



Explore Mining Insights with CEIC

CEIC empowers corporates with curated, globe-spanning datasets on the mining sector. They provide our users with clearer visibility into market shifts, demand forecasting and the future of pricing.

This chart pack ranges from copper and gold to iron ore, compiling internationally fragmented information – including our unmatched coverage of China, the commodities world's swing buyer – into a cohesive, comparable whole.

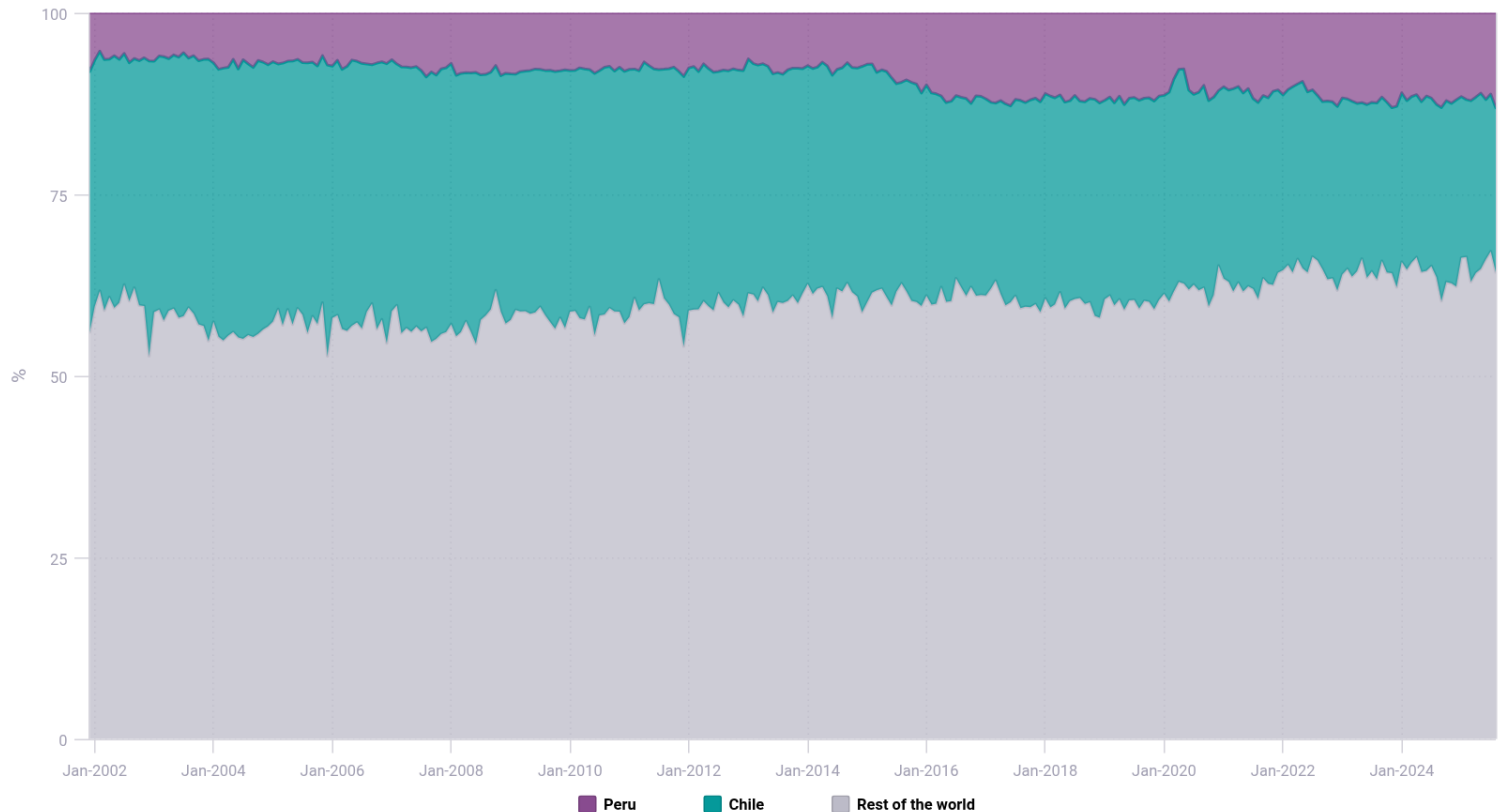
Our datasets allow a granular look at subnational mining regions, international output, exploration and more.

We also explore rare earths – a sector that's both critical to new technologies and making the headlines amid trade tensions.

Latin America still dominates copper, even as Chilean output slips

Latin America remains the world's main copper-producing region

Chile and Peru account for almost 40% of production



Copper mining is Chile's most important industry, generating 10% of national GDP; it accounts for about a quarter of global supply. The No. 3 producer is neighboring Peru.

While Chile has more of the world's largest mines, its output has been slipping amid problems at state-owned Codelco. Meanwhile, Peru's output took a significant uptick in 2015 as new mines came online.

