

The social and economic contribution of gold mining (2024 data)

Introduction

Gold mining operations are geographically diverse and often located in areas with little existing infrastructure or alternative economic activity. When undertaken responsibly, gold mining can play an important role in contributing to socio-economic development in its host nations.

This data update quantifies the direct social and economic contributions of 28 World Gold Council member companies in 2024. The data comprises 220 operational mines and 87 non-producing sites (including head offices) spread across 36 countries. Their impact has been quantified in five main categories:

- Payments to governments (including taxes and royalties)
- Payments to suppliers
- Payments to employees
- Payments to communities
- Workforce data (disaggregated by gender and national vs international)

Gold mining is a complex, multi-year business that involves high capital outlays upfront, long lead times, and uncertain returns. The 2024 data update, which is summarised in Table 1, is based solely on a one-year snapshot and does not represent the full mining cycle. The World Gold Council has been quantifying the socio-economic contribution of its members in the past four years and this data can be found in Table 2. More can be found here: [Gold's Contribution to Society | World Gold Council](#)

Chart 1: In-country payments

Total in-country payments \$66.4bn



1. Details on how community investments in the gold industry contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals can be found in these [reports](#).
2. [The Social and Economic Contribution of Gold Mining 2021](#)

Highlights

In 2024, World Gold Council member companies directly contributed a total of US\$66.4bn to host economies.

This comprised US\$43.6bn in payments to in-country suppliers, US\$12.4bn in employee wages and US\$10.4bn in payments to governments.

On top of this, in 2024 contributions of US\$741mn were made to local communities and Indigenous groups in the 36 countries of operations. This is a US\$98mn increase from last year.¹

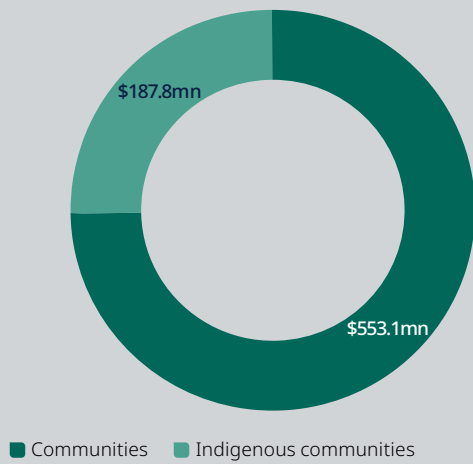
In 2024, World Gold Council member companies directly employed over 220,000 people and 160,000 contractors.

Every job in the gold mining industry also supports six more indirect jobs in the supply chain or almost ten more if induced jobs are included.²

Recent company efforts to train and develop local skills, as opposed to bringing in expatriates, has led to 97% of employees coming from the host country of operation.



Chart 2: Payments to communities



Total payments \$740.9mn

Chart 3: Supporting livelihoods



Total employees
220,879



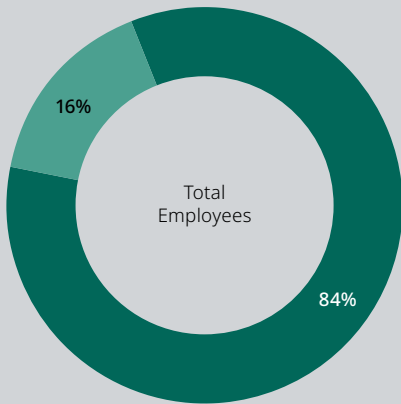
Total contractors
160,501



■ Nationals ■ Expatriates

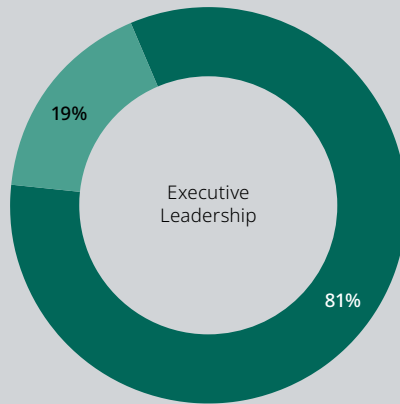
Total workforce	381,380
Employees	220,879
Nationals	213,980
Expatriates	6,899
Contractors	160,501

