 63% of total exports, followed by Switzerland, which imported 37% of the Egyptian gold exports.

It is worth noting that Türkiye largely decreased its gold imports from Egypt in 2024 compared to 2023, dropping by 98%.

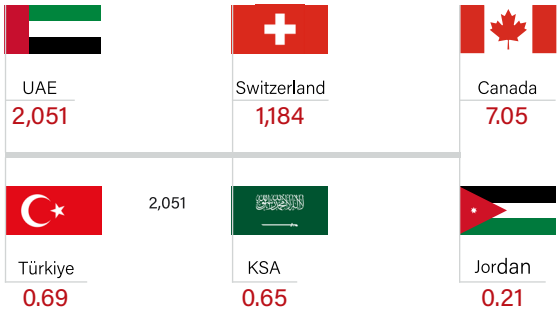
This stemmed from Türkiye's decision in August 2023 to introduce a 20% additional charge for some gold imports, to curb the negative impact on its current account balance, as Stated by Reuters.

Building on that, Egypt's gold exports exceeded $3.3 billion during Q1 of 2025, as stated by the head of the Gold and Jewellery Division at the Metallurgical Industries Chamber of the Federation of Industries.

Total Exports



Exports by Destination in 2024 ($ million)



Major Gold Sites

Egypt hosts several gold-producing sites, with the major producing mine, the Sukari Gold Mine, alongside a growing number of exploration projects led by both foreign and local companies. The Eastern Desert, in particular, has emerged as the primary hub for gold mining due to its geological potential and historical significance.

Shalateen's Concessions in the Eastern Desert

SMRC is Egypt's first fully state-owned gold mines company. Its ownership is divided between the Mineral Resources and Mining Industries Authority at 35%, 34% for the National Service Projects Organization (NSPO), 24% for the National Investment Bank (NIB), and 7% for the Egyptian Company for Mineral Resources (ECMR), according to the MoPMR.

Shalateen's 7 Concessions

Fatiri	Barramiya
Atud	Hammata
Umm Oud & Hanjalia	Wadi Al-Alaqi
Areas of: Gabal Iqat, Gabal Garf, Gabal Misah, Gabal Elba, and Aswan	

In June 2020, the MoPMR announced a new commercial gold discovery in the Iqat region, with an extraction rate of about 95%, and total investments of more than $1 billion over the next ten years. The trials of commercial production commenced in March 2023, as announced by the MoPMR.

Iqat Reserves

1.2 Moz

Prominent Mines Overview

	Region	Area (km²)	Owner Company	1st Commercial Production	Reserves (Moz)	Production
Sukari	Eastern Desert	160	AngloGold Ashanti	2010	2.41	40,000 oz
Abu Marawat		447.7	Aton Resources	2026	0.162	-

Sukari Mine

Sukari is a large-scale gold mine with a rich history of gold extraction dating back to Pharaonic and Roman times.

It covers an area of 160 km² and is located approximately 750 km southeast of Cairo and 25 km from Marsa Alam on the Red Sea, within Egypt's Eastern Desert and Nubian Shield.

The Sukari deposit was discovered in the 1990s. Mine's exploration began in 1995, with drilling following in 1997.

Modern mining operations started in 2009, and commercial production was first achieved in April 2010, as stated at the Anglogold Ashanti website.

In November 2024, AngloGold Ashanti acquired Centamin and its interest in Sukari. Currently, further development is underway to identify an additional 4.3 Moz of gold reserves. Mine's gold production in the next 8 years is expected to exceed output from the past 15 years. Equipment on the mine site is valued at $235 million, as stated by MoPMR.

Sukari Mine Production in 2024

454,000 oz

Source: Egyptian Cabinet

AngloGold Ashanti Investments* in the Sukari Mine

~ $2 billion

*Over the next decade Source: MoPMR

Abu Marawat

Located within Egypt's Arabian-Nubian Shield a globally emerging frontier for gold mining the Abu Marawat concession spans approximately 447.7 km² and hosts multiple mineralized zones, including the Hamama, Abu Marawat, and Rodruin deposits. First discovered in December 2017, Rodruin marked a key milestone in the project's exploration history, according to the MoPMR.

