

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ZINC IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2008

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in metric tons (t) for the months of August and September 2008 was as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Production (month)</u>	<u>Production (average daily)</u>
August 2008	70,100 t	2,260 t
September 2008	61,800 t	2,060 t

Total stocks of zinc held in global London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) warehouses at the end of August and September 2008 were as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Stocks</u>
August 2008	160,325 t
September 2008	155,025 t

There were no aggregated cash disposals (sales) of zinc in August and September 2008 from the National Defense

Stockpile. On August 6, the Defense National Stockpile Center announced that it was suspending sales of zinc from the stockpile until further notice as a result of an ongoing study to address congressional concerns about Department of Defense needs for critical and strategic materials (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2008a; b).

Monthly average prices for Special High Grade Zinc (North American and LME cash) are in table 7.

### References Cited

- Defense National Stockpile Center, 2008a, Amendment no. 003 to Basic Ordering Agreement for zinc under DLA-ZINC-004 : Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, August 6, 1 p.  
Defense National Stockpile Center, 2008b, Stockpile announces sale suspensions and reductions of select commodities (correction): Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, August 7, 1 p.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2007	2008					Year to date
	January-December	May	June	July	August	September	
<b>Production:</b>							
Mine, zinc content of concentrate <sup>2</sup>	803,000	71,300	75,300 <sup>r</sup>	75,200 <sup>r</sup>	72,700	64,100	640,000
Mine, recoverable zinc <sup>2</sup>	769,000	68,700	72,500 <sup>r</sup>	72,400	70,100	61,800	616,000
Smelter, refined zinc <sup>e,3</sup>	278,000	24,200	24,200	24,600	24,600	24,600	219,000
<b>Consumption:</b>							
Apparent, refined zinc <sup>4</sup>	1,050,000	83,600 <sup>r</sup>	85,200 <sup>r</sup>	93,800 <sup>r</sup>	77,000	87,100	769,000
<b>Reported:</b>							
Refined zinc	484,000	24,800 <sup>r</sup>	23,300 <sup>r</sup>	21,500 <sup>r</sup>	21,500	17,400	188,000
Ores <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	732	61	61	61	61	61	549
Zinc-base scrap <sup>e,5</sup> (zinc content)	178,000	14,800	14,800	14,800	14,800	14,800	133,000
Copper-base scrap <sup>e,5</sup> (zinc content)	148,000	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400	111,000
Aluminum- and magnesium-base scrap <sup>e,5</sup> (zinc content)	603	50	50	50	50	50	450
Total <sup>e</sup>	811,000	52,000 <sup>r</sup>	50,500 <sup>r</sup>	48,800 <sup>r</sup>	48,700 <sup>r</sup>	44,700	433,000
<b>Stocks of refined zinc, end of period:</b>							
Producer and consumer <sup>6</sup>	XX	35,400 <sup>r</sup>	36,400 <sup>r</sup>	36,400	36,700	37,100	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	10,100	41	--	101	--	--	243
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>							
Refined zinc	758,000	60,400	60,000	69,300	53,400	62,200	558,000
Oxide (gross weight)	117,000	12,900	11,400	8,120	9,230	13,600	93,600
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	271,000	980	7,720	--	5,800	3,100	41,100
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	21,800	1,410	1,980	1,890	1,400	1,750	13,000
<b>Exports:</b>							
Refined zinc	8,070	137	100	147	1,300	98	2,700
Oxide (gross weight)	34,900	2,390	2,920	4,600	3,290	5,170	31,100
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	816,000	16,100	22,100	148,000	184,000	189,000	639,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	102,000	11,100	6,920	10,200	11,500	8,500	76,500
<b>Price:<sup>7</sup></b>							
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	3,241.54	2,181.63	1,893.89	1,851.88	1,722.70	1,735.05	2,104.08
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	154.40	102.80	89.93	88.02	82.17	82.72	99.43

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals

<sup>2</sup>Partially estimated.

