Lithium

Metals

A light metal extracted from hard-rock spodumene or salt-lake brine and refined into carbonate, hydroxide or metal for battery cathodes.

Key facts

World production, 2025
290,000 tonnes

Top producer
Australia, 32%

Top exporter, lithium carbonate (HS 283691), 2024
Chile, 73% of export value

Benchmark price, August 2026
$148,620/t
Lithium metal, 99% battery grade; +82% over 12 months

Where it's traded
COMEX (CME Group) Lithium Hydroxide CIF CJK (Fastmarkets) (LTH)

HS code
283691 Lithium carbonate

USGS MCS item
Mine production Mine production (lithium content)

Also called
Li, lithium carbonate, lithium hydroxide, spodumene, brine lithium, battery metal

Top producers, 2025

Country	Tonnes	Share
Australia	92,000	32%
China	62,000	21%

Country	Tonnes	Share
Chile	56,000	19%
Zimbabwe	28,000	9.7%
Argentina	23,000	7.9%

USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, MCS 2026.

Top exporters, 2024

Country	Export value	Share
Chile	2.8 billion USD	73%
Argentina	721.1 million USD	19%
South Korea	69.3 million USD	1.8%
China	62.6 million USD	1.6%
Germany	55.7 million USD	1.5%

CEPII BACI international trade database (HS22, V202601).

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