

# The social and economic contribution of gold mining (2023 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.

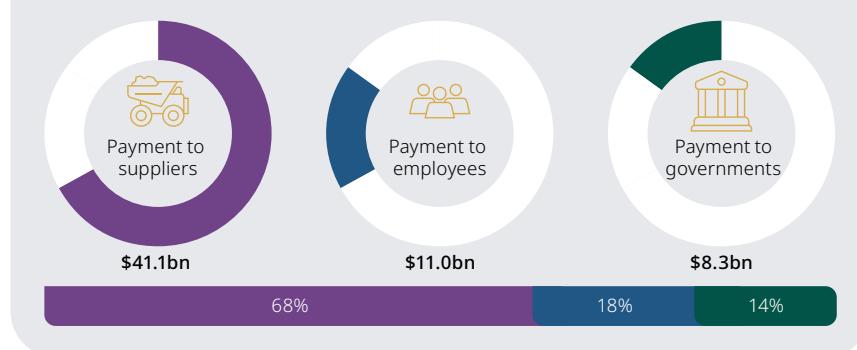
This data update quantifies the direct social and economic contributions of 29 World Gold Council member companies in 2023. The data comprises 238 operational mines and 101 non-producing sites (including head offices) spread across 36 countries. Their impact has been quantified in five main categories:

- 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 2023 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 three 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 \$60.4bn



## Highlights

In 2023, World Gold Council member companies directly contributed a total of US\$60.4bn to host economies.

This comprised US\$41.1bn in payments to in-country suppliers, US\$11.0 in employee wages and US\$8.3bn in payments to governments.

On top of this, in 2023 contributions of US\$651mn were made to local communities and Indigenous groups in the 36 countries of operations. This is a US\$81mn increase from last year.<sup>1</sup>

In 2023, World Gold Council member companies directly employed over 212,000 people and 163,000 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.<sup>2</sup>

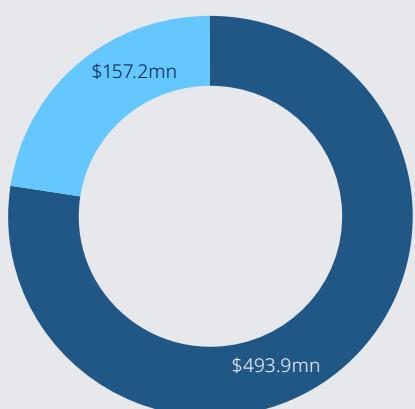
Recent company efforts to train and develop local skills, as opposed to bringing in expatriates, has led to 95% of employees coming from the host country of operation.

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](#)



## Chart 2: Payments to communities



■ Communities	■ Indigenous communities
Total payments	\$651.1mn

### Chart 3: Supporting livelihoods



Total employees  
212,623



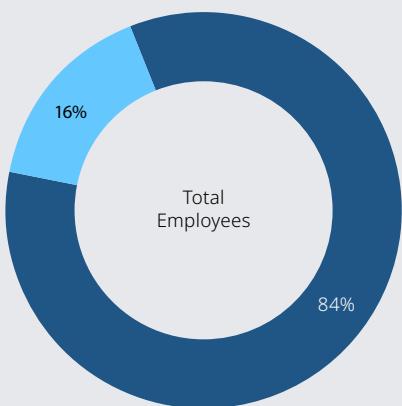
Total contractors  
**163,098**



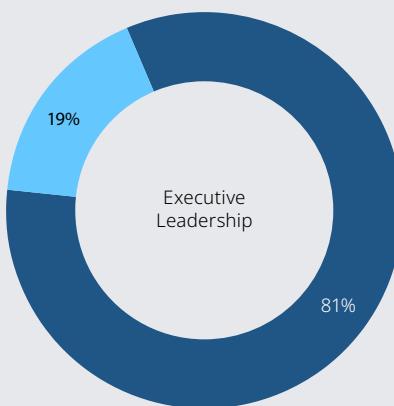
Nationals Expatriates

Total workforce	375,721
Employees	212,623
Nationals	203,023
Expatriates	9,600
Contactors	163,098

