



COUNTRY PROFILE

Democratic Republic of the Congo



POPULATION
107 million



TOTAL AREA
2,344,858 km²



CAPITAL
Kinshasa



GDP
USD 70.96 billion (2024)

1. Geological Considerations

1.1 Mining-Specific Scorecard

Published a critical mineral strategy and/or strategic mineral list^C

2025

Ministerial Decree #18/042 declared cobalt, germanium, and colombo-tantalite as strategic mineral substances, with an expanded draft list—which was adopted in June 2026—adding lithium, tantalum, niobium, tungsten, uranium, and rare earth elements.

International coordination mechanisms (mining related, in force)^B

2025

Multiple: European Union (2023); United States (2025)

Mineral rents (% GDP)^F

2021

Score: 28.8

Trade or export restrictions^D

2025

Commodities: Cobalt, copper, gold, niobium, tantalum, tin

Logistics performance (1–5)^F

2023

Score: 2.5

Electricity access (% of the population)^F

2023

22.1%

Internet access (% of the population)^F

2023

30.5%

State-affiliated mining companies^E

2025

Sodimico, Gécamines, Sokimo, Sakima, Entreprise Générale du Cobalt, Miba, Cominière, Kisenge Manganèse

Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) Membership^A

2022

Yes

Sources: ^AEITI, 2025; ^BInternational Energy Agency, 2025b; ^CKennes, 2024; ^DOrganisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2025; ^ES&P Global Market Intelligence, 2026a; ^FWorld Bank Open Data, 2025.

**Note: The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) state also participates in privately operated mining projects through minority equity interests where the government holds a direct interest alongside private investors.*

1.2 Reserves

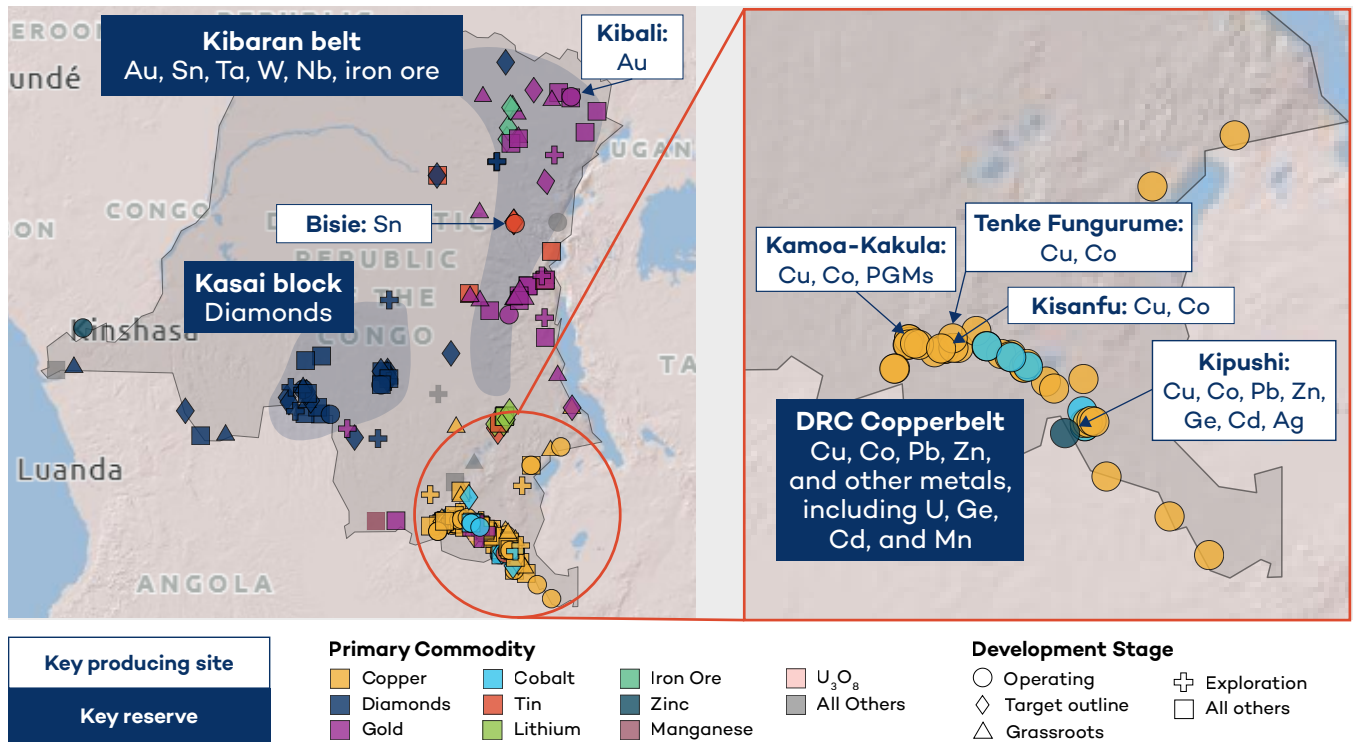
Reported reserves of major mining products in DRC as of 2024

Commodity	Unit	Reserves range (U.S. Geological Survey estimated)
Copper, Cu content	Million metric tonnes (million mt)	60
Cobalt, Co content	Million mt	6

Source: African Development Bank Group & Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development, 2025; U.S. Geological Survey, n.d.-a.

1.3 Key Mining Regions and Producing Sites

Key mining regions and producing projects by commodity, 2025



Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence, 2026b.

