

Mineral Industry Surveys

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LEAD IN JULY 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of lead in July was 29,900 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in July was 964 t, up by 9% from that in June 2010. Year-to-date mine production through July 2010 was about 7% less than that of the same period of 2009. Secondary refinery production of lead increased slightly compared with that of the previous month. Secondary refinery production through July 2010 was 3% less than that in the corresponding period of 2009.

Total imports of lead for consumption through June 2010 were about 9% higher than those in the same period of 2009. Canada (87%) and Mexico (11%) were the principal sources of imported refined lead through June 2010. Total exports of lead, exclusive of scrap, in June 2010 were 27% lower than those through the same period of 2009. Exports of lead scrap in June 2010 decreased by 9% from those in the previous month. Lead scrap exports through the first 6 months of 2010 were 55% less than during the same period of 2009. The steep decline in exports of lead scrap during the first half of 2010 reflected increased scrutiny from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection on the classification of lead-acid battery exports. The agencies had discovered that shipments of spent lead-acid batteries were frequently mislabeled and were incorrectly identified as lead waste and scrap [Harmonized Tariff System (HTS) number

7802.00.0030]. Spent lead-acid batteries that were shipped intact for the recovery of lead were supposed to be identified by HTS number 8548.10.0540 and were subject to EPA regulation pertaining to the shipment of hazardous waste for recycling. Total exports of spent lead-acid batteries used for starting engines during the first 6 months of 2010 increased by 413% from those during the same period of 2009. The majority of used lead-acid batteries were trucked to plants in Canada and Mexico (Marley, 2010a, b).

The average Platts Metals Week North American producer price for lead in July 2010 was \$0.95 per pound, down by 10% from that of the previous month and 9% higher than that in July 2009. The London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of lead in July 2010 averaged \$1,836 per metric ton, up by 8% from that of the previous month and 9% higher than that in July 2009. Global LME lead stocks at the end of July 2010 were 183,950 t, 3% lower than those at the end of June 2010 and 71% greater than those at month-end June 2009.

References Cited

- Marley, Michael, 2010a, Lead exports reflect Customs refocus: American Metal Market, July 8. (Accessed October 4, 2010, via <http://www.amm.com>.)
Marley, Michael, 2010b, US exports of scrap batteries weaken: American Metal Market, August 10. (Accessed October 4, 2010, via <http://www.amm.com>.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2009		2010		
	Year	January- July	June	July	January- July
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	395,000	231,000	26,500	29,900	215,000
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,120,000	654,000	90,800	92,000	635,000
Estimated	11,200	6,540	908	920	7,220
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^c	15,000	8,750	1,250	1,250	8,750
Total secondary	1,150,000	669,000	92,900	94,200	651,000
Consumption:					
Reported	1,380,000	807,000	115,000	112,000	793,000
Undistributed ^c	41,500	24,200	3,440	3,370	23,800
Total	1,430,000	832,000	118,000	116,000	817,000
Stocks, end of period, consumers and secondary smelters	61,700	66,600	57,200	57,600	57,600
Imports for consumption:					
Base bullion	844	677	--	NA	146 ²
Refined metal	251,000	146,000	26,700	NA	143,000 ²
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	287,000	153,000	13,900	NA	81,600 ²
Bullion	34	25	--	NA	-- ²
Wrought and unwrought lead	82,000	53,600	4,730	NA	34,600 ²
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,070	1,730	30	NA	442 ²
Scrap (gross weight)	140,000	84,300	4,750	NA	32,800 ²
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)					
	86.87	72.46	105.49	95.11	107.58

^cEstimated. 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-June only; July 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:			
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
July	95.11	1,836.40	1,201.59	1.528305
January-July	107.58	2,049.75	1,347.87	1.519186

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks
	June 30, 2010			July 31, 2010
Battery-lead	31,100	84,200	92,000	23,400
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	888	7,910	8,150	654
Total	32,000	92,100	100,000	24,000
Percent change from preceding month ³	XX	+2.2	+14.8	-25.0

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 JULY¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	54,600	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	8,150	(2)	(2)
Other ³	29,300	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	92,000	127	220

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- July	June	July	January- July
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	70,500	42,600	6,540	6,490	43,500
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	3,920	2,320	233	233	1,670
Cable covering, power and communication and caulking lead, building construction	5,830	3,730	675	675	4,250
Casting metals	20,100	11,700	1,350	1,330	8,190
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	27,100	15,800	2,290	2,310	19,300
Solder	7,270	4,240	687	687	5,120
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,210,000	704,000	99,800	97,500	689,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	16,700	9,720	1,220	1,220	8,710
Total metal products	1,360,000	794,000	113,000	110,000	779,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	21,300	13,300	1,980	1,890	13,600
Total reported	1,380,000	807,000	115,000	112,000	793,000
Undistributed ^c	41,500	24,200	3,440	3,370	23,800
Grand total	1,430,000	832,000	118,000	116,000	817,000

^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.

