Silicon

Metals

Made by smelting quartz with carbon in electric furnaces, as silicon metal for aluminum alloys, silicones and, after further refining, solar cells and chips, and as ferrosilicon for steelmaking.

Key facts

World production, 2025
4.6 million tonnes

Top producer
China, 87%

Top exporter, silicon metal (HS 280469), 2024
China, 41% of export value

HS code
280469 Silicon, less than 99.99% silicon by weight

USGS MCS item
Silicon metal Silicon metal, production

Also called
Si, silicon metal, metallurgical silicon, ferrosilicon

Top producers, 2025

Country	Tonnes	Share
China	4 million	87%
Brazil	180,000	3.9%
Norway	130,000	2.8%
France	68,000	1.5%
Australia	47,000	1%

USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, MCS 2026.

Top exporters, 2024

Country	Export value	Share
China	1.6 billion USD	41%
Norway	502.9 million USD	12%
Brazil	477.3 million USD	12%
France	219.2 million USD	5.4%
Canada	128.5 million USD	3.2%

CEPII BACI international trade database (HS22, V202601).

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