1.4 Key Mining Projects, DRC

Key operational mining projects by commodity, 2025

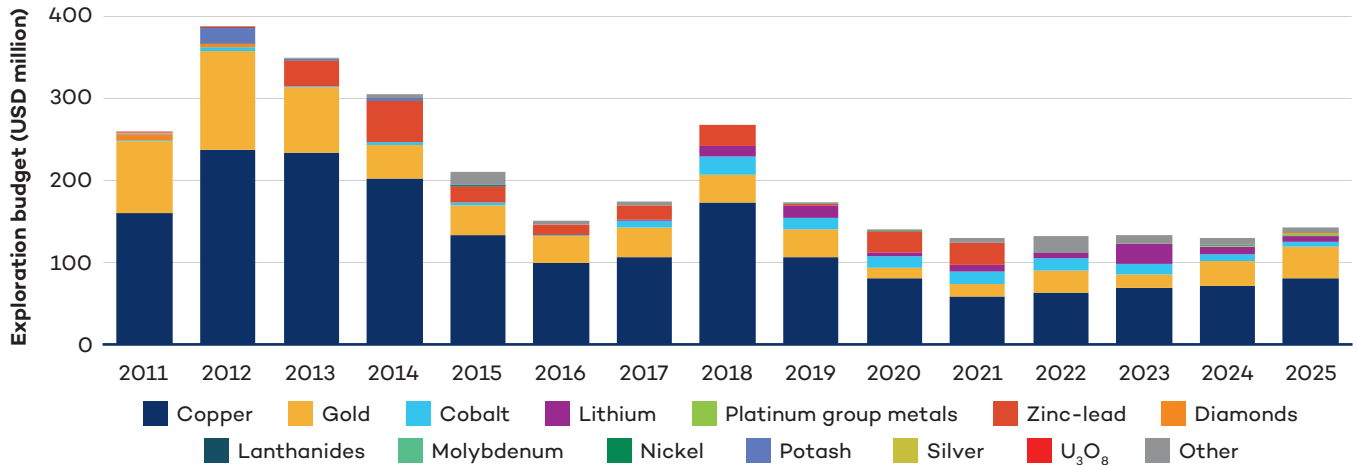
<p>Kisanfu Main commodity: Copper, cobalt Global production share of primary commodity: Copper 0.7%, cobalt 21.5% Production (2025): Copper 150,000 mt, cobalt 66,792 mt Controlling companies: CMOC Group Ltd., Contemporary Amperex Technology, Unnamed Owner Notable by-products: Cobalt, diamonds</p>	<p>Kamoa-Kakula Main commodity: Copper Global production share of primary commodity: 1.7% Production (2025): 388,831 mt Controlling companies: Ivanhoe Mines Ltd., Zijin Mining Group Co. Ltd., Dem. Rep. Congo, Crystal River Global Ltd. Notable by-products: Cobalt, nickel, rhodium, palladium, platinum, gold</p>
<p>Kibali Main commodity: Gold Global production share of primary commodity: 0.6% Production (2025): 19 mt Controlling companies: Barrick Mining Corp., AngloGold Ashanti plc, Société Minière de Kilo-Moto</p>	<p>Kipushi Main commodities: Zinc Global production share of primary commodity: 0.4% Production (2025): 50,307 mt Controlling companies: Ivanhoe Mines Ltd., Gécamines SA Notable by-products: Copper, lead, silver, cobalt, germanium</p>
<p>Tenke Fungurume Main commodity: Copper, cobalt Global production share of primary commodity: Copper 0.7%, cobalt 4.8% Production (2025): Copper 165,000 mt, cobalt 15,000 mt Controlling companies: CMOC Group Ltd., Gécamines SA Notable by-products: Cobalt, diamonds</p>	<p>Bisie Main commodity: Tin Global production share of primary commodity: 6.4% Production (2025): 18,576 mt Controlling companies: Alphamin Resources Corp., The Indl Dev Corp South Africa, Dem. Rep. Congo Notable by-products: Copper, zinc, lead, silver</p>
<p>Twangiza Main commodity: Silver Production (2025): 0.08 mt Notable by-products: Zinc, copper, lead, silver, germanium</p>	<p>Global production share of primary commodity: 0.0% Controlling companies: Baiyin Precious Metals Invt Ltd., Baiyin Nonferrous Group Co.</p>

Methodology note: The selected minerals and metals represent the DRC's top revenue-producing commodities; the mining properties listed are the top-ranked active and operational projects by production volume (metric tonnes unless otherwise stated) for selected commodities for the year 2025.

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence, 2026a; U.S Geological Survey, n.d.-a.

1.5 Exploration

Exploration budget per commodity (USD million), 2011–2025

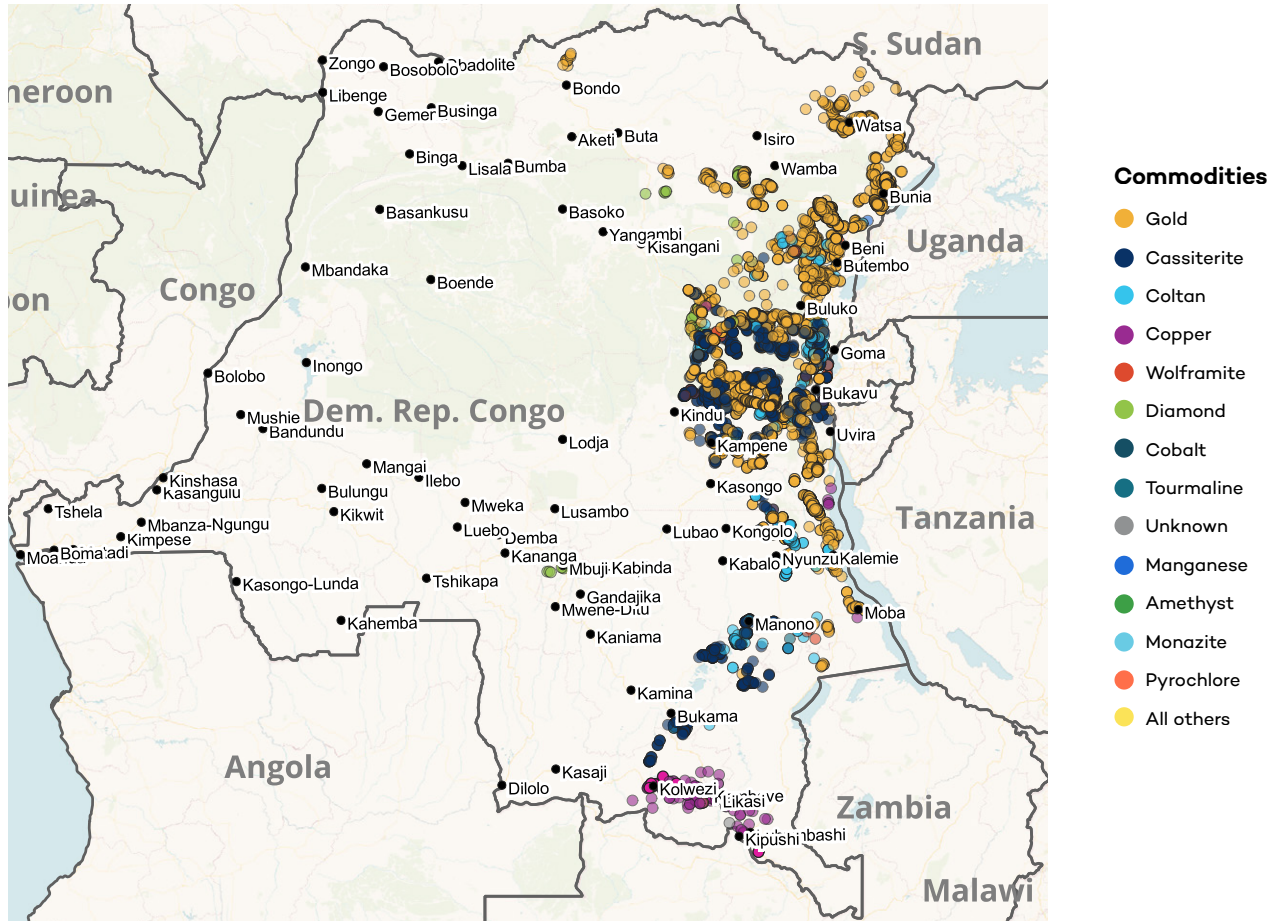


Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence, 2026a.