In 2017, the total gold resources were estimated at nearly 500,000 ounces, reflecting strong geological potential across the concession, according to Aton's CEO.

In January 2024, MoPMR signed a 20-year exploitation agreement with Canada's Aton Resources, granting rights to extract gold and associated minerals at Hamama West and Rodruin over a 57.6 km² area, following a confirmed commercial discovery, according to MoPMR.

In June 2024, the joint venture company "Abu Marawat Gold Mines" was formally established between Aton Resources and the EMRA. This entity oversees all exploration, development, and production activities within the Abu Marawat license area.

The project's extractable reserves, located in the Hamama and West Rodruin areas, are currently estimated at 134,900 ounces of gold, providing a solid foundation for early-stage production, according to MoPMR.

In May 2025, Aton Resources announced a major commercial gold discovery in Abu Marawat.

This came after the company achieved positive results from a drilling program involving approximately 95 holes located about 200 km north of the Sukari Gold Mine. Notably, 21 of these holes showed strong indicators of gold, silver, copper, and zinc mineralization.

This positive development reinforces investor confidence in Egypt's mining sector and highlights the Abu Marawat concession as a future pillar of gold production in the Eastern Desert, according to the Egyptian Cabinet and Aton Resources website.

Hammash

The Hammash Gold Mine, an ancient pharaonic site, lies about 100 km west of Marsa Alam along the Edfu–Marsa Alam road in the Eastern Desert, with a 60 km paved access road.

Gold mining there began in Pharaonic times with panning, later evolving into systematic extraction for jewellery and statues. The area saw exploration in the 1950s, 1970s, and 1980s—first for copper, then gold.

The site includes several gold zones: Old Hamash Mine, Abu Tarda, Umm Tandab, Ara East, and Ara West.

Production activities at the site marked a historic milestone in April 2007 with the casting of the first trial gold bar—the first from an Egyptian mine in over 50 years. This was followed by the successful production of a 6.5 kg gold bar in November 2008, positioning Hamash as a revived contributor to Egypt's modern gold output.

Between 2007 and 2019, cumulative gold production at the site totalled approximately 125 kilograms of various purities.

However, a major operational shift in 2019—accompanied by updated technical plans and expanded partnerships—led to a notable surge in output, with the mine producing nearly 459 kilograms of high-purity (999.9) gold by the end of 2021, according to EMRA.

Exploration, Investment & Regulatory Environment

International Gold Bid Rounds

Since 2017, Egypt has launched three bid rounds to explore and exploit gold and associated minerals as part of its efforts to revitalize the mining sector. The first round was initiated by EMRA in January 2017, marking a significant step toward unlocking Egypt's mineral potential.

A second international bid round followed in March 2020, attracting wider investor interest, with extensions granted through June 2021 to accommodate increased demand. As a result, Egypt awarded 84 exploration blocks to 13 companies including 7 international firms through the first and second rounds of the 2020 international gold bid round.

In April 2023, a third round was launched by SMRC, focusing on brownfields and old mines, particularly in the areas of Ratiri, Umm Ud, Atud, Barramiya, and Hamata in the Egyptian Eastern Desert. However, in November 2024, Shalateen announced the cancellation of this round, with plans to relaunch it soon.

In December 2024, the MoPMR revealed its intention to launch a new gold and associated minerals bid round in Q1 2025, reflecting the government's continued commitment to enhancing investment opportunities in the mining industry, according to EMRA and SMRC.

2020 Bid Rounds Overview

Launching Date
2020

Offered Concessions
29

Location
Eastern Desert

Main Agreements & Investments

Egypt's gold mining sector has witnessed a steady influx of both domestic and international investments since the launch of its reformed mineral exploration framework in 2020. This shift toward a more investor-friendly environment has positioned Egypt as a competitive global mining destination, especially in the Eastern Desert.

