Niobium

Metals

A soft grey metal, mined from pyrochlore and sold mostly as ferroniobium, that adds strength to steel in tiny proportions and is used in superalloys and superconducting magnets.

Key facts

World production, 2025
112,000 tonnes

Top producer
Brazil, 93%

Top exporter, ferroniobium (HS 720293), 2024
Brazil, 75% of export value

HS code
720293 Ferro-niobium

USGS MCS item
Mine production Mine production (niobium content)

Also called
Nb, columbium, ferroniobium, pyrochlore

Top producers, 2025

Country	Tonnes	Share
Brazil	104,000	93%
Canada	6,000	5.4%
DR Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	970	0.9%
Russia	300	0.3%
Rwanda	200	0.2%

USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, MCS 2026.

Top exporters, 2024

Country	Export value	Share
Brazil	2.6 billion USD	75%
Canada	338.5 million USD	9.8%
Netherlands	269.4 million USD	7.8%
Singapore	75.8 million USD	2.2%
China	67.6 million USD	2%

CEPII BACI international trade database (HS22, V202601).

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