<sup>3</sup>Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

<sup>4</sup>Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus

<sup>5</sup>Monthly estimates are based on reported annual data from the prior year.

<sup>6</sup>Does not include an estimate for companies that report annually.

<sup>7</sup>Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2  
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING  
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2007	2008		Year to date <sup>2</sup>
	January-December	August	September	
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	438,000	22,700	28,800	251,000
Other	163,000	25,800	23,500	216,000
Total	601,000	48,500	52,300	468,000
Brass and bronze	174,000	11,000	13,800	125,000
Zinc-base alloy	189,000	11,100	13,800	115,000
Other uses <sup>3</sup>	84,500	6,470	7,190	62,000
Grand total	1,050,000	77,000	87,100	769,000

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to prior months' data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, casting, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 3  
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL  
DEFENSE STOCKPILE<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory <sup>2</sup>
2007:		
September	174	7,920
October	77	7,850
November	111	7,730
December	--	7,730
January-December	10,100	XX
2008:		
January	12	7,720
February	NA <sup>3</sup>	7,730
March	89	7,640
April	--	7,640
May	41	7,600
June	--	7,600
July	101	7,500
August <sup>4</sup>	--	7,500
September	--	7,500
January-September	243	XX

NA Not available. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes only uncommitted inventory.

<sup>3</sup>Monthly shipments are not reflected by changes in inventory due to an inventory adjustment or shipment delay.

<sup>4</sup>On August 6, 2008, the Defense National Stockpile Center announced that sales of zinc from the National Defense Stockpile were suspended until further notice.

Source: Defense National Stockpile Center.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2007		2008					
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	August		September		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	271,000	\$170,000	5,800	\$5,640	3,100	\$4,040	41,100	\$56,700
Unwrought:								
Refined (slab) zinc	758,000	2,400,000	53,400	102,000	62,200	114,000	558,000	1,250,000
Zinc alloys	9,900	35,000	676	1,250	508	917	5,420	12,300
Wrought:								
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,250	8,900	192	553	197	489	1,780	5,550
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	2,160	12,700	376	2,050	291	1,550	2,660	14,000
Other:								
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	18,600	32,300	709	790	729	1,000	11,900	15,600
Powders, flakes, dust	31,300	141,000	2,610	7,020	2,670	6,660	22,700	69,000
Waste and scrap	21,800	32,500	1,400	1,580	1,750	1,910	13,000	17,000
Chemicals:								
Oxide	117,000	299,000	9,230	15,000	13,600	17,500	93,600	164,000
Chloride	685	3,110	49	168	6	56	361	1,430
Sulfate	31,900	34,300	4,320	4,460	3,630	3,900	33,300	36,700
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	7,320	11,000	370	631	422	647	3,840	6,170

