

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

David E. Guberman, Lead Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4977, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: dguberman@usgs.gov

Elsie D. Isaac (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7950
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: eisaac@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

LEAD IN DECEMBER 2009

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of lead in December was 32,800 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in December was 1,060 t, 11% greater than that in November 2009. Secondary refinery production of lead was unchanged from that of the previous month.

Total imports of lead for consumption through November 2009 were about 21% lower than those in the same period of 2008. Total exports of lead, exclusive of scrap, in November 2009 were 68% lower than those in the previous month. China, Canada, and the Republic of Korea have been the leading destinations for exported ore and concentrate for the year-to-date through November 2009. Exports of lead scrap in November 2009 decreased by 14% from those in the previous month. Canada and the Republic of Korea were leading destinations for lead scrap exports during the first 11 months of 2009.

According to Platts Metals Week, the average North American producer price for lead in December 2009 was \$1.11 per pound, up slightly from that of the previous month and 36% higher than that in December 2008. The average annual North American producer price for lead in 2009 was \$0.869 per pound, down 28% from that in the previous year. The London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price in December 2009 averaged

\$2,328 per metric ton, up slightly from that of the previous month and 142% higher than that in December 2008. The average annual LME cash price for lead in 2009 was \$1,718 per metric ton, down 18% from that in 2008. Global LME lead stocks at the end of December 2009 were 146,775 t, 6% higher than those at the end of October 2009 and 225% greater than those at month-end December 2008.

The December lead-acid battery shipment report released by the Battery Council International revealed that North American shipments of lead-acid automotive batteries (112.4 million) had declined by about 3% through December 2009 compared with those in the same period of 2008 (116.3 million). North American shipments of replacement lead-acid automotive batteries (98.8 million) for the year-to-date through December 2009 were slightly lower than those in the corresponding period of 2008. Shipments of original equipment lead-acid automotive batteries (13.6 million) through December 2009 declined by 21% compared with shipments through December 2008 (Battery Council International, 2010).

Reference Cited

Battery Council International, 2010, BCI 2009 monthly shipment report: Chicago, IL, Battery Council International, February 9.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2009			
	2008	November	December	January- December
Production:				
Mine (recoverable)	399,000	28,500 ^r	32,800	395,000
Secondary refinery:				
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,150,000	95,800	95,800	1,120,000
Estimated	--	958	958	11,200
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^e	NA	1,250	1,250	15,000
Total secondary	1,150,000	98,000	98,000	1,150,000
Consumption:				
Reported	1,470,000	118,000	114,000	1,380,000
Undistributed ^c	--	3,540	3,420	41,500
Total	1,470,000	121,000	117,000	1,430,000
Stocks, end of period, consumers and secondary smelters	56,500	59,100	61,600	61,600
Imports for consumption:				
Base bullion	2,740	30	NA	739 ²
Refined metal	309,000	24,100	NA	228,000 ²
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate	277,000	16,400	NA	277,000 ²
Bullion	614	--	NA	34 ²
Wrought and unwrought lead	74,200	2,440	NA	75,700 ²
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,330	65	NA	2,060 ²
Scrap (gross weight)	175,000	10,800	NA	132,000 ²
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	120.33	111.03	111.11	86.87

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes data for January-November; December 2009 data were not available at time of publication.

TABLE 2
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price cents/lb	London Metal Exchange cash		Sterling exchange rate dollars/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2008:				
December	81.51	961.89	647.56	1.485405
Year	120.33	2,089.71	1,128.19	1.852265
2009:				
January	66.79	1,131.58	782.46	1.446210
February	66.01	1,099.61	758.55	1.444962
March	66.53	1,238.25	876.74	1.412341
April	67.24	1,382.08	940.30	1.469815
May	71.79	1,439.58	934.07	1.541189
June	81.92	1,673.65	1,012.14	1.635659
July	86.91	1,678.05	1,024.84	1.637377
August	94.50	1,899.26	1,147.34	1.655350
September	107.80	2,203.82	1,348.43	1.634360
October	110.79	2,240.00	1,389.69	1.611869
November	111.03	2,308.19	1,390.84	1.659562
December	111.11	2,327.76	1,431.91	1.625638
Year	86.87	1,718.49	1,086.44	1.564528

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	November 30, 2009	receipts		December 31, 2009
Battery-lead	16,800 [†]	83,400	87,400	12,800
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	996 [†]	5,880	5,800	1,070
Total	17,800 [†]	89,300	93,200	13,900
Percent change from preceding month	XX	-5.4	-7.8	-22.2

[†]Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

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

²Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap.

TABLE 4
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN DECEMBER¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	54,700	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	14,000	(2)	(2)
Other ³	27,100	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	95,800	134	239

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other."
-- Zero.

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

²Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

³Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2009			
	2008	November	December	January-December
Metal products:				
Ammunition, shot and bullets	71,900	4,720	4,520	70,500
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	2,460	319	319	3,920
Cable covering, power and communication and calking lead, building construction	(3)	392	409	5,830
Casting metals	20,100	1,680	1,670	20,100
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	27,900	2,280	2,340	27,100
Solder	6,880	573	573	7,270
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,290,000	105,000	101,000	1,210,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	23,700	1,390	1,390	16,700
Total metal products	1,440,000	116,000	112,000	1,360,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	21,500	1,590	1,590	21,300
Total reported	1,470,000	118,000	114,000	1,380,000
Undistributed ^c	--	3,540	3,420	41,500
Grand total	1,470,000	121,000	117,000	1,430,000

^cEstimated.

