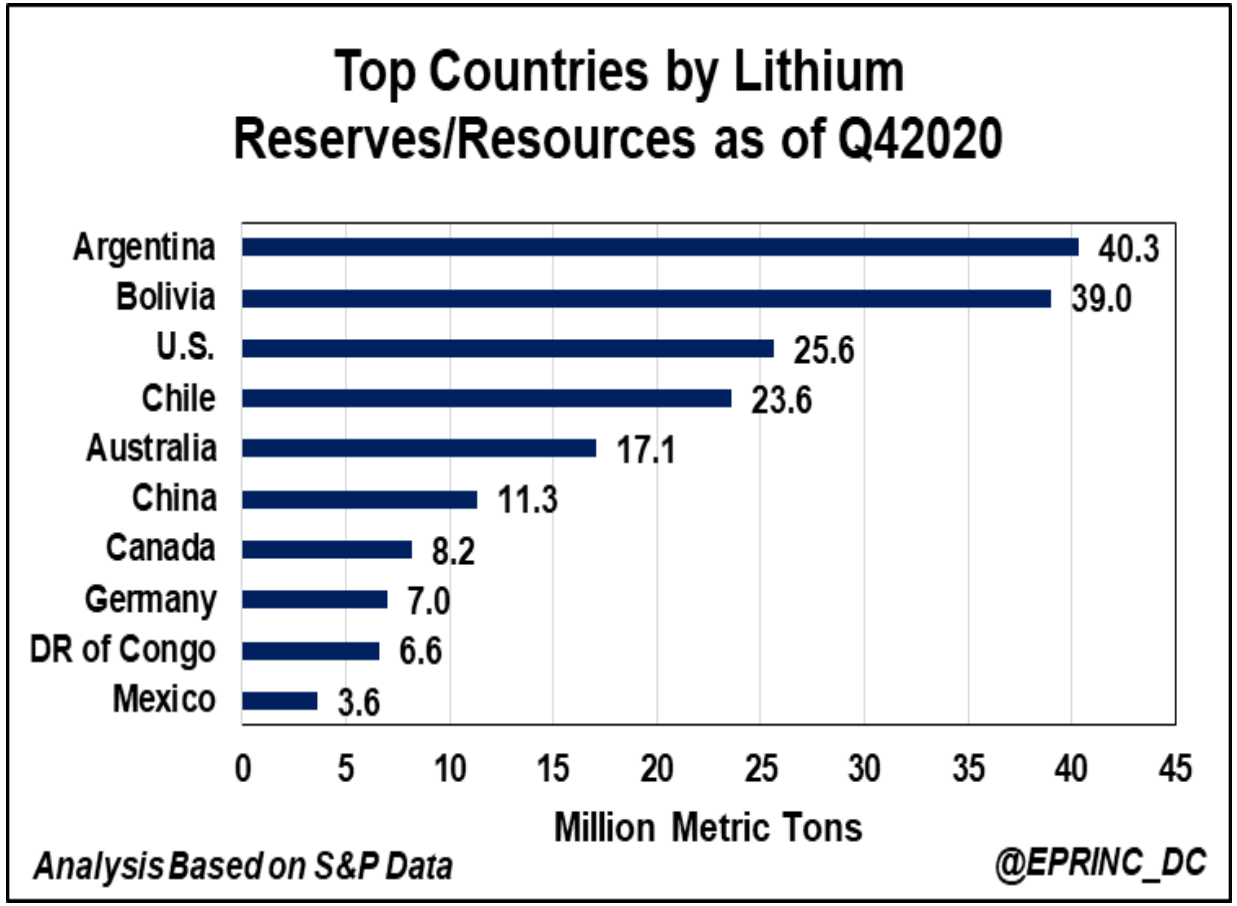
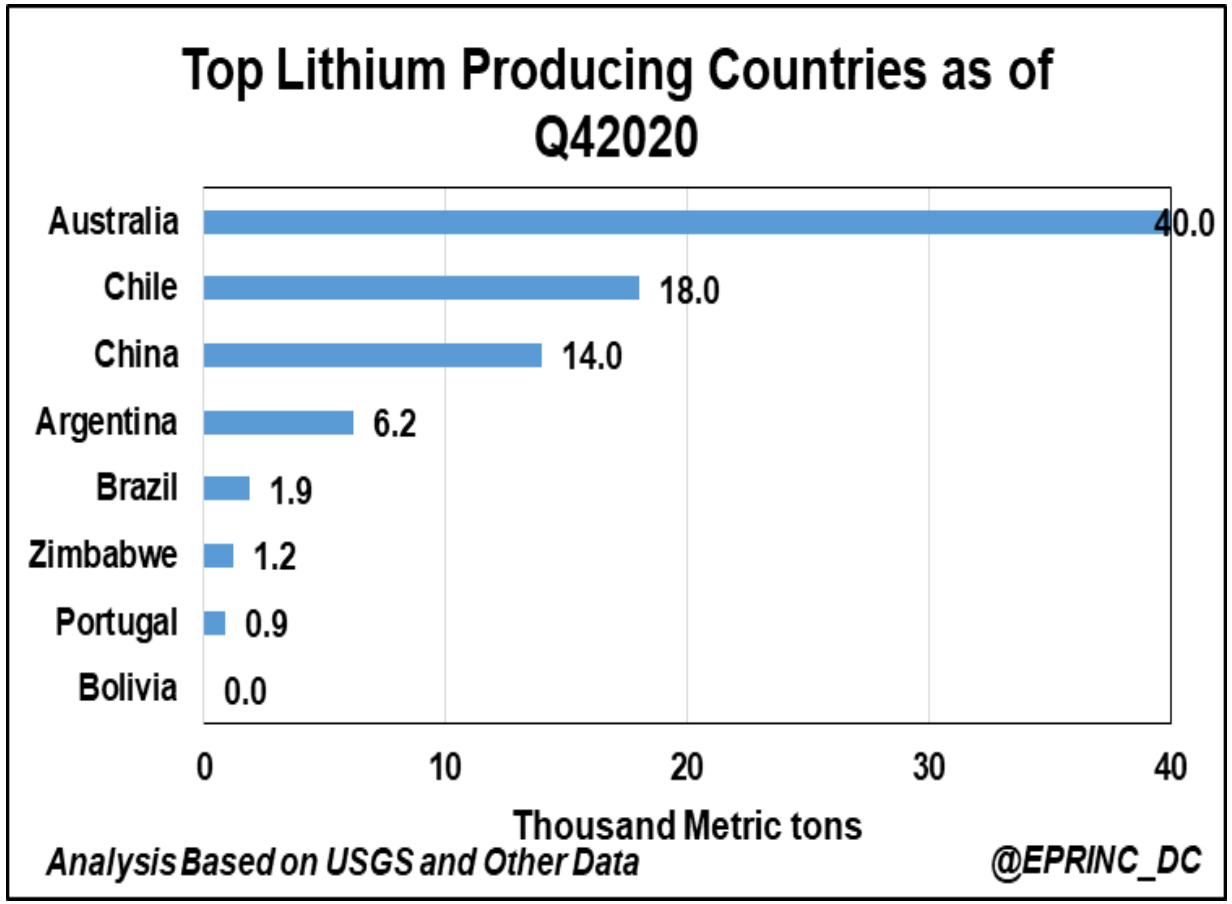
Chart of the Week #35
Lithium and U.S. Motor Vehicle Concerns

Lucian Pugliaresi
Max Pyziur
November 17, 2021
Washington, DC





Lithium and U.S. Motor Vehicle Considerations

- **Total global lithium reserves are estimated at 21 million metric tons with an additional estimate of 86 million tons of lithium resources.**
- **Current global lithium production is approximately 82 thousand metric tons concentrated in Australia along with the "Lithium Triangle" region of Northeastern Chile and Northwestern Argentina. Despite having substantial reserves, there is no meaningful production in Bolivia.**
- **The U.S. has 25.6 million tons of combined lithium reserves and resources. Nevertheless, there is very little production, all from one small Nevada mine. There are five identified U.S. mining locations in various early stages of permitting acquisition.**
- **A smartphone battery requires 3 grams of lithium, a laptop – 1 ounce, a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (EV) – 40 pounds, a Tesla – up to 140 pounds.**
- **With the U.S. having 250 million vehicles, of which 180 are light-duty, replacing the light-duty ones with EVs would require 10.8 million metric tons, or about 130 times current global production.**
- **This slide deck is available at: https://eprinc.org/chart-of-the-week/**
- **For more information on this chart, please contact Lucian Pugliaresi (loup@eprinc.org) or Max Pyziur (maxp@eprinc.org).**