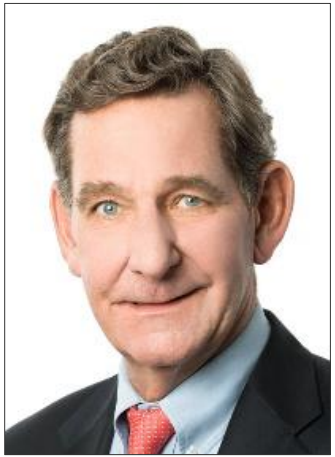
The Top 10 Dominant Drivers of Metals Markets in 2026

Webcast: February 10, 2026

Sprott

Featured Speakers



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Read Full Bio

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Webcast Outline

Intro
Ed Coyne

Dominant Drivers of Metals Markets in 2026
Whitney George

Metals in Focus
Jacob White

- Silver, Copper, Uranium and Rare Earths

Q&A
Ed Coyne

A Global Leader in Precious Metals and Critical Materials Investments

Sprott

US$49.1B in AUM[1]
Sprott (SII) is publicly listed on the NYSE and TSX

Exchange Listed Products	Managed Equities	Private Strategies
$41.8 Billion AUM	**$5.2 Billion AUM**	**$2.1 Billion AUM**
• Physical Bullion Trusts (NYSE Arca & TSX Listed) • Physical Uranium Trust (TSX Listed) • Physical Copper Trust (TSX Listed) • Sprott Precious Metals ETFs (Nasdaq or NYSE Arca Listed) • Sprott Critical Materials ETFs (Nasdaq or NYSE Arca Listed)	• Flagship U.S. Gold Equity Mutual Fund • Closed-End Value Fund (Nasdaq) • Sprott Critical Materials Strategy • Sprott Concentrated M&A Strategy	• Bespoke credit investments to mining and resource companies

[1] Sprott AUM as of September 30, 2025.

Dominant Drivers of Metals Markets in 2026: 1-7

Dominant Drivers of Metals Markets in 2026

1. **Deglobalization Shift:** Sovereignty and security over efficiency are driving inflation, supply-chain fragmentation and stronger strategic demand for gold and critical minerals, especially silver, copper and uranium.

2. **De-Dollarization:** Despite the dollar's continued dominance in global transactions, de-dollarization is advancing through declining USD share in central bank reserves, reduced foreign ownership of U.S. Treasuries and a growing portion of the commodity trade priced in non-dollar currencies.

3. **Tariff Uncertainty:** Trump-era tariffs continue to disrupt supply chains and raise input costs, distorting trade flows and supporting higher metal prices through inflationary pressures, reshoring and heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

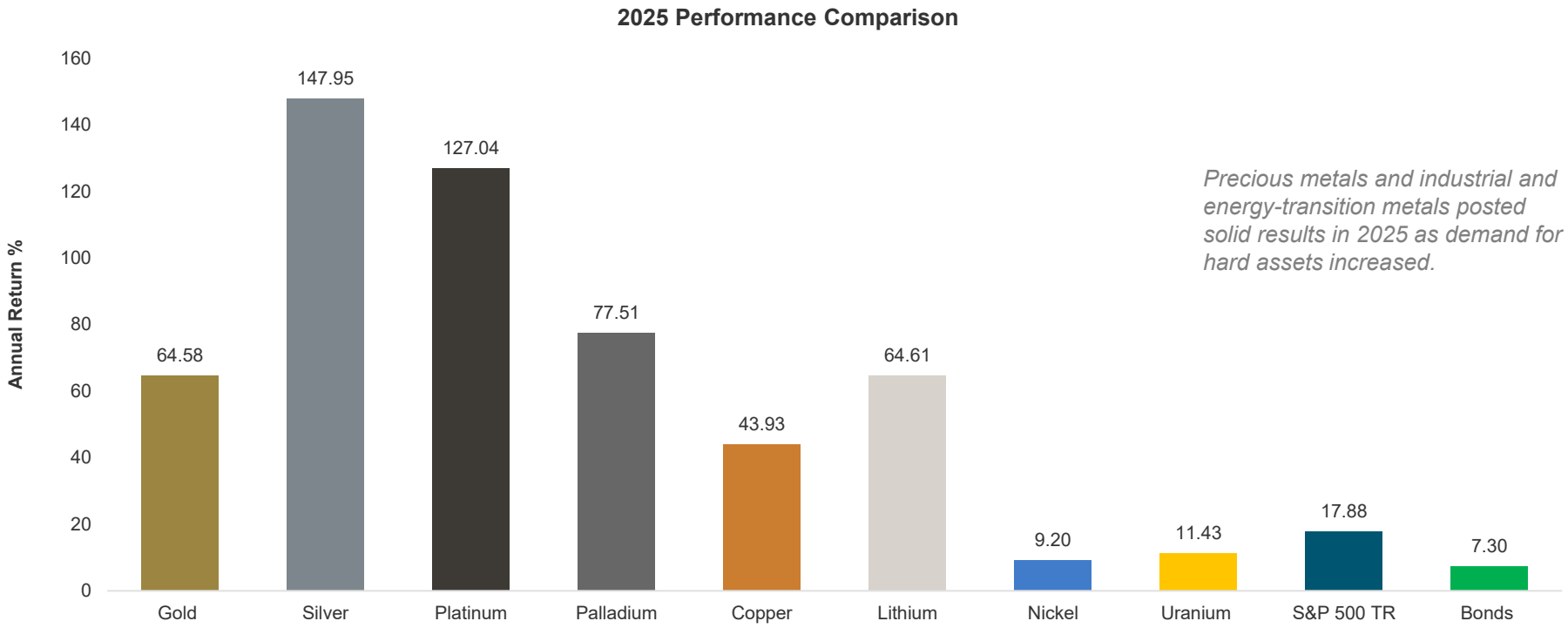
4. **Fiscal Dominance and Debasement:** Persistent deficits and rising debt are pushing investors from fiat assets into hard assets like gold and key commodities.

5. **Quantitative Easing Is Back:** High debt, slowing growth and market fragility are forcing central banks to expand balance sheets to stabilize liquidity and cap yields, reinforcing the case for precious metals and hard assets.

6. **Geopolitical Risks Abound:** Turbulence on the world stage continues as geopolitical conflicts increase, with some new adventures in Venezuela and potentially Greenland thrown into the mix.

7. **Convergence of the Physical and Digital Worlds:** Asset tokenization and digital precious-metals solutions (including gold-backed stablecoins) are gaining traction, while demand for critical materials is on the rise to support electrification, AI and the build-out of power-intensive data centers.

Precious Metals and Critical Materials Posted Strong Returns in 2025

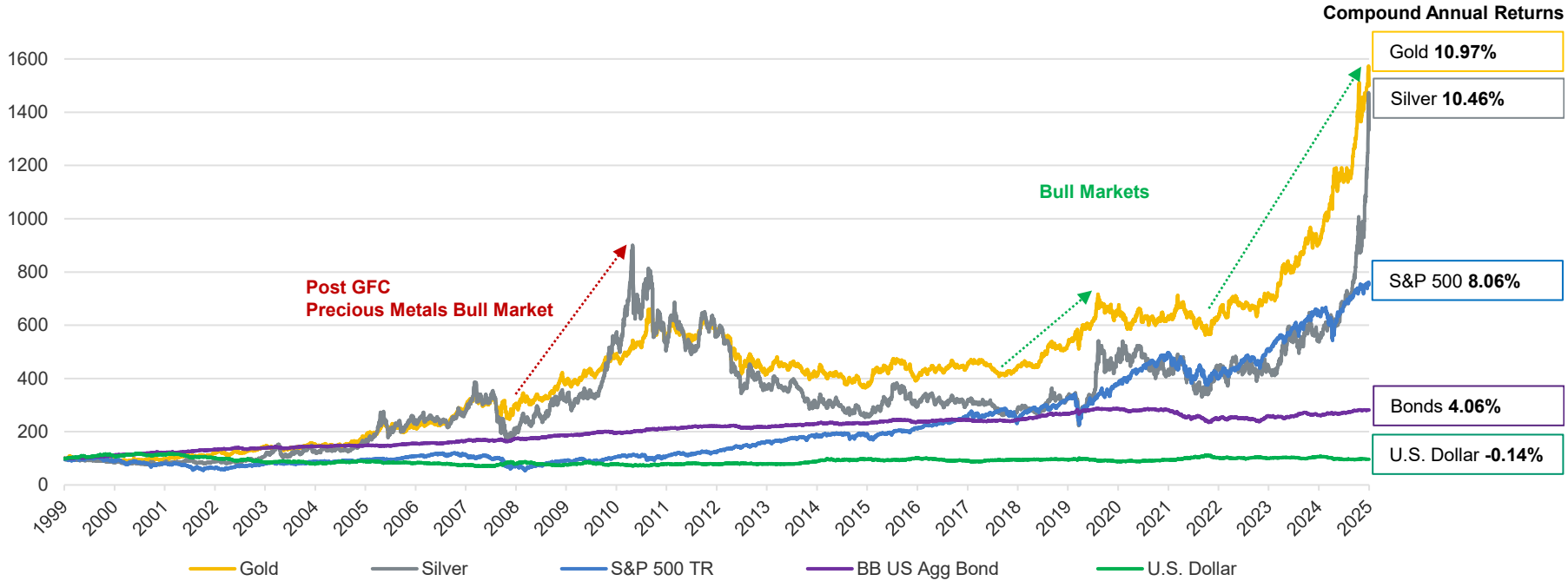


Precious metals and industrial and energy-transition metals posted solid results in 2025 as demand for hard assets increased.

Sources: Gold is measured by the Gold Spot Price; Silver is measured by the Silver Spot Price; Platinum is measured by the Platinum Spot Price; Palladium is measured by the Palladium Spot Price; Copper is measured by the LME Copper Spot Price; Lithium is measured by the China Lithium Carbonate 99.5%; Nickel is measured by the LME Nickel Spot Price; the U3O8 uranium spot price is measured by a proprietary composite of U3O8 spot prices from TradeTech, UxC, S&P Platts and Numerco; the S&P 500 TR is measured by the S&P 500 Total Return Index; Bonds are measured by the Bloomberg Barclays US Agg Total Return Value Unhedged USD (LBUSTRUU Index).

