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News and Highlights

2024 Annual Report of China Mineral Resources (copper, gold, coal, etc.)

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In October 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources of PRC released the 2024 China Mineral Resources Report, which focuses on new progress since 2023 in the geological and mineral survey and evaluation, mineral resource exploration and development, mine ecological restoration, green mine construction, new changes in mineral resource policies and regulations, new measures in mineral resource management, new situations in scientific and technological innovation, as well as the new achievements of the international geological and mineral cooperation.

Till the end of year 2023, a total of 173 kinds of minerals had been discovered in China, including 13 kinds of energy minerals, 59 kinds of metallic minerals, 95 kinds of nonmetallic minerals and 6 kinds of water and gases (Table 1–3). China's oil & gas and non-oil-gas mineral geological exploration investments had achieved positive growth for three consecutive years. In 2023, 124 mineral deposits were newly discovered. In terms of the oil and gas exploration, major breakthroughs had been made in the new bed series, new types and new zones in large oil and gas basins such as Tarim, Junggar and Bohai Bay. For the non-oil-gas mineral exploration, significant progress had been achieved in coal, copper, gold, lithium and phosphorite, etc.

Table 1. Reserves of Main Energy Minerals in China.

No.	Minerals	Unit	Reserves in 2022	Reserves in 2023
1	Coal	Billion tons	207.01	218.57
2	Oil	Billion tons	3.81	3.85
3	Natural gas	Billion m ³	6569.01	6742.45

Note: The reserves of oil and gas (oil and natural gas) are remaining proved technically recoverable reserves as per *Classifications for Petroleum Resources and Reserves* (GB/T 19492-2020) and those of other minerals are the total of proved reserves and probable reserves as per *Classifications for Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves* (GB/T 17766-2020), the same as below.

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As of the end of 2023, China's coal reserves increased by 5.6% compared with the end of 2022, while the remaining proven technically recoverable reserves of oil and natural gas increased by 1.2% and 2.6%, respectively (Table 1).

As of the end of 2023, China's iron ore reserves increased by 4.1% compared with the end of 2022, vanadium increased by 40.2%, lead increased by 13.8%, zinc increased by 30.1%, bauxite increased by 4.7%, tin increased by 16.9%, molybdenum increased by 32.3%, antimony increased by 24.1%, and gold increased by 2.4%.

As of the end of 2023, China's magnesite reserves increased by 2.2% compared to the end of 2022, fluorite increased by 24.4%, potash increased by 15.3%, sodium salt increased by 8.7%, barite increased by 12.4%, kaolin increased by 4.0%, and crystalline graphite increased by 23.9%.

Table 2. Reserves of main metallic minerals in China.

No.	Minerals	Unit	Reserves in 2022	Reserves in 2023
1	Iron	Billion tons of ore	16.25	16.92
2	Manganese	Million tons of ore	275.61	261.30
3	Vanadium	Million tons of V ₂ O ₅	7.34	10.30
4	Copper	Million tons of metal	40.77	40.65
5	Lead	Million tons of metal	21.87	24.87
6	Zinc	Million tons of metal	46.08	59.93
7	Bauxite	Million tons of ore	675.53	707.52
8	Tungsten	Million tons of WO ₃	3.00	2.85
9	Tin	Million tons of metal	1.00	1.17
10	Molybdenum	Million tons of metal	5.90	7.81
11	Antimony	Million tons of metal	0.67	0.83
12	Gold	Tons of metal	3127.46	3203.77
13	Silver	Tons of metal	70344.21	66866.44

This article excerpts the second chapter “Mineral Resources”. If you are interested in this report, please visit the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources (https://www.mnr.gov.cn/sj/sjfw/kc_19263/zgkczybg/202410/t20241022_28712

[17.html](#)) to read.
(Compiled by Li-qiong Jia, Xi-jie Chen, Zi-guo Hao from China Geology Editorial Office).

Table 3. Reserves of main nonmetallic minerals in China.

No.	Minerals	Unit	Reserves in 2022	Reserves in 2023
1	Magnesite	Million tons of ore	680.12	695.21
2	Fluorspar	Million tons of minerals	85.92	106.90
4	Pyrite	Million tons of ore	1147.86	1046.66
5	Phosphorite	Billion tons of ore	3.69	3.44
6	Potash	Million tons of KCl	287.89	322.01
8	Sodium salt	Billion tons of NaCl	14.29	15.54
9	Mirabilite	Billion tons of Na ₂ SO ₄	1.23	0.92
10	Barite	Million tons of ore	107.36	120.69
14	Kaolin	Million tons of ore	693.45	721.47
20	Crystalline graphite	Million tons of minerals	81.01	100.40
22	Talc	Million tons of ore	60.46	48.44