

# Does West Asia have enough lithium for battery energy storage





## Overview

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Can China achieve a lithium supply-demand balance?

These findings suggest that unless China receives additional raw materials supplies, achieving a lithium supply-demand balance under scenarios of low supply and maximum battery capacity (low-S7, low-S8) is unattainable in the current trade network structure, even if import capabilities are expanded to the maximum.

Can domestic lithium supply satisfy Future EV batteries' lithium demand?

The growth of domestic lithium production in China, Europe, and the USA underscores the importance of determining to what extent domestic supply can satisfy future EV batteries' lithium demand and whether imports will be necessary. Given that lithium is also used in other sectors such as glassmaking, an analysis of how lithium is used is warranted.

What drives lithium demand?

Lithium demand is primarily driven by total battery storage capacity (kWh), which remains similar across different battery chemistries.<sup>15</sup> Battery capacity per vehicle is variable, influenced by technology and user preferences.

Does lithium ore trade exist between Australia and China?

Given the limited documentation on international lithium ore trade, which mainly occurs between Australia and China,<sup>55,57</sup> this paper focuses on intermediate processed products like lithium carbonate, hydroxide, and oxide, which essentially covers the global lithium flows post-mining.<sup>46,47</sup>



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