Gold and Silver Have Outperformed Other Asset Classes Over the Long Term

Gold and Silver vs. Stocks, Bonds and USD
Returns for Period from 12/31/1999-12/31/2025

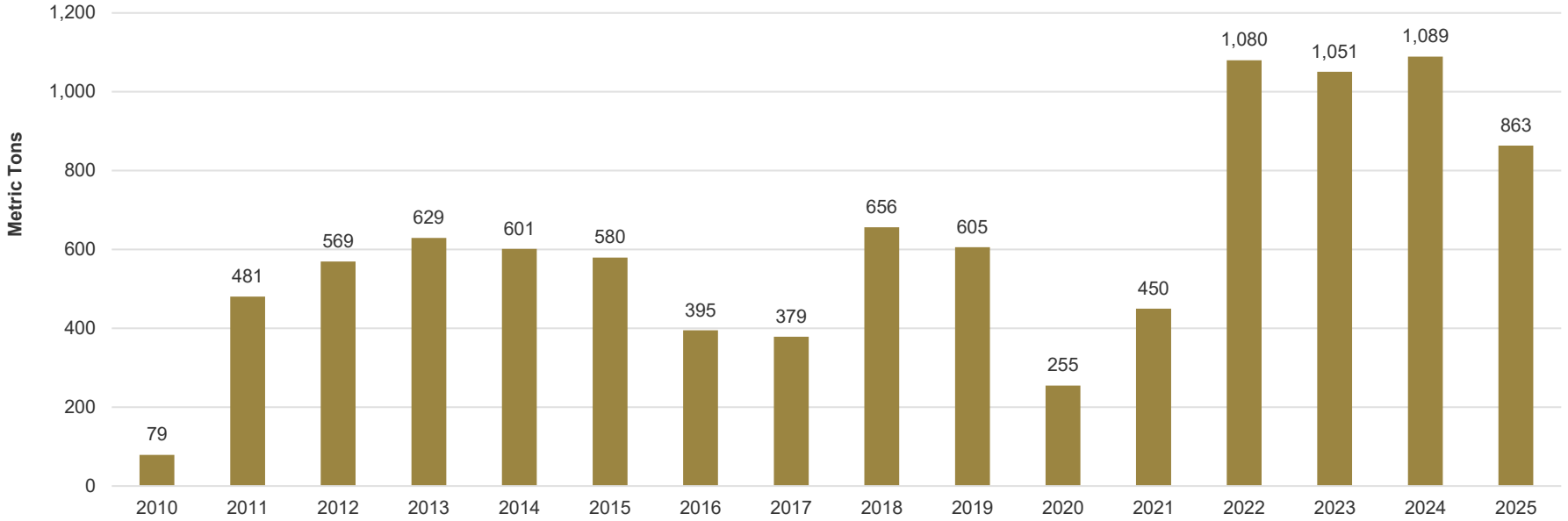


Source: Bloomberg. Period from 12/31/1999-12/31/2025. Gold is measured by GOLDS Comdty Spot Price; Silver is measured by the SILV Comdty Spot Price; S&P 500 TR is measured by the SPX; US Agg Bond Index is measured by the Bloomberg Barclays US Agg Total Return Value Unhedged USD (LBUSTRUU Index); and the U.S. Dollar is measured by DXY Curncy. You cannot invest directly in an index.
Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Central Bank Purchases of Gold Have Accelerated

Central banks are treating gold as a **strategic monetary reserve** in a world of higher debt, higher uncertainty and greater geopolitical risk. Large reserve holders want to reduce reliance on any single currency, including the U.S. dollar.

Gold Central Bank Net Purchases

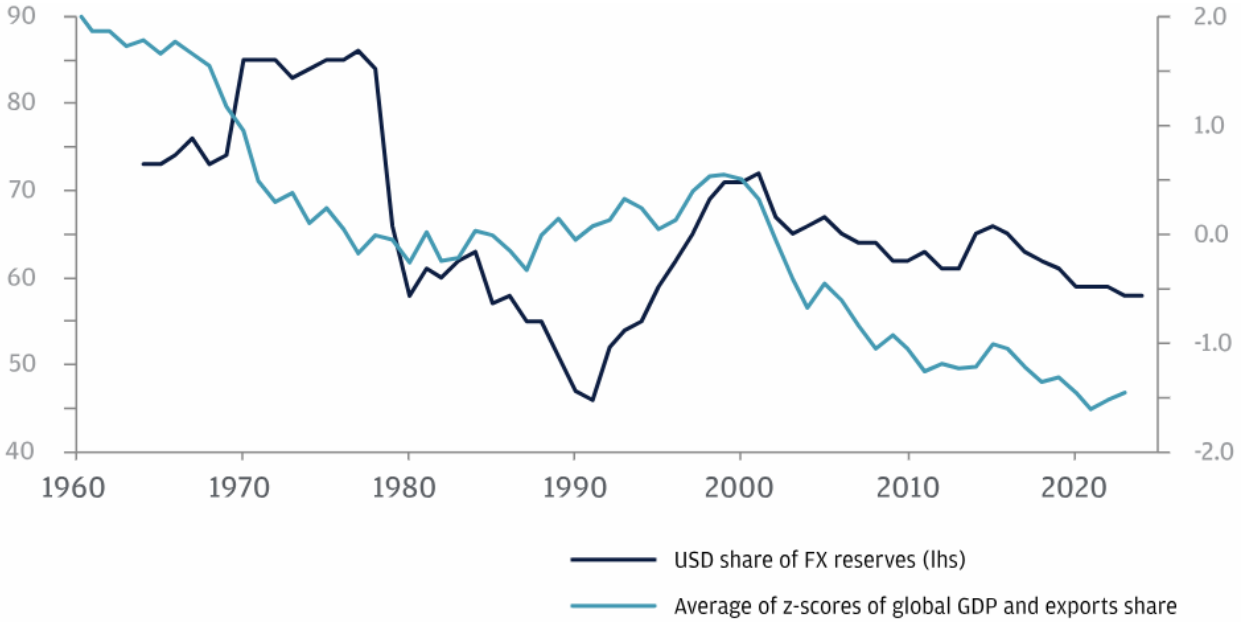


Source: World Gold Council as of 12/31/2025.

De-Dollarization Gains Momentum

De-dollarization is unfolding in central bank currency (FX) reserves, where the share of USD has slid to a two-decade low in tandem with its macro footprint.

USD Share of FX Reserves vs. U.S. Share of Global GDP and Exports



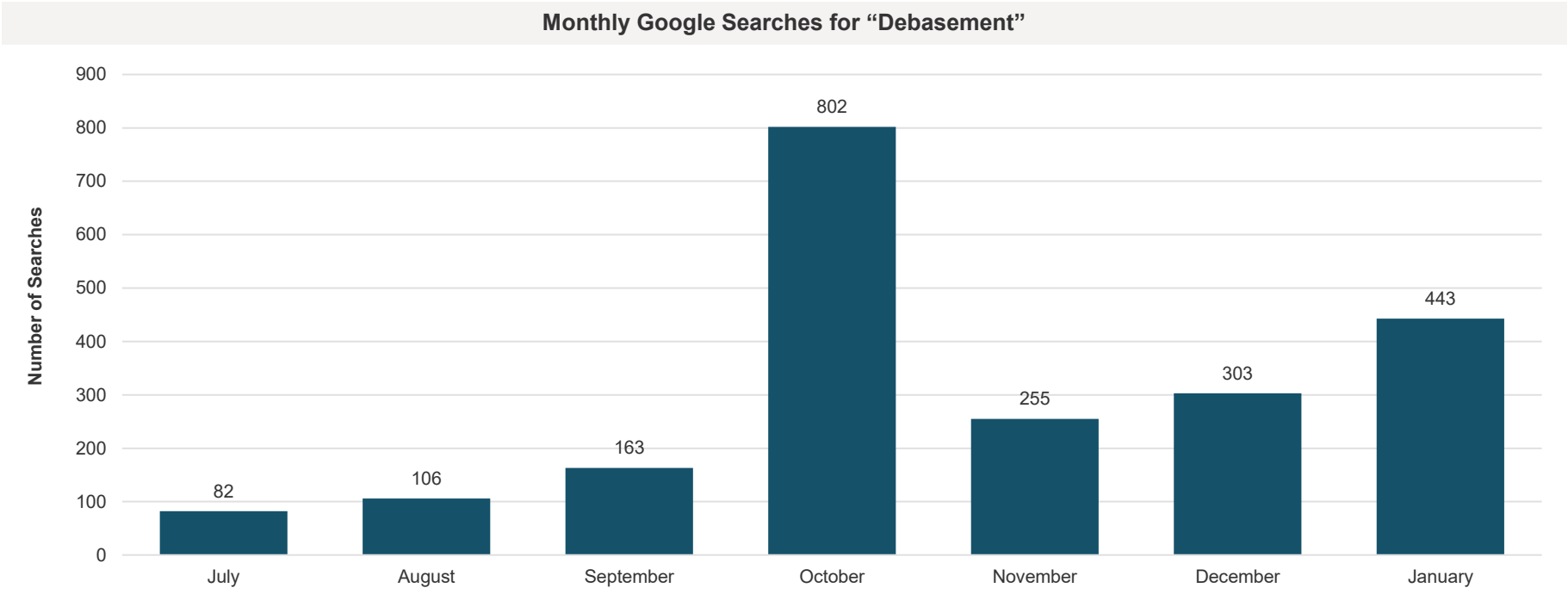
Source: J.P. Morgan, IMF COFER. Z-scores measure how many standard deviations a data point is from the mean.