As shown in the figure above, cobalt accounted for just 6% (USD 8.3 million) of reported exploration expenditure in 2025. This reflects the structure of mineralization in the Central African Copperbelt, where cobalt occurs predominantly within sediment-hosted Cu-Co deposits and is recovered as a by-product of copper mining. Consequently, cobalt resources identified through exploration are largely captured under copper exploration planning and budgets, in line with reporting conventions, rather than presented as stand-alone exploration expenditure.

1.6 Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining

Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM)



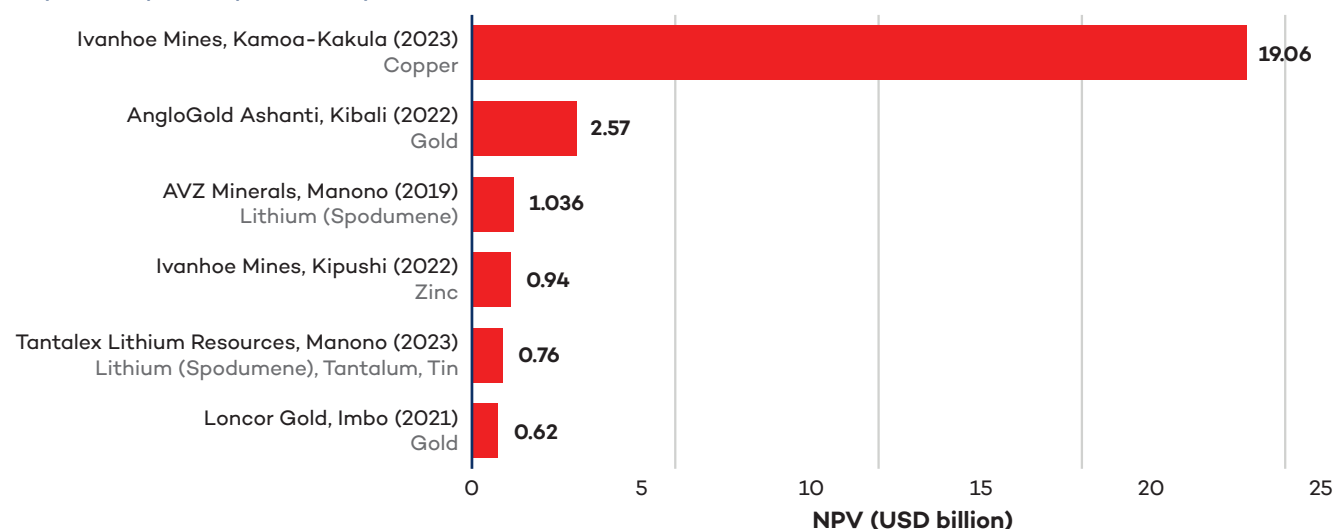
Source: International Peace Information Service, 2025; S&P Global Market Intelligence, 2026b.

Approximately 60% of global tantalum production is derived from ASM, including operations in eastern DRC and in Tanganyika Province, south of South Kivu (U.S. Geological Survey, n.d.-a, n.d.-c). Tin, tungsten, and gold are also produced in significant quantities by artisanal miners in the region. Some of this production has been linked to financing armed groups involved in the ongoing conflict in the eastern DRC (United Nations Security Council, 2001, 2025). As a result, tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold (3TG) were designated as conflict minerals around 2009 by many governments, including those in Europe and the United States. In parallel, international frameworks such as the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas provide voluntary principles for responsible mineral sourcing in conflict-affected and high-risk contexts (OECD, 2016, 2018). Laws in key consumer jurisdictions, notably the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation 2017/821 and the U.S. Dodd-Frank Act (Section 1502), require 3TG smelters to conduct due diligence, trace their supply chains, and provide documentary evidence of their sourcing practices (European Parliament and Council of the European Union, 2017; U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 2010). Publicly traded manufacturing companies in the United States that use 3TGs must disclose their efforts to ensure responsible sourcing (Darton Commodities, 2025; Gulley, 2023).

In the southern DRC Copperbelt, ASM is primarily focused on copper and cobalt. Artisanal miners extract both copper and cobalt-bearing ores, and variations in copper and cobalt prices often influence whether extraction prioritizes copper-rich or cobalt-rich ore. Historical estimates of artisanal production as a share of DRC cobalt mine production have ranged from 15% to 30% (Schutte & Näher, 2020). A 2023 analysis indicated that ASM accounted for roughly 10% of global cobalt production in 2020, while a 2025 analysis estimated this share at about 2% in 2024. This decline is not the result of reduced artisanal cobalt output, but rather reflects two combined dynamics: a substantial increase in cobalt production from large-scale mining operations, particularly with the commissioning of the Kisanfu mine, which has significantly expanded total global supply, and the influence of comparatively lower cobalt prices relative to copper (Cobalt Institute, 2025; Gulley, 2023).

1.7 Top Five Development Projects by Net Present Value (NPV)

Key development projects by estimated NPV (2020–2026) (USD billion)



Methodology note: In this chart, only base case values (the most likely set of assumptions, serving as the main reference scenario) are shown. For the reported NPV, if after-tax data is not available, the pre-tax value is reported. Key development projects include those at the preliminary economic assessment, pre-feasibility, full feasibility, and mine plan stages.

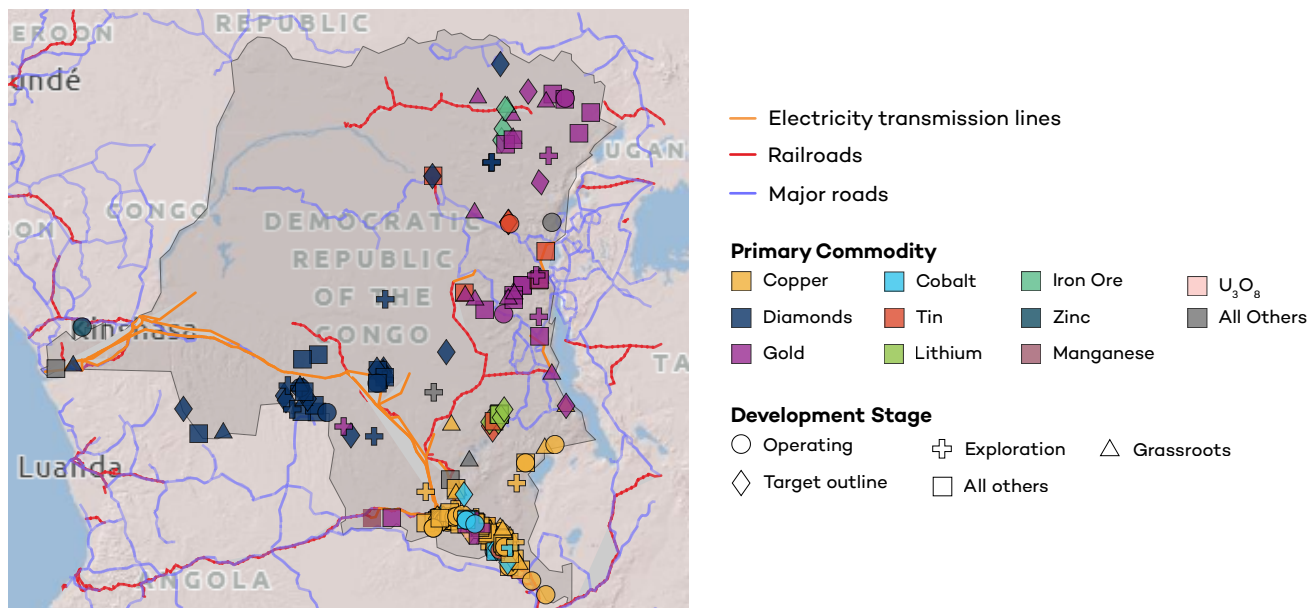
As of 2023, Ivanhoe Mines' Kamo-a-Kakula copper project had the highest publicly documented NPV among mining projects in the DRC. This chart includes only projects with NPV estimates published between 2020 and 2026 and those that are available in the public domain. Consequently, several major operations, including Tenke Fungurume, Kisanfu, Kamoto, Sicominex, Metalkol, Deziwa-Somidez, Kinsevere, Ruashi, Mutashi, and Etoile, are excluded due to the absence of recent public NPV estimates. Projects with older NPVs, such as Mutanda (USD 3.01 billion, 2011), Bisie (USD 343.2 million, 2016), Namoya (USD 208 million, 2014), and Twangiza (USD 285 million, 2014), are also excluded. NPV data was compiled from company technical reports and feasibility studies as reported in S&P Global Market Intelligence as of 2026.

