

Critical and Strategic Metals and Minerals in the Nordic countries
Raw Materials for the 21st Century

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Commodity	Antimony (Sb)	Data source
Significance for the EU (2023)	<i>Critical, not strategic</i>	
Uses of the commodity	<p><u>Main uses:</u> Flame retardants 43 % Lead-acid batteries 32 %</p> <p><u>Minor uses:</u> Lead alloys 14 %, Plastics (use as catalyst in the production of PET and for heat stabilisers) 6 %, Glass and ceramics (5 %). Pigments, lubricants, and ammunition.</p> <p><u>Future uses:</u> Semiconductor industry. Cheaper alternative to Indium-Tin-Oxide compounds for LCD screens. Continues to be important, possibly increase, in flame retardants. Use in car batteries may decrease if lead battery use decreases.</p>	Latunussa et al. (2020)
Resources and potential in Nordic countries	<p><u>Finland:</u> Known resources: Orogenic gold-antimony deposits in western Finland contain 2,555 t Sb.</p> <p><u>Greenland:</u> Known resources: 3,780 t Sb. Several Sb occurrences in central East Greenland associated with tungsten.</p> <p><u>Norway:</u> Several silver and sulphide occurrences in the Caledonides are locally enriched in antimony, but without quantitative data, as yet.</p> <p><u>Sweden:</u> Known resources: 19,885 t Sb. The Rakkejaur deposit has 17Mt @ 599 ppm Sb. Additional potential exists in the Skellefte district and surroundings.</p>	Lauri et al. (2018), Eilu et al (2021), FODD (2022), Rosa et al. (2023)
Anthropogenic resources and potential in Nordic countries	<i>Recycling of lead-acid batteries. Possibly fly ash from combustion, and flame retardant materials.</i>	Sternbeck et al. (2002)
Main deposit types in Nordic countries	<p><i>Finland: orogenic gold deposits: Kalliosalo</i></p> <p><i>Greenland: hydrothermal veins: North Margeries Dal</i></p> <p><i>Norway: Metasomatic Pb-Zn deposit: Melandsgruvne. Orogenic silver deposits: Svenningdal. VMS deposits: Bleikvassli, Småvatnan, Sulitjelma</i></p> <p><i>Sweden: massive sulphide deposits, Rakkejaur, Renström. Volcanic exhalative: Rockliden</i></p>	Eilu et al. (2021), FODD (2022), Rosa et al. (2023)
Main global deposit types	<i>Orogenic antimony-gold deposits, carbonate replacement deposits, epithermal gold-antimony deposits, VMS deposits</i>	Goldfarb et al. (2017), Monecke et al. (2017)
Global production (2022)	<i>110,000 t (mine production)</i>	USGS (2023)

Nordic production (2021)	<i>No mine production</i>	
Main producing countries (2022)	<i>China 55 %, Russia 18 %, Tajikistan 16 %, Australia 3.6 %, Burma 3.6 % (mine production)</i>	USGS (2023)
Technological challenges in production	<i>Difficulties in separating antimony from copper in ore from complex massive sulphides.</i>	Awe (2010)
Recycling	<p><u>Present:</u> <i>Car battery recycling: all Sb is recovered from Pb batteries. End-of-life recycling at 28 % in the EU. Availability of secondary antimony is almost entirely dependent on the extent of lead recycling and the market conditions for lead and lead-acid battery scrap. Antimony used in the manufacture of plastics and flame retardants is generally not recovered because antimony is dispersed in these products.</i></p> <p><u>Future:</u> <i>Recovery from burnt plastic waste ash – currently, such recovery does not take place</i></p>	Schwarz-Schampera (2014), Latunussa et al. (2020), USGS (2023)

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