The Trump Era

“Gold will not be tariffed!”
August 11, 2025

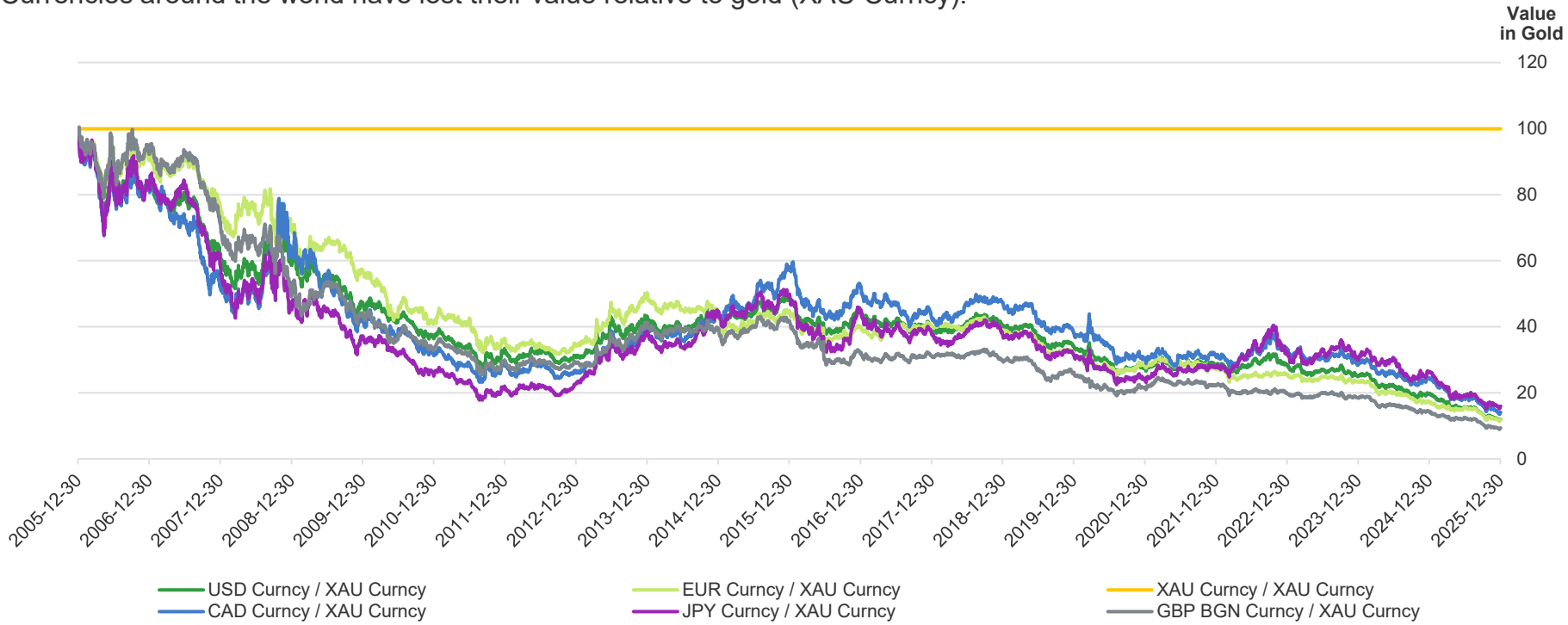
The Debasement Trade

The debasement trade describes a structural regime in which persistent deficits, debt monetization and excess liquidity steadily erode fiat currency purchasing power. The concept has entered the mainstream, with Google searches for “debasement” surging after renewed threats to Federal Reserve independence last August.



Gold and Various Currencies Measured in Gold 2005-2025

Currencies around the world have lost their value relative to gold (XAU Curncy).



Source: Bloomberg. Period from 12/31/2005-12/31/2025. The indexes above represent the price of gold, per ounce, in each currency: U.S. dollars (USD), Canadian dollars (CAD), Euros (EUR), Japanese Yen (JPY), and the British-pound-to-Bulgarian-lev exchange rate (GBP BGN). The XAU Curncy represents gold. You cannot invest directly in an index. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Geopolitical Risks Abound: Conflict Hot Spots in 2026

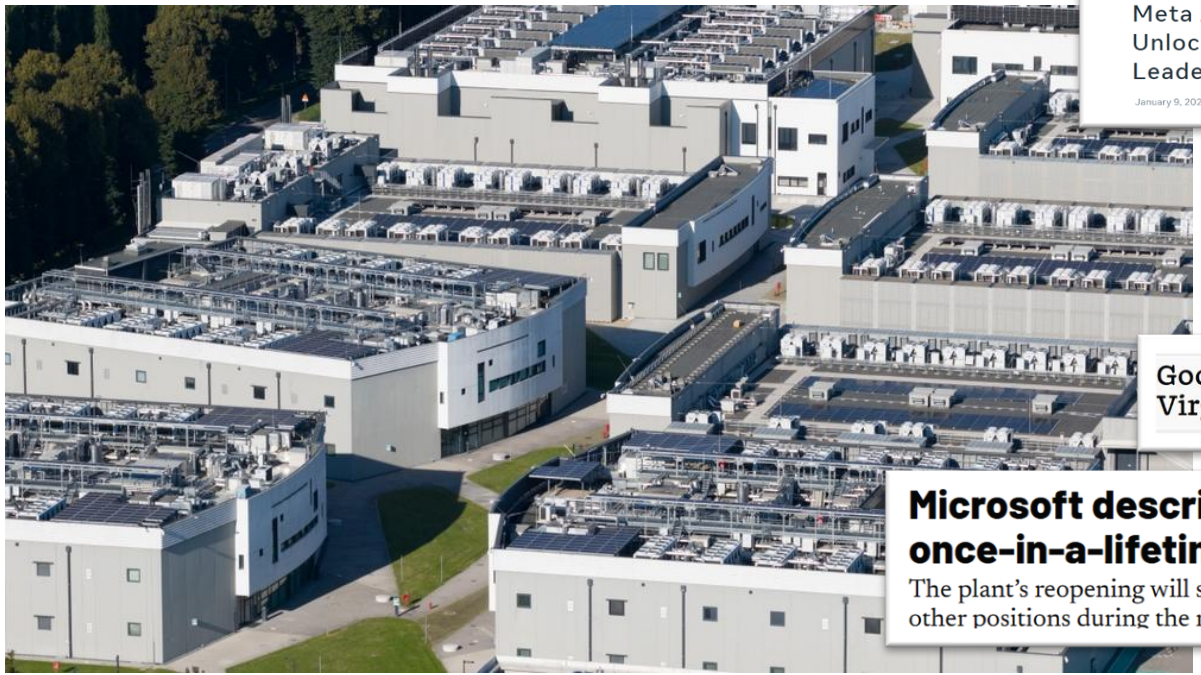
Source: Newsweek, 12/12/2025, https://www.newsweek.com/world-map-shows-top-conflict-hot-spots-2026-11186250.

Convergence of the Physical and Digital Worlds

Over the past year, a powerful trend has emerged as the digital and physical worlds converge. Asset tokenization is accelerating, and after years of false starts, gold-backed digital solutions are gaining traction, while the importance of physical ownership has never been greater.

Surge in Demand for Critical Materials

The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) and hyper-scale data centers is driving a massive surge in demand for critical minerals. Tech companies are responding by investing in sustainable, long-term power solutions, including nuclear and renewable energy, which further increases the need for critical minerals.



META

Meta Announces Nuclear Energy Projects, Unlocking Up to 6.6 GW to Power American Leadership in AI Innovation

January 9, 2026

Amazon plans to invest $15 billion in Northern Indiana to build new data center campuses and advance AI innovation

Google Expands Data Center Investment in Virginia, Doesn't Share Site Specifics

Microsoft describes Three Mile Island plant as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

The plant's reopening will support at least 650 permanent jobs and hundreds of other positions during the recommissioning process.

