

Mineral Industry Surveys

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LEAD IN JUNE 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of lead in June was 26,500 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in June was 883 t, down 8% from that in May 2010. Year-to-date mine production through June 2010 was about 8% less than that of the same period of 2009. Secondary refinery production of lead increased 3% compared with that of the previous month. Secondary refinery production through June 2010 was 3% less than that in the corresponding period of 2009.

Total imports of lead for consumption through May 2010 were about 11% higher than those in the same period of 2009. Canada (86%) and Mexico (11%) were the principal sources of imported refined lead through May 2010. Total exports of lead, exclusive of scrap, in May 2010 were 34% lower than those through the same period of 2009. Exports of lead scrap in May 2010 increased by 41% from those in the previous month.

According to Platts Metals Week, the average North American producer price for lead in June 2010 was \$1.05 per pound, down 4% from that of the previous month and 29% higher than that in June 2009. The London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price in June 2010 averaged \$1,703 per metric ton, down 10% from that of the previous month and 2% higher than that in June 2009. Global LME lead stocks at the end of June 2010 were 190,475 t, slightly lower than those at the end of May 2010 and 108% higher than those at month-end June 2009. June marked the first time that LME lead stocks declined on a monthly basis since November 2008.

The Battery Council International reported that 56.8 million lead-acid automotive batteries were shipped in North America

through the first 6 months of 2010, an 8% increase compared with shipments during the same period of 2009. North American shipments of replacement lead-acid automotive batteries (49.6 million) through June 2010 were 5% greater than those in the corresponding period of 2009. The increase in replacement battery shipments in 2010 was partially attributed to purchases from consumers that had decided to defer vehicle maintenance in 2009 owing to the downturn in the economy. Shipments of original equipment (OE) lead-acid automotive batteries (7.16 million) through June 2010 increased by 51% compared with shipments through June 2009. OE battery shipments in June 2010 (1.25 million) were 71% greater than those in June 2009. OE battery shipments had been affected by the slowdown in domestic vehicle production in 2009, and the increase in battery shipments in 2010 indicated that this segment potentially had started to recover. During the first half of 2010, about 3.7 million vehicles (personal cars, trucks, and light commercial vehicles) were manufactured in the United States, a 68% increase compared with those through the first half of 2009 (Battery Council International, 2010; CRU Lead Monitor, 2010).

References Cited

Battery Council International, 2010, BCI 2010 monthly shipment report: Chicago, IL, Battery Council International, July 20.
CRU Lead Monitor, 2010, Indicators of lead consumption: CRU Lead Monitor, July, 12 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2009		2010		
	Year	January- June	May	June	January- June
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	395,000	200,000	29,700 ^r	26,500	185,000
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,120,000	559,000	87,700	90,800	543,000
Estimated	11,200	5,600	877	908	6,300
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^c	15,000	7,500	1,250	1,250	7,500
Total secondary	1,150,000	572,000	89,800	92,900	557,000
Consumption:					
Reported	1,380,000	695,000	114,000 ^r	115,000	681,000
Undistributed ^c	41,500	20,800	3,410 ^r	3,440	20,400
Total	1,430,000	715,000	117,000 ^r	118,000	701,000
Stocks, end of period, consumers and secondary smelters	61,700	65,600	55,500 ^r	57,200	57,200
Imports for consumption:					
Base bullion	844	605	--	NA	146 ²
Refined metal	251,000	130,000	23,900	NA	116,000 ²
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	287,000	110,000	12,600	NA	67,600 ²
Bullion	34	25	--	NA	-- ²
Wrought and unwrought lead	82,000	47,700	4,660	NA	29,800 ²
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,070	1,640	83	NA	412 ²
Scrap (gross weight)	140,000	72,500	5,230	NA	28,100 ²
Platts Metals Week North American producer					
price (cents per pound)	86.87	70.05	109.46	105.49	109.66

^cEstimated. ^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 May only; June 2010 data were not available at time of publication.

TABLE 2
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price ¢/lb	London Metal Exchange cash		Sterling exchange rate \$/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2009:				
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
January-December	86.87	1,718.49	1,086.44	1.564528
2010:				
January	111.24	2,367.70	1,464.68	1.616535
February	110.35	2,122.45	1,358.72	1.562100
March	110.53	2,171.66	1,443.00	1.504961
April	110.88	2,264.48	1,526.82	1.483130
May	109.46	1,882.18	1,285.55	1.464105
June	105.49	1,703.39	1,154.71	1.475168
January-June	109.66	2,085.31	1,372.25	1.517667

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks		Consumption	Stocks
	May 31, 2010	Net receipts		June 30, 2010
Battery-lead	28,300 ^r	83,800	80,900	31,100
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	805 ^r	6,380	6,300	888
Total	29,100 ^r	90,100	87,200	32,000
Percent change from preceding month ³	XX	-5.8	-6.8	+10.0

¹Revised. 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.

