Workers Strike At World's Biggest Copper Mine In Chile

Workers at the world's largest copper mine in Chile are striking after pay talks with Australian resources giant BHP fell apart, casting a shadow of uncertainty Wednesday over the market for the commodity.

The Escondida mine in northern Chile yearly digs up around five percent of the world's copper, a coveted metal used in everything from electrical wiring to rechargeable batteries.

A global glut in copper stockpiles should blunt the immediate impact of the strike, analysts said, although there are fears it could start to bite if production is slowed for more than a week or two.

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