

Critical Minerals

Ensuring a safer, energy-secure future and laying the foundation for modern technology

Critical minerals are essential to modern technology, security, and the advanced energy economy. They are key for energy production and storage, defense technologies, and critical infrastructure.

Canada’s critical minerals are key to U.S. national and economic security.

Canada: A Premier Partner for U.S. Critical Minerals Supply

Canada is producing over 60 minerals and metals, including 21 of the 50 listed as critical by the U.S. Geological Survey as well as producing or refining 10 out of the 12 NATO defense-critical raw materials. Canada is a leading supplier to the United States of minerals for the agriculture, defense, energy, and communications technology industries. This extensive production capacity, combined with our deep and highly sought expertise in the minerals sector across academia, government, finance, industry, and non-governmental organizations, makes Canada an indispensable ally in securing a stable and reliable supply of critical minerals.

Strengthening U.S. National Security Through North American Critical Mineral Supply Chains

Canada and the United States are each other’s #1 minerals trading partner, with almost \$150 billion in annual two-way minerals and metals trade. Canada is already a secure and reliable provider of critical minerals and processed materials to highly integrated North American supply chains. Strengthening our partnership reduces reliance on China and other countries with unfair trade practices and ensures a steady supply of these resources, aligning with U.S. goals of **security, prosperity, and affordability.**

Through the Canada–U.S. Joint Action Plan on Critical Minerals and other agreements, we are building North American critical mineral supply chains that bolster diversity in the market, reduce risk, and safeguard our shared strategic national security and economic interests. Canadian mineral resources and processing capacity are important assets for bolstering U.S. defense with joint investments of \$100 million from the U.S. Department of Defense and Canada to develop strategic critical minerals assets in Canada. Five Canadian companies — Fortune Minerals Limited, Lomiko Metals, Nano One, Electra Battery Materials, and Fireweed Metals — will use this funding to advance the development of resilient North American critical mineral supply chains.

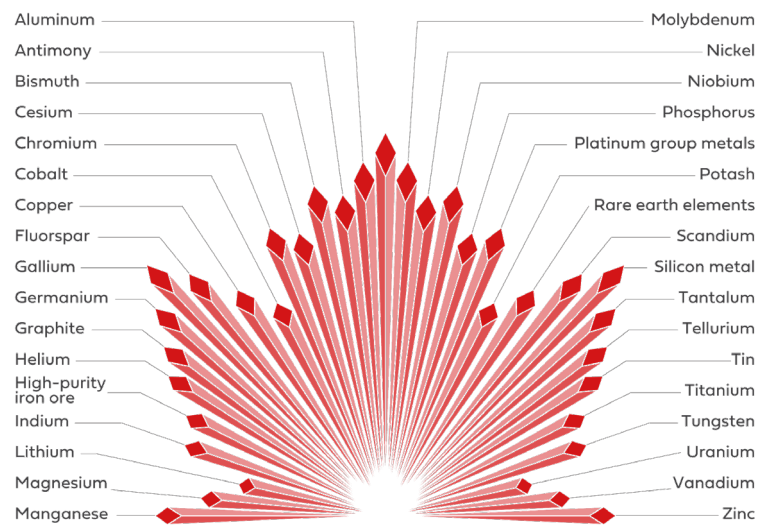
Canada plays a crucial role in supplying the U.S. with various essential materials

Potash <i>(used for agriculture & food security)</i>	71%
Refined zinc <i>(steel)</i>	50%
Tellurium <i>(solar cells & manufacturing)</i>	32%
Niobium <i>(defense)</i>	26%
Aluminum <i>(automotive & transportation)</i>	23%
Nickel <i>(stainless steel & lithium-ion batteries)</i>	23%
Uranium <i>(nuclear power)</i>	21%
Germanium <i>(defense)</i>	13%

*Percentage of U.S. consumption from Canada vs. the rest of the world.
 Source: U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries 2024*

Securing the Future: Canada's Critical Minerals Support U.S. Advancements

Critical minerals are key for manufacturing EV batteries and semiconductors, and Canada is already a top three supplier of these essential materials to the U.S., including tellurium, copper, indium, germanium, and silicon. Additionally, Canada is a leading provider of key minerals for electric vehicles (EVs) and battery production.



Uniquely, **Canada is the only country in the Western Hemisphere that has all the critical minerals required to manufacture EV batteries.** According to

Bloomberg New Energy Finance, Canada is a global leader in critical minerals and has the potential to build the world's number one battery supply chain — overtaking China for the first time in 2024. By partnering with Canada, the U.S. can secure its supply chains, meet projected energy demands, and drive innovation and technological advancements across all sectors.

Strengthening Manufacturing Capacity on Both Sides of the Border

In 2024, Nouveau Monde Graphite and General Motors signed a multi-year supply agreement for active anode materials. This agreement supports mining and manufacturing in Canada, and the production of EV batteries for General Motors vehicles in the U.S.

Securing U.S. Defense with Canadian Critical Minerals

Critical minerals are vital for defense technologies like aircraft, missile defense, and military equipment, and have dual uses in energy and advanced manufacturing. Further Canada-U.S. collaboration on critical minerals could allow Canada to replace U.S. imports from China and other countries for key minerals such as rare earth elements, natural graphite, bismuth, gallium, germanium, scandium, and tungsten.

In addition to mined supply, Canada can produce more defense minerals from refining and recycling (e.g., tungsten, gallium). Targeted actions, such as co-funding of critical minerals projects alongside the U.S.' Defense Production Act (DPA) Title III program, and fast-tracking regulatory reviews of critical minerals projects related to defense, semiconductors, and batteries applications, are essential. This collaboration will bolster U.S. defense capabilities and ensure a resilient supply chain.

Increased Canada–U.S. collaboration on critical minerals will secure supply chains, enhance U.S. national security, and reduce dependence on other countries.