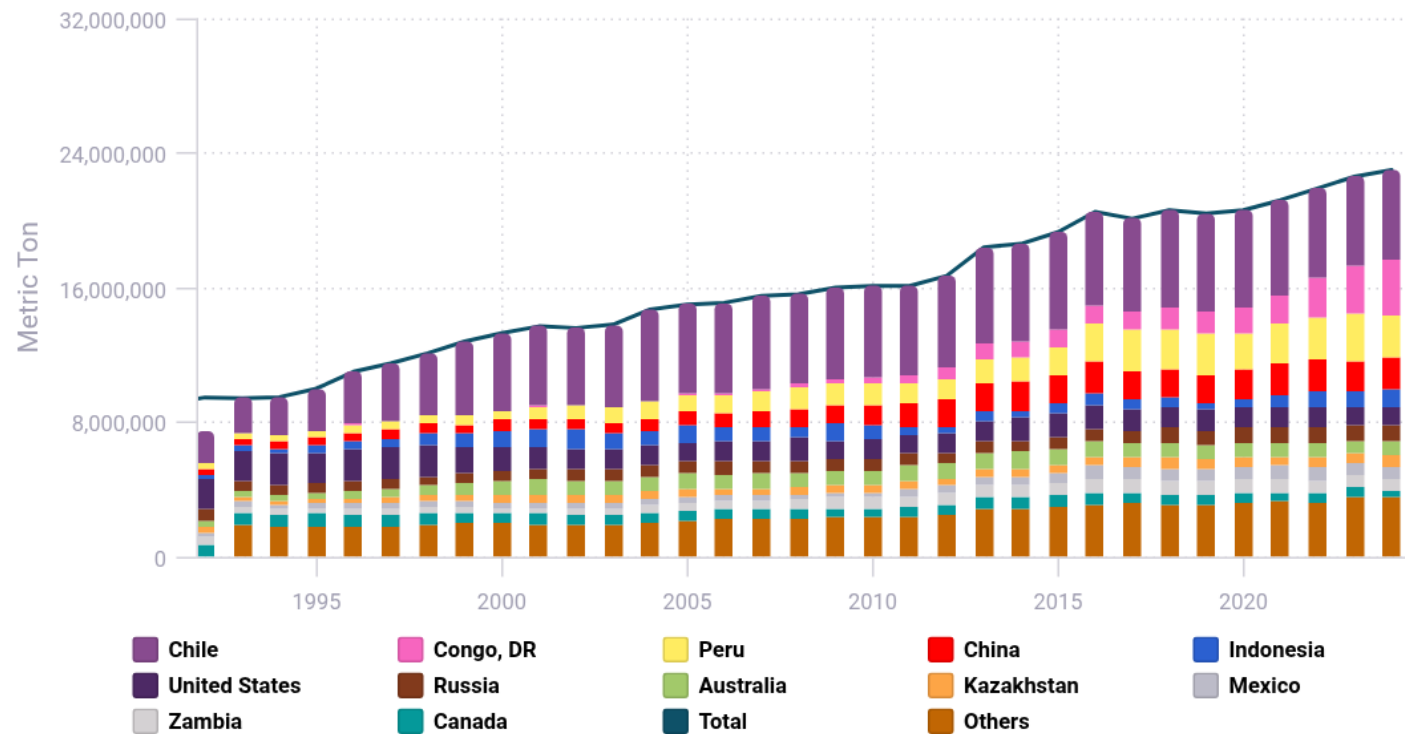
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Other notable copper-producing nations: the DRC, China, Indonesia

Global distribution of copper production

In 2023, DR Congo became the second largest producer



The Democratic Republic of Congo's resources had been largely untapped until recently; Chinese investment has been crucial. Copper grades at Congolese mines often exceed their Chilean equivalents. Recently, the African nation's production surpassed Peru.

Chinese investment has also been a factor for Indonesia, which is building copper smelters while also striking deals with the US.

China has also seen copper production grow within its own borders.



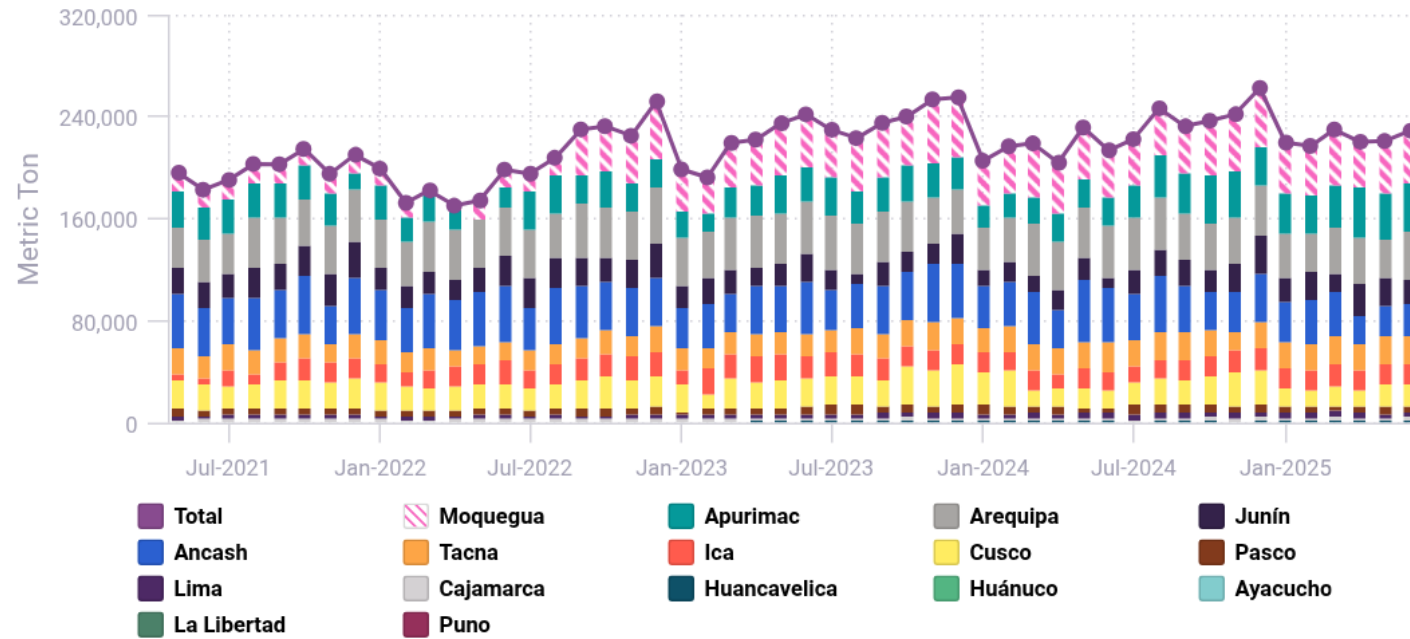
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Spotting regional trends as new mines come online in Peru

Peru copper production by region



CEIC's granular data breaks down resource production figures at the sub-national level. This is useful for a nation such as Peru, which has many important mining regions.

