Molybdenum

Metals

A refractory metal recovered mostly as a by-product of copper mining, added to steel for strength and corrosion resistance.

Key facts

World production, 2025
260,000 tonnes

Top producer
China, 37%

Top exporter, molybdenum ore (HS 2613), 2024
Chile, 24% of export value

HS code
2613 Molybdenum ores and concentrates

USGS MCS item
Mine production Mine production (molybdenum content)

Also called
Mo, moly, molybdenite, ferromolybdenum

Top producers, 2025

Country	Tonnes	Share
China	97,000	37%
Chile	42,000	16%
United States	40,000	15%
Peru	39,000	15%
Mexico	17,000	6.5%

USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, MCS 2026.

Top exporters, 2024

Country	Export value	Share
Chile	1.9 billion USD	24%
Peru	1.6 billion USD	19%
United States	1.3 billion USD	16%
Netherlands	858.1 million USD	11%
Mexico	738 million USD	9%

CEPII BACI international trade database (HS22, V202601).

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