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence, 2026a.

2. Industrial Considerations

2.1 Infrastructure and Energy Map, DRC (2025)

Mining, infrastructure, and energy map, DRC, 2025



Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence, 2026a; World Bank, 2018.

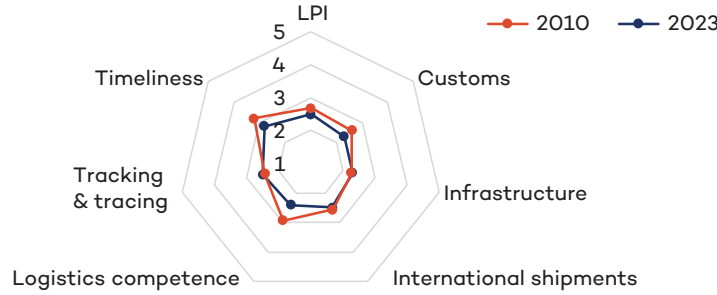
The future growth of the DRC's mining sector depends on strengthening transport and energy infrastructure. Fragmented road and rail networks limit connectivity between production sites, processing facilities, and export corridors, underscoring the need for targeted infrastructure investments to reduce logistical costs and improve market access (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2024). Infrastructure remains concentrated in the southeastern mining hubs, with rail and road corridors linking these areas to the country's Indian Ocean and Atlantic-facing ports. The state-owned Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer du Congo (SNCC) operates three lines of primary relevance to the mining sector: the Lubumbashi–Kolwezi corridor, the Kolwezi–Dilolo–Lobito link, and the Lubumbashi–Sakania connection to Zambia's rail network.

In recent years, several emerging developments and initiatives, notably the U.S.- and G7-backed Lobito Corridor project, G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment and EU Global Gateway Initiative, have sought to mobilize public and private capital to develop and strengthen strategic transport and logistics infrastructure in the Copperbelt region. Ongoing investment in the Lobito Corridor centres on the planned construction and refurbishment of approximately 1,300 km of railway and associated road and logistics networks linking Angola's Lobito port to Zambia and the DRC. Alongside other investments and industrial policy measures, the project aims to boost regional trade, diversify and secure critical mineral supply chains, and support clean energy and economic development across Central Africa (UNDP, 2024).

In parallel, a Chinese-led consortium is advancing plans to rehabilitate and extend the Tanzania–Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) corridor toward Dar es Salaam, creating a competing export route through Tanzania. The TAZARA line runs 1,860 km from Dar es Salaam to Kapiri Mposhi, with proposed future connections to the DRC. In late 2025, China, Zambia, and Tanzania agreed on a USD 1.4 billion rehabilitation program to modernize the line and improve access to copper and cobalt exports from Zambia and, potentially, the DRC (Reuters, 2025b; S&P Global Market Intelligence, 2024). Both the Lobito Corridor and the planned TAZARA rehabilitation reflect increasing global interest in securing reliable transport corridors and supply agreements, but also increasing efforts by producing countries, such as the DRC, to leverage their strategic positioning to strengthen their value chain positioning and promote regional integration.

2.2 Logistics Performance Index

Logistics performance index (LPI), 2010 versus 2023

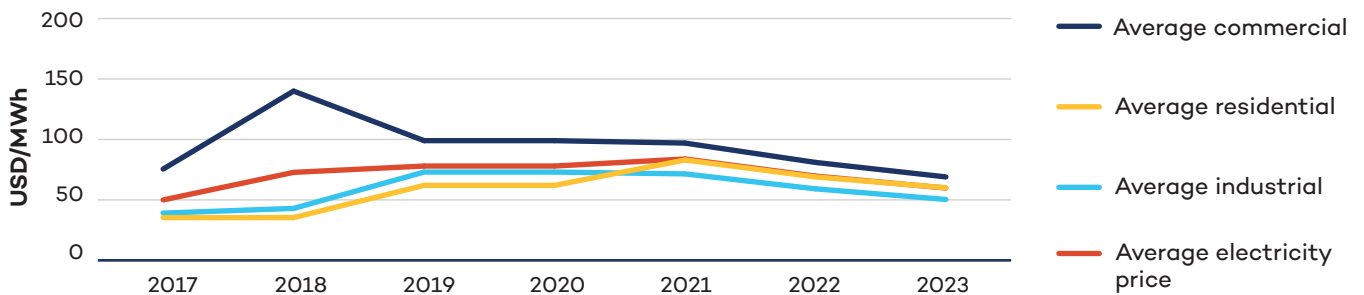


Methodological note: Radial chart showing the LPI breakdown for the DRC (ranked 1 = low and 5 = high), a composite measure disaggregated into six key dimensions: 1) Efficiency of the clearance process (i.e., speed, simplicity and predictability of formalities) by border control agencies, including customs; 2) Quality of trade- and transport-related infrastructure (e.g., ports, railroads, roads, information technology); 3) Ease of arranging competitively priced shipments; 4) Competence and quality of logistics services (e.g., transport operators, customs brokers); 5) Ability to track and trace consignments; 6) Timeliness of shipments in reaching destination within the scheduled or expected delivery time (World Bank, 2023b).

Source: World Bank, 2023b.

