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MYANMAR EXPORTED USD 620M WORTH OF RARE EARTHS TO CHINA IN 2025

Myanmar remains a major stakeholder in the global rare earth market. Per 2024 rare earth production records, China stands at the top with 61 percent, followed by Myanmar at 16 percent. Despite a downturn in exports to China in early 2025, Beijing's drive for supply-chain security points to renewed expansion in Myanmar's mining sector.



Myanmar Exported USD 620M Worth of Rare Earths to China in 2025

Period	January to September 2025
Regions	Rare earth mining areas in Kachin and Shan States, and China.
Issues	In the first nine months of 2025, rare earth exports from Myanmar to China totaled USD 624 million (over 28,000 tonnes). This marks a decline of roughly USD 100 million—and more than 10,000 tonnes—compared with the same period in 2024*.
Groups Involved	Kachin Independence Army (KIA), United Wa State Army (UWSA), National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA), and Chinese companies.
Status/ Development	In late October 2025, Beijing reopened four China-Myanmar border gates under KIA control—without any compromise with the KIA—at a time when rare earth exports to China were falling. Demand pressures are rising elsewhere as well, with India and other countries seeking to secure access to these minerals. Between January and September 2025, China imported more than 52,000 tonnes of rare earths, of which 53 percent (over 28,000 tonnes) came from Myanmar. Over the same period in 2024, Myanmar's exports to China totaled USD 724 million, underscoring a year-on-year drop of about USD 100 million.
Implications	The International Energy Agency (IEA) notes that Myanmar remains a significant force in global rare earth mining. In 2024, China leads with 61 percent, followed by Myanmar at 16 percent. Despite the dip in exports to China during the first nine months of 2025, mining activity in Myanmar is expected to rise as Beijing seeks a more stable and reliable supply chain. Production is therefore expanding beyond Kachin into eastern Shan State: early this year, at least 20 new sites were observed in UWSA-controlled Mong Yun and Mong Pawk, and in NDAA-held areas of Mongyawng Township. Such expansion, however, carries growing risks of environmental and socioeconomic harm. With cross-border impacts increasingly likely, neighbouring countries, Thailand among them, are moving to monitor and respond to the rare earth production.

● Slump to Recovery: Myanmar's Rare Earth Export Trends in 2025

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Rare earth exports to China reached USD 624 million in the first nine months of 2025—about USD 100 million lower than in 2024. Exports fell sharply in January–March but began to recover gradually from April through June.



Data from January to September 2025 is part of research conducted by ISP-Myanmar's China Studies. It may vary from other sources due to differences in methodology and data availability. Figures are based on reported data of the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC). Annual shifts in rare earth types and prices may affect 2024–25 comparisons.