

# MINING SECTOR IN ALBANIA



Embassy  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Tirana



Polish Investment  
& Trade Agency  
PFR Group



RawMaterials  
Albanian Regional Innovation Center

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## Overview

Albania is a country with considerable natural resources, both underground mineral deposits and surface resources. Albania has developed mining industry for several minerals classified as strategic for the country and critical for Europe.



## Strategic Advantages

1. Albania has abundant mineral resources: chromium, copper, nickel, and critical raw materials (CRMs).
2. Positioned as a potential strategic partner for the EU in CRM supply chains.
3. Ongoing reforms align with the EU Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA).

## Key Minerals & Production (2023 Data)

### Chromium ore

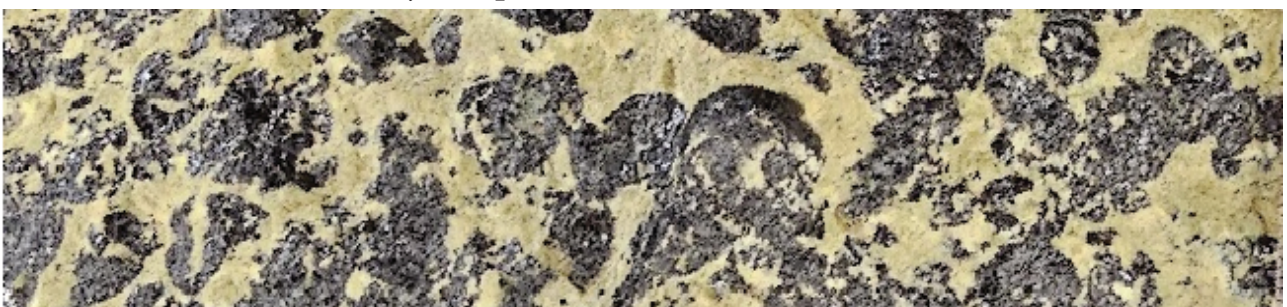
Albania's chrome industry is structured around a complete, closed-loop cycle—from exploration and extraction to enrichment and smelting. With 236 active mining licenses, the largest deposit lies in Bulqiza-Bater. Production has remained strong 920.769 tons in 2023, following peaks in 2022 and 2021.

Chrome ore quality ranges from 32% to 44%  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ . The country operates 15 processing plants, increasing concentrate output from 40.000 tons in 2021 to 80.000 tons in 2023. Smelting is done locally in 4–6 furnaces, producing both high and low carbon HCFerCr, though volumes have declined. Most output is exported to European countries, with China as a key buyer.



### Summary

- 920.769 tons extracted
- 15 processing plants (80.000 tons concentrate)
- 4–6 smelting furnaces (50.000 tons ferrochrome)
- Major exports to EU and China



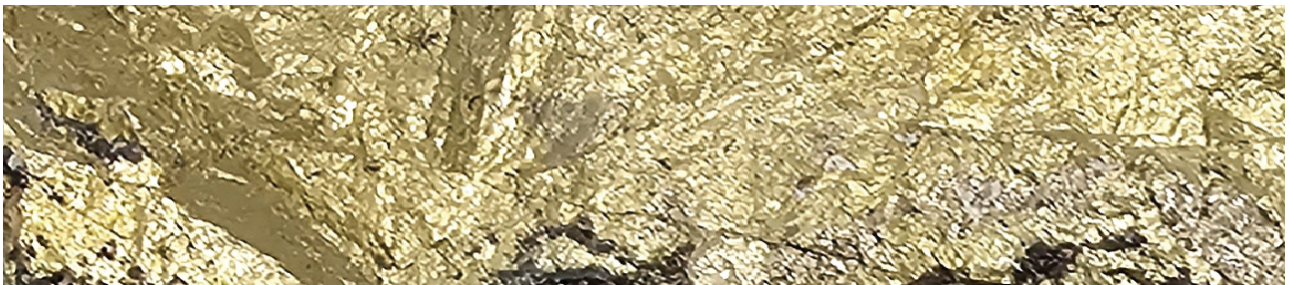
## COPPER

With 17 active mining licenses, the country produced over 618,000 tons in 2021, reaching 641,000 tons in 2022. The copper ore, averaging 1.6% Cu, is processed in two advanced enrichment plants, delivering top-quality concentrate for export to China and Turkey.



