

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

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

Elsie D. Isaac (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7966
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: eisaac@usgs.gov

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

LEAD IN AUGUST 2014

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of lead in August was 30,400 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in July was 981 t, essentially unchanged from that in July. Year-to-date lead mine production was 8% greater than during the same period in 2013 owing to increased production in all of the lead-producing States—Alaska, Idaho, and Missouri.

Secondary refinery production of lead in August was slightly less than that of the previous month, and year-to-date production was 4% less than that in the same period in 2013. The decline in secondary production during the first 8 months of the year was partially owing to the ongoing temporary shutdown of Exide Technologies' lead refinery in Vernon, CA (90,000-metric-ton-per-year capacity), that began in mid-March 2014. (See Lead in July 2014.)

Total imports of lead for consumption increased by 60% in August 2014 from those in the previous month, and imports during the first 8 months of 2014 were 20% greater than those in the same period of 2013. The increase in imports was attributed to the closure of Doe Run Resources Corp.'s (St. Louis, MO) primary lead smelter in Herculaneum, MO, at yearend 2013, and consumers anticipating potential refined lead supply disruptions during late 2014. Teck Resources Ltd. planned a 6-week maintenance shutdown at its lead smelter at Trail, British Columbia, Canada, during the fourth quarter of 2014 and Doe Run suspended operations at its metallurgical complex in La Oroya, Peru (CRU Lead Monitor, 2014, p. 7.)

Total exports of lead, exclusive of scrap, decreased by 31% in August from those of the previous month owing to a decrease in exports of lead in ore and concentrates. Year-to-date total exports, however, were 55% greater than those in the same period in 2013, primarily owing to increased exports of lead contained in concentrates, the majority of which went to China.

The Platts Metals Week average North American Market price for lead in August 2014 was \$1.12 per pound, a slight

increase from that of the previous month and from that in August 2013. The London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price for lead in August 2014 averaged \$2,236 per metric ton, slightly greater than that in the previous month and that in August 2013. The Platts average U.S. used lead-acid batteries price in August 2014 was \$0.395 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in July and 4% more than that in August 2013. Global LME lead stocks at the end of August 2014 were 220,550 t, slightly more than those at the end of July 2014 and 19% greater than those at the end of August 2013.

Update

The Battery Council International reported that 115.1 million lead-acid automotive batteries were shipped by North American producers during the first 11 months of 2014, a slight increase from shipments during the same period in 2013. Shipments of replacement lead-acid automotive batteries (96.0 million) were essentially unchanged, and shipments of original equipment lead-acid automotive batteries (19.1 million) increased by 8% from those during the same period of 2013 (Battery Council International, 2015, p. 21–22).

List services and Web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>.

References Cited

Battery Council International, 2015, BCI 2014 monthly shipment report: Chicago, IL, Battery Council International, December, 22 p.
CRU Lead Monitor, 2014, Industry news: CRU Lead Monitor, October, 16 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2013		2014		
	January– December ^p	January– August	July	August	January– August
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	331,000	222,000	30,500	30,400	241,000
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,170,000	776,000	94,700	91,600	741,000
Estimated	11,700	7,760	957	925	7,480
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^c	15,000	10,000	1,250	1,250	10,000
Total secondary	1,190,000	794,000	96,900	93,800	758,000
Consumption of refined lead, apparent ^{c,2}	1,750,000	141,000	131,000	132,000	1,120,000
Stocks, end of period, consumers and secondary smelters	69,300	81,400	62,500	74,000	74,000
Imports for consumption:					
Base bullion	1,900	1,620	32	--	249
Refined metal	500,000	345,000	34,800	55,900	416,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	215,000	111,000	40,000	24,600	185,000
Bullion	349	349	302	49	963
Wrought and unwrought lead	48,200	34,200	4,860	6,500	41,300
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,610	1,190	57	43	635
Scrap (gross weight)	34,900	23,700	2,480	4,070	23,100
Platts Metals Week North American Producer price (cents per pound)	114.77	114.83	NA	NA	NA
Platts Metals Week North American Market price (cents per pound)	NA	NA	110.68	112.45	107.82

^cEstimated. ^pPreliminary. NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

²Smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports plus stock change.

TABLE 2
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American Producer ¹	North American Market ²	London Metal Exchange cash		Used lead-acid batteries ³
	¢/lb	¢/lb	¢/lb	\$/t	¢/lb
2013:					
August	114.88	NA	98.56	2,172.86	37.75
September	114.56	NA	94.71	2,088.00	36.63
October	114.65	NA	95.75	2,111.03	36.40
November	114.58	NA	94.80	2,089.77	37.25
December	114.73	NA	96.74	2,132.66	37.40
January–December	114.77	NA	97.15	2,141.84	38.00
2014:					
January	114.78	108.39	97.45	2,148.47	39.75
February	114.65	107.15	95.71	2,110.05	39.63
March	114.45	104.67	93.27	2,056.24	39.25
April	105.67	105.67	94.60	2,085.56	38.70
May	NA	106.62	95.11	2,096.71	39.00
June	NA	106.91	95.39	2,102.92	39.25
July	NA	110.68	99.28	2,188.79	39.40
August	NA	112.45	101.43	2,236.18	39.50
January–August	NA	107.82	96.53	2,128.12	39.31

NA Not available.

