

Copper Factsheet

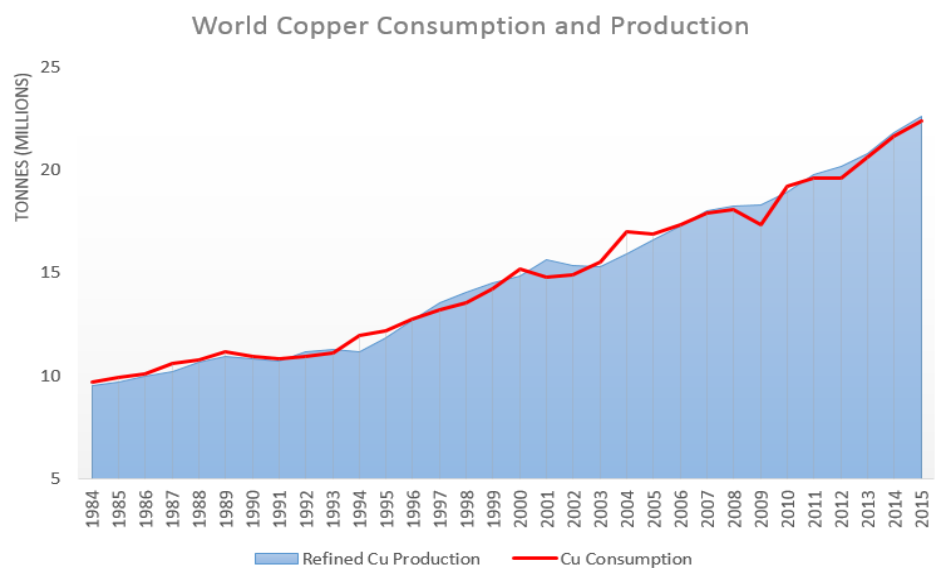
Copper is a metallic element essential to our everyday lives. It is a major industrial metal because of its high ductility, malleability, thermal and electrical conductivity, and resistance to corrosion. It is an essential nutrient in our daily diet. And, its antimicrobial property is becoming increasingly important to the prevention of infection.

- Copper is the third most consumed metal in the world after iron and aluminum
- Trials of copper use in hospitals demonstrate significant reductions in bacteria and risk of infection
- Renewable energy systems rely on copper for optimum performance
- The power system of electric vehicles uses twice as much copper as the internal combustion engine

Copper is considered a semi-precious, nonferrous, malleable metal with many hundreds of applications in the areas of electricity and electronics, plumbing, building construction and architecture, industry, transportation, and consumer and health products.

The top 10 international copper mining companies are:

Codelco
Freeport-McMoran
BHP Billiton
Glencore
Anglo American
Grupo Mexico
Rio Tinto
KGHM Polska Miedz
Southern Copper
Antofagasta



Source: Wood Mackenzie