We've highlighted Moquegua, in the nation's south. As our chart shows, this district emerged as a major copper production zone in 2022 when the USD 5 billion Quellaveco project came online.

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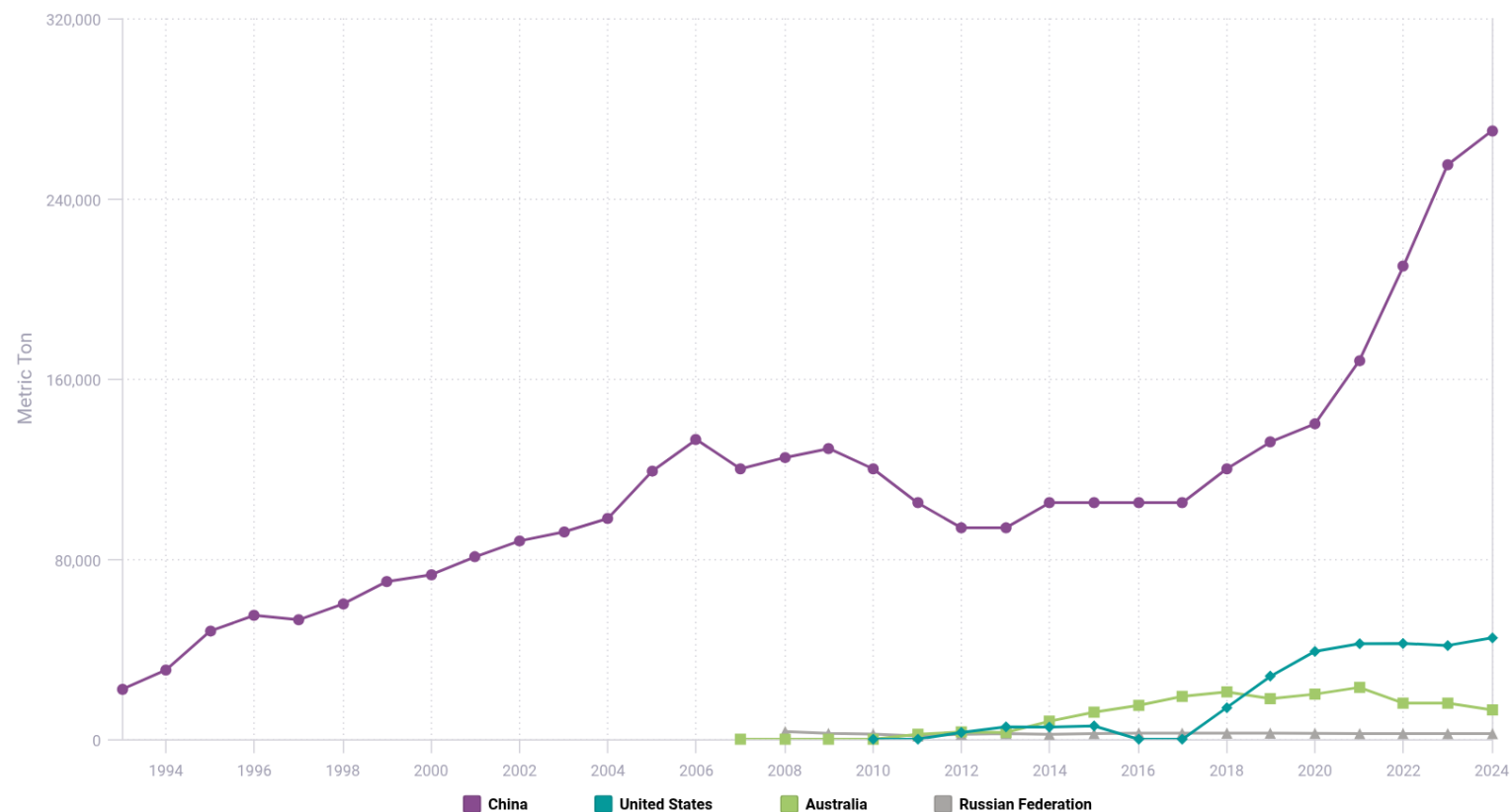
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Critical minerals in the headlines: rare earths

Global rare earth production trends: China's long-term dominance

US Geological Survey estimates



One of the recent points of contention for the US-China trade relationship involves "rare earths," which are critical to several high-tech sectors. China has become the key global player in this sector because not only does it mine rare earths domestically; it also imports ores and compounds from around the world and dominates refining. China's production of rare earth oxides surged from less than 50,000 tons in the mid-1990s to 270,000 tons in 2024, accounting for approximately 70% of the global total.

