

IMPACT INVESTING MONTHLY

March 2024

Your monthly update on impact investing

Impact Investing at AOWM

Seeking companies that
turn a profit making a
sustainable impact on
society and the
environment

March's update includes a company highlight on Ball Corp, charts on the materials underlying everyday life, and links to further resources on these fronts. As always, if you would like to talk about impact investing in general or your impact portfolio specifically, please do not hesitate to email me.

Grace and Peace,

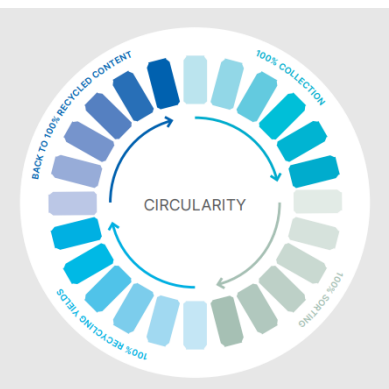


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Company Highlight on Ball Corp

Ball Corporation (ball.com) manufactures aluminum packaging for beverage, personal care, and household products industries and seeks to “advance sustainable aluminum solutions at scale.”¹ Headquartered in Westminster, CO, Ball Corp’s roots go back to the 1880s, when it began making tin cans and glass jars. Because aluminum is infinitely recyclable, unlike plastic, it retains all its useful properties every time it is recycled.

As such, aluminum is a great asset to creating a [circular economy](#) and very important to [recycle](#), especially given that mining and making aluminum in the first place requires a lot of [energy](#)—and consequent carbon emissions if the energy used is not renewable.

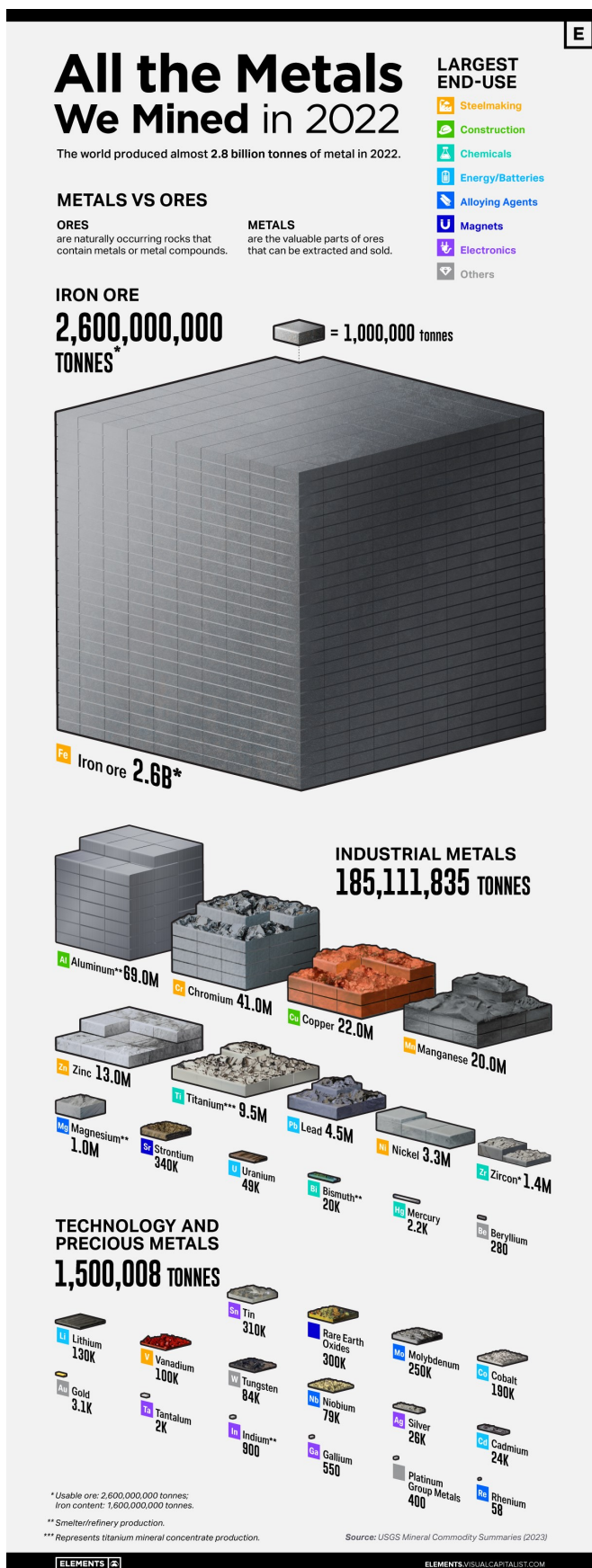


Ball currently ranks 26th in [Barron's 100 Most Sustainable U.S. Companies](#), which looked at factors including carbon-emissions, workplace diversity, and progress toward creating a circular economy. [Calvert](#) Research and Management conducted the analysis. See more about Ball [here](#). Ball had an aerospace segment as well (aluminum being key for [flight](#)) that it sold in February 2024.