2.2.1 Electricity Prices

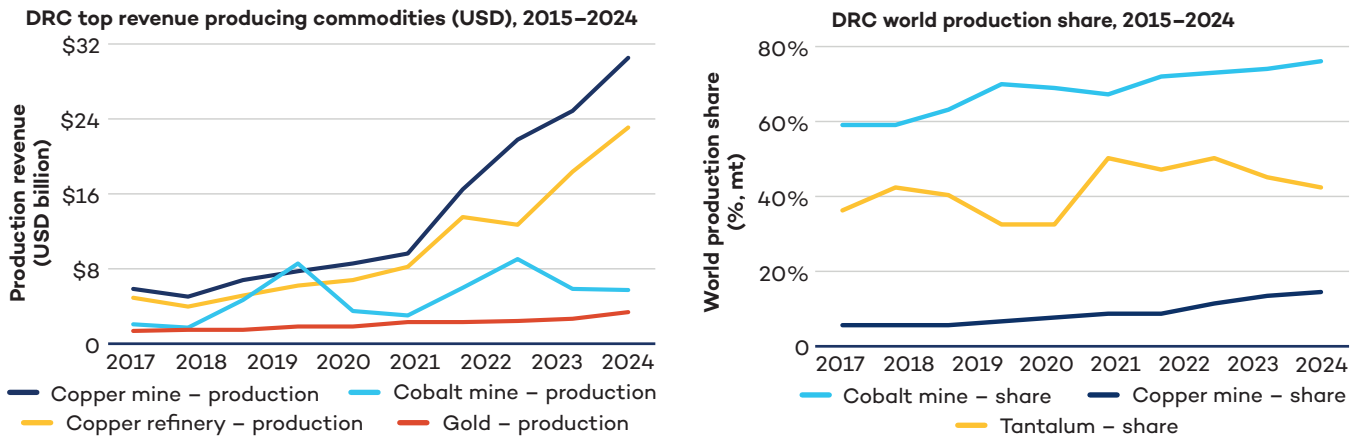
Electricity price (2017–2024)



Source: Climate Watch, 2025.

2.3 Mining and Refining Evolution

DRC top revenue-producing commodities (USD billion) & world production share (% by metric tonnes)



Methodology notes: The left graph above shows the revenue generated by mine production for selected commodities, in USD billion. This is calculated as the average annual price times annual country-level production. The right graph shows the country's share of world production for top revenue-producing commodities.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey, n.d.-a, n.d.-b, n.d.-c.

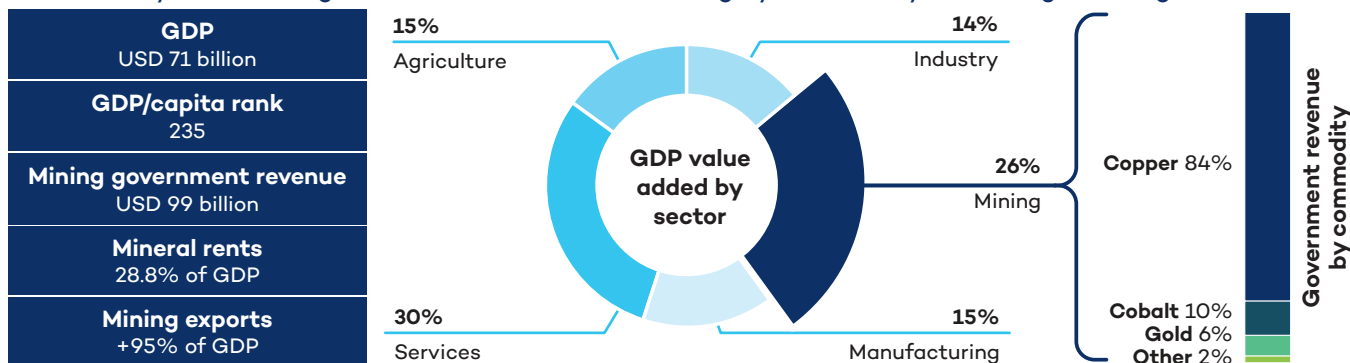
The figures above show the DRC's top revenue-producing commodities and share of world production for selected commodities. The DRC's world cobalt share has increased from 2015 through 2024, chiefly due to developments and expansions of copper-cobalt mines by Chinese firms or Sino-Congolese joint ventures and consortia. Beyond price effects, the growth in copper mine and refinery revenues from 2020 to 2024 was underpinned by rapidly expanding copper production.

While the DRC is known to account for a significant share of global tantalum supply, it remains difficult to determine the exact quantities produced in eastern DRC compared with other Great Lakes Region countries. This is partly due to conflict-related disruptions, informal or illegal production, and re-exports, which can obscure the true origin of material. As a result, share estimates are often based on import proxies rather than directly reported production data.

3. Economic Considerations

3.1 Sectoral Contribution

DRC GDP by sector and government revenue from mining by commodity (excluding oil and gas), 2024



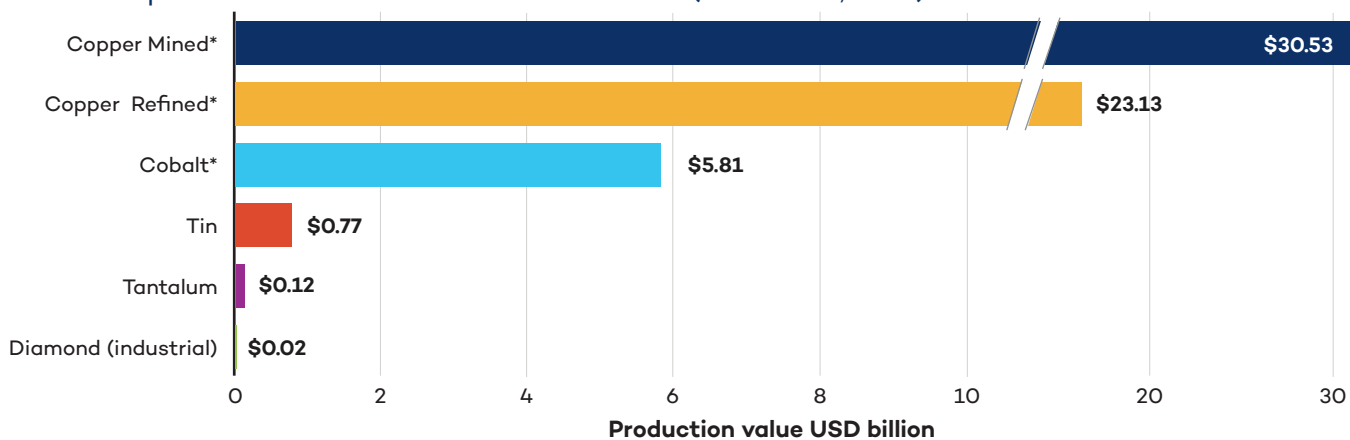
Methodology notes: The data to the far left of the donut graphs covers GDP, GDP per capita world ranking, total estimated government revenues from mining, and mining as a share of total exports. The centre donut graph presents each sector's share of GDP, with the mining sector highlighted in yellow. The right-most figure estimates each commodity's revenue contribution to the mining sector.

Source: U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2025; U.S Geological Survey, n.d.-c; World Bank Open Data, 2025.