The momentum began in early 2021, when the government translated its first international bid round into concrete contracts. In January 2021, five gold exploration agreements were signed covering 13 blocks, drawing a combined investment of $13 million. Among these, Canadian firm Lotus Gold Corporation stood out with three contracts valued at $9 million, while Egyptian companies Medaf Mining & Manufacturing and EBDAA Gold Mines each secured one block.

Building on this foundation, in May 2021, a $5.2 million contract was signed with UK-based Nubian Mining Company (NMC) for a single exploration block in the Eastern Desert. Just two months later, the entry of Barrick—one of the world's top gold producers—marked a milestone.

With four contracts signed in July 2021, Barrick committed to exploring 19 blocks in the Eastern Desert, pledging $8.8 million in investments. This development signaled growing global confidence in Egypt's revised mining policies.

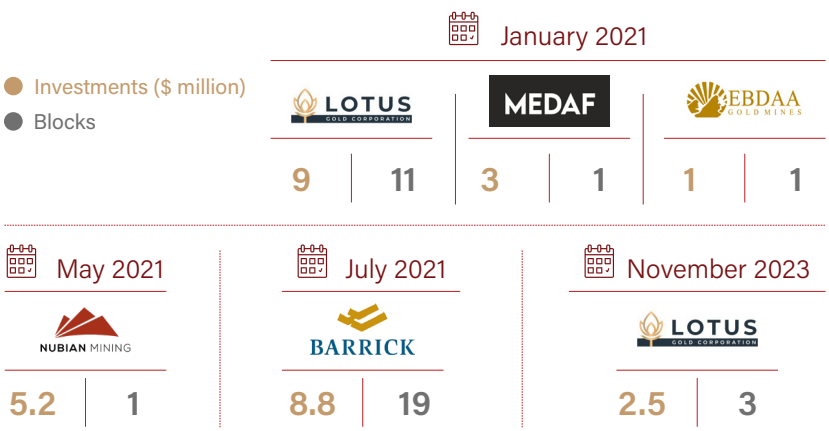
By late 2023 and 2024, Egypt sustained its investment appeal. In November 2023, Lotus Gold expanded its footprint with a new $2.5 million agreement for three additional blocks.

The momentum extended beyond exploration into mergers and long-term expansion. In September 2024, AngloGold Ashanti signed a $2.5 billion acquisition agreement to acquire Centamin, the operator of Egypt's Sukari mine.

The acquisition was a strategic move that reinforces Egypt's role in the global gold supply chain. The company pledged further capital injection to expand Sukari's operations.

This series of agreements and strategic acquisitions underscores the growing confidence in Egypt's mining sector, driven by regulatory reforms, infrastructure upgrades, and proactive engagement with global investors, according to MoPMR.

Key Investment Figures in Egypt's Gold Sector



Acquisition of Centamin and Sukari Mine

ANGLOGOLDASHANTI

Date **September 2024**

Value **$2.5** billion

Egypt's gold mining sector is on a promising trajectory, supported by abundant reserves, rising production levels, and significant foreign investment inflows. These elements collectively underscore a robust future for gold mining in Egypt, contributing to national economic growth, job creation, and enhancing Egypt's standing in the global gold market. Gold production in Egypt is projected to reach 800,000 oz by 2030, driven by the introduction of several new mining projects, as highlighted by the MoPMR in July 2024.

To bolster production and expand exports, the Egyptian government is actively working to attract investment into the gold mining sector. Recent amendments to mining legislations, along with the introduction of tax and royalty incentives, have successfully encouraged both domestic and international investment. Additionally, Egypt plans to launch a Digital Mining Platform aimed at modernizing the sector, streamlining operations, and fostering a more attractive investment environment.



www.egyptoil-gas.com