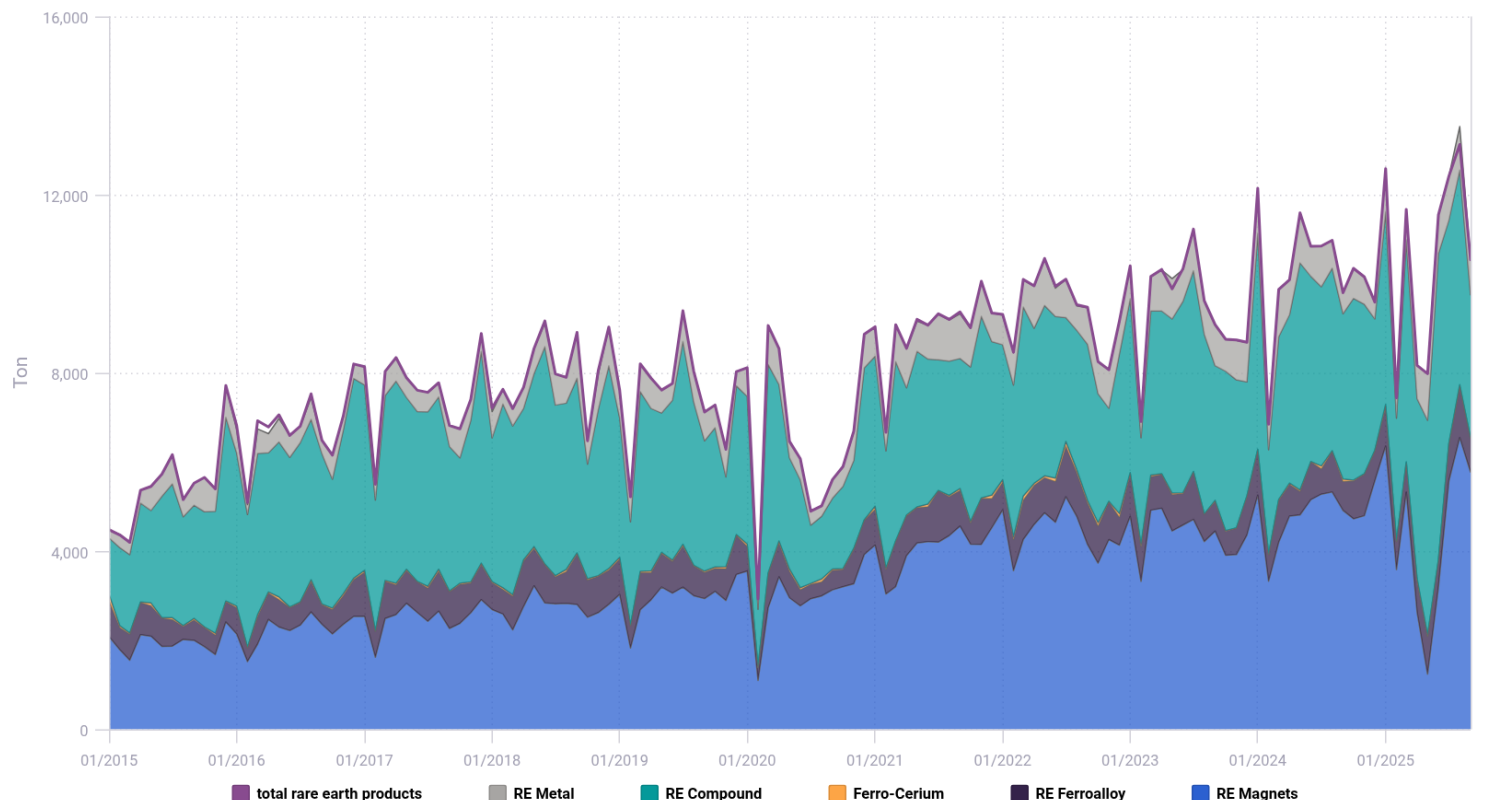
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Granular insights: rare-earth categories

China's rare-earth exports by volume since 2015: breakdown of categories

Magnets and compounds comprise the lion's share, trailed by ferroalloys and metals



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CEIC's datasets let us get into granular detail about the subsectors of China's value-added rare-earth exports and related imports, and how these categories have evolved over time. We deploy the global Harmonized System (HS) codes to identify these subsectors.

Permanent magnets (47.2% in 2024) and compounds (37.8% in 2024) lead the export categories.

On the import side, in 2024, compounds accounted for 56.8% of China's total rare earth imports, while ores comprised 41.1%. The tiny remainder (2.1%) includes categories like ferro-cerium and ferroalloys.