### Summary

- 641,000 tons extracted
- 2 enrichment plants
- Ore grade: 1.6% Cu
- Exports to China and Turkey



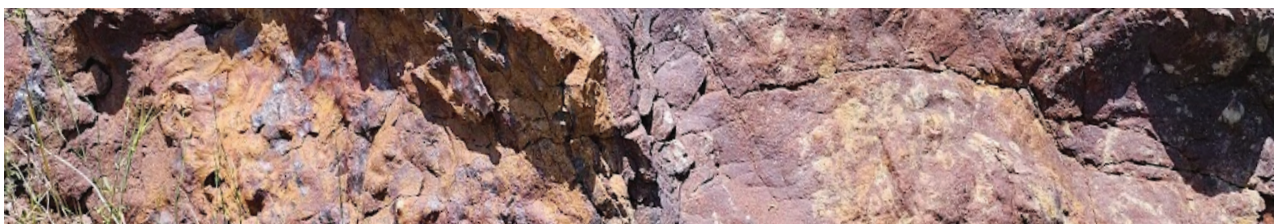
## IRON-NICKEL AND NICKEL SILICATE

Albania holds 31 active iron-nickel mining licenses across regions like Kukës, Has, Trull, Surroi, Skroskë, Bushtricë, and Prenjas. Annual production has decreased significantly from 427,650 tons in 2021 to just over 61,000 tons in 2023. The ore quality varies, with iron content between 38.5% and 47.2%, nickel at 0.9–1.1%, cobalt at 0.06–0.08%, and silica between 7.1–17%. Although there are currently no local enrichment plants, Albania possesses an estimated 300 million tons of iron-nickel mineral an untapped opportunity for processing investment.