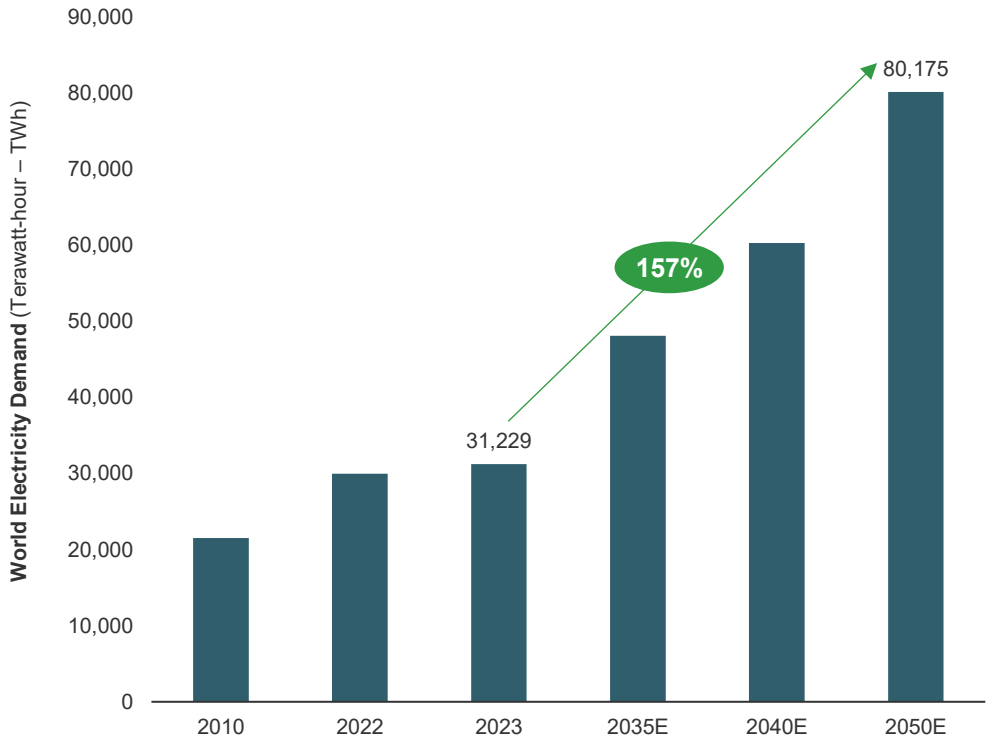
Metals in Focus

Silver, Copper, Uranium and Rare Earths

Meeting Global Energy Demand with Critical Materials

Electricity Demand Estimated to Increase by 157% by 2050

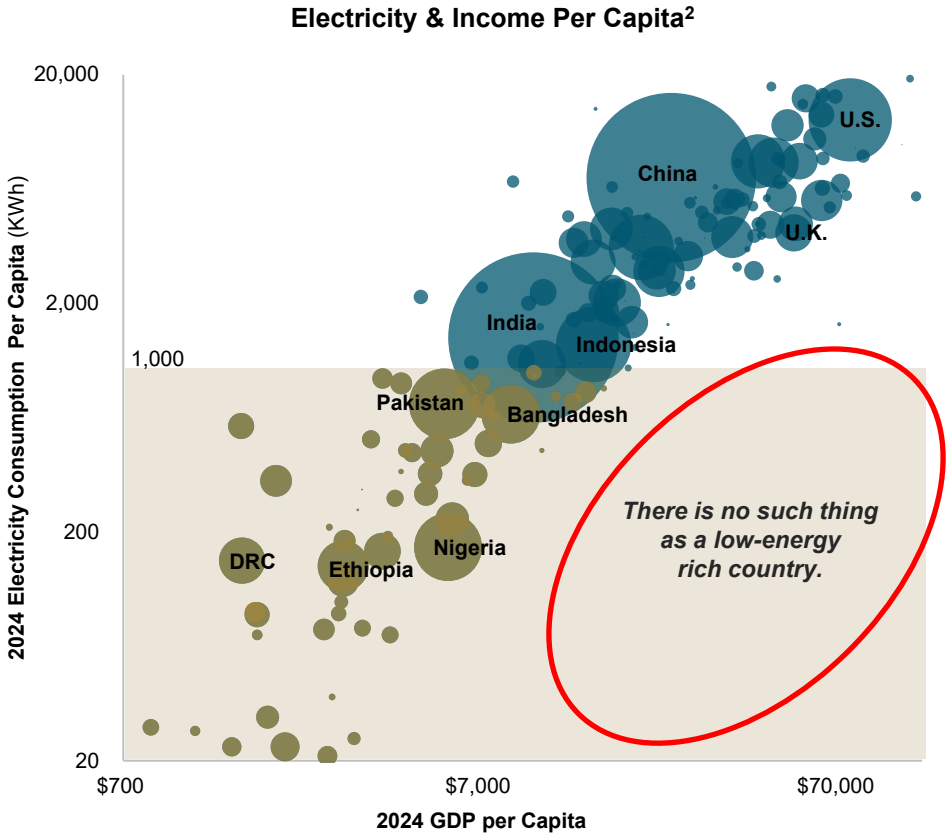
- Evolving energy systems require more electricity, which depends on critical materials.
- **Surging Energy Consumption in the East:** Driven by energy security and the urbanization and industrialization of developing countries.
- **Surging Energy Consumption in the West:** Driven by artificial intelligence (AI), data centers, electrification and reshoring.
- **Electrification:** A greater focus on decarbonization.



Source: IEA World Energy Outlook 2025 Net Zero Emissions Scenario.

Economic Growth Is Energy Intensive

- As countries develop and become wealthier, the need for electricity intensifies.
- Developing countries' electricity growth has been substantial compared to that of developed countries, with cumulative growth from 2000-2024[1]:
  - China: 643%
  - India: 260%
  - U.S.: 15%
  - EU: 5%
- Critical materials demand is set to increase as nations increase their energy generation, transmission and storage.

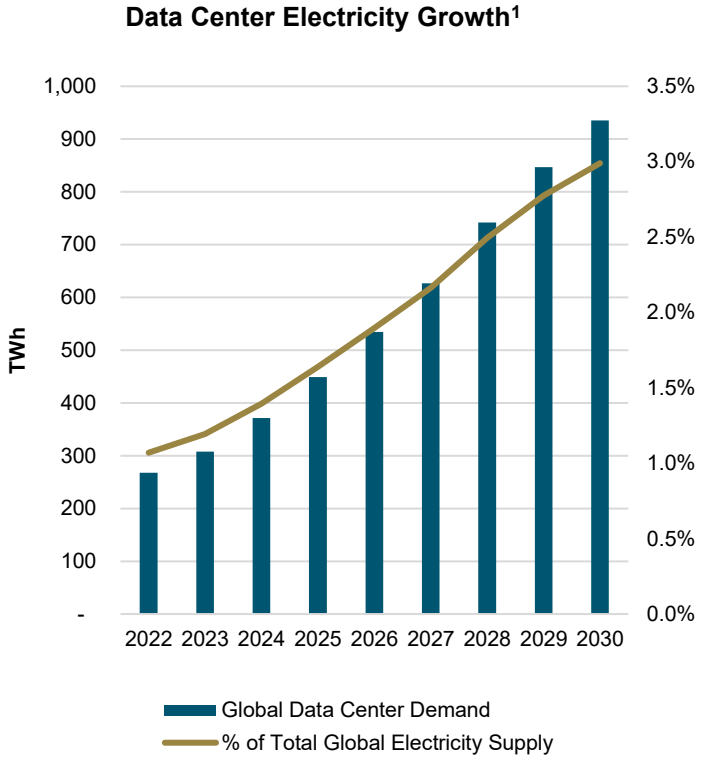


[1] Source: Ember for year 2024.

[2] 2024 Electricity Consumption Per Capita (KWh). 2024 GDP per capita. The most recent available data has been used. Our World in Data (with data from Ember and World Bank). Included for illustrative purposes only.

AI and Data Center Growth Could Drive Power Demand

- Global data centers' power demand may rise **2.5x** by 2030 to a level approximating Japan's total power use.[1]
- AI will be the most significant driver of this increase, with AI data center power use set to increase more than **4x** by 2030.[2]
- AI data centers require much more electricity for computing (60%), cooling (20%) and other IT infrastructure (20%).
- Half of new demand is expected to be met by renewables, while nuclear and natural gas remain essential for reliable baseload power.[2]



[1] Source: BloombergNEF, New Energy Outlook 2025.
[2] Source: International Energy Agency, Energy and AI, 4/10/2025; https://www.iea.org/reports/energy-and-ai

Dominant Drivers of Metals Markets in 2026 *(Continued)*

8. **Silver's Dual Bull Case:** Silver's monetary hedge plus fast-growing industrial demand, alongside tight supply, support a strong outlook despite near-term volatility.

9. **Uranium's Bull Market Strengthens for 2026:** Tightening supply and a 13-year contracting deficit are meeting a massive demand surge from Big Tech AI needs and $80B in U.S. nuclear funding, signaling a structural price breakout as utilities shift toward nondiscretionary procurement.

10. **Copper's Strategic Surge into 2026:** Copper prices are hitting record highs above $13,000 per ton as major mine shutdowns and 17-year production lead times collide with surging demand for AI, defense and grid infrastructure, creating a structural supply bottleneck that favors miners and physical metal.

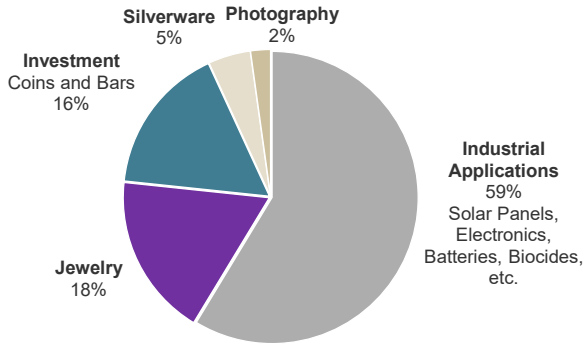
11. **Rare Earths' Strategic Supply Chain Rebuild:** As of early 2026, rare earths have become a national security priority, fueled by the U.S. government's $12 billion "Project Vault" strategic reserve and direct DoD equity stakes to decouple supply chains from China and secure critical inputs for AI and defense.

Silver and Silver Mining Equities

Silver Demand Is Multifaceted

- The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) officially added silver to its final 2025 List of Critical Minerals in **November 2025.**
- Silver is one of the oldest forms of currency, with investments spanning coins, bars, jewelry and silverware. However, industrial applications account for a larger portion of demand, at 59% for 2024.
- Silver is second only to oil as the most widely used commodity and has more than 10,000 uses due to its unique characteristics. For example:
  - As the most conductive metal in existence, it is used in **electronics.**
  - Due to its antibacterial and antimicrobial properties that can destroy pathogens, it is used in **medicine.**
  - Control rods, which can be found in **nuclear reactors**, contain about 80% silver.
  - **Artificial intelligence** is reliant on silver used in semiconductor chips.