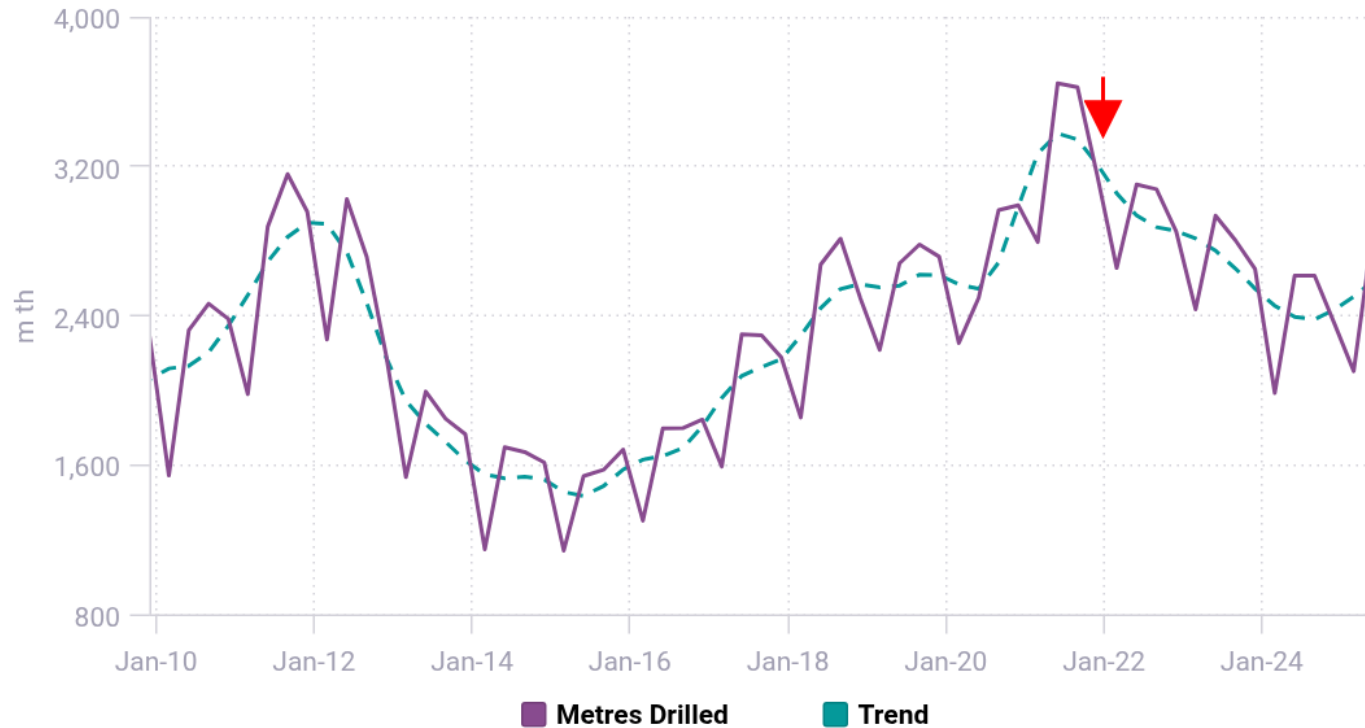
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Peaks and valleys for Australian mining exploration

Australia's miners have scaled back drilling since 2021

Mining Exploration: Metres Drilled



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Commodity prices are cyclical, and resource companies adjust their exploration budgets accordingly – taking on more risk or becoming more risk-averse depending on market sentiment and funding availability.

Our datasets show that exploratory mine drilling in Australia most recently peaked in 2021. (This could be tied to the plateau in Chinese iron-ore demand, which we explore in the next slide.)

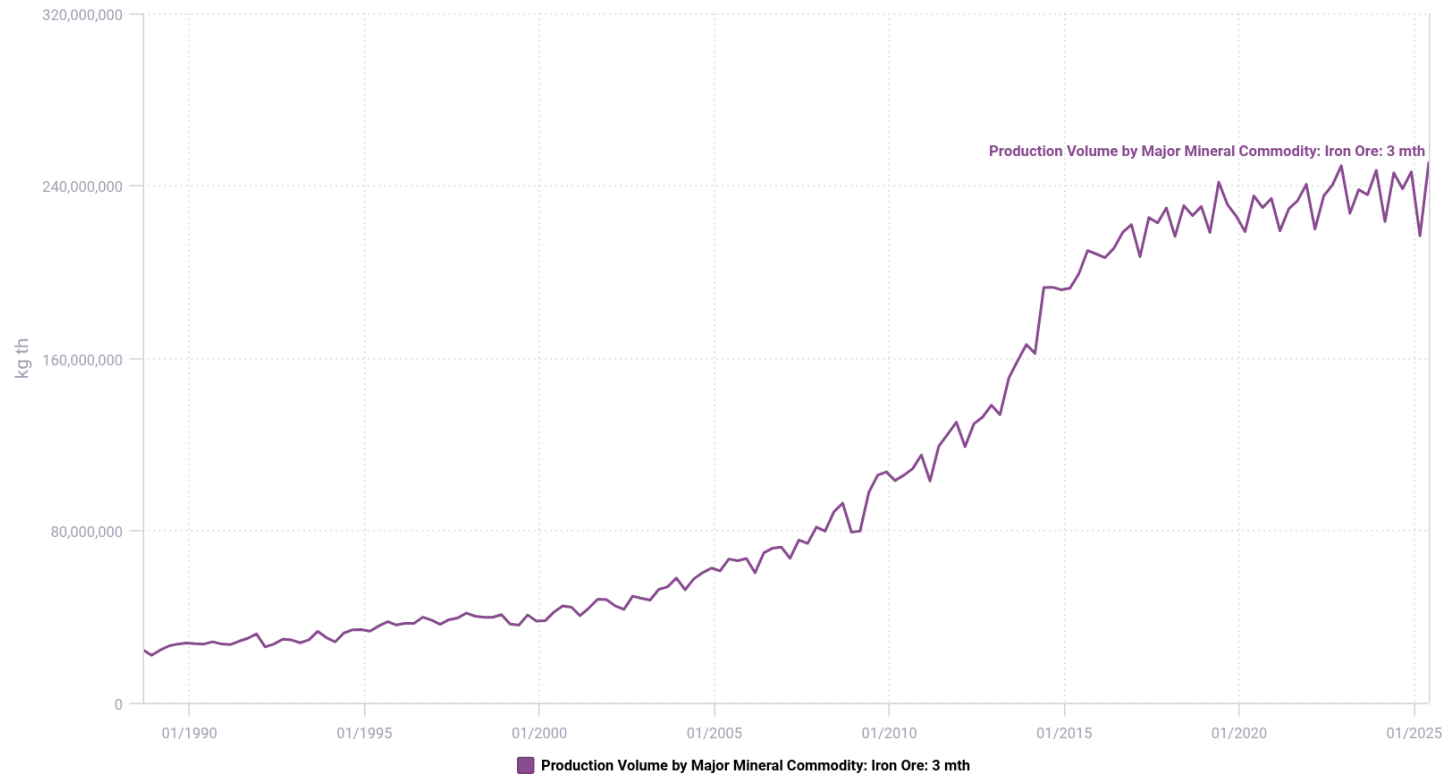
Very recently, there has been an uptick; this could be tied to rising interest in Australia's rare earths.

