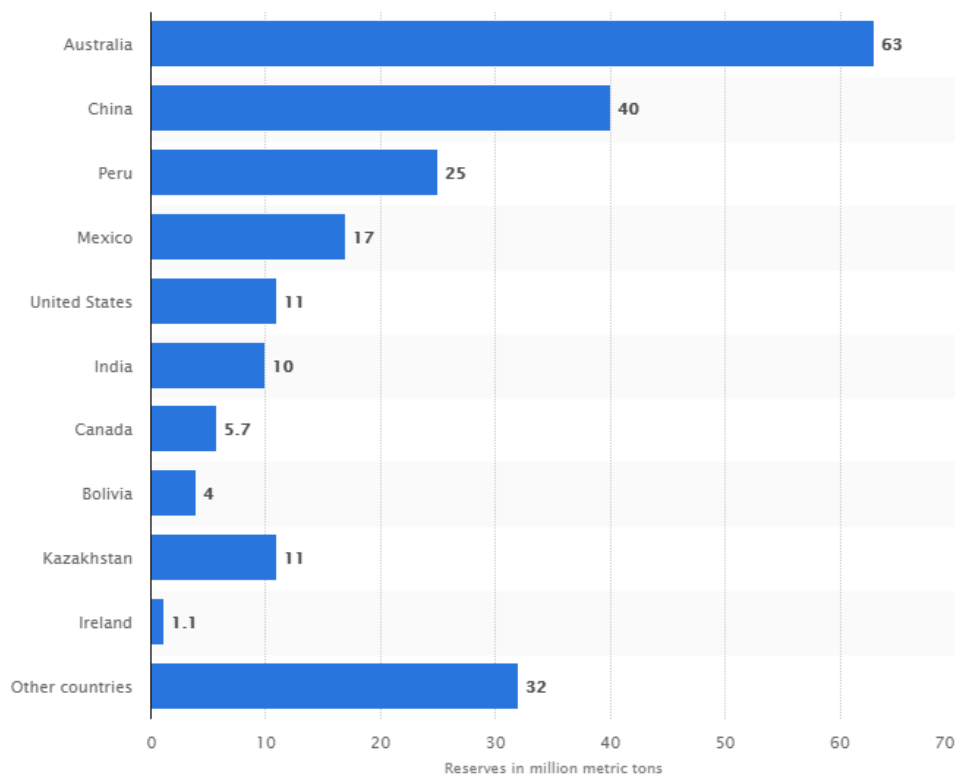


## Zinc Reserves Worldwide

### Global zinc reserves as of 2016, by country (in million metric tons)

Total global reserves of zinc are estimated to reach some 200 million metric tons. Because of the heavy consumption of this metal, zinc reserves are expected to last only for the next 17 years. Australia owns the largest zinc reserves worldwide - an estimated 63 million metric tons. Other countries with significant reserves include China, Peru and Mexico. The United States has zinc reserves that are estimated at about 11 million metric tons. China is the global top producer of zinc from mines. In 2016, Chinese zinc mine production came to some 4.5 million metric tons. That was more than one third of the total global mine production, which was approximately 12.8 million metric tons. Among the largest zinc mining companies is Glencore, while one of the top zinc smelting companies is Nyrstar.

Zinc, which is also known as spelter in a commercial context, is a chemical element and part of the transition metals group. Zinc has been used by humans since ancient times. Still, it has a wide range of applications in modern times. First of all, it is used as an anti-corrosion agent to protect most of all iron and steel from rust. More than half of all zinc consumption is for this purpose. Zinc is also important for the manufacturing of batteries, such as alkaline batteries, zinc-carbon batteries and zinc-air batteries. Zinc is a crucial component for alloys, especially for brass and bronze. From a health-related point of view, zinc is of great importance for the human organism and zinc deficiency can cause many diseases and health problems.





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