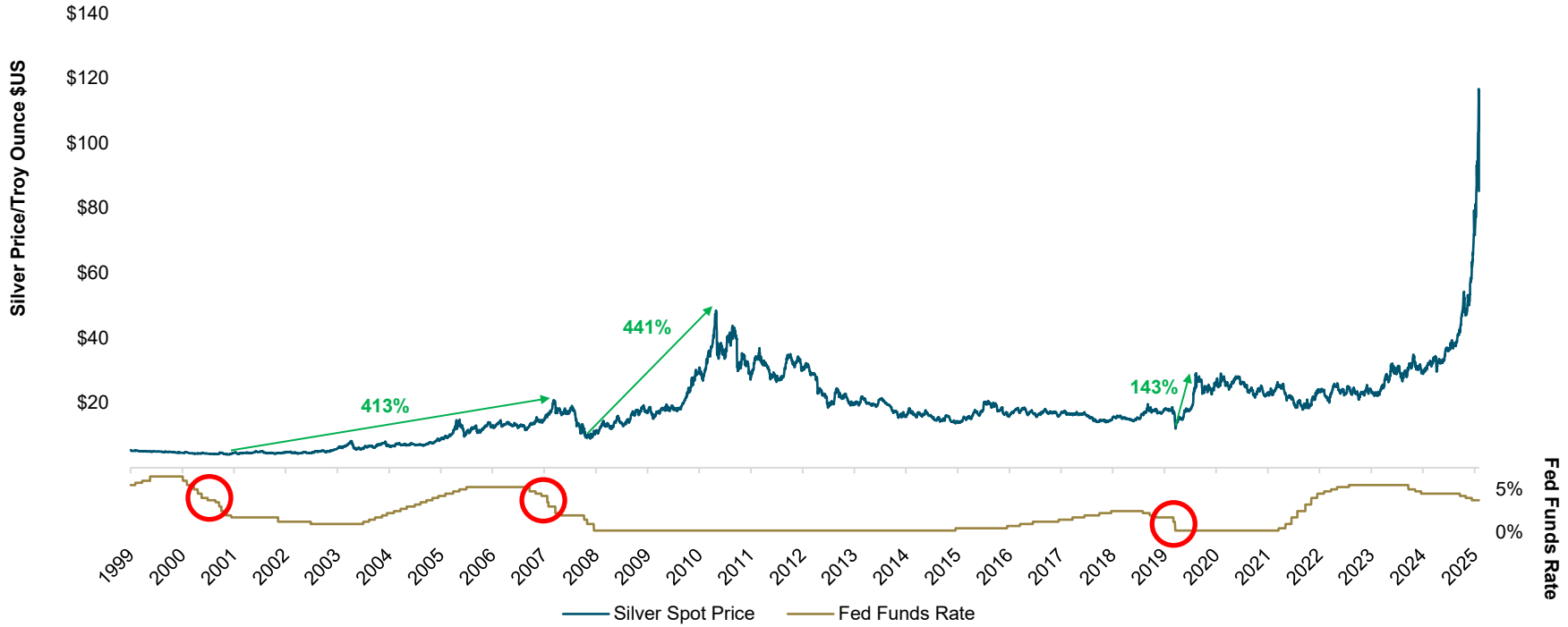
Silver Demand 2024



Source: Metals Focus, Silver Institute. Data as of 12/31/2024. The Silver Institute: World Silver Survey 2025. Included for illustrative purposes only.

Silver Has Performed Well with Easing Cycles

Silver has historically rallied following rate cuts from the Federal Reserve.



Source: Bloomberg as of 1/31/2026. The silver spot price is measured by the Silver Spot USD/Troy Ounce. The Fed Funds Rate is measured by Bloomberg ticker FDTR. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

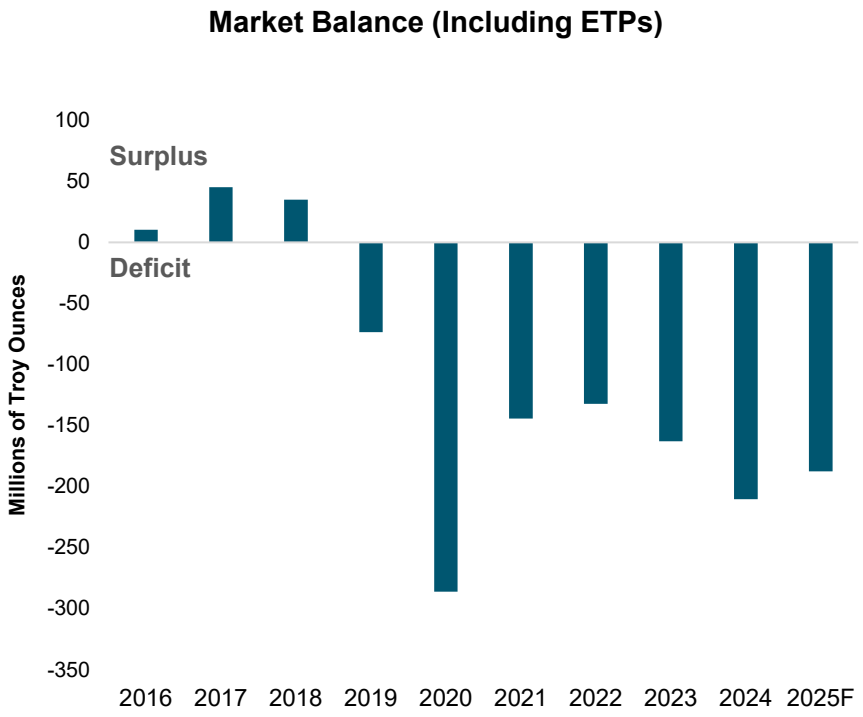
Silver and Precious Metals Bull Markets

- Silver and gold have historically rallied during periods of fiat currency debasement, inflation, falling interest rates, economic recoveries and rising geopolitical risks.
- In past precious metals bull markets, silver's rally has been ~2x as large as gold's,* on average.

Bull Market	Period	Silver	Gold	Silver/Gold
1970s Inflationary Era	1974-1980	1,418.73%	721.26%	2.0
Pre-GFC Commodity Boom	2001-2008	412.68%	292.45%	1.4
GFC and Era of Quantitative Easing	2007-2012	440.74%	166.79%	2.6
2019 Monetary Easing	2018-2019	39.99%	43.12%	0.9
Post-COVID Reflation	2020-2022	143.13%	40.26%	3.6
Escalating Geopolitical Risk and Prospective Rate Cuts	2023-Present	295.85%	150.31%	2.0
Average		**458.52%**	**235.70%**	**2.1**

Note: A "bull market" refers to a financial markets condition when prices are generally rising. A "bear market" refers to financial market conditions when prices are generally falling.
*Measures the percent change between silver and gold's respective lows and highs during each period. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.
Source: Bloomberg. Data as of 12/31/2025. Silver reflects Silver Spot Price (XAG CURNCY). Gold reflects Gold Spot Price (GOLDS COMDTY).

Silver Market Deficits Persist



- With rising demand and stagnant supply, the silver market has been in deficit for the past six consecutive years (including exchange-traded product (ETP) investment).
- Silver industrial demand grew to a record 681 million ounces in 2024, led by electrical and electronics demand.
- Key drivers of this growth are rooted in a strong green economy, including investment in photovoltaics (PV), power grids and 5G networks, as well as increased use of automotive electronics and supporting infrastructure.

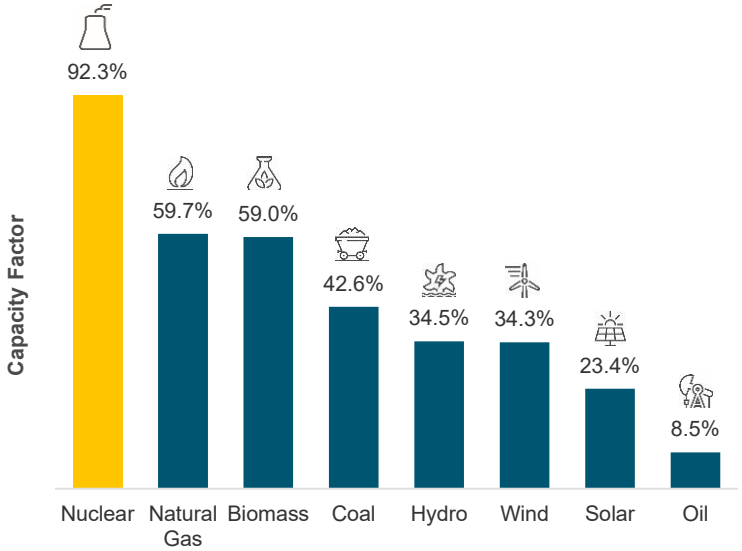
Sources: Metals Focus, The Silver Institute. The Silver Institute: World Silver Survey 2025.

Uranium and Uranium Mining Equities

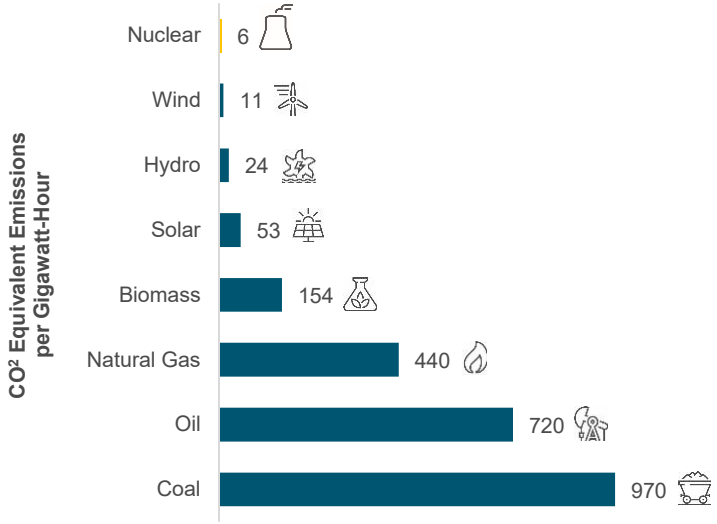
Uranium: Growing Focus on Nuclear as Reliable, Efficient and Clean

Nuclear energy has the highest capacity factor[1] among both traditional and alternative energy sources and the least CO_2 equivalent emissions among all other energy forms.