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

²Includes lead consumed in foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

³Included in "Metal products:Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products."

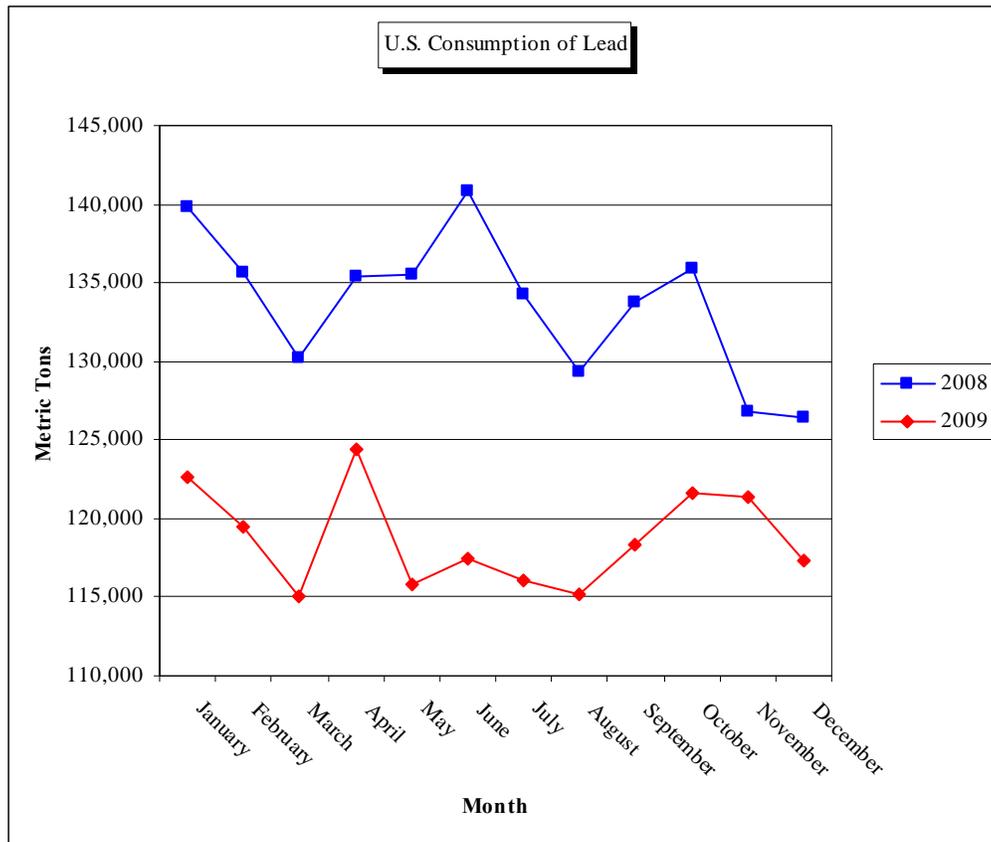


TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks		Consumption	Stocks
	November 30, 2009	Net receipts		December 31, 2009
Soft lead	31,500	76,800	74,900	33,400
Antimonial lead	17,300	22,800	21,300	18,800
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	59,100	116,000	114,000	61,600

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS¹

(Metric tons)

	2008		2009		
	November	Year	October	November	January-
					November
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	27,900	277,000	54,200	16,400	277,000
Bullion	12	614	9	--	34
Materials excluding scrap	6,690	74,200	5,510	2,440	75,700
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	204	2,330	126	65	2,060
Total	34,800	354,000	59,900	18,900	355,000
Gross weight, scrap	12,400	175,000	12,500	10,800	132,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF LEAD BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2008		2009			2008		2009		
	Year	January- November	October	November	January- November	Year	January- November	October	November	January- November
Ore, matte, etc.:										
Canada	41	41	--	--	1,490	41	41	--	--	1,490
Mexico	451	451	--	--	--	451	451	--	--	--
Total	492	492	--	--	1,490	492	492	--	--	1,490
Base bullion:										
Colombia	543	543	--	--	--	543	543	--	--	--
Mexico	2,040	1,940	--	30	705	2,040	1,940	--	30	705
Other	152	152	--	--	34	152	152	--	--	34
Total	2,740	2,640	--	30	739	2,740	2,640	--	30	739
Pigs and bars:										
Canada	219,000	204,000	19,000	21,200	185,000	219,000	204,000	19,000	21,200	185,000
Mexico	58,100	53,300	2,300	2,620	37,600	58,100	53,300	2,300	2,620	37,600
Peru	10,600	10,100	--	--	991	10,600	10,100	--	--	991
Other	22,300	21,900	99	244	3,950	22,300	21,900	99	244	3,950
Total	309,000	290,000	21,400	24,100	228,000	309,000	290,000	21,400	24,100	228,000
Grand total	313,000	293,000	21,400	24,100	230,000	313,000	293,000	21,400	24,100	230,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.