¹Platts Metals Week North American Producer price.

²Platts Metals Week North American Market price. Reflects the LME lead cash price plus the Platts premium for 99.97% lead.

³Platts Metals Week assessment for used lead-acid automotive batteries (50% lead) picked up in U.S. Midwest, suitable for delivery to secondary smelters within 30 days.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN AUGUST 2014¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks July 31, 2014	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks August 31, 2014
Battery-lead	44,700	80,900	79,000	46,600
Other ²	4,520	2,390	2,270	4,630
Total	49,200	83,300	81,200	51,200
Percent change from preceding month ³	XX	-3.5	-7.8	+4.1

XX Not applicable.

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

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

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

TABLE 4
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN AUGUST 2014¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	71,600	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	19,300	W	W
Other ²	719	151	318
Total lead-base	91,600	151	318

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.

²Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production ²	Imports ^{3,4}	Exports ^{3,4}	Stock change during period	Apparent consumption ⁵
2013: ^P					
August	109,000	32,900	3,480	(2,120)	141,000
September	108,000	41,300	4,180	(4,060)	150,000
October	112,000	39,300	3,820	(8,080)	156,000
November	111,000	38,700	2,940	(4,200)	151,000
December	104,000	35,900	1,650	4,270	134,000
January–December	1,300,000	500,000	41,600	11,800	1,750,000
2014:					
January	92,700	66,600	1,430	(1,280)	159,000
February	91,700	30,200	2,360	4,390	115,000
March	97,900	49,800	5,440	5,410	137,000
April	96,300	62,500	6,650	(417)	152,000
May	94,500	56,200	4,970	1,700	144,000
June	94,500	59,800	6,010	2,630	146,000
July	96,900	34,800	4,520	(4,060)	131,000
August	93,800	55,900	6,300	11,500	132,000
January–August	758,000	416,000	37,700	19,900	1,120,000

^PPreliminary.

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

²Monthly data include secondary refined lead an estimate for primary refined lead.

³Import and export data are for Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) codes 7801.10.0000, 7801.91.0000, 7801.99.9030, 7801.99.9050.

⁴Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

⁵Smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports plus stock change.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

	2013		2014		
	Year	January–August	July	August	January–August
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	215,000	111,000	40,000	24,600	185,000
Bullion	349	349	302	49	963
Wrought and unwrought lead	48,200	34,200	4,860	6,500	41,300
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,610	1,190	57	43	635
Total	265,000	147,000	45,200	31,200	228,000
Gross weight, scrap	34,900	23,700	2,480	4,070	23,100
Spent lead-acid batteries, used for starting engines (units)	26,300,000	17,100,000	2,800,000 ^r	2,770,000	19,800,000

^rRevised.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Material and country of origin	2013		2014		
	Year	January– August	July	August	January– August
Ore, matte, etc; Canada	18	--	--	--	--
Base bullion:					
Canada	--	--	--	--	45
Mexico	148	148	32	--	80
Venezuela	1,750	1,470	--	--	124
Total	1,900	1,620	32	--	249
Pigs and bars:					
Australia	46,800	46,600	--	--	--
Belgium	1,440	1,440	--	--	--
Brazil	887	887	--	--	--
Canada	257,000	176,000	22,700	21,700	178,000
China	441	--	--	--	23
Chile	4,220	2,650	--	204	3,140
Dominican Republic	440	440	--	35	161
Ecuador	2,020	811	283	547	6,650
France	11,900	11,600	69	161	366
Guatemala	639	419	--	--	--
India	1,020	774	--	--	9,440
Israel	4,190	2,760	500	718	2,100
Kazakhstan	4,980	4,980	1,180	10,300	47,500
Korea, Republic of	2,200	1,000	92	8,430	21,300
Mexico	111,000	69,100	8,020	7,180	80,800
Nigeria	400	400	--	--	--
Peru	39,600	16,600	--	4,460	49,700
Russia	5,220	5,220	1,280	1,320	12,800
Sri Lanka	1,030	525	--	217	540
United Kingdom	2,370	2,130	727	362	2,670
Venezuela	980	405	--	235	640
Other	383	189	--	2	115
Total	500,000	345,000	34,800	55,900	416,000
Grand total	502,000	346,000	34,900	55,900	416,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.