Highest Energy Capacity



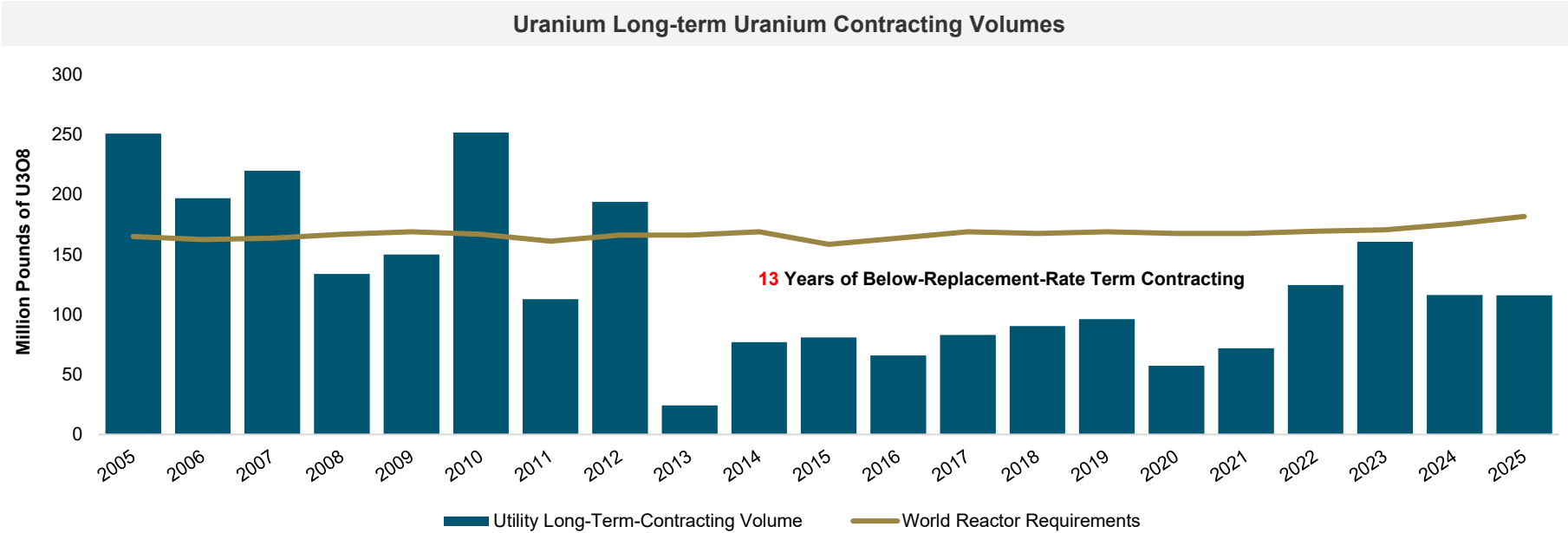
Lowest Emissions



[1] Capacity factor measures the total amount of energy produced during a period of time divided by the amount of energy the plant would have produced at full capacity.
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration and energy.gov. Data as of 12/31/2024.
Source: https://ourworldindata.org/nuclear-energy as of April 2024; measured in emissions of CO^2-equivalent per gigawatt-hour of electricity over the life cycle of the power plant. Included for illustrative purposes only.
Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Uranium Contracting: A Coiled Spring?

- While 2023 was celebrated for finally achieving replacement rate contracting, it was heavily inflated by a large one-time purchase by Ukraine.
- 116 million lbs were contracted in 2024, of which ~50% was China.

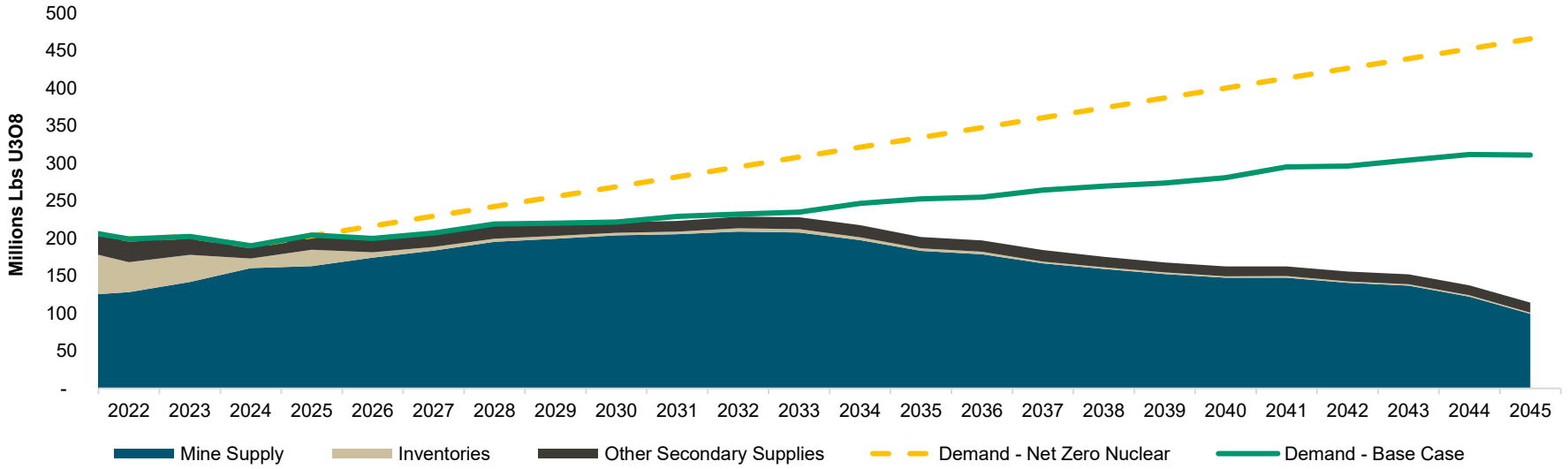


Source: UxC LLC, 12/31/2025. Included for illustrative purposes only.

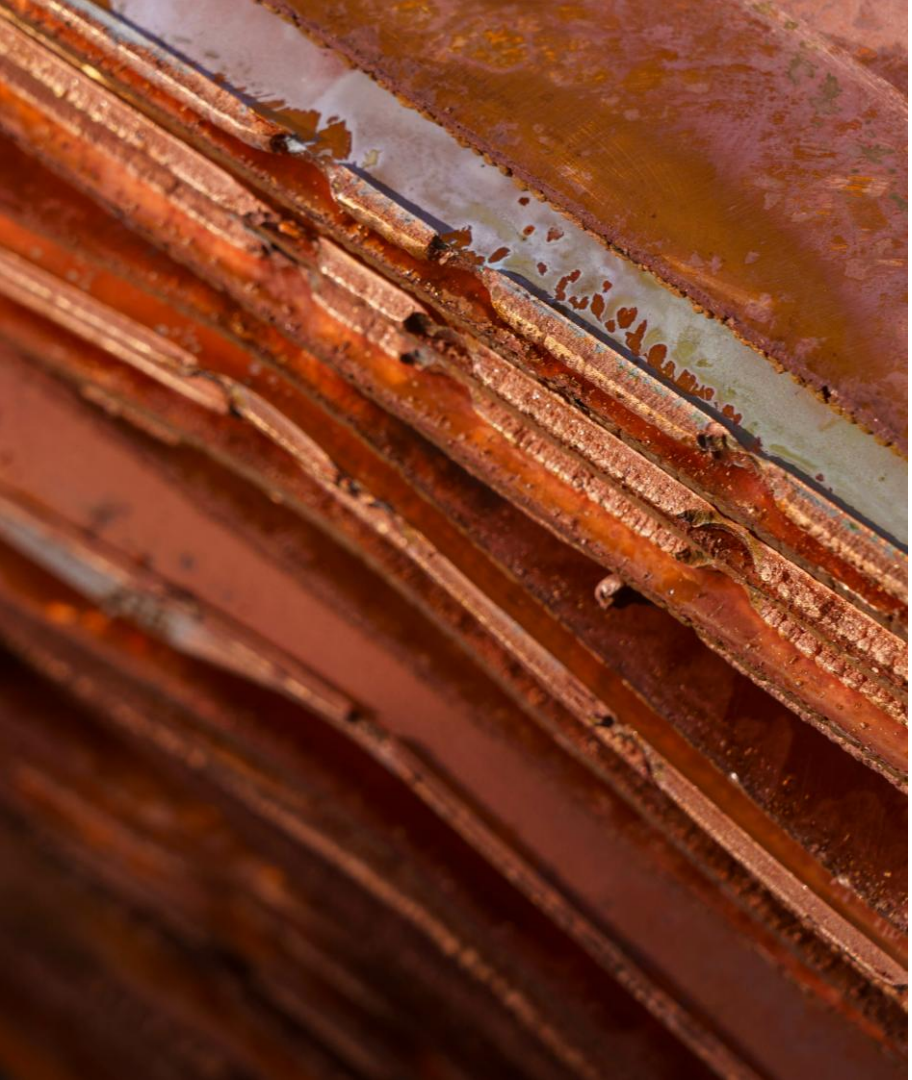
Uranium Supply and Demand Imbalance May Be Likely to Grow

- We believe the era of inventory destocking is over.
- Demand for uranium may be likely to outstrip supply, with a 1.4-billion-pound deficit by 2045.
- Net Zero Nuclear, the pledge to triple global nuclear capacity by 2050, would result in nearly a 3.0-billion-pound deficit.

Uranium Supply and Demand Estimates



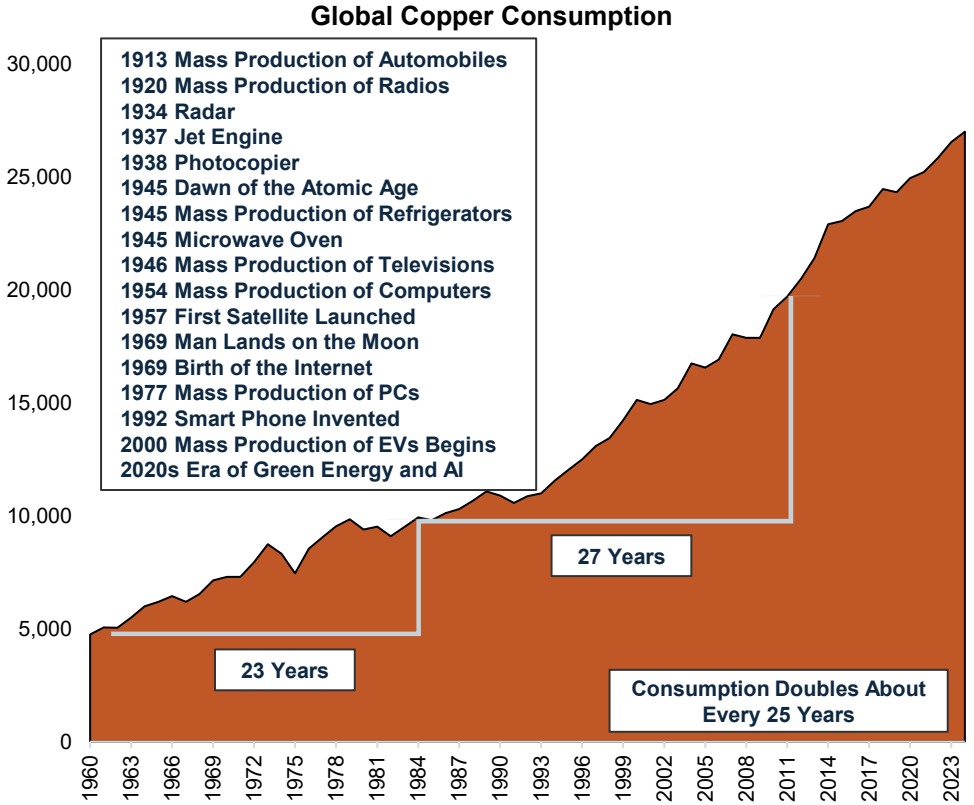
Sources: UxC LLC. and Cameco Corp. Data as of 12/31/2025.