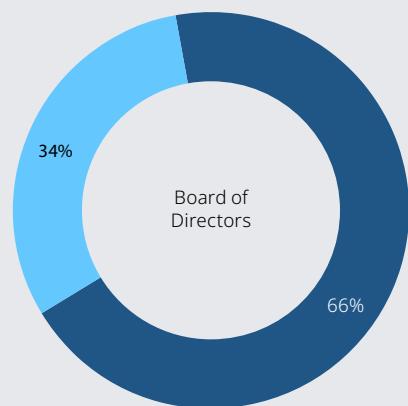
#### Chart 4: Gender diversity



Male Female



Executive Leadership



Board of Directors

Total employees	212,623	Executive Leadership	309	Board of Directors	270
Female	34,666	Female	59	Female	91
Male	177,957	Male	250	Male	179



# Global data

Table 1: Consolidated data from survey (2023 data)<sup>3</sup>

Country	Total	In-country expenditure in US\$mn					Employees and contractors
		Payments to governments	Payments to suppliers	Payments to employees	Payments to communities		
Argentina	2,451.3	293.6	1,727.4	402.7	27.6	9,996	
Australia	7,259.5	1,275.4	5,087.8	878.3	17.9	15,292	
Brazil	2,786.5	264.6	2,190.8	307.0	24.0	12,730	
Burkina Faso	2,424.8	560.6	1,470.0	214.0	180.2	27,749	
Canada	9,002.3	248.9	6,597.8	2,145.6	9.9	18,846	
Chile	743.9	83.0	474.9	183.5	2.4	10,150	
China	4,905.3	695.5	3,241.6	958.3	9.8	66,409	
Colombia	472.8	115.3	307.6	45.1	4.8	5,058	
Cote d'Ivoire	800.8	228.3	515.3	53.3	3.9	5,266	
Ghana	3,028.8	682.5	2,000.1	324.4	21.8	21,354	
Mali	2,004.2	674.3	1,142.8	180.2	6.8	13,204	
Mexico	3,540.9	428.3	2,566.9	516.0	29.6	13,203	
Papua New Guinea	511.6	171.3	145.5	158.4	36.5	6,774	
Peru	1,757.1	199.2	1,317.9	221.4	18.5	12,787	
Philippines	420.2	116.5	254.8	36.1	12.8	4,056	
Senegal	770.7	243.8	450.6	72.9	3.4	4,921	
South Africa	2,387.3	115.2	1,489.8	706.9	75.4	42,197	
Suriname	535.0	102.0	270.0	140.9	22.0	4,236	
Tanzania	1,718.8	342.8	1,178.5	185.8	11.6	12,962	
Turkey	508.0	80.3	388.7	34.2	4.7	2,595	
USA	7,794.5	411.5	5,238.6	2,121.8	22.6	17,708	
Other	5,121.9	949.4	2,996.0	1,137.5	104.7	48,228	
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,946.2</b>	<b>8,282.4</b>	<b>41,053.7</b>	<b>11,024.7</b>	<b>651.1</b>	<b>375,721</b>	

Source: World Gold Council member data

## Year-on-year data

Table 2: Data trends (2021-2023)

	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\$bn)
2023	34.9	66.9	60.4	8.3	41.1	87%	11.0	651.1
2022	34.8	61.6	57.7	9.3	38.3	88%	10.1	569.7
2021	35.6	65.5	57.1	10.0	35.4	90%	11.7	451.8
	Total Executive Leadership	Female Executive Leadership (%)	Total Board of Directors	Female Board of Directors (%)	Total Employees	National Employees (%)	Female Employees (%)	Total Contractors
2023	309	19%	270	34%	212,623	95%	16%	163,098
2022	299	17%	272	31%	207,193	95%	16%	156,885
2021	299	17%	283	27%	246,271	95%	16%	140,713

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



# World Gold Council members that contributed to this report

