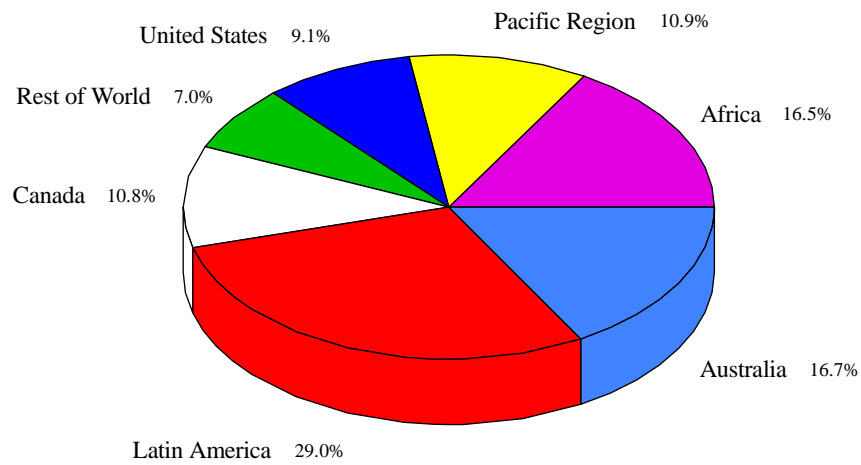


Figure 1.--1997 reported worldwide exploration budgets<sup>1</sup> by region  
(279 companies' budgets totaling \$4.03 billion)



1. Exploration spending for nonfuel, nonferrous minerals.

Source: Metals Economics Group