Copper and Copper Mining Equities

Copper Demand Has Doubled Roughly Every 25 Years

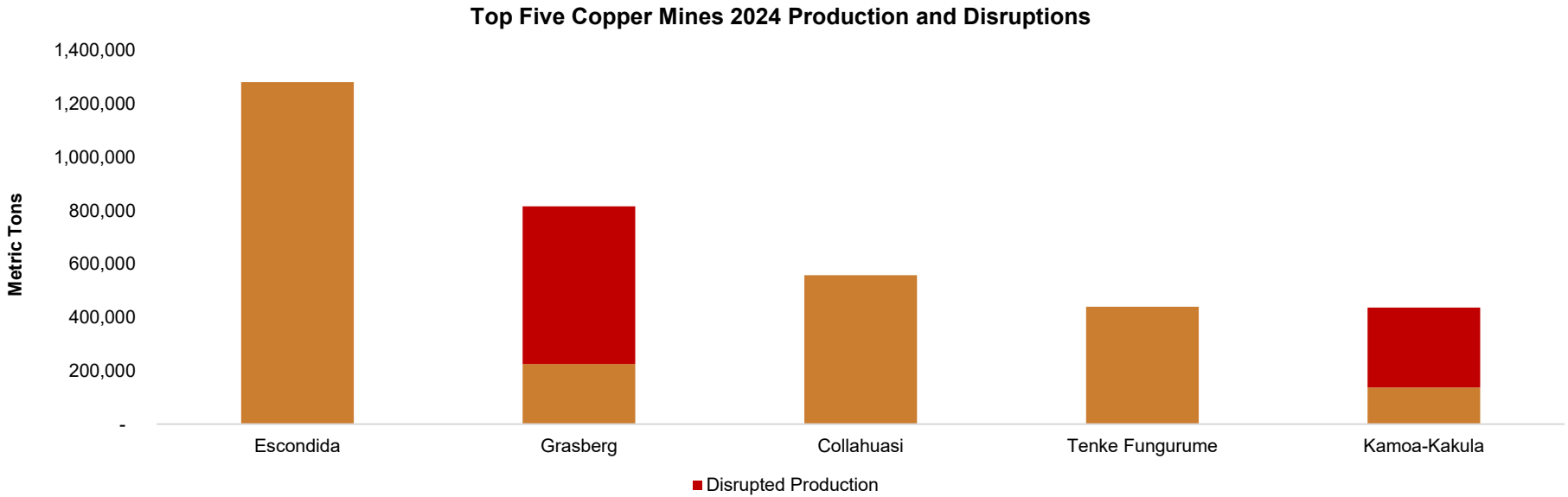
- Global copper demand has grown 12.5x since 1936, doubling roughly every 25 years
- **1936: 2 million metric tons (MMT)**
- **1961: 5 MMT**
  Postwar infrastructure buildout and consumer electrification
- **1984: 10 MMT**
  Global construction growth, early electronics and industrial expansion
- **2011: 20 MMT**
  China's industrial boom and a commodity supercycle
- **2036e: 40-50 MMT**
  AI data centers, the energy transition and developing countries' urbanization and industrialization



Source: The World Copper Factbook 2024, International Copper Study Group. Copper Development Association Inc. and International Copper Association.

Copper’s Struggling Supply

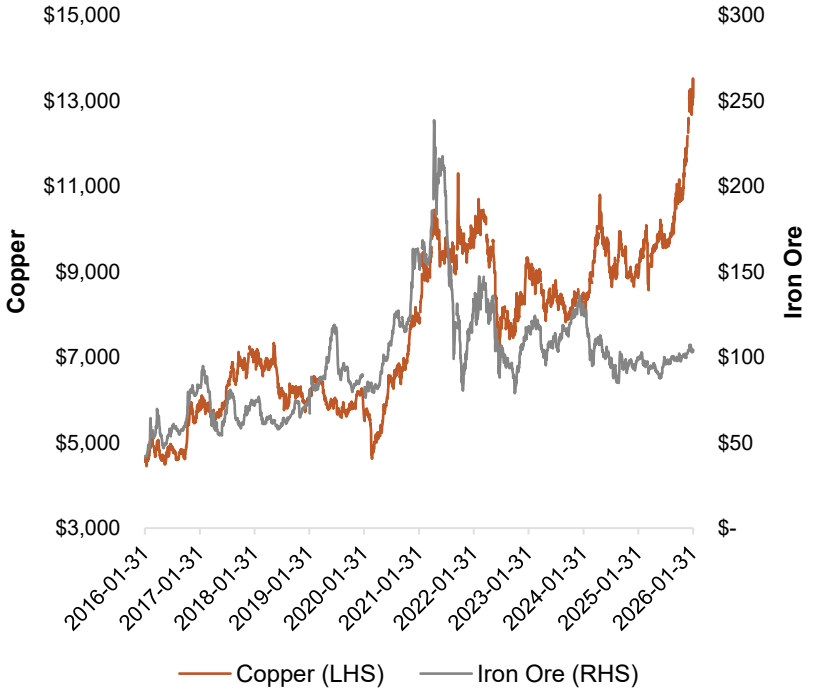
- Substantial supply disruptions in 2025 have occurred recently, notably at Grasberg and Kamoa-Kakula. The Grasberg outage alone resulted in lost production greater than the annual output of the world’s third-largest copper mine.
- 2025 is set to be the weakest year for copper supply growth since 2011.
- These disruptions have pushed the copper market into deficit now, with the shortfall projected to escalate in coming years.

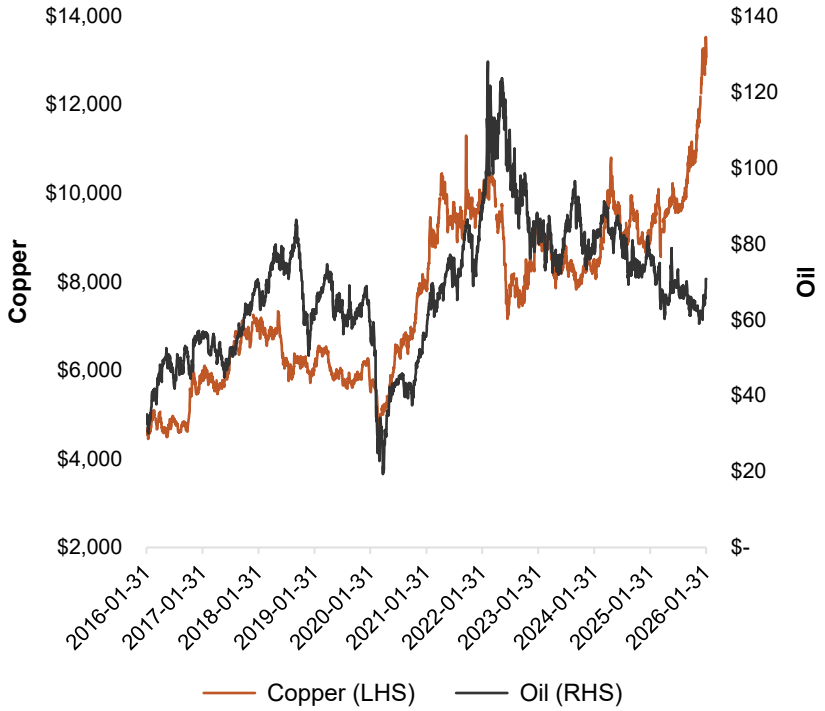


Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence and company announcements.

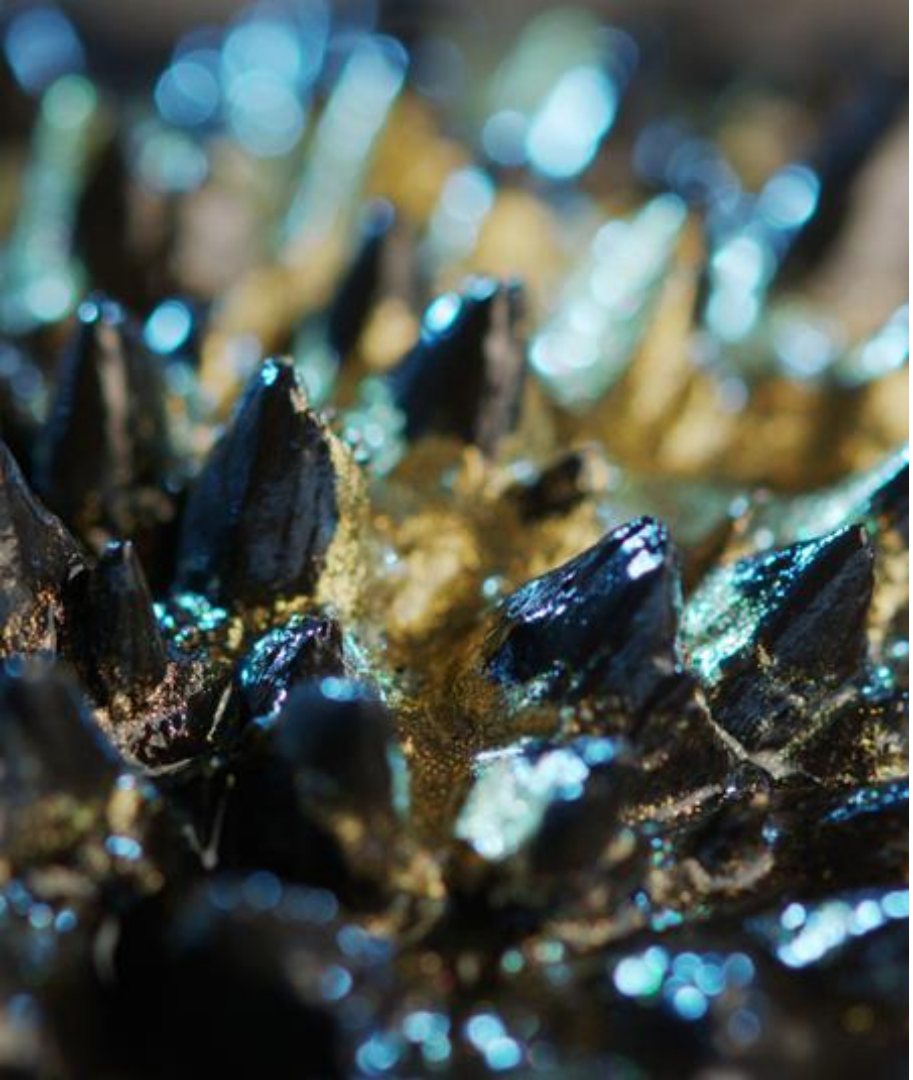
No More Dr. Copper?