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Australia remains the world's top iron-ore producer

Iron Ore Production in Australia

Production Volume by Major Mineral Commodity: Iron Ore: 3 mth



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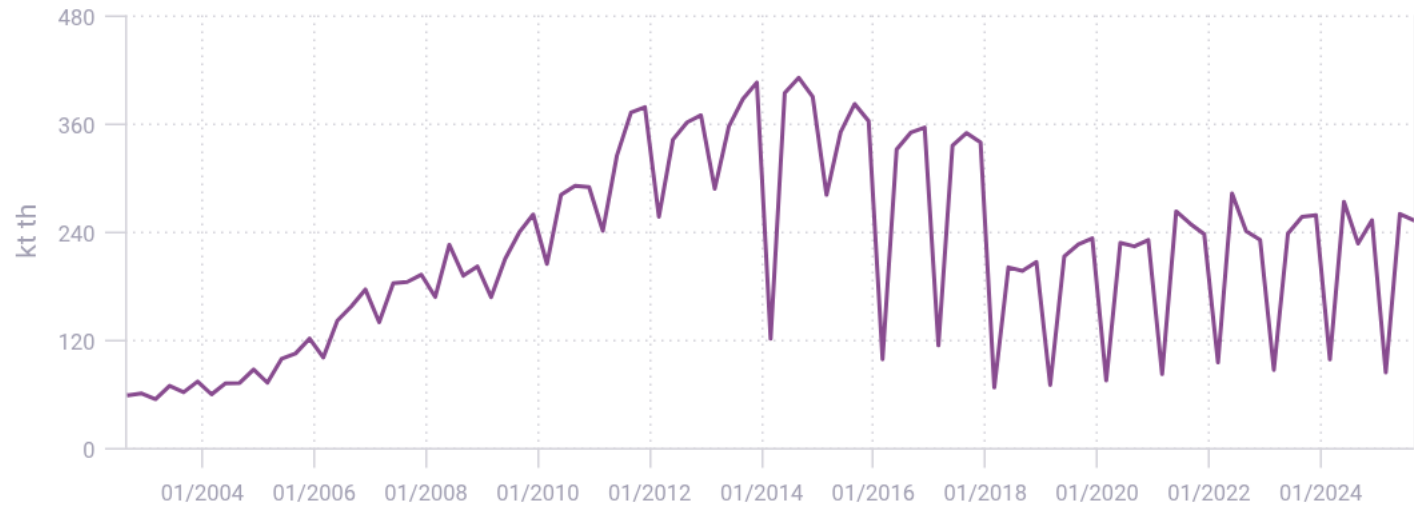
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China's iron-ore mining peaked more than a decade ago

Chinese iron-ore production fell significantly in 2017

CN: Industrial Production: Iron Ore



■ CN: Industrial Production: Iron Ore; AGGREGATE(Quarterly; March, June, September, December; Sum) > UNIT_CONVERSION(kt)



While China's construction and infrastructure boom has slowed in recent years, its production of iron ore began declining considerably earlier, as this dataset shows. There are several reasons: steelmakers imported cheaper, higher-grade ore from nations like Australia and Brazil, and the government imposed more emissions controls on steel-related companies to reduce pollution. Some iron-ore miners' licenses were withdrawn.

