

Niobium

Metals

A soft grey metal, mined from pyrochlore and sold mostly as ferroniobium, that adds strength to steel in tiny proportions and is used in superalloys and superconducting magnets.

Key facts

World production, 2025

112,000 tonnes

Top producer

Brazil, 93%

Top exporter, ferroniobium (HS 720293), 2024

Brazil, 75% of export value

HS code

720293 Ferro-niobium

USGS MCS item

Mine production Mine production (niobium content)

Also called

Nb, columbium, ferroniobium, pyrochlore

Top producers, 2025

Country	Tonnes	Share
Brazil	104,000	93%
Canada	6,000	5.4%
DR Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	970	0.9%
Russia	300	0.3%
Rwanda	200	0.2%

Top exporters, 2024

Country	Export value	Share
Brazil	2.6 billion USD	75%
Canada	338.5 million USD	9.8%
Netherlands	269.4 million USD	7.8%
Singapore	75.8 million USD	2.2%
China	67.6 million USD	2%

CEPII BACI international trade database (HS22, V202601).

Cite as: Commodity Origins, "Niobium", <https://commodityorigins.com/commodities/niobium/> (CC BY 4.0). Full page, sources and downloads: <https://commodityorigins.com/commodities/niobium/>. Text is written with AI assistance and checked against the cited data; figures are computed from the sources (<https://commodityorigins.com/about/#how-ai-is-used>).