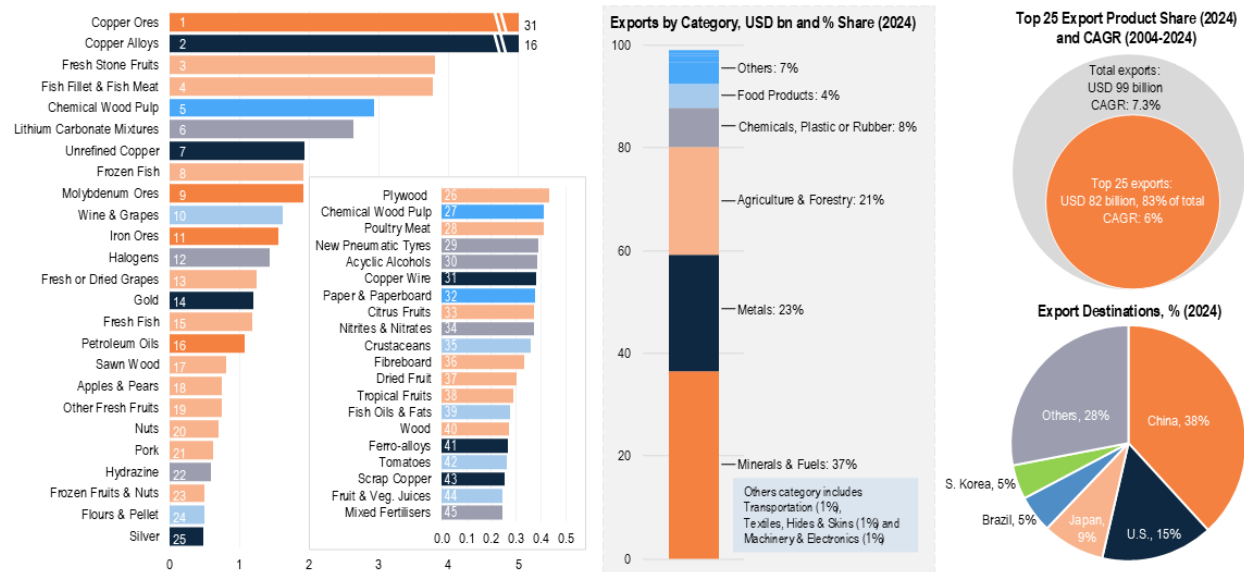


Copper, Lithium and More: Chile's Exports Delivering Vital Industrial Inputs and Agricultural Products

Beyond copper and lithium carbonate, Chile is a major supplier of fruit, fish, pulp, metals and chemicals, with China as the largest buyer.

Chile Top 45 Export Products, USD bn, and Export Destinations, % (2024)



Source: UN Comtrade, Subsecretaría de Relaciones Económicas Internacionales, Chile (SUBREI), ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis

In 2024, Chile's exports amounted to USD 99 billion, a 2.6% decline from the USD 104.5 billion exported in 2023. From 2004 to 2024, Chile's exports expanded at a CAGR of 7.3%.

Chile's exports are dominated by copper, with the two largest export products in 2024 being copper ores (USD 31 billion) and copper alloys (USD 16 billion), and the seventh-largest being unrefined copper (USD 1.9 billion). In all, copper accounted for about half (just under USD 50 billion) of Chile's total exports in 2024.

Minerals & Fuels, mainly copper ores but also molybdenum ores, iron ores and petroleum oils, was the largest export category at USD 36.5 billion, or 37% of the total. Metals, mostly copper alloys and unrefined copper but also gold and silver, was the second-largest category at USD 22.5 billion (23%).

Agriculture & Forestry was the third-largest category at USD 21.1 billion (21%). Chile's leading exports in this category include a variety of products such as stone fruits (USD 3.8 billion) and fish meat (USD 3.8 billion)—the third- and fourth-largest export products—as well as frozen and fresh fish, grapes, apples, pears and nuts.

Chemical wood pulp was the fifth-largest export product at USD 2.9 billion.

Lithium is another vital Chilean export—especially lithium carbonate, a white refined chemical (used in electric vehicle batteries) produced from brines in the country’s Atacama salt flats. In 2024, Chile was the world’s leading exporter of lithium carbonate at USD 2.6 billion, accounting for about 65% of the global export value. According to the Undersecretariat for International Economic Relations (SUBREI) at Chile’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile exported a record 314,000 tons of lithium carbonate equivalent in 2024, an increase of 26% from 2023.

Chile’s total lithium exports in 2024—consisting of lithium carbonate (89%) and lithium hydroxide (11%)—amounted to USD 2.9 billion, and 71% of this total was exported to China, along with about half of Chile’s copper exports.

Hence, China is the largest recipient of Chile’s total exports, with a share in 2024 of 38%, followed by the U.S. (15%), Japan (5%), Brazil (5%) and South Korea (5%).

Also by ANDAMAN PARTNERS:

- [China’s Dependence on Strategic Metal Imports and Implications for Global Mining Firms](#)
- [Trade Pivot: Tariffs and China’s Shifting Export Patterns in 2024-2025](#)
- [The Black and Red of Global Trade: 20 Largest Trade Surplus and Deficit Economies](#)

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