

Abundance and form of the most abundant elements in Earth's continental crust.

<i>Order of abundance</i>	<i>Element</i>	<i>Weight % in crust</i>	<i>Molar % in crust</i>	<i>Volume % in crust</i>	<i>Typical natural form at Earth surface</i>
1	Oxygen	46.3	60.2	94.2	O ²⁻ in minerals and H ₂ O; small amount as elemental O ₂ in atmosphere
2	Silicon	28.2	20.8	0.8	Almost all as Si ⁴⁺ in silicate minerals; some as H ₄ SiO ₄ in seawater
3	Aluminum	8.1	6.2	0.4	Almost all as Al ³⁺ in minerals
4	Hydrogen	0.1	2.9	-	Almost all as H ⁺ in H ₂ O, OH ⁻ in minerals, and HCO ₃ ⁻
5	Sodium	2.4	2.2	1.1	All as Na ⁺ , largely in minerals but also in seawater
6	Calcium	4.1	2.1	1.2	All as Ca ²⁺ , largely in minerals but also in seawater
7	Iron	5.4	2.0	0.4	Mostly as Fe ²⁺ and Fe ³⁺ in minerals
8	Magnesium	2.3	2.0	0.3	All as Mg ²⁺ , largely in minerals but also in seawater
9	Potassium	2.1	1.1	1.5	All as K ⁺ , largely in minerals but also in seawater
10	Titanium	0.5	0.2	0.04	Almost all as Ti ⁴⁺ in minerals
11	Phosphorous	0.1	0.1	0.002	Mostly as P ⁵⁺ in phosphate (PO ₄ ³⁻)
12	Fluorine	0.06	0.07	0.1	All as F ⁻ , largely in minerals but also in seawater
13	Carbon	0.02	0.04	0.0003	Range of valence states from 4- to 4+
14	Manganese	0.1	0.04	0.007	Mostly as Mn ²⁺ , Mn ³⁺ , and Mn ⁴⁺ in minerals
15	Sulfur	0.03	0.02	0.004	Almost all as S ⁶⁺ in sulfate (SO ₄ ²⁻) or S ²⁻ in sulfides
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≥73	Gold	0.0000003	0.00000003	-	As Au ⁰ and Au ⁺

Percentages are calculated from data for average continental crust in Appendix III of Krauskopf (1979). For a more recent but less complete compilation, see Taylor and McLennan (1985). The abundances of the first fifteen elements listed add up to 99.77 molar % of average crust. Gold is included solely to allow comparison of these 15 most abundant elements to a very scarce element. Volume percent for oxygen in boldface illustrates the paraphrase by Mason (1958) of the words of Viktor Goldschmidt that "the lithosphere may well be called the oxysphere".