Lead

Metals

A dense, soft metal used overwhelmingly in lead-acid batteries, and the most recycled of the base metals.

Key facts

World production, 2025
4.5 million tonnes

Top producer
China, 42%

Top exporter, unwrought lead (HS 7801), 2024
India, 10% of export value

Benchmark price, September 2026
$1,873/t
LME cash; -4% over 12 months

Where it's traded
London Metal Exchange LME Lead (PB)

HS code
7801 Unwrought lead

USGS MCS item
Mine production Mine production (lead content)

Also called
Pb, lead ore, lead concentrate, refined lead, secondary lead

Top producers, 2025

Country	Tonnes	Share
China	1.9 million	42%
Australia	480,000	11%

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Peru	290,000	6.4%
United States	280,000	6.2%
Russia	260,000	5.8%

USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, MCS 2026.

Top exporters, 2024

Country	Export value	Share
India	877.2 million USD	10%
South Korea	764.5 million USD	8.7%
Australia	756 million USD	8.6%
United Kingdom	476.3 million USD	5.4%
Malaysia	418.7 million USD	4.8%

CEPII BACI international trade database (HS22, V202601).

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