Chart 4: Gender diversity

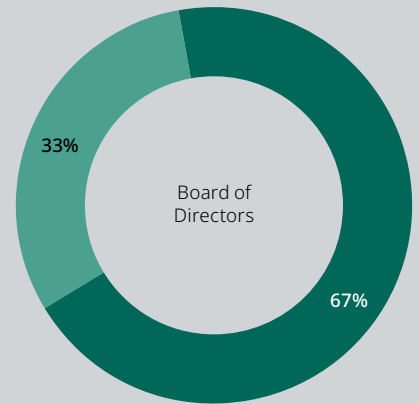


■ Male ■ Female

Total employees	220,879
Female	35,452
Male	185,427



Executive Leadership	266
Female	50
Male	216



Board of Directors	272
Female	91
Male	181



Global data

Table 1: Consolidated data from survey (2024 data)³

Country	In-country expenditure in US\$m					Employees and contractors
	Total	Payments to governments	Payments to suppliers	Payments to employees	Payments to communities	
Argentina	2,502.2	209.5	1,822.1	449.7	20.9	10,797
Australia	7,899.7	1,209.1	5,598.7	1,061.9	30.0	14,877
Brazil	2,636.5	303.4	2,010.2	312.4	10.5	19,327
Burkina Faso	1,590.8	417.7	978.1	173.2	21.8	7,977
Canada	10,641.0	462.4	7,395.4	2,601.6	181.6	28,758
Chile	891.1	110.4	575.7	201.8	3.2	11,206
China	6,915.3	1,575.3	4,068.1	1,227.9	44.0	69,435
Colombia	500.2	141.5	274.1	62.4	22.2	4,444
Cote d'Ivoire	1,089.0	348.5	649.6	84.1	6.8	7,117
Ghana	3,982.7	1,141.8	2,409.2	403.7	28.0	26,076
Mali	2,127.6	855.3	1,112.0	152.9	7.4	13,994
Mexico	3,256.3	318.7	2,418.8	484.4	34.4	12,705
Papua New Guinea	708.1	90.2	327.5	268.2	22.2	7,746
Peru	1,559.3	168.3	1,104.9	259.8	26.3	13,737
Philippines	461.0	70.5	261.5	114.4	14.6	4,167
Senegal	1,110.3	473.1	517.4	113.3	6.5	3,657
South Africa	2,156.8	43.7	1,387.1	650.6	75.4	35,223
Suriname	853.9	100.2	444.1	304.6	5.0	4,384
Tanzania	1,774.9	370.7	1,192.1	195.3	16.8	12,261
Turkey	670.6	199.0	440.8	25.4	5.3	2,735
USA	7,986.3	512.5	5,091.7	2,356.1	26.0	16,153
Other	5,875.7	1,253.7	3,544.5	915.2	132.0	54,604
Total	67,189.3	10,375.5	43,623.9	12,449.1	740.9	381,380

Year-on-year data

Table 2: Data trends (2021-2024)⁴

	Gold Output (Moz)	Gold revenue (US\$bn)	Total in-country payments (US\$bn)	Payments to governments (US\$bn)	In-country payments to suppliers (US\$bn)	In-country payments to suppliers (% of total)	Payments to employees (US\$bn)	Payments to communities (US\$m)
2024	34.6	82.1	66.4	10.4	43.6	89%	12.4	740.9
2023	34.3	65.7	60.1	8.1	40.4	87%	11.0	642.3
2022	34.8	61.6	58.2	9.2	38.3	88%	10.1	571.6
2021	35.5	65.5	57.3	9.9	35.4	90%	11.6	442.5

	Total Executive Leadership	Female Executive Leadership (%)	Total Board of Directors	Female Board of Directors (%)	Total Employees	National Employees (%)	Female Employees (%)	Total Contractors
2024	266	19%	272	33%	220,879	97%	16%	160,501
2023	309	19%	270	34%	210,797	95%	16%	158,402
2022	299	17%	272	31%	207,108	95%	16%	156,885
2021	299	17%	283	27%	246,271	95%	16%	140,413

3. Table 1 data is sourced from WGC Members and includes disaggregated data for countries where 2 or more members operate. Countries included within "Other": Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Romania, Serbia, and Tajikistan.

4. Historical data has been revised to eliminate double counting.



World Gold Council members that contributed to this report