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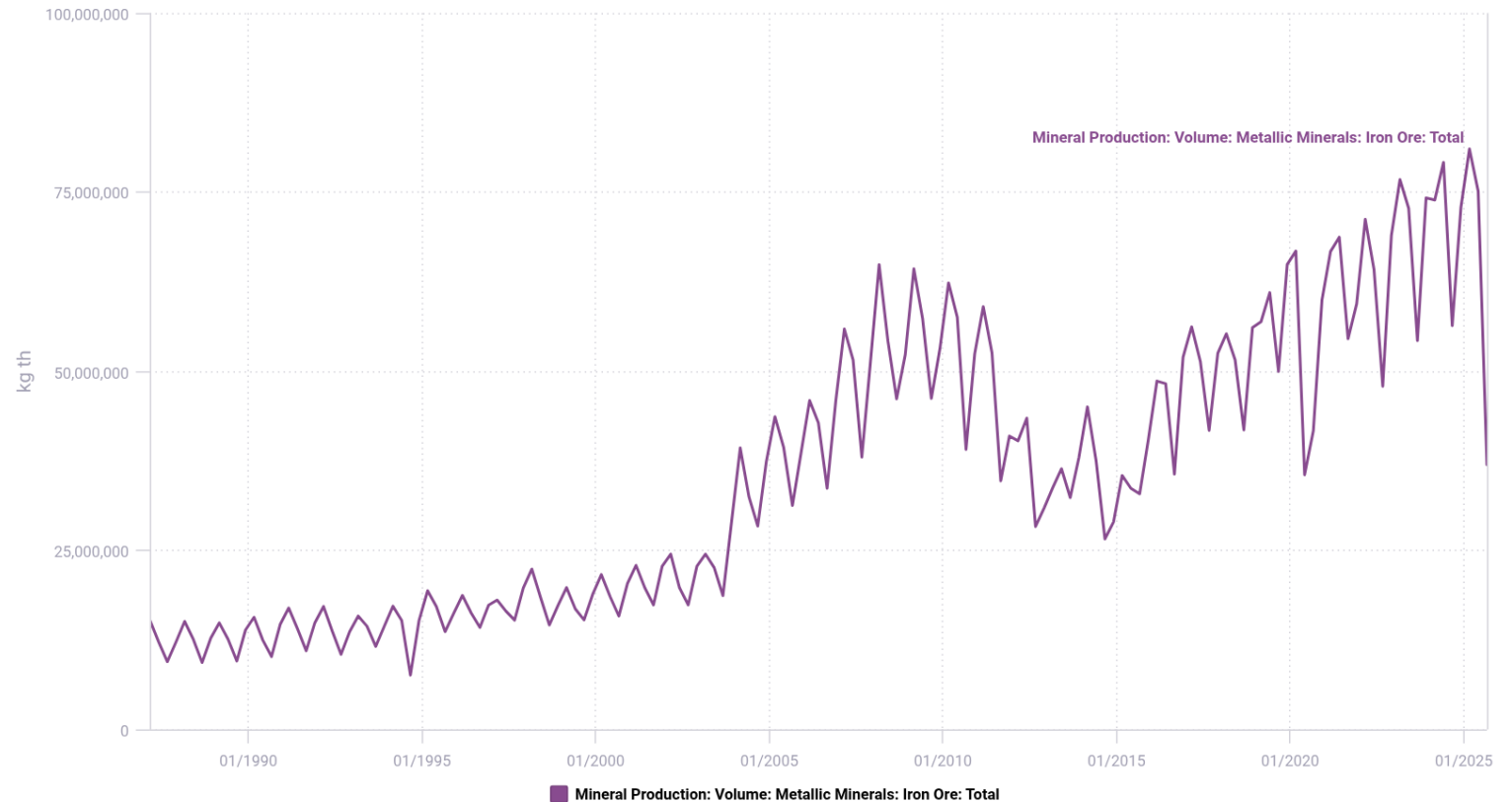
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India's surging iron-ore production feeds a burgeoning local steel industry

Indian Iron Ore Production

Mineral Production: Volume: Metallic Minerals: Iron Ore: Total



India's steel industry is booming as the world's most populous country builds highways and skyscrapers. As China's own decades-long infrastructure buildout and appetite for steel slows, mining multinationals like Brazil's Vale have started focusing on the Indian market.

While some of the iron ore that is eventually processed at India's steel mills is imported, the country is rich in reserves; it's the fourth-largest iron-ore miner. As this dataset shows, production has more than quadrupled since the mid-1990s and steadily grown over the past 10 years.

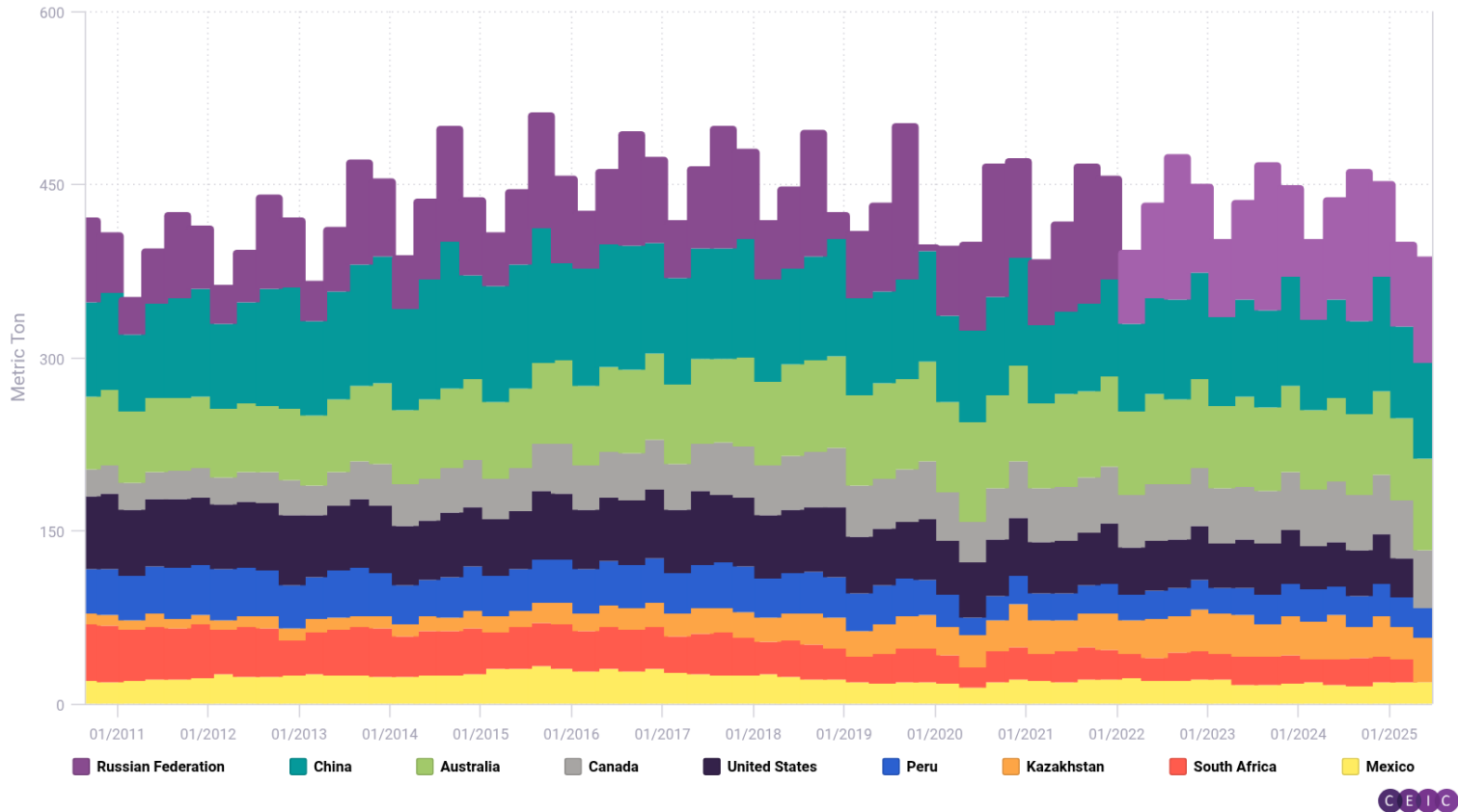
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An overview of global gold mining that fills in the Russian gaps

