

The growing investment case for resources

As countries focus on resilience and rebuilding supply chains and infrastructure, demand for the resources needed to support that investment is growing.

Global resource dependencies are being reassessed.

For decades, the global economy increasingly concentrated production in countries where resources and manufactured inputs could be produced at lower costs, relying on global trade to move energy, metals and other essential materials to where they were needed. Countries did not necessarily need to produce everything themselves, as long as global markets could reliably supply it.

That assumption is becoming less certain.

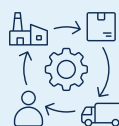
Europe's experience with Russian natural gas offered a stark example. The invasion of Ukraine exposed the risks of concentrated energy dependence, as Europe's heavy reliance on Russian pipeline gas left it vulnerable to supply disruption.

As a result, governments and companies are reconsidering their dependencies. Manufacturing is moving closer to where products are ultimately sold, critical infrastructure is being rebuilt, countries are diversifying their suppliers of energy and resources, and new supply-chain capacity is being developed.

A world that builds additional factories, processing facilities, energy infrastructure and supply chains in several regions will need more resources than one optimized primarily for cost and efficiency.

FIGURE 1 – Why demand for resources is growing

A greater focus on economic and national resilience is leading to more investment in the physical economy – and that requires more resources.



More resilient supply chains

Companies and governments are building more capacity closer to home.



More infrastructure investment

Factories, energy systems and transportation networks require significant physical investment.



More demand for resources

That investment requires energy, metals and construction materials.



A “great rebuild” is underway

The shift toward greater economic and strategic resilience is contributing to renewed investment in the physical economy.

New factories require energy, steel and construction materials. Transportation and industrial infrastructure require cement, aggregates and metals. New processing capacity requires both the materials to build it and the energy to operate it.

Rising electricity demand is adding to this investment cycle, as industrial growth, electrification and data centres increase the need for more power. Meeting that demand will require investment across a range of energy sources, as well as significant amounts of copper, aluminum, steel and other materials to build the transmission lines and infrastructure needed to produce and deliver that electricity.

European steel and cement provide a clear example. Germany’s large-scale defense and infrastructure spending plans are expected to drive investment in new physical capacity, while European policies favouring lower-emission domestic production are changing the competitive environment for local producers.

Why resources may deserve a greater role in portfolios

These changes come at a time when many investors’ portfolios are underexposed to the companies producing physical inputs the global economy increasingly needs.

Portfolios built primarily around broad global equities have only a modest exposure to the physical economy and hard assets.

A dedicated allocation to resources can provide more deliberate exposure to these trends. It also opens up a wider range of opportunities beyond familiar Canadian energy and pipeline companies.

Resources 101

Physical economy

The real-world infrastructure, materials and energy that keep the economy running.

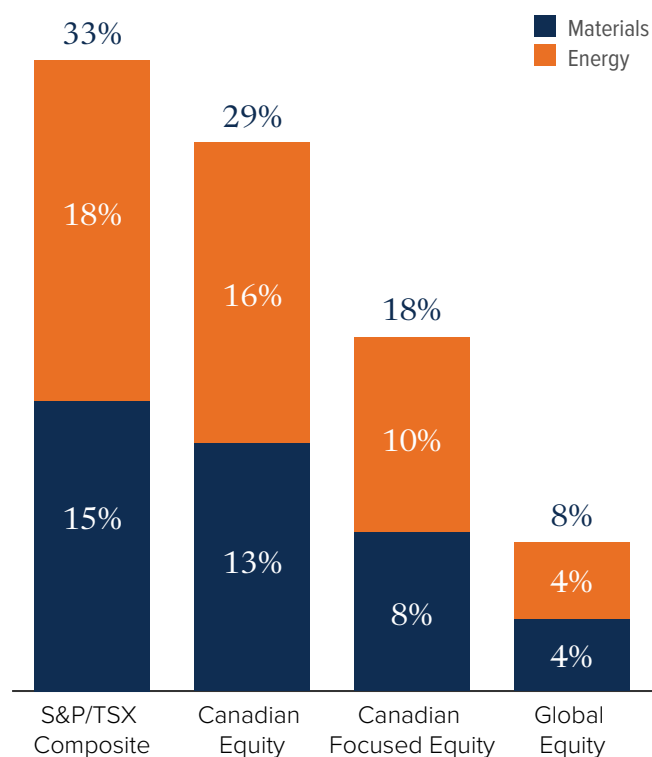
Hard assets

Tangible assets with physical value, such as commodities, infrastructure and real estate.

Reserve life

How long a commodity’s known reserves can support production at the current rate of extraction.

FIGURE 2 – Resource exposure varies significantly across portfolios



Source: Morningstar Direct. As at July 31, 2026. Energy + Materials weights shown for the S&P/TSX Composite and selected Morningstar categories.



Specialist active management matters in this space

Commodities each respond to different economic, geopolitical and supply-and-demand conditions.

An attractive environment for gold does not necessarily imply the same conditions for copper or natural gas. Even within the same commodity, the economics of individual producers can differ considerably. That is where specialist research becomes important.

Resource investing requires decisions at two levels: first, understanding the outlook for the underlying commodity itself; second, determining which companies are best positioned.

At the company level, asset quality, production costs and reserve life can matter as much as the direction of the commodity price. Information can also be highly specialized and difficult to assess from financial statements alone.

The Mackenzie Resources and Energy Evolution Team combines investment expertise with backgrounds in science and engineering to assess those factors across

global resource markets. That technical expertise is backed by research from the ground up. The team conducts on-site due diligence around the world from the Andes to the Yukon to evaluate assets and operating conditions first-hand. Site visits can reveal context on geology, infrastructure, management and operational risks that financial analysis alone may not capture.

The Mackenzie FuturePath Global Resource Fund brings those strengths together in a single global resource solution. Rather than concentrating in one commodity or one part of the resource market, the fund provides active exposure across global energy, materials and precious metals, diversified by subsector, market capitalization and geography.

A world investing more heavily in supply chains, infrastructure and power will need more resources. But not every commodity or company will benefit equally, making diversification, selectivity and specialist expertise increasingly important.

Learn more about the [Mackenzie FuturePath Global Resource Fund](#).

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