The International Copper Association (ICA) is the leading organization for promoting the use of copper worldwide. ICA is made up of 40 industry members and more than 500 program partners around the world.

ICA brings together the global copper industry to develop and defend markets for copper and to make a positive contribution to society’s sustainable-development goals.

Much of ICA’s work advances the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a 15-year framework for addressing humanity’s most critical issues. ICA’s initiatives align with all 17 of the (SDGs) for a greener, healthier, and more sustainable future.

Partnering for a Sustainable Future

ICA uses strategic partnerships to develop and operate in a more sustainable manner. We are committed to global efforts in:

- Economic development
- Sustainable energy
- Technological innovation
- City/Community development
- Public health

We benefit from our partners’ vast experience, wisdom and human and/or financial contributions. Some of our partners include:

- Governmental departments and agencies of Australia, Canada, Chile, China, the European Union, India, the United States and others.
- Intergovernmental organizations, including the Common Fund for Commodities, Global Environment Facility, United Nations (UN) Development Program, UN Environment, UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN-Energy and The World Bank.
- Industry associations, such as the International Cables-makers Federation, International Wrought Copper Council and the International Council on Mining and Metals.
- NGOs, such as the Alliance to Save Energy, CLASP, International Institute for Energy Conservation, Clean Energy Solutions Center, Solar Electric Light Fund and the United Nations Foundation.

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The Socioeconomic Impact of Copper Mining in Chile

- In the last 20 years, copper mining has accounted for 10% of the country’s GDP.
- In 1990, private participation in mining was at 25%. By 2016, it was at 68%.
- In the mining region of Antofagasta, mining averaged 63% of the regional GDP between 2008 and 2014.
- In regions where the mining industry has a strong presence, the average mining salaries are between 80% to 110% higher than the regional average.
- Mining has a strong multiplier effect, contributing to the consumption of goods and services in other industries as well:
  - For every $100 copper mining contributes to the economy, at least another $36 is indirectly generated.
  - For each job created by mining, 3.7 additional jobs are created in other sectors of the economy and through
- Chile has experienced a considerable decrease in poverty rates, which fell from 40.5% in 1990 to 8.5% in 2015. This decrease corresponded with the expansion of mining in the country.
- Mining regions have up to 50% lower poverty rates than the national average, and one-third lower poverty rates than regions without copper mining.

The Copper Industry: Mining and Beyond

- Copper mining provided an average of 7.8% of tax revenue between 1990 and 2016.
- Copper mining accounts for 9% of national electricity and fuel use, and the mining industry as a whole accounts for 17%—an example of its indirect contribution to job creation and the economy.
- Mining supplier companies represent approximately $20 billion in the national economy.
- The mining industry represents only 3% of the consumptive water use at the national level.
- Copper plays a key role in the country’s export activity. Between 2003 and 2016, copper accounted for an average of 51% of exports.
- Mining companies are more innovative than the national average, continuously improving processes to mitigate impact on the environment.
- The mining industry has made important investments to use sea water in its production process. Water circulation processes have improved by 26% in 2016 when compared to 2012.
- In 2016, mining created nearly 400,000 new jobs in Chile—equivalent to 5.4% of the country’s workforce.