Lead-Zinc Mineral Occurrences in Ireland

Lead and Zinc occur in Ireland in great abundance. Pb-Zn has been mined historically since the Bronze age. Ireland is the highest producer of Zinc in Europe and among the top ten producers in the world.

See also

Fluorspar mineral occurrences, Lithium mineral occurrences, Tungsten mineral occurrences and Baryte mineral occurrences.

Generalities

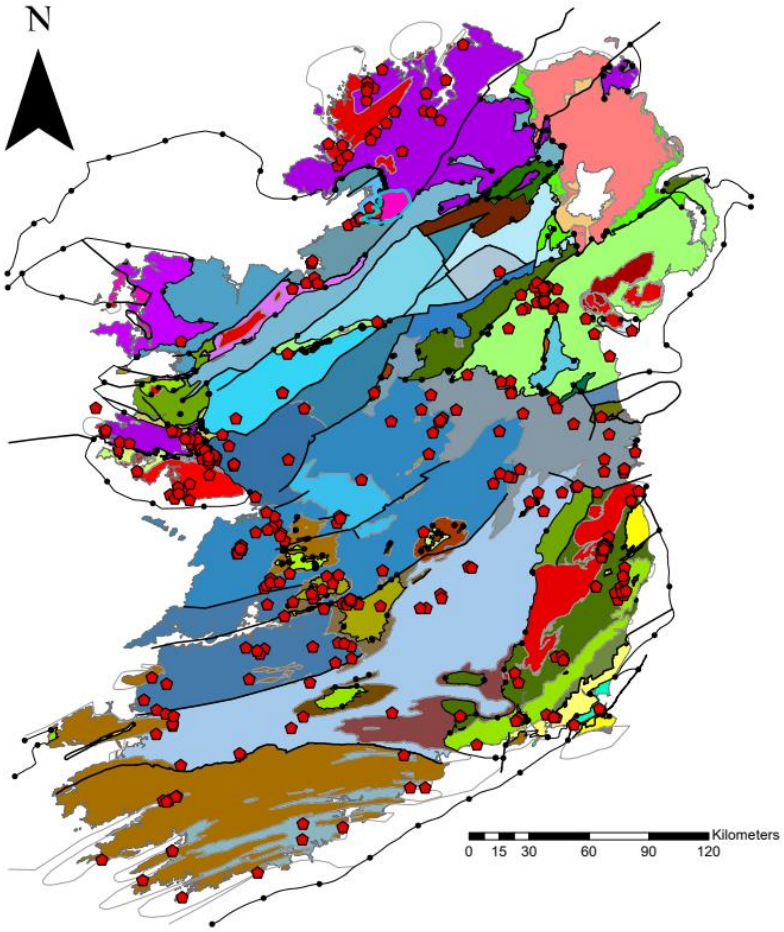
Lead is one of the most widely used metals and over 60%of all lead produced is used in lead-acid batteries for the storage of energy. It is also used as a protective shielding around nuclear reactor.

Zinc is the third most used non- ferrous metal. Around 50% of production is used for galvanising steel to protect it from rust.

Anomalies

The spatial distribution of Lead-Zinc occurrences in Ireland are mainly related to the carbonate succession where most of these deposits are found. They show clear evidence of structural control. They are associated with ENE trending faults.

Also, occurrences are in metamorphic rocks of the North West of Ireland. The one Lead-Zinc occurrence recorded where the structural framework is most detailed in the Lough Allen Basin is also associated with a fault.



1. *Figure displaying the distribution of Pb-Zn occurrences on the structural framework.*

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References

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