



# CHINA PRC

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## Lithium Triangle

In 2022 the Chinese lithium industry produced a whopping 75% of the world's Lithium ion batteries.. About 80% of lithium brine and 60% of lithium ore is produced domestically, however Chinese imports in the first half due to increasing demand for lithium ion batteries worldwide, largely from the automobile industry, exceeded 106000 tons of lithium carbonates.

## Chinese Chilean trade

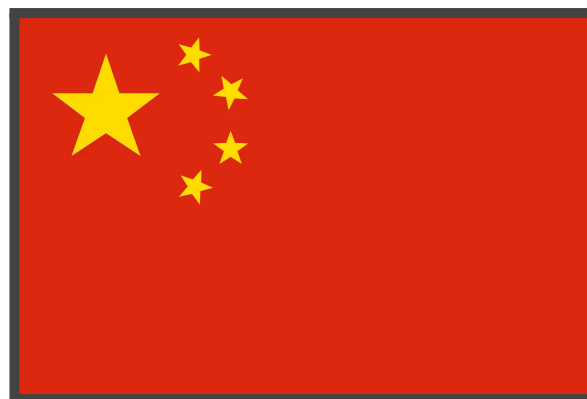
In recent years, lithium has become the main focus of Chinese mining investment. In 2018, the Chilean government approved a \$4 billion deal in which the Chinese company Tianqi acquired a 24 percent interest in SQM. In 2022 out of 6.17 billion USD of Chinese lithium imports 5.39 were from Chile accounting for 85% of Chinese imports. In 2023 Chinese company Tsingshan committed to build a \$233 facility in Chile for processing lithium into lithium iron phosphate.

## Argentina and Bolivia

Argentina is the second biggest Chinese supplier of Lithium with total exports of lithium phosphates worth 277 millions USD. However, the PRC is focused on increased imports of Argentina lithium, having invested 3.2 billion USD in the country's lithium industry from 2020 to 2023.. Bolivia on the other hand does not export much lithium to China, but in 2023 PRC invested about 1.4 billion USD into Bolivian lithium mining

### Read more

<https://thediplomat.com/2023/10/the-china-west-lithium-tango-in-south-america/>  
<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/the-us-wants-to-end-its-reliance-on-chinese-lithium-its-policies-are-doing-the-opposite/>  
<https://tinyurl.com/5h9bk5ew>  
<https://www.isdp.eu/the-lithium-battle-strategies-of-china-and-u-s-in-argentina/#:~:text=In%202023%2C%2043%20percent%20of.to%20secure%20critical%20resources%20globally.>



## Myanmar

China has long been a crucial actor in Myanmar, with bilateral relations greatly influenced by economic interconnectivity projects and a 2,185 kilometre shared border. China rather follows a non interference policy in Myanmar. Since 2021 coup China had rather protective stance to Junta, as they are major supplier of precious stones to China and suppliers of oil. China is also preparing ground for repatriation of Rohingya people to Myanmar, despite the current ruling party actively taking part in cleansings.

## DRC

Cobalt is required for modern Li-On batteries for cathode. It has high energy density and is pretty stable. DRC is the biggest exporter of that metal, most of which is exported to China for a sum of 1.07 billion USD in 2022. This year China discussed the DRC investment of 7 billion USD into the country's mining infrastructure for cobalt and copper.

### Read more

<https://www.voanews.com/a/rohingya-refugees-wary-as-china-develops-plan-for-repatriation-7211192.html>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cziyj2rd1zpo>  
<https://www.economist.com/asia/2024/09/05/myanmars-military-junta-is-battered-by-chinese-backed-forces>  
<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/chinese-invest-up-7-blm-congo-mining-infrastructure-statement-2024-01-27/>  
<https://tinyurl.com/5f5wfsup>