Global gold production since 2011: key producing countries

Russian figures estimated via X12Arima



Compiling global gold production from the major players, we can see that world output appears to have peaked in the middle of the past decade. However, it's notable that while production from South Africa, Peru and Mexico has waned since 2019, Russia has maintained its share of global output.

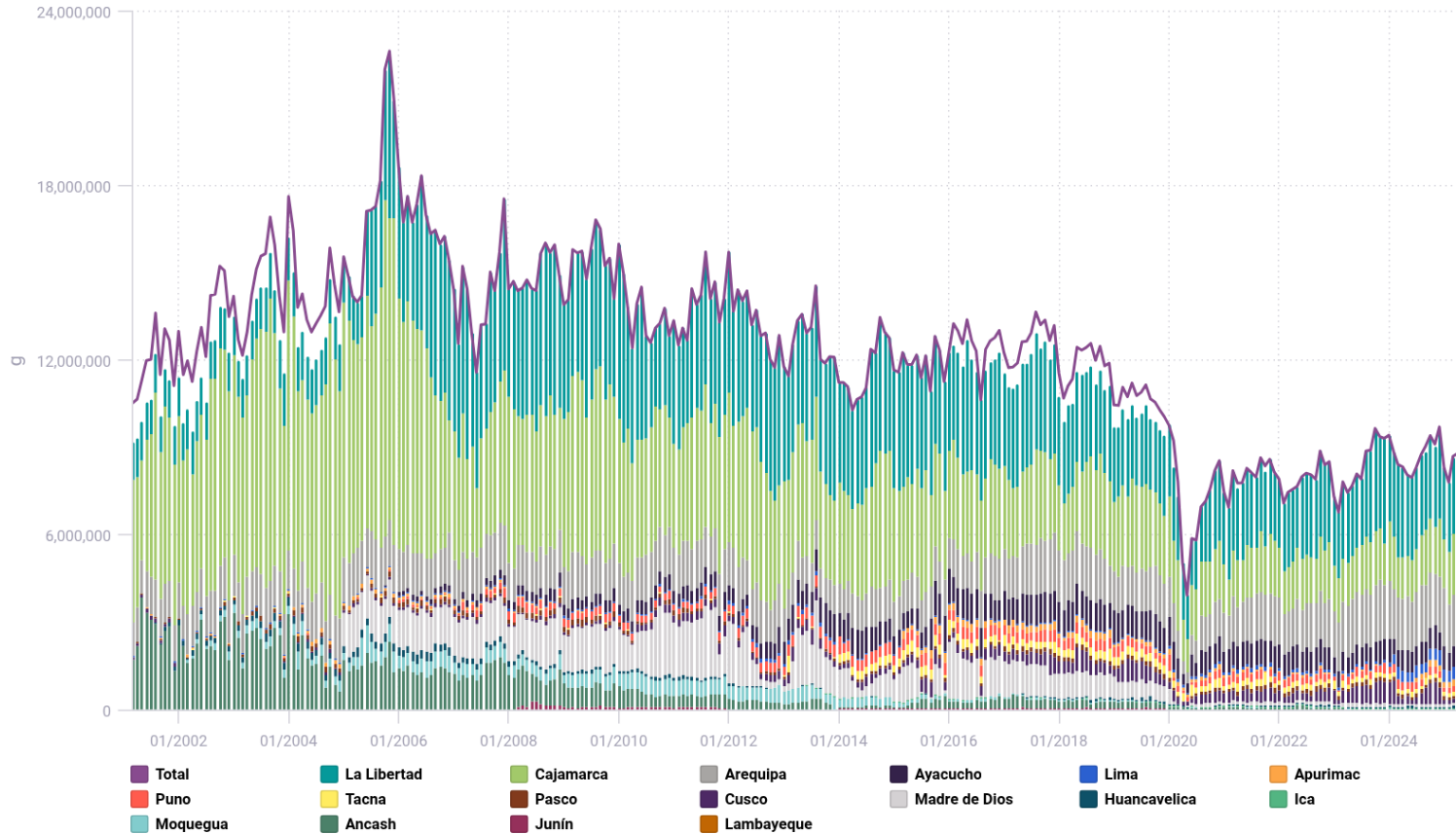
Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the western sanctions that followed, Moscow is publishing less statistical data – especially for its resource industries. CEIC offers a work-around: a proprietary estimation model ("X12Arima") that we've deployed in this chart.

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Granular data: gold output from a particular Peruvian region has waned

Peru: Gold production by region



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CEIC's granular data breaks down mining production figures at the sub-national level. This chart shows the historic gold-mining output from Cajamarca, a region in Peru's northern highlands. It's home to Yanacocha, South America's largest gold mine. Accounting for the lion's share of Peruvian production in the early and mid-2000s, Cajamarca's gold output has waned – dragging national figures down with it.

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