

Mineral Industry Surveys

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LEAD IN JANUARY 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of lead in January was estimated to be 33,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in January was 1,070 t, slightly higher than that in December 2009. Secondary refinery production of lead in January decreased by 3% from that of the previous month and was 3% lower than that in the corresponding period of 2009.

Total imports of lead for consumption for the year to date through December 2009 were about 19% lower than those in the same period of 2008. Imports of refined lead from Peru for the year to date through December 2009 were 91% lower when compared with those in the same period of 2008. This was most likely reflective of a decline in the production of refined lead in Peru owing to the suspension of operations at Doe Run Peru's La Oroya metallurgical complex in early 2009. La Oroya normally produces more than 100,000 t of refined lead per year (Platts Metals Week, 2009). Total exports of lead, exclusive of scrap, through December 2009 were 5% higher than those through December 2008. China (55%), the Republic of Korea (21%), and Canada (16%) were the leading destinations for exported ore and concentrate for 2009. Exports of lead scrap in December 2009 decreased by 19% from those in the previous month. Canada and the Republic of Korea were leading destinations for lead scrap exports during 2009.

According to Platts Metals Week, the average North American producer price for lead in January 2010 was \$1.11 per pound, up slightly from that of the previous month and 67% higher than that in January 2009. The London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of lead in January 2010 averaged \$2,368 per metric ton, up slightly from that of the previous month and 109% higher than that in January 2009. Global LME lead stocks at the end of January 2010 were 157,500 t, 7% higher than those at the end of December 2009 and 193% greater than those at month-end January 2009.

In late January, Doe Run Resources Corp. (St. Louis, MO) reported that an underground equipment fire had taken place at the company's Viburnum #29 lead-zinc-copper mine. Viburnum #29 is one of six lead-producing mines that Doe Run operates

along the Viburnum Trend in southeastern Missouri. According to the company, a truck fire broke out in an underground haul road, and all employees were safely evacuated from the mine with the assistance of mine rescue teams. The fire caused the Viburnum #29 mine shaft to be shut down for 2 days following the incident. The company expected that loss of output during the shutdown would be minimal. Viburnum #29 normally produced 1,800 metric tons per day of ore containing about 4% lead, 0.5% zinc, and 0.2% copper. It is the least productive of the six mines that Doe Run operated in the Viburnum region. When Viburnum #29 was reopened, Doe Run blocked off the area of the mine where the fire had occurred for a U.S. Department of Labor investigation and shifted resources to resume production from other parts of the mine (Platts Metals Week, 2010).

EnerSys (Reading, PA), a leading global distributor and manufacturer of industrial lead-acid batteries, announced that it had purchased the industrial battery business from Douglas Battery Manufacturing Co. (Winston-Salem, NC). Prior to the purchase, Douglas Battery had been one of the leading, privately owned manufacturers of lead-acid batteries in the United States. Douglas specialized in producing motive power lead-acid batteries used in forklifts and other commercial electric-powered vehicles as well as stationary batteries used to provide reserve power in the telecommunications and utilities industries. EnerSys planned to maintain the Douglas Battery brand and designs and retain many of its existing employees (EnerSys, 2010).

References Cited

- EnerSys, 2010, EnerSys purchases industrial battery business from Douglas Battery Manufacturing Co.: Reading, PA, EnerSys news release, January 14, 2 p.
- Platts Metals Week, 2009, Doe Run Peru halted: Platts Metals Week, v. 80, no. 13, March 30, p. 7-8.
- Platts Metals Week, 2010, Doe Run fire cost two days' output: Platts Metals Week, v. 81, no. 5, February 1, p. 17.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2009				2010 January
	2008	January	December	January- December	
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	399,000	33,800	32,800	395,000	33,000 ^e
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,150,000	95,100	95,800	1,120,000	92,600
Estimated	--	951	958	11,200	926
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^e	NA	1,250	1,250	15,000	1,250
Total secondary	1,150,000	97,300	98,000	1,150,000	94,800
Consumption:					
Reported	1,470,000	120,000	114,000	1,380,000	116,000
Undistributed ^e	--	3,590	3,420	41,500	3,490
Total	1,470,000	123,000	117,000	1,430,000	120,000
Stocks, end of period, consumers and secondary smelters	56,500	70,600	61,700 ^r	61,700 ^r	59,700
Imports for consumption:					
Base bullion	2,740	57	105	844	NA
Refined metal	309,000	20,300	23,100	251,000	NA
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	277,000	23,700	9,490	287,000	NA
Bullion	614	16	--	34	NA
Wrought and unwrought lead	74,200	6,230	6,280	82,000	NA
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,330	49	4	2,070	NA
Scrap (gross weight)	175,000	11,800	8,770	140,000	NA
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)					
	120.33	66.79	111.11	86.87	111.24

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

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

TABLE 2
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price cents/lb	London Metal Exchange cash		Sterling exchange rate dollars/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2009:				
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
2010, January	111.24	2,367.70	1,464.68	1.616535

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	December 31, 2009	receipts		January 31, 2010
Battery-lead	13,600 ^r	84,600	82,800	15,400
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	1,070	9,710	9,620	1,170
Total	14,700 ^r	94,300	92,400	16,500
Percent change from preceding month	XX	+5.6	-0.8	+19.4

