

Infographic: A Visual Guide to Understanding the Uranium Enrichment Process

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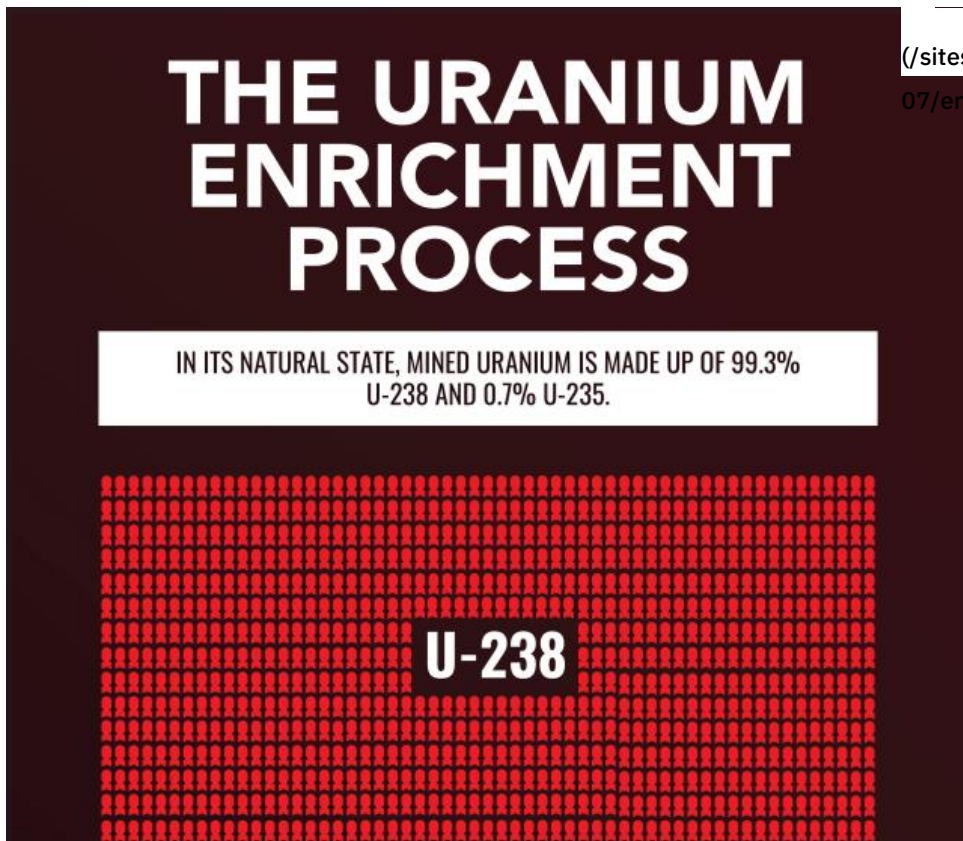
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Articles & Testimony

This infographic is based on the Washington Institute's 2015 nuclear glossary, a detailed guide that provides summaries of technical terms relating to Iran's nuclear progress.

For more detailed information, see the 2015 publication, [Nuclear Iran: A Glossary \(/node/4268\)](/node/4268), by Simon Henderson and Ollie Heinonen.



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U-235
STARTING RATIO = 993:7

THE ENRICHMENT PROCESS ALTERS THE RATIO OF U-238 AND U-235 BY REMOVING U-238, WHICH INCREASES THE PERCENTAGE OF U-235. WEAPONS-GRADE URANIUM MUST HAVE A CONCENTRATION GREATER THAN 90% U-235 AND A RATIO OF ONE U-238 TO SEVEN U-235. THE MORE U-238 THAT IS REMOVED, THE QUICKER AND EASIER IT IS TO REACH THE NEXT HIGHER LEVEL OF ENRICHMENT.

-860 U-238 ATOMS



5%

NEW RATIO = 133:7 ENRICHMENT

-105 U-238 ATOMS



20%

NEW RATIO = 28:7 ENRICHMENT

-23 U-238 ATOMS



60%

NEW RATIO = 5:7 ENRICHMENT

WEAPONS-GRADE

-4 U-238 ATOMS



90%

NEW RATIO = 1:7 ENRICHMENT

RECOMMENDED



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