

The raw materials value chain

The entire loop represents the circular economy.

You can only reuse and recycle a material once it has been turned from a resource into a material.



Source: EIT Raw Materials

Raw materials are the key enablers of many important policies that will shape our future, such as adaptation to and mitigation of the climate change challenges.



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Photo: Jeanette Hägglund



**LOW TECH,
HIGH-TECH, ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE?**

**OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON
MINERAL RAW MATERIALS**

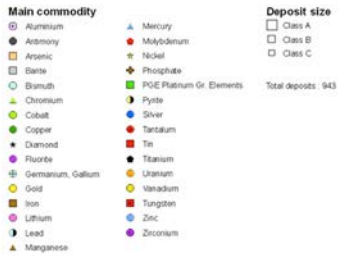
Image: ESA/ATG medialab

The European Union is

- ✓ **self-sufficient in production of sand, gravel and aggregates** (25.000 sites in the EU),
- ✓ **is the world's third largest producer of industrial minerals** (about 700 sites in the EU),
- ✓ **provides about 40% of EU's metal ores and concentrates** (90 sites in the EU).

Worldwide increase in population will drive demand for resources. A circular economy is only possible once the resources have been made available.

Main mineral deposits of Europe



Mineral Raw Materials in modern society are the lifeblood of the economy. They are the basis for many sectors:



€ 206 billion

Raw materials depending industries in the EU provided 206 billion EUR of added value.

24.6 million jobs

The economic importance of the **raw materials** sector goes far beyond the sector's own economic activities. Whilst engaging about 350.000 jobs within the EU, there are more than 24.6 million jobs in downstream manufacturing industries depend on the secure supply of raw materials.



The EU is still the world leading exporter of mining equipment, accounting for almost a quarter of world's total exports.

The EU has the potential to increase its capacity to source raw materials domestically and sustainably. It is not a lack of resources; it is a lack of exploration with latest technology that feeds the myth of depleting resources.

By increasing mineral domestic production, Europe becomes less dependent and improves its sustainable supply chain.



European mineral raw materials industry contributes to the ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY by:

- ✓ Staying financially strong in order to be an innovative and responsible sector and contributing to prosperity.
- ✓ Maintaining high return on equity.
- ✓ Having a healthy net debt/equity ratio.
- ✓ Consistently seeing results.
- ✓ Maintaining high ordinary dividends.

European mineral raw materials industry contributes to the SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY by:

- ✓ Maintaining secure and attractive workplaces and exert positive influences on our business partners and our immediate environment.
- ✓ Reducing accidents.
- ✓ Working to improve gender equality.
- ✓ Working to increase diversity.

European mineral raw materials industry contributes to the ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY by:

- ✓ Being resource-efficient and environmentally efficient.
- ✓ Reducing carbon emissions.
- ✓ Reducing energy intensity.
- ✓ Reducing discharges to water.
- ✓ Reducing emissions to air.