Unlike iron ore and oil, which remain closely tied to China's economic cycle, copper's rally is propelled by new structural drivers.





Source: Bloomberg as of 1/31/2026. Copper is measured by LMCADY Comdty. Iron ore is measured by the ISIX62IU Index. Oil is measured by CO1 Comdty (Brent crude oil).

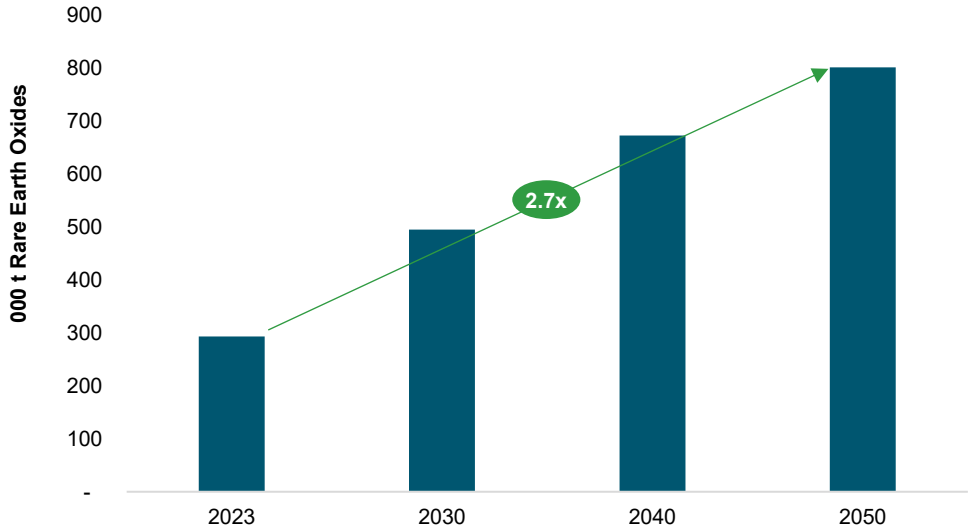


Rare Earths

Rare Earths: A Strategic Focus

Rare earths are a group of 17 critical materials vital for **defense, electric vehicles, AI data centers, clean energy and high-tech applications such as robotics.**

Rare Earths Demand Is Surging[1]



DIFFERENTIATED PROPERTIES

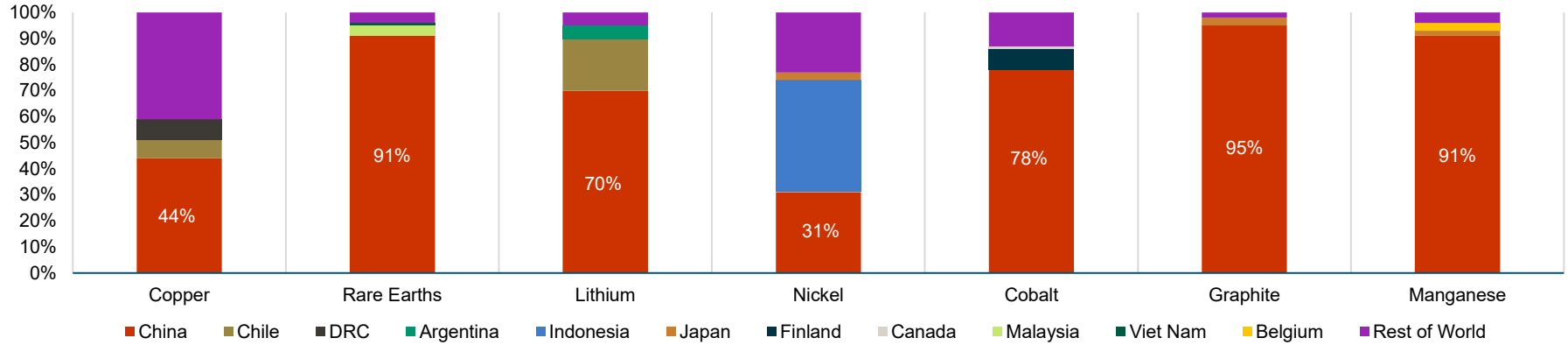
- **Rising Demand Across Critical Sectors:** Rare earths are indispensable in high-growth sectors like defense, energy and technology.
- **Strategic Importance:** China's supply dominance and history of export controls make rare earths a national security priority.
- **Policy Tailwinds:** Governments are racing to secure supply through mining, refining and recycling.
- **Funding Opportunities:** The U.S. Department of Defense entered into a multibillion-dollar package with a U.S. rare earth miner, also providing them with a price floor commitment. Apple committed $500 million to the same miner.

[1] "Transition Metals Outlook 2024," BNEF.

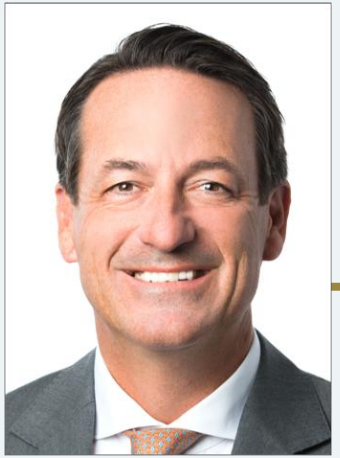
China’s Control Is a Catalyst

- **China Is Increasingly Weaponizing its Dominance**: They have placed export controls on rare earths and other critical minerals. In 2010, China restricted rare earths exports and cut off shipments to Japan, causing a 26-fold price increase (January 2009 to August 2011). In 2025, they placed export controls on multiple rare earths.
- **High Supply Chain Concentration Increases Vulnerability to Supply Shocks:** Export controls have not been limited to China. For example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) placed them on cobalt exports in 2025 as well.
- **Critical Materials Are Essential to More than Just Clean Energy:** Rare earths, lithium, graphite, cobalt and more are critical for the defense industry and/or advanced tech (chips).

Share of Refined Critical Materials Production



Source: “Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2025,” International Energy Agency (IEA), May 2025. Rare earths are magnet rare earths only. https://www.adamasintel.com/rare-earth-export-restrictions-price-spikes-and-the-risk-of-demand-destruction/



Summary and Q&A

Precious Metals and Critical Materials Allocation Overview

- How much exposure one should have to precious metals and critical materials depends on one's risk tolerance, investment objectives, time horizon, income requirements and overall financial situation.
- Benefits of an allocation to precious metals and critical materials:
  - **Diversification:** Low correlation to other assets can help mitigate overall risk.
  - **Inflation Hedge:** Often perform well during periods of high inflation.
  - **Demand Growth:** Essential role in the transition to a greener, more digital economy.
  - **Tangible Assets:** Backed by physical assets, providing a sense of security and intrinsic value.

	Potential Allocation
Gold	10%+
Silver	3%-5%
Critical Materials	3%-5%

Please refer to the end of the presentation for **Risk Disclosures and Other Important Information.**

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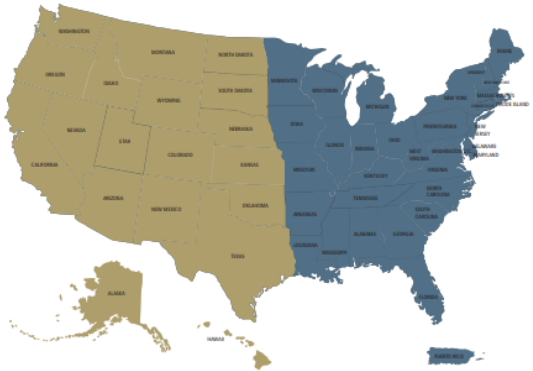

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Precious metals investments are more volatile on a daily basis and have higher headline risk than other sectors as they tend to be more sensitive to economic data, political and regulatory events as, well as underlying commodity prices. Precious metals investments have price fluctuations based on short-term dynamics partly driven by demand/supply and also by investment flows. Precious metals investments tend to react more sensitively to global events and economic data than other sectors.

Generally, natural resources investments are more volatile on a daily basis and have higher headline risk than other sectors as they tend to be more sensitive to economic data, political and regulatory events, as well as underlying commodity prices. Natural resource investments are influenced by the price of underlying commodities like oil, gas, metals, coal, etc., several of which trade on various exchanges and have price fluctuations based on short-term dynamics partly driven by demand/supply and also by investment flows. Natural resource investments tend to react more sensitively to global events and economic data than other sectors, whether it is a natural disaster like an earthquake, political upheaval in the Middle East or release of employment data in the U.S.

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