The DRC's GDP per capita ranks 212th out of 266 individual countries and economies plus regional, income, and other aggregate categories used in the World Bank database. Within this context, the mining sector is a key pillar of the economy, accounting for around 26% of GDP and providing an important source of employment and income for many communities. Copper and cobalt dominate the sector, together generating over 90% of mining revenues.

3.2 Production Value for Selected Commodities

Estimated production value of selected commodities (USD billion, 2024)⁴



Source: U.S. Geological Survey, n.d.-b, n.d.-c.

3.3 Trade and Export Restrictions

Summary of trade and export restrictions for selected commodities, as of 2025

	Export prohibition	Export quota or tax	Licensing requirement	No restrictions
Cobalt		x		
Copper		x		
Gold		x		
Niobium		x		
Tantalum		x		
Tin				

Source: OECD, 2025; Reuters, 2025b.

The DRC government's history of exercising centralized control over the mining sector goes back to the nationalization of the mining industry in the 1960s (Gulley, 2022). Government revenues are heavily dependent on mining export taxes, but could be higher with increased revenues from ore beneficiation and processing further down the mineral value chains. In February 2025, as Chinese-owned copper-cobalt mines ramped up production despite cratering cobalt prices, the DRC government imposed an export ban on cobalt. The ban was officially lifted in October 2025 and was replaced with an export quota system targeting maximum exports equal to 44% of cobalt mine/intermediate production in 2024 (Reuters, 2025b).

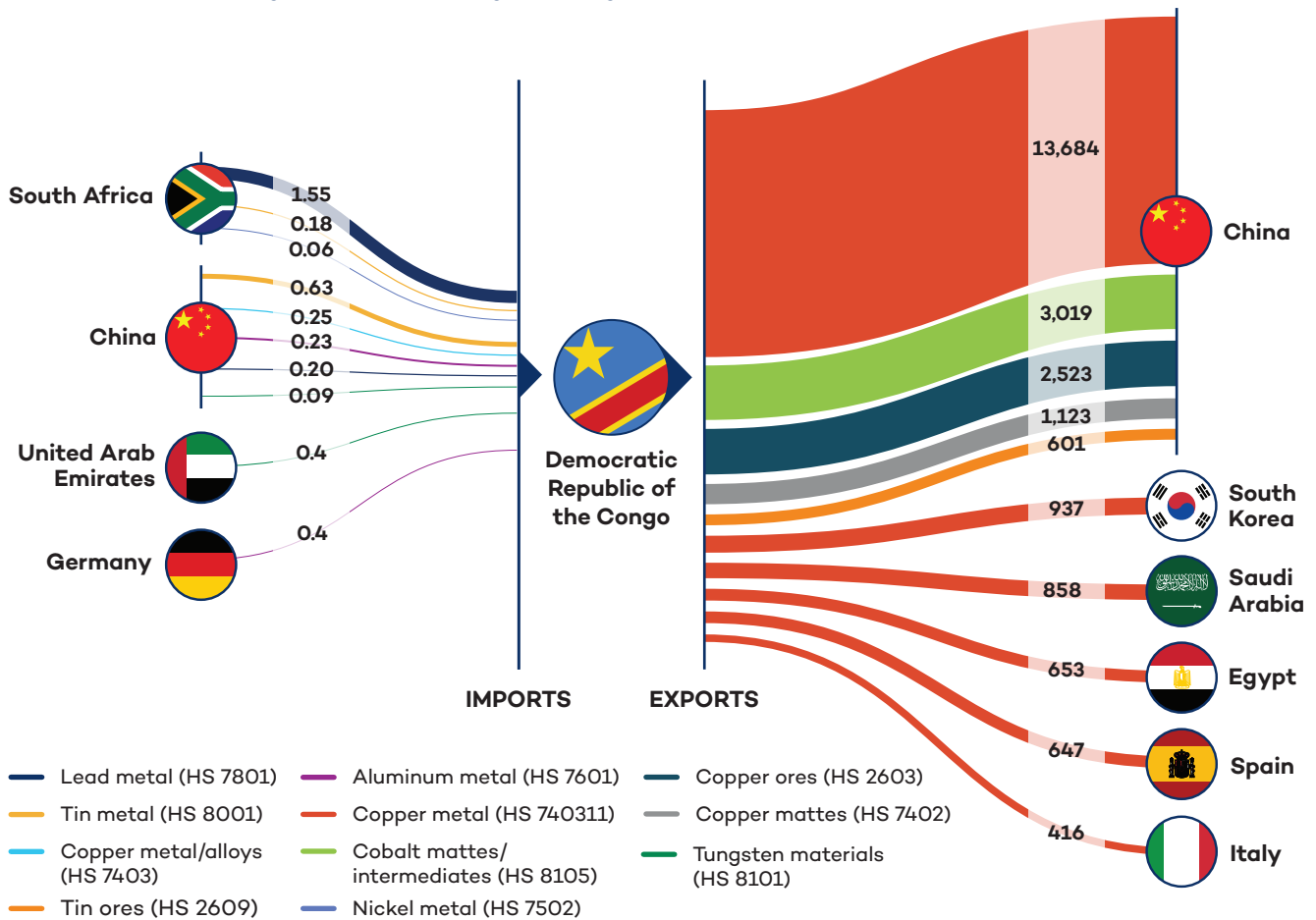
Overview of the DRC's Mining Related International Coordination mechanisms and/or partnerships (in force)

Partner	Year	Policy
United States	2025	DRC–U.S. Strategic Partnership Agreement to strengthen bilateral cooperation on critical minerals, infrastructure, and governance
European Union	2023	DRC–EU Strategic Partnership on sustainable raw materials value chains

Source: European Commission, 2025; Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security, 2014; International Institute for Sustainable development, 2025.

3.4 Major Selected Mining Trades (excluding oil and gas)

Major selected mining trades (excluding oil and gas) in the DRC, 2024 (USD million)



Source: United Nations Statistics Division, 2026.

The sankey diagram above illustrates the DRC's exports and imports by value in 2024. Mining exports are overwhelmingly dominated by copper metal, ores, and mattes, with China accounting for the largest share of export destinations. Exports of intermediate cobalt products largely represent shipments from Chinese-owned mining operations in the DRC to refining facilities in China. Tin is another important mineral export, with China serving as its primary destination. Given that tin is classified as a conflict mineral in several jurisdictions, the scale of these exports may merit further analysis. In particular, it may be useful to assess whether the reported export values can be fully attributed to production from the DRC's only industrial tin mine, Alphamin Resources' Bisie operation in North Kivu Province, or whether additional sources of supply are contributing to these trade flows.

4. Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Considerations

4.1 Environment

4.1.1 Environmental Scorecard

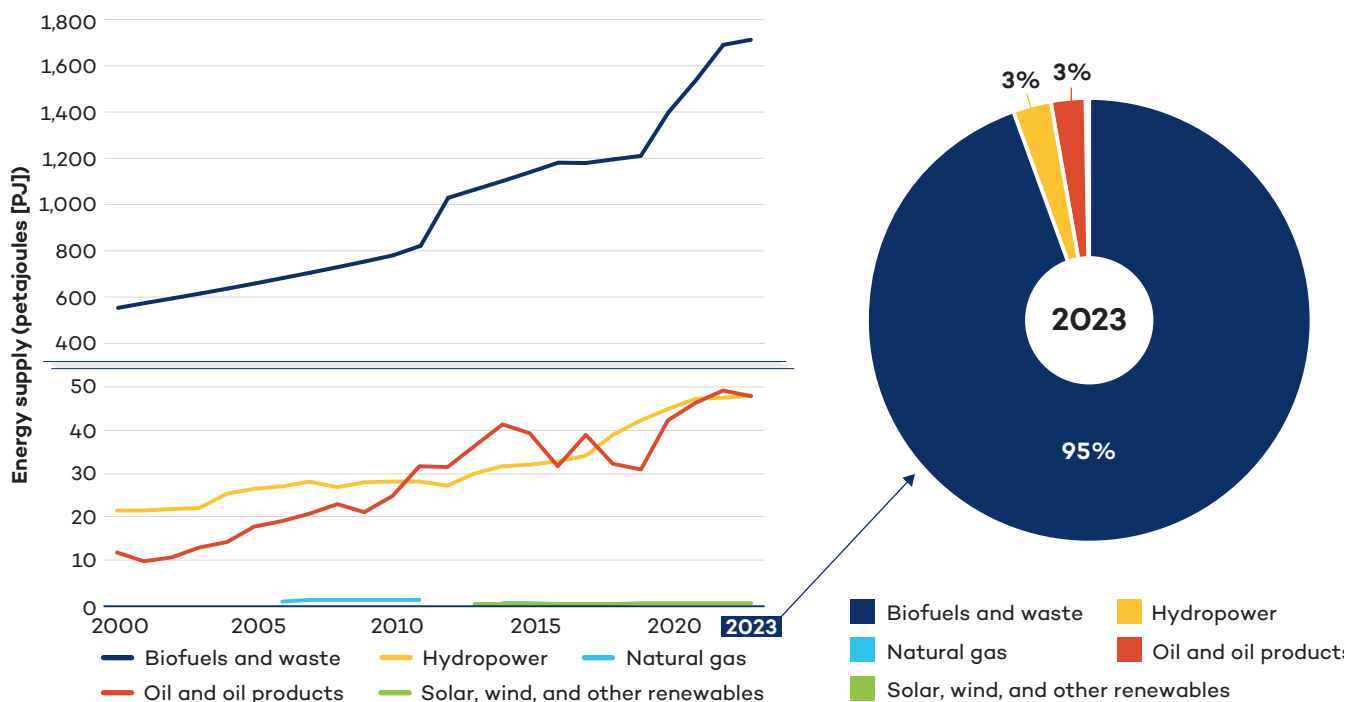
Environmental			
Indicator	Year	Score	% change
Total emissions^A (million mt CO ₂ e, including LULUCF*)	2000	437.82	-40%
	2023	250.51	
Energy sector emissions^A (million mt CO ₂ e)	2000	15.19	↑ 89%
	2023	28.74	
Industry/IPPU** GHG emissions^A (million mt CO ₂ e)	2000	0.1387	↑ 3,773%
	2023	5.57	
Industrial sector energy intensity^C (terajoules, [TJ])	2000	12,0748	↑ 60%
	2023	48,370	
Renewable energy^C (% of total consumption)	2000	23	↑ 69.57%
	2022	7	
Tree cover loss^B (ha/year)	2001	460,000	↑ 204.35
	2023	1,400,000	

Source: ^AClimate Watch, 2025; ^BGlobal Forest Watch, 2025; ^CIEA, 2025a.

*LULUCF = Land use, land-use change, and forestry; **IPPU = Industrial processes and product use.

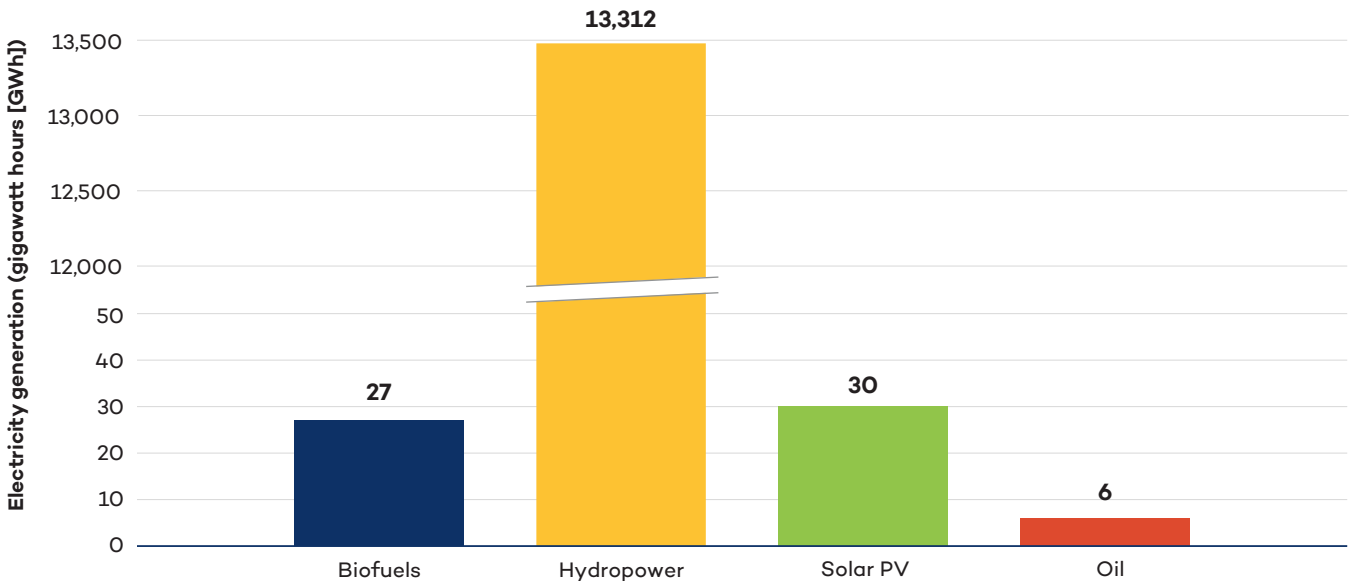
4.1.2 Emissions and Energy Mix Overview

(i) DRC energy mix, total energy supply by source, 2024, (% share)



Source: IEA, 2025a.

