Chromium

Metals

The metal that makes stainless steel stainless, mined as chromite ore and smelted into ferrochrome.

Key facts

World production, 2025
51 million tonnes

Top producer
South Africa, 45%

Top exporter, chromium ore (HS 2610), 2024
South Africa, 85% of export value

HS code
2610 Chromium ores and concentrates

USGS MCS item
Mine production Mine production (chromite ore)

Also called
chrome, chromite, ferrochrome, chrome ore, Cr

Top producers, 2025

Country	Tonnes	Share
South Africa	23 million	45%
Turkey (Türkiye)	9 million	18%
Kazakhstan	7 million	14%
India	3 million	5.9%
Brazil	2 million	3.9%

USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, MCS 2026.

Top exporters, 2024

Country	Export value	Share
South Africa	7.2 billion USD	85%
Turkey (Türkiye)	408.8 million USD	4.9%
Zimbabwe	145.6 million USD	1.7%
Pakistan	133.8 million USD	1.6%
Kazakhstan	113.7 million USD	1.4%

CEPII BACI international trade database (HS22, V202601).

Cite as: Commodity Origins, "Chromium", https://commodityorigins.com/commodities/chromium/ (CC BY 4.0). Full page, sources and downloads: https://commodityorigins.com/commodities/chromium/. Text is written with AI assistance and checked against the cited data; figures are computed from the sources (https://commodityorigins.com/about/#how-ai-is-used).