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Includes zinc sulfide (HTS 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), chromates of zinc or of lead (HTS 2841.90.4500), and lithopone and other pigments and preparations based on zinc sulfide (HTS 3206.42.0000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports				Imports for consumption			
	2007	2008			2007	2008		
		August	September	Year to date		August	September	Year to date
<b>Ore and concentrate (zinc content):</b>								
Canada	2,960	323	340	3,390	2,960	323	340	3,390
Ireland	99,200	--	--	--	99,200	--	--	--
Mexico	3,600	--	--	2,730	3,600	--	--	2,730
Peru	166,000	5,480	2,760	35,000	166,000	5,480	2,760	35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>271,000</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>41,100</b>	<b>271,000</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>41,100</b>
<b>Refined (slab) zinc</b>								
Australia	7,000	--	--	--	8,040	--	--	--
Brazil	1,000	--	--	275	1,000	--	--	275
Canada	563,000	45,200	50,200	450,000	563,000	45,200	50,200	450,000
China	2,850	(2)	--	208	8,120	(2)	--	935
Finland	--	--	--	--	374	--	--	--
India	4,190	--	--	--	4,190	--	--	--
Italy	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	17
Japan	--	299	299	921	25	299	299	921
Kazakhstan	49,500	--	5,560	32,800	49,500	--	5,560	32,800
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	9,470	--	--	702
Mexico	109,000	7,580	5,580	56,600	109,000	7,580	5,580	56,600
Norway	--	--	--	--	25	--	--	--
Peru	1,080	345	536	16,200	1,080	345	536	16,200
Russia	4,670	--	--	--	4,670	--	--	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25
Sweden	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
Taiwan	16	3	--	18	16	3	--	18
United Kingdom	(2)	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>742,000</b>	<b>53,400</b>	<b>62,200</b>	<b>557,000</b>	<b>758,000</b>	<b>53,400</b>	<b>62,200</b>	<b>558,000</b>
<b>Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)</b>	<b>18,600</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>18,600</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>11,900</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,030,000</b>	<b>59,900</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>610,000</b>	<b>1,050,000</b>	<b>59,900</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>611,000</b>
<b>Oxide:</b>								
Belgium	430	3,260	2,160	11,600	430	3,260	2,160	11,600
Canada	47,500	3,380	3,730	32,300	47,500	3,380	3,730	32,300
China	341	--	18	146	341	--	18	146
Germany	1,150	214	50	1,030	1,150	214	50	1,030
Italy	15,600	--	4,490	20,100	15,600	--	4,490	20,100
Japan	1,190	45	133	1,190	1,190	45	133	1,190
Mexico	31,100	1,910	2,230	20,300	31,100	1,910	2,230	20,300
Netherlands	14,300	403	767	4,750	14,300	403	767	4,750
Peru	298	17	20	1,130	298	17	20	1,130
Spain	979	--	--	681	979	--	--	681
Sweden	3,800	--	--	(2)	3,800	--	--	(2)
Other	735	1	38	280	735	1	38	280
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>9,230</b>	<b>13,600</b>	<b>93,600</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>9,230</b>	<b>13,600</b>	<b>93,600</b>

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2007		2008					
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	August		September		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	816,000	\$1,170,000	184,000	\$163,000	189,000	\$143,000	639,000	\$527,000
Unwrought:								
Refined (slab) zinc	8,070	6,420	1,300	1,160	98	134	2,700	2,660
Zinc alloys	22,500	58,900	714	1,790	663	1,560	6,650	18,800
Wrought:								
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	26,700	39,400	2,650	4,470	2,150	3,490	22,400	36,600
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	4,310	20,600	558	2,190	462	1,920	4,010	17,200
Other:								
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,200	13,200	128	150	365	194	10,100	4,740
Powders, flakes, dust	19,400	36,600	912	2,100	673	1,600	10,600	23,500
Waste and scrap	102,000	103,000	11,500	11,700	8,500	9,670	76,500	82,500
Chemicals:								
Oxide	34,900	64,200	3,290	4,810	5,170	6,530	31,100	49,400
Chloride	1,700	2,320	217	272	184	207	1,520	1,700
Sulfate	398	708	159	277	39	78	568	781
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	5,830	9,750	1,050	1,620	502	853	5,770	9,180

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Includes zinc sulfide (Schedule B 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), chromates of zinc or of lead (Schedule B 2841.90.4500), and lithopone and other pigments and preparations based on zinc sulfide (Schedule B 3206.42.0000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North American <sup>1</sup>	London Metal Exchange cash <sup>2</sup>	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2007:			
September	135.70	130.67	2,880.76
October	139.68	134.91	2,974.25
November	119.43	115.24	2,540.66
December	111.23	106.70	2,352.29
January-December	154.40	147.03	3,241.54
2008:			
January	110.49	106.13	2,339.81
February	114.60	110.57	2,437.60
March	117.67	113.90	2,511.01
April	106.43	102.66	2,263.16
May	102.80	98.96	2,181.63
June	89.93	85.91	1,893.89
July	88.02	84.00	1,851.88
August	82.17	78.14	1,722.70
September	82.72	78.70	1,735.05
January-September	99.43	95.44	2,104.08

<sup>1</sup>Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premiums or discounts, depending on market conditions.

<sup>2</sup>Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.