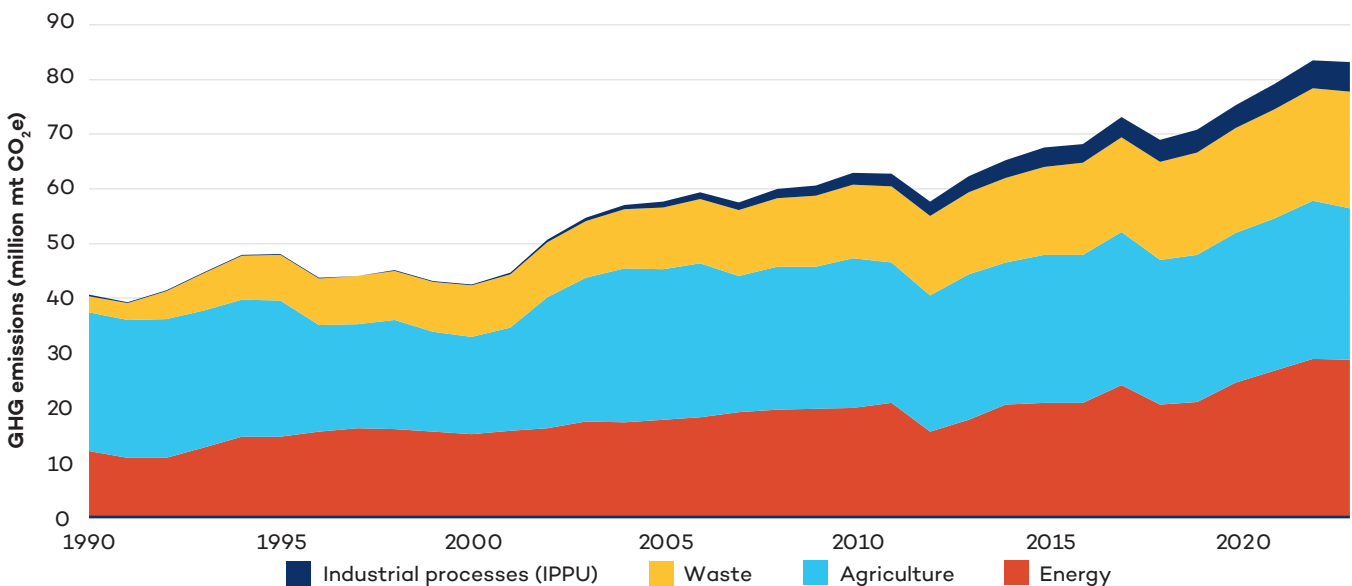
(ii) DRC electricity generation by source



Source: IEA, 2025a.

The DRC possesses significant energy resources, with vast renewable energy capacity alongside considerable oil and gas reserves (African Development Bank, 2020). The country has the largest hydropower potential in Africa, with existing dams generating roughly 13,312 GWh of electricity, representing about 95% of total supply (IEA, 2025a). Despite a technically feasible potential of nearly 774 TWh per year (around 100 GW), only about 2.5% has been developed (ANDRITZ, 2023). Access to electricity remains limited, with only 19% of the population connected (41% in urban areas and 1% in rural areas), highlighting persistent electricity supply gaps. In this context, planned capacity expansions of over 43.8 TWh per year (around 5 GW), including projects such as Grand Inga, Luapula, Ruzizi, Nzilo, and Busanga, may support broader mining-related infrastructure expansion and improved domestic energy access once operational (International Trade Administration, 2024).



(iii) Historical sectoral emissions, DRC (excluding LULUCF), 2022





Source: Climate Watch, 2025.

4.2 Social

4.2.1 Social Scorecard

Social		
Indicator	Year	Score
Gini Index ^G 	2023	44.7
Prevalence of undernourishment (% , 3-year average)	2024	38.5
Representation of female staff in the mining workforce ^D (%)	2022 ASM 2023 LSM*	20-40% >10%
Total workforce ^D (number of individuals directly or indirectly employed in the sector)	2023 ASM 2023 LSM	500,000-2,000,000 375,000
Resilience index ^G (0-100**) 	2023	41

 **The Gini Index** measures income (or consumption) inequality, ranging from 0 (perfect equality) to 100 (perfect inequality), with higher values indicating greater inequality.

 **Normalized score** is a 0-100 country percentile ranking across all countries covered by the aggregate indicator, where 0 corresponds to the lowest rank and 100 to the highest.

Source: ^DDelve, 2025a; ^EFood and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2025; ^FLloyd's Register Foundation, 2024; ^GWorld Bank Open Data, 2025.

* LSM = large-scale mining.

4.2.2 Gender and Social Inclusion

Women in the mining sector: LSM versus ASM in the DRC



According to the Chamber of Mines' 2015 Annual Report, LSM in the DRC provides employment for approximately 375,000 people, including 50,000 direct jobs in industrial mines, 25,000 indirect jobs linked to levelling work, equipment, and security services, and an estimated 300,000 induced jobs in sectors such as transport and food services (Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change, 2021).

In LSM, women continue to face significant social, economic, and structural barriers that impede participation, which is currently >10% of the workforce and ~1% of policy and government decision-makers (Mining Review Africa, 2024). In the ASM sector, men make up the majority of the workforce, but many women also rely on ASM as a primary source of income (Delve, 2025b). Women's participation has increased substantially over time, rising from 20% of the ASM workforce in 2008 to around 40% in 2017 (International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2017). Although data remain limited, one study estimates that women represent 10%–15% of workers at 3T sites and between 25% and 50% at gold sites across the Great Lakes Region (Delve, 2025b).

4.3 Governance

4.3.1 Governance Scorecard

Governance		
Indicator	Year	Score
Political stability & violence ^G (0-100)	2023	5.2
Rule of law ^G (0-100)	2023	4.7
Voice & accountability ^G (0-100)	2023	15.7
Control of corruption ^G (0-100)	2023	5.2
Regulatory quality ^G (0-100)	2023	8.9
INFORM Disaster Risk Reduction Index ^H (0-10)	2025	8.1

Normalized score is a 0–100 country percentile ranking across all countries covered by the aggregate indicator, where 0 corresponds to the lowest rank and 100 to the highest.

The INFORM Risk Index is a composite indicator that identifies countries at risk of crises and disasters that may overwhelm national response capacity, where 0 indicates no risk and 10 indicates extremely high risk.

Source: ^HEuropean Commission, 2025; ^GWorld Bank Open Data, 2025.

4.3.2 Regulatory Overview

Overview of the DRC regulatory system for the mining sector

Type of legal system	Civil law (with customary law influences)
Main regulatory authority	Ministry of Mines through Mining Cadastre (CAMI); Ministry of Environment through Agence Congolaise de l'Environnement (ACE)
Mining code or primary legislation	DRC Mining Code (as amended by Law 18/001)
Legal provisions for Indigenous or local community rights	Requirement for public consultation for environmental impact assessments under the Mining Code
Environmental impact legislation	<p>Law No. 11/002 of 20 January 2011 – Revising specific articles of the Constitution of 18 February 2006</p> <p>Law No. 11/009 of 16 July 2011 – Fundamental Principles Relating to the Protection of the Environment</p> <p>Decree No. 14/019 of 02 August 2014 – Rules of Operation of the Procedural Mechanisms for Environmental Protection</p> <p>Ministerial Order No. 022/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/2017 of 06 September 2017 – Setting Fees for Appraisal of Environmental and Social Studies</p>

Source: IGF, forthcoming.

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