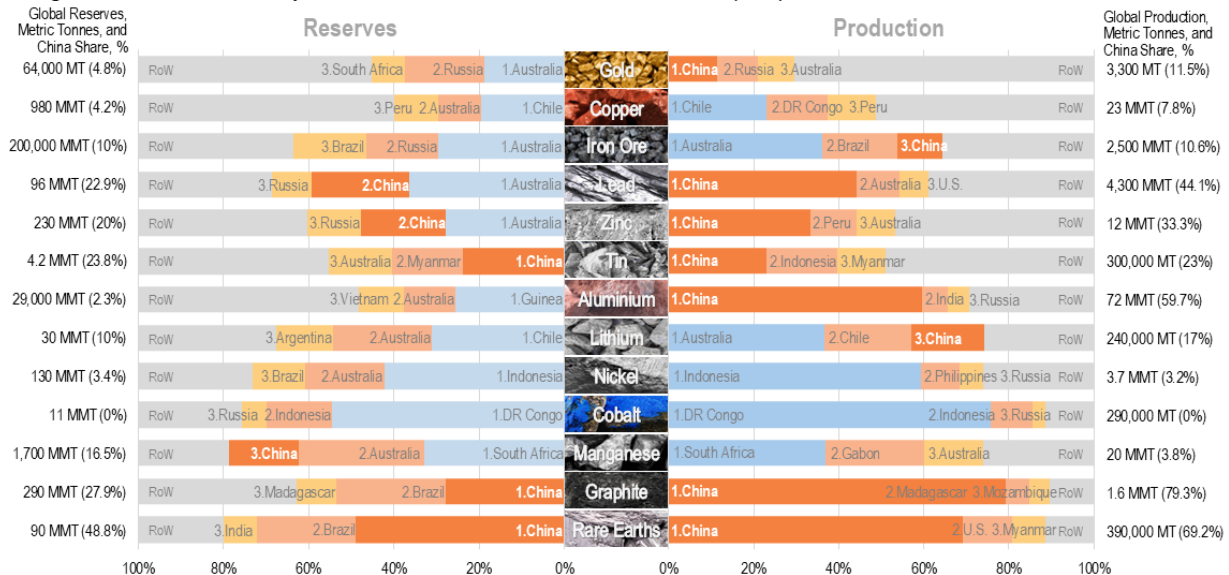


Nexus of the Mining World: China's Share of Global Reserves and Production of Strategic Minerals and Metals

China ranks among the world's top three producers and holders of reserves across a wide range of minerals and metals, providing significant leverage in resource security and the energy transition.

Strategic Minerals and Metals: Top 3 Holders of Reserves and Producers, % Share (2024)



Source: U.S. Geological Survey, ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis. Note: Aluminium reserves use bauxite; production shows primary aluminium smelter output. Copper production shows mine production only. Iron Ore Reserves show crude ore. MT: Metric Tonnes, MMT: Million Metric Tonnes.

China holds the world's largest reserves of tin, graphite and rare earths, as well as the second-largest reserves of lead and zinc and the third-largest reserves of manganese. By contrast, China's reserves of gold, copper, bauxite, nickel and cobalt are relatively modest.

China is the leading global producer of gold, lead, zinc, tin, aluminium, graphite and rare earths, and ranks third in iron ore and lithium production. China accounts for nearly 80% of world graphite output, 70% of rare earths, 60% of aluminium, 44% of lead, 33% of zinc and 23% of tin.

China's dominance in both reserves and production across various key strategic minerals provides the country with significant geopolitical leverage, supply-chain security and industrial capacity. However, in a few critical cases—notably cobalt, copper and nickel—China remains reliant on strategic imports.

Also by ANDAMAN PARTNERS:

- [China in a Global Resources Context — Key Issues, Considerations and Imperatives](#)
- [China's Dependence on Strategic Metal Imports and Implications for Global Mining Firms](#)

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- [Australia's Highly Specialized Export Profile: Risk and Opportunity](#)



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