^rRevised. 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 JANUARY¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	51,000	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	13,900	(2)	(2)
Other ³	27,700	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	92,600	245	277

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				2010 January
	2008	January	December	January- December	
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	71,900	5,000	4,520	70,500	5,490
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	2,460	362	319	3,920	361
Cable covering, power and communication and calking lead, building construction	(3)	648	409	5,830	604
Casting metals	20,100	2,600	1,670	20,100	1,730
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	27,900	2,270	2,340	27,100	2,270
Solder	6,880	577	573	7,270	1,080
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,290,000	105,000	101,000	1,210,000	101,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	23,700	1,400	1,390	16,700	1,390
Total metal products	1,440,000	118,000	112,000	1,360,000	114,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	21,500	1,980	1,590	21,300	1,970
Total reported	1,470,000	120,000	114,000	1,380,000	116,000
Undistributed ^c	--	3,590	3,420	41,500	3,490
Grand total	1,470,000	123,000	117,000	1,430,000	120,000

^cEstimated. -- Zero.

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."

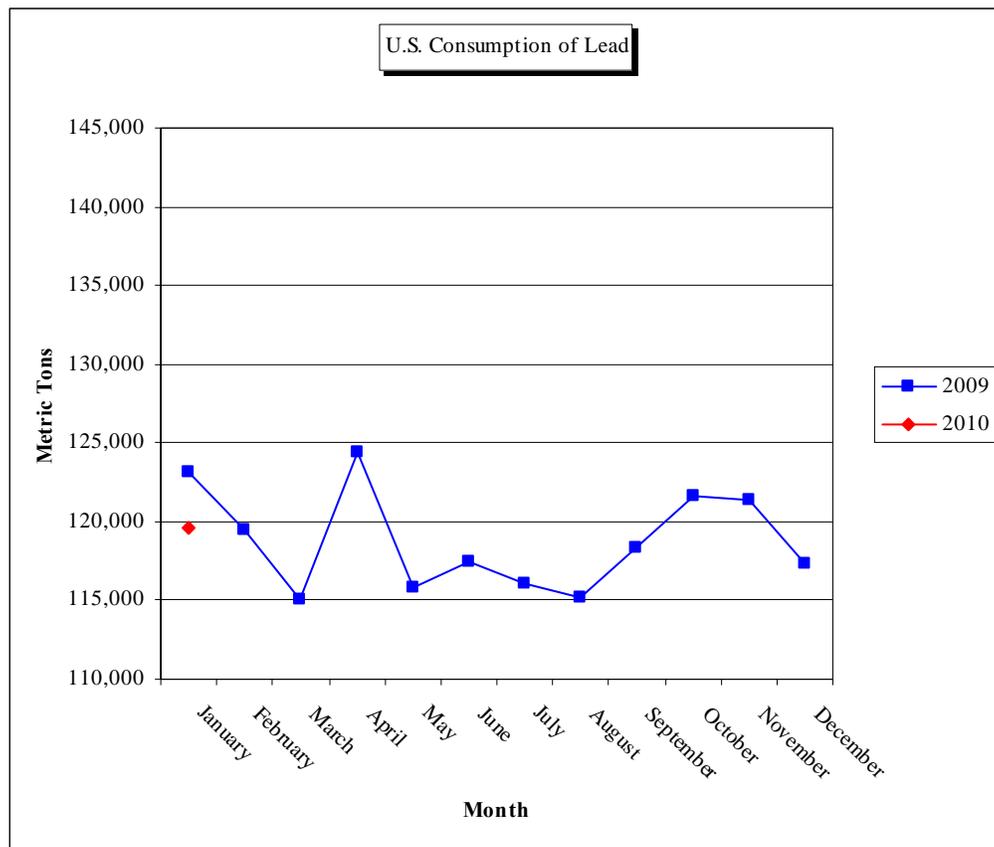


TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks
	December 31, 2009			January 31, 2010
Soft lead	33,400	73,600	76,100	31,000
Antimonial lead	18,800	22,500	22,100	19,200
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	61,700 ^r	114,000	116,000	59,700

^rRevised. 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		
	December	Year	November	December	January-
					December
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	4,440	277,000	16,400	9,490	287,000
Bullion	40	614	--	--	34
Materials excluding scrap	7,970	74,200	2,440	6,280	82,000
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	165	2,330	65	4	2,070
Total	12,600	354,000	18,900	15,800	371,000
Gross weight, scrap	13,400	175,000	10,800	8,770	140,000

-- 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 FOR CONSUMPTION BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	2009			
	2008	November	December	January- December
Ore, matte, etc.:				
Canada	41	--	--	1,490
Mexico	451	--	--	--
Total	492	--	--	1,490
Base bullion:				
Colombia	543	--	--	--
Mexico	2,040	30	105	810
Other	152	--	--	34
Total	2,740	30	105	844
Pigs and bars:				
Canada	219,000	21,200	19,600	205,000
Mexico	58,100	2,620	3,430	41,100
Peru	10,600	--	--	991
Other	22,300	244	75	4,020
Total	309,000	24,100	23,100	251,000
Grand total	313,000	24,100	23,200	253,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.