Zirconium

Metals

A heat- and corrosion-resistant element mined almost entirely as the mineral zircon from mineral-sand deposits and used in ceramics, foundry sands, chemicals and, as a metal, in nuclear fuel cladding.

Key facts

World production, 2025
1.2 million tonnes

Top producer
Australia, 33%

Top exporter, zirconium ore and concentrate (HS 261510), 2024
South Africa, 36% of export value

HS code
261510 Zirconium ores and concentrates

USGS MCS item
Zirconium mineral concentrates, mine production (thousand metric tons, gross weight) Zirconium mineral concentrates, mine production (gross weight)

Also called
Zr, zircon, zirconium mineral concentrates, zirconia, hafnium

Top producers, 2025

Country	Tonnes	Share
Australia	400,000	33%
South Africa	270,000	23%
Mozambique	160,000	13%
China	100,000	8.3%

Country	Tonnes	Share
United States	100,000	8.3%

USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, MCS 2026.

Top exporters, 2024

Country	Export value	Share
South Africa	619.7 million USD	36%
Australia	267.9 million USD	16%
Indonesia	139.9 million USD	8.1%
Senegal	117 million USD	6.8%
Mozambique	112.7 million USD	6.6%

CEPII BACI international trade database (HS22, V202601).

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