U.S. Consumption of Lead

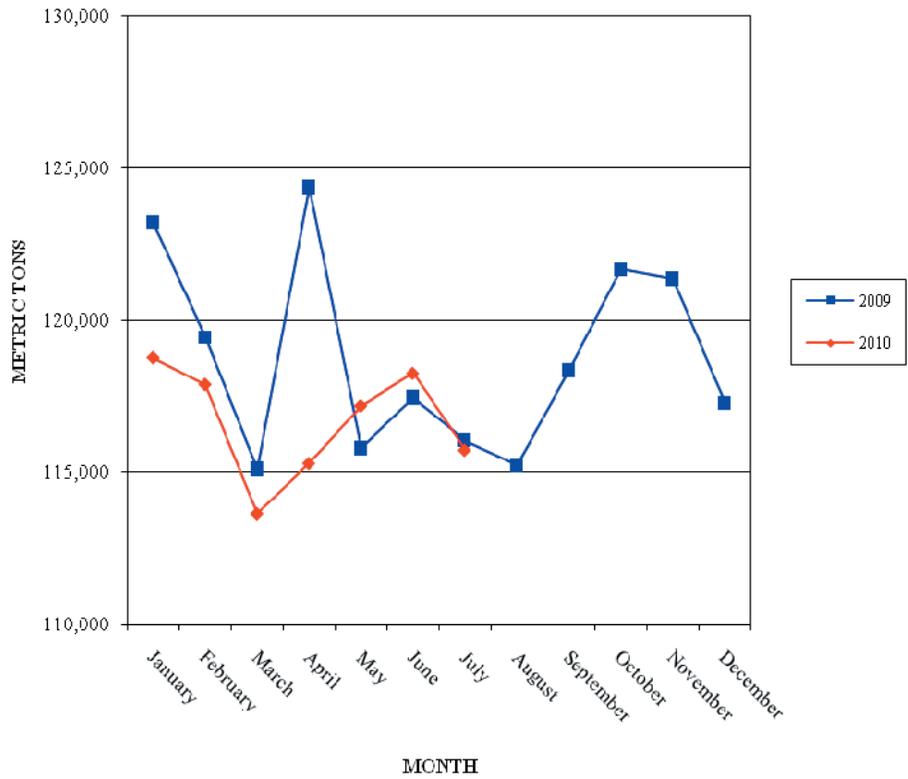


TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks		Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks
	June 30, 2010	July 31, 2010			
Soft lead	30,400	32,300	75,300	73,400	32,300
Antimonial lead	17,300	16,100	19,500	20,700	16,100
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W	W
Total	57,200	57,600	113,000	112,000	57,600

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 unless otherwise specified)

	2009		2010		
	Year	January- June	May	June	January- June
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	287,000	110,000	12,600	13,900	81,600
Bullion	34	25	--	--	--
Materials excluding scrap	82,000	47,700	4,660	4,730	34,500
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,070	1,640	83	30	442
Total	371,000	159,000	17,400	18,700	117,000
Gross weight, scrap	140,000	72,500	5,230	4,750	32,800
Spent lead-acid batteries, used for starting engines (units)	7,300,000	1,340,000	1,010,000	1,180,000	6,880,000

-- 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		2010		
	Year	January- June	May	June	January- June
Ore, matte, etc., Canada	1,490	1,090	--	--	--
Base bullion:					
Mexico	810	571	--	--	108
Other	34	34	--	--	38
Total	844	605	--	--	146
Pigs and bars:					
Canada	205,000	101,000	21,000	23,400	124,000
Mexico	41,100	24,300	2,670	3,140	15,600
Peru	991	991	--	--	--
Other	4,020	3,540	259	158	3,690
Total	251,000	130,000	23,900	26,700	143,000
Grand total	253,000	132,000	23,900	26,700	143,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.