

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: 'War for Talent' at Mines Could Drive Up Cost of Energy Transition

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Tweet: A labor shortage in the mining sector is expected to slow firms' abilities to expand production in the face of higher demand. Citi Group forecasts lithium prices will be up 40% by the end of the year and copper up 50% by 2025.

Summary: Citi expects labor shortages, permitting challenges and other issues will propel lithium prices higher by as much as 40% by year's end. It forecasts copper will jump 50% by 2025, noting that it is less vulnerable than some other metals to recent innovations for electric-vehicle batteries. The overall industry's seasonally adjusted head count shrank by nearly 39% since 1990 as power generators turned away from coal, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Colleges and universities have struggled to rebuild the depleted talent pipeline. "The problem is that talent isn't lying around waiting to be paid more—there just isn't enough of it," said Andrea Brickey, an associate professor of mining engineering and management at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

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