U.S. Energy Information Administration

Nuclear explained
Where our uranium comes from

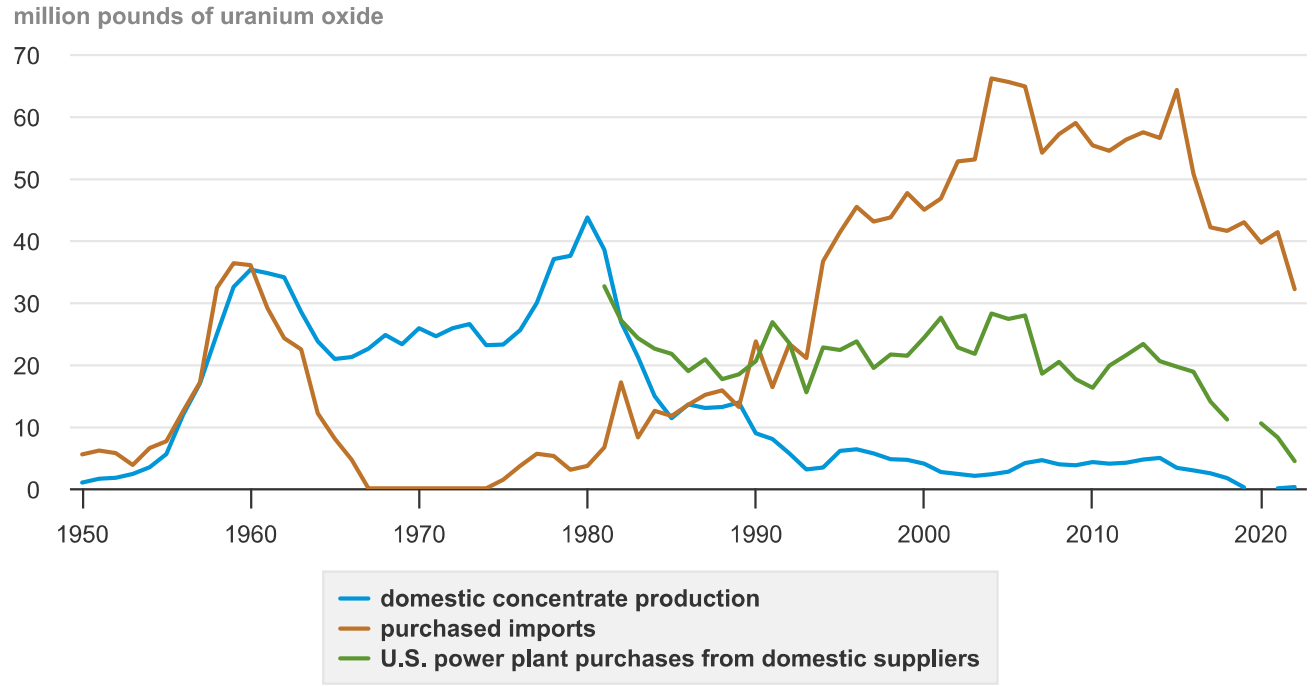
BASICS

The United States imports most of the uranium it uses as fuel

Uranium is the most-used fuel by nuclear power plants for nuclear fission. Uranium is a common metal found in rocks all over the world. Uranium occurs in combination with small amounts of other elements. Economically recoverable uranium reserves are located in the western United States, Australia, Canada, Central Asia, Africa, and South America.

Uranium production in the United States peaked in 1980, and uranium purchases by U.S. nuclear power plant operators from domestic suppliers peaked in 1981. Since 1992, the majority of uranium purchased by U.S. nuclear power plant operators was imported.

Sources of uranium for U.S. nuclear power plants, 1950-2022



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 8.2, June 2023
Note: Data withheld for U.S. power plant purchases from domestic suppliers in 2019 and for domestic production in 2020 to avoid disclosure of individual company data.

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Owners and operators of U.S. civilian nuclear power reactors purchased 40.5 million pounds of U_3O_8e (equivalent) from U.S. and foreign suppliers during 2022.

Sources and percentage shares of total U.S. purchases of uranium in 2022 were:

27% Canada	25% Kazakhstan	12% Russia	11% Uzbekistan
9% Australia	16% Six other countries combined		

Data source: *Uranium Marketing Annual Report*, Table 3, June 2023
Note: The six other countries include Germany, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, South Africa, and the United States with country data withheld to protect individual company data.

Last updated: August 23, 2023, with data available from source reports as indicated.