³Based on unrounded data; preceding monthly may have been revised.

TABLE 4
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN JUNE¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	52,300	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	10,300	(2)	(2)
Other ³	28,200	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	90,800	128	234

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-December	January-June	May	June	January-June
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	70,500	36,600	6,430	6,540	37,100
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	3,920	2,000	233	233	1,440
Cable covering, power and communication and caulking lead, building construction	5,830	3,570	626	675	3,570
Casting metals	20,100	10,100	1,350	1,350	6,870
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	27,100	13,500	2,310	2,290	17,000
Solder	7,270	3,610	687	687	4,430
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,210,000	605,000	98,900 ^r	99,800	591,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	16,700	8,330	1,220	1,220	7,490
Total metal products	1,360,000	683,000	112,000 ^r	113,000	669,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	21,300	11,500	1,980	1,980	11,800
Total reported	1,380,000	695,000	114,000 ^r	115,000	681,000
Undistributed ^c	41,500	20,800	3,410 ^r	3,440	20,400
Grand total	1,430,000	715,000	117,000 ^r	118,000	701,000

^cEstimated. ^rRevised.

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.

U.S. Consumption of Lead

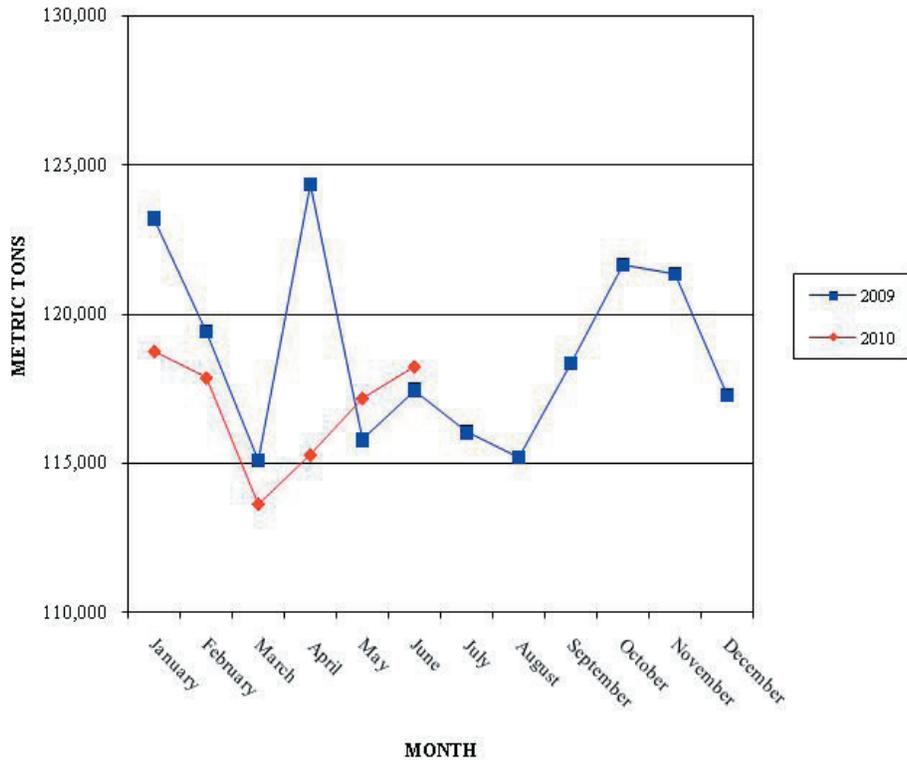


TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks		Consumption	Stocks
	May 31, 2010	Net receipts		June 30, 2010
Soft lead	29,900 ^r	74,300	73,700	30,400
Antimonial lead	16,500 ^r	22,500	21,700	17,300
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	55,500 ^r	117,000	115,000	57,200

^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)

	2009		2010		
	Year	January- May	April	May	January- May
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	287,000	106,000	21,000	12,600	67,600
Bullion	34	25	--	--	--
Materials excluding scrap	82,000	40,600	4,080	4,660	29,800
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,070	1,610	124	83	412
Total	371,000	148,000	25,200	17,400	97,800
Gross weight, scrap	140,000	59,700	3,710	5,230	28,100

-- 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		2010		
	Year	January- May	April	May	January- May
Ore, matte, etc., Canada	1,490	744	--	--	--
Base bullion:					
Mexico	810	384	20	--	108
Other	34	--	--	--	38
Total	844	384	20	--	146
Pigs and bars:					
Canada	205,000	83,300	19,900	21,000	100,000
Mexico	41,100	17,400	2,190	2,670	12,400
Peru	991	991	--	--	--
Other	4,020	2,540	2,090	259	3,530
Total	251,000	104,000	24,100	23,900	116,000
Grand total	253,000	105,000	24,200	23,900	117,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.