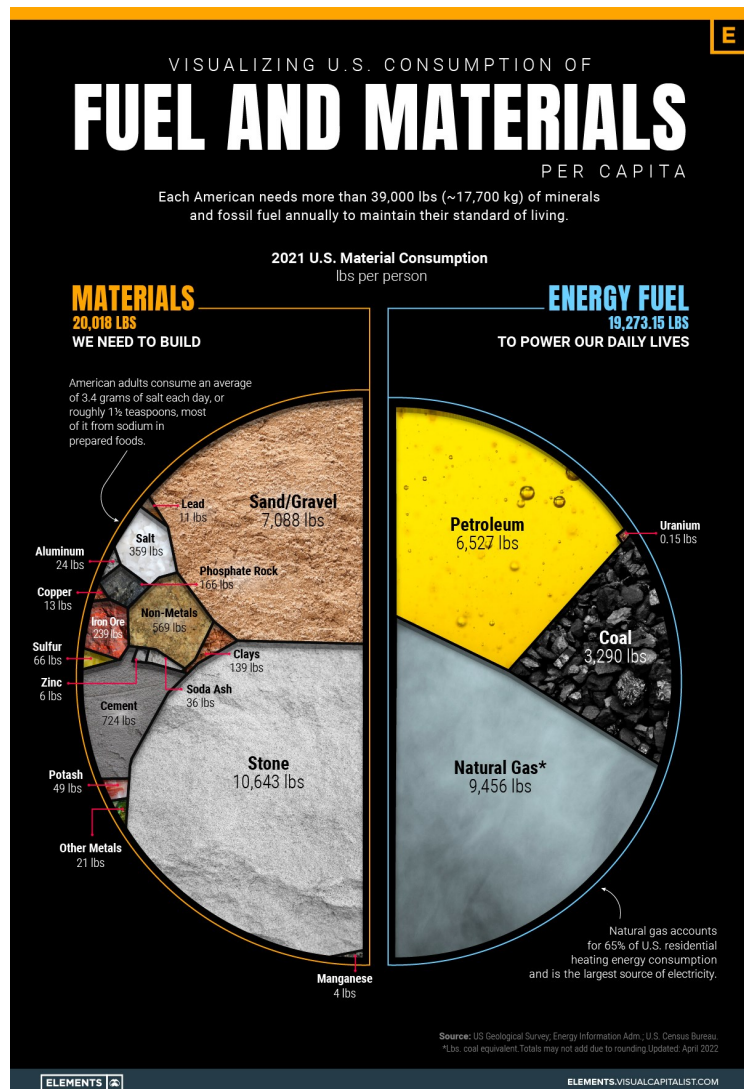
¹Infinite Potential: 2023 Combined Annual & Sustainability Report

Charts of the Month

(click on the charts to get a better view and citations)



Our current economy depends heavily on raw materials mined from the earth. As the old saying goes, if it can't be grown, it's mined. The switch to renewable energy and electrification of the economy remain rooted in raw materials, particularly in rare earth elements. To reach a sustainable and just future, it is key to find ways of mining that participate in—and even one day give way to—a circular economy in which the need for additional mining is negated through product design, maintenance, repair, reuse, and recycling of materials. As the world moves into that future, another old saying remains as relevant as ever: *reduce, reuse, recycle* (including e-waste).



Interesting Links

“Aluminum’s Strange Journey From Precious Metal to Beer Can”

Short Wave Podcast
December 10, 2019
(12 minutes)

“Elements of Energy: Mining for a Green Future”

On Point Podcast
March 7, 2024
(5 Episodes)

“How Aluminum Built the Modern World”

Modern Marvels History Channel
July 25, 2007
(43 minutes)

Material World: The Six Raw Materials That Shape Modern Civilization

Ed Conway
November 7, 2023
(512 pages)

What is Impact Investing?

The term **“Impact Investing”** focuses on investments made *“with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return.”*¹ Many people talk about this intersection of social, environmental, and financial values as a focus on the **triple bottom line of people, planet, and profit.**² Others also highlight the ways that environmental, social, and financial values are really **“blended values,”**³ given that the operations, products, and services of any business always have effects (whether positive or negative) on society, the environment, and the financial bottom line.

“ESG” is a term that stands for “Environmental, Social, and Governance” factors that can affect a company’s long term financial health as well as well-being for broader society and the environment. The term ESG was coined in a 2004 United Nations report entitled, “Who Cares Wins: Connecting Financial Markets to a Changing World,” and this report highlights the ways *“successful investment depends on a vibrant economy, which depends on a healthy civil society, which is ultimately dependent on a sustainable planet.”*⁴

ESG analysis usually focuses primarily on how a changing world (socially and environmentally) might affect a company’s financial return. Impact analysis usually focuses on how a company’s operations and products affect society and the environment. The two types of analysis are distinct but complementary and can be used to help you blend your values with your investments.

Sources

¹ Thegiin.org; see also rockefellerfoundation.org/from-the-archives/global-impact-investing-network-giin/

² “Triple bottom line,” *The Economist*, Nov 17, 2009. economist.com/news/2009/11/17/triple-bottom-line

³ Blendedvalue.org

⁴ UNepfi.org/fileadmin/events/2004/stocks/who_cares_wins_global_compact_2004.pdf

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