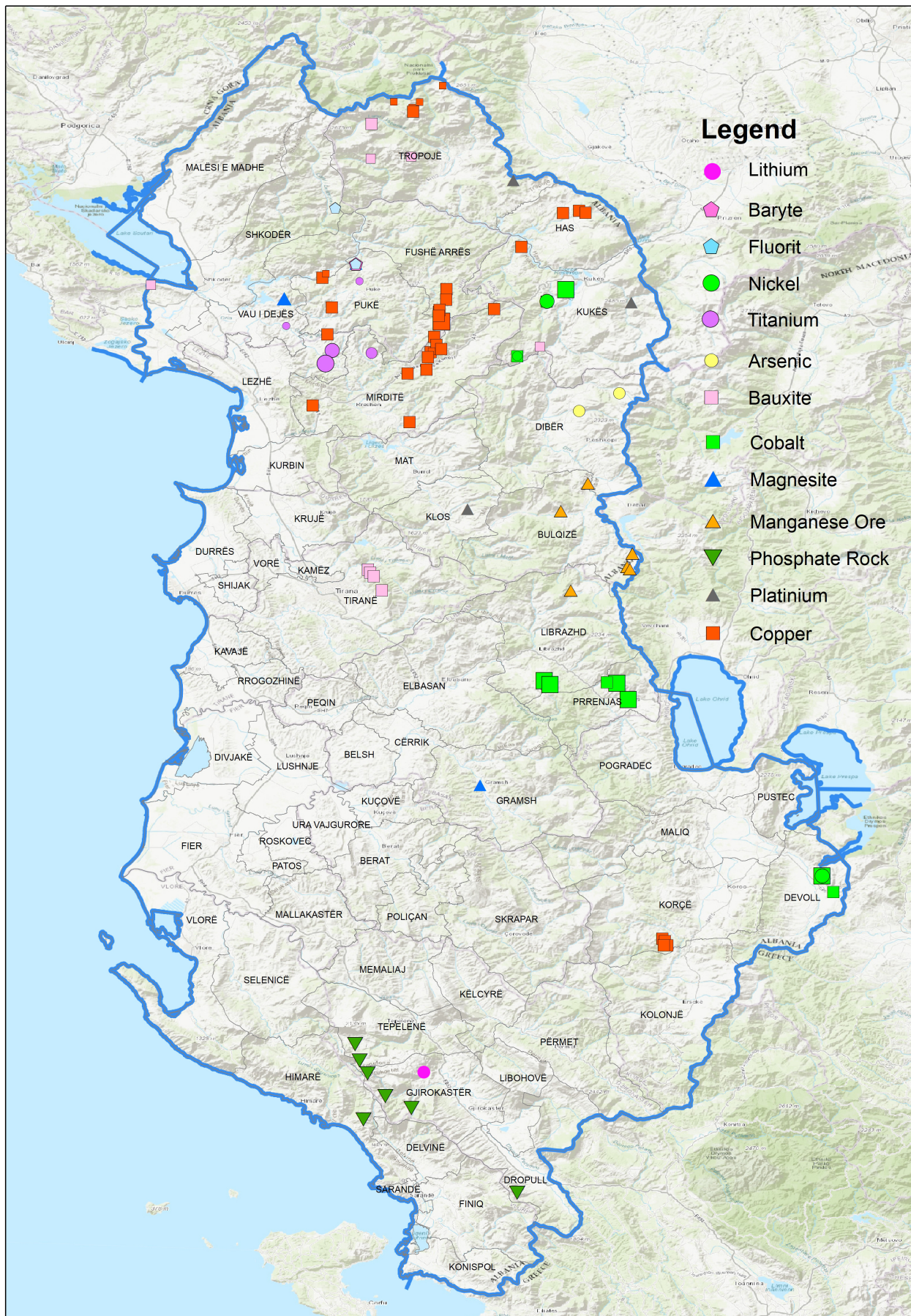


### Summary

- 61.131 tons mined
- No local enrichment plants
- Mineral grades: Fe (38.5–47.2%), Ni (0.9–1.1%)
- Estimated 310 million tons of reserves



# CRM and SRM Map in Albania



## ➤ Critical Raw Materials in Albania

According to the Albanian Geological Survey, there are 51 geological occurrences of Critical Raw Materials (CRM) and Strategic Raw Materials (SRM) deposits classified as small and medium, including Barite, Fluorite, Nickel, Titanomagnetite, Arsenic, Bauxite, Cobalt, Magnesite, Manganese, Phosphorite and Platinum.

## ➤ Key CRM/SRM reserves in Albania

**Nickel:** Albania has around 310 million tons of Fe-Ni and Ni-Si ore.

**Copper:** The country holds around 40 million tons of copper ore.

**Titano-magnetite:** Occurrences are identified in Albania and are part of the mineral groups that are either already known and require reevaluation. Other CRMs with geological data or exploration potential include:

**Bauxite, manganese, magnesium, gold, cobalt, arsenic, barite, vanadium, feldspar, fluorspar, phosphate, titanium, REE.**

**Lithium,** on the basis of the numerous drillings at depths from 100m to 200m from surface, has been calculated so far about 156 million tons reserve of low-grade Li, averaging 200 ppm in Kolonjë-Picar.

Existing platinum group metals (PGM) require further exploration and analysis.

## ➤ Critical Raw Material Act

Potential of CRM in Albania is discussed along with the challenges of aligning with European standards. This includes an assessment of existing resources, industrial readiness and regulatory frameworks. The CRMA identifies those challenges and new opportunities for the Albanian mining industry within the EU supply chain.

Thirty-four types of critical raw materials, along with seventeen strategic raw materials, which are deemed critical for the EU's climate and digital objectives, are included in the CRMA. Albania's mining sector needs to be aligned with CRM Act, in order to encourage the further exploration and exploitation of critical raw materials.



# Investment Opportunities

## Nickel Processing

Albania holds 0.49% of global nickel reserves  
Opportunity: establish centralized processing plants

## Copper Development

Exploration of new deposits  
Recycling tailings from old mines

## CRM Exploration

Focus: lithium, REEs, vanadium, titanomagnetite

Needs: modern geological surveys, international reserves classification.

## Legal & Regulatory Framework

1. Law No. 10 304 (amended): main legal basis for mining
2. Mining Strategy 2010–2025: focuses on EU market alignment, technology upgrades, and sustainability
3. National Strategy for Development & European Integration 2030: supports domestic processing and reduced raw material exports.

## Licensing Overview

1. Exploration License
2. Applied via e-Albania or National Business Center
3. Evaluation by Albanian Geological Survey
4. Exploitation License
5. Requires: technical plan, financial guarantee, environmental plans
5. Issued by National Licensing Center (QKL) with MIE approval

## Key Institutions

1. Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MIE)
2. National Agency of Natural Resources (AKBN)
3. Albanian Geological Survey (SHGJSH)
4. EIT Raw Materials Regional Innovation Center
5. EITI Albania (Transparency and Reporting)



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