

Lithium-ion battery price forecast

The price per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of an automotive cell is likely to fall from its 2021 high of about \$160 to \$80 by 2030, driving substantial cost reductions for EVs. Lithium ion (Li-ion) is the most critical potential bottleneck in battery production.

As EV sales continue to increase in today's major markets in China, Europe and the United States, as well as expanding across more countries, demand for EV batteries is also set to grow quickly. In the STEPS, EV battery demand grows four-and-a-half times by 2030, and almost seven times by 2035 compared to 2023.

But a 2022 analysis by the McKinsey Battery Insights team projects that the entire lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery chain, from mining through recycling, could grow by over 30 percent annually from 2022 to 2030, when it would reach a value of more than \$400 billion ¹

Lithium, nickel, and cobalt, critical raw materials for lithium-ion batteries, are expected to ease further in 2024, contributing to the drop in battery pack prices. BNEF expects average battery pack prices to drop again next year, reaching \$133/kWh (in real 2023)

Turmoil in battery metal markets led the cost of Li-ion battery packs to increase for the first time in 2022, with prices rising to 7% higher than in 2021. However, the price of all key battery metals dropped during 2023, with cobalt, graphite and manganese prices falling to lower than their 2015-2020 average by the end of 2023.

Battery costs keep falling while quality rises. As volumes increased, battery costs plummeted and energy density -- a key metric of a battery's quality -- rose steadily. Over the past 30 years, battery costs have fallen by a dramatic 99 percent; meanwhile, the density of top-tier cells has risen fivefold.

This article creates transparency by identifying 53 studies that provide time- or technology-specific estimates for lithium-ion, solid-state, lithium-sulfur and lithium-air batteries among more than 2000 publications related to the topic.

Automotive lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery demand increased by about 65% to 550 GWh in 2022, from about 330 GWh in 2021, primarily as a result of growth in electric passenger car sales, with new registrations increasing by 55% in 2022 relative to 2021.

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