Tellurium

Metals

A brittle semimetal recovered as a by-product of copper refining and used mainly in cadmium-telluride solar cells, in thermoelectric devices and in metallurgy.

Key facts

World production, 2025
1,000 tonnes

Top producer
China, 80%

USGS MCS item
Refinery production Refinery production (refined tellurium)

Also called
Te

Top producers, 2025

Country	Tonnes	Share
China	800	80%
Russia	67	6.7%
Japan	61	6.1%
Canada	28	2.8%
Uzbekistan	18	1.8%

USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, MCS 2026.

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