Cobalt

Metals

A metal recovered mostly as a by-product of copper and nickel mining, used in battery cathodes and superalloys.

Key facts

World production, 2025
310,000 tonnes

Top producer
DR Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo), 74%

Top exporter, unwrought cobalt and mattes (HS 810520), 2024
DR Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo), 65% of export value

Benchmark price, August 2026
$55,854/t
Cobalt, 99.8% minimum purity, LME spot; +70% over 12 months

Where it's traded
London Metal Exchange LME Cobalt (CO)

HS code
810520 Cobalt mattes, unwrought cobalt and powders

USGS MCS item
Mine production Mine production (cobalt content)

Also called
Co, cobalt hydroxide, cobalt sulphate, cobalt metal, battery metal

Top producers, 2025

Country	Tonnes	Share
DR Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	230,000	74%
Indonesia	44,000	14%

Country	Tonnes	Share
Russia	7,700	2.5%
Madagascar	3,900	1.3%
Philippines	3,700	1.2%

USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, MCS 2026.

Top exporters, 2024

Country	Export value	Share
DR Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	3.1 billion USD	65%
Canada	237.8 million USD	5%
China	166.1 million USD	3.5%
United States	133.8 million USD	2.8%
Finland	117.1 million USD	2.5%

CEPII BACI international trade database (HS22, V202601).

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