



# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## LEAD IN MARCH 2003

Domestic mine production, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, increased by 5% in March compared with production in February. Secondary refinery production increased by about 3% in March, and reported consumption remained essentially unchanged compared with the previous month.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average North American producer price and the average London Metal Exchange cash price (U.S. dollars) decreased by 0.11% and 4.0%, respectively, in March.

Demand for lead in North America continued at a steady pace in March, reportedly showing marginal growth in the industrial battery sector. The tightness in the supply of refined lead in Europe appeared to be easing as imports from Asia and the United States began to arrive during the month (CRU International Ltd., 2003).

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of lead in March under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement, DLA-Lead-005, was 2,803 metric tons (t) (3,090 short tons). Sales in the first 6 months of fiscal year 2003

(October 2002 through March 2003) totaled 30,063 t (33,139 short tons).

Doe Run Resources Corp., St. Louis, MO, and East Penn Manufacturing Company, Inc., Lyon Station, PA, have reported ongoing plans to increase secondary lead production at their respective facilities. According to a company report, Doe Run has applied to the State of Missouri for an air permit that would allow the company to increase secondary lead production at its Boss, MO, smelter by 25%. A spokesperson at East Penn stated that further study is underway to establish an appropriate configuration of additional furnaces for increasing the secondary lead output (Platts Metals Week, 2003).

### References Cited

- CRU International Ltd., 2003, Market commentary: CRU Monitor—Lead, April, p. 2.  
Platts Metals Week, 2003, Doe Run, East Penn plan secondary lead hikes: Platts Metals Week, v. 74, no. 11, March 17, p. 1.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2002		2003		
	January - December	January - March	February	March	January - March
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	440,000	113,000	34,900	36,500	110,000
Primary refinery	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,090,000	254,000	81,500	84,100	259,000
Estimated	11,000	2,560	823	849	2,620
Recovered from copper-base scrap <sup>e</sup>	15,000	3,750	1,250	1,250	3,750
Total secondary	1,110,000	260,000	83,600	86,200	265,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Primary refineries	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary smelters and consumers	88,000	85,600	78,200	80,700	80,700
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrates	6	--	--	NA	-- <sup>2</sup>
Refined metal	210,000	57,000	14,500	NA	29,200 <sup>2</sup>
Consumption:					
Reported	1,520,000	360,000	118,000	118,000	357,000
Undistributed <sup>e</sup>	150,000	35,600	11,600	11,700	35,300
Total	1,670,000	396,000	129,000	130,000	393,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrates	241,000	18,700	15,100	NA	28,500 <sup>2</sup>
Bullion	256	82	--	NA	123 <sup>2</sup>
Wrought and unwrought lead	43,200	7,100	6,430	NA	13,200 <sup>2</sup>
Ash and residues	--	--	--	NA	-- <sup>2</sup>
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	516	89	22	NA	61 <sup>2</sup>
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	106,000	23,400	5,890	NA	13,800 <sup>2</sup>
Platt's Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	43.56	43.69	43.63	43.58	43.58

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes data for January - February only; March data not available at time of publication.

TABLE 2  
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price cents/lb	LME		Sterling exchange rate dollars/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2002:				
March	43.65	479.76	337.16	1.422925
December	43.54	443.22	279.41	1.586295
Year	43.56	452.29	301.96	1.503145
2003:				
January	43.54	444.30	274.68	1.617538
February	43.63	475.40	295.66	1.607947
March	43.58	456.36	288.38	1.582471

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks
	February 28, 2003			March 31, 2003
Battery-lead	18,500	80,800	82,200	17,100
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	1,500	4,080	4,020	1,550
Other <sup>2</sup>	1,810	2,050	2,040	1,840
Total	21,800	87,000	88,200	20,500
Percent change from preceding month	XX	+1.6	+0.5	-5.8

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

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap not elsewhere classified.

TABLE 4  
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM  
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN MARCH 2003<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	59,000	--	--
Remelt lead	W	W	W
Antimonial lead	24,400	W	W
Other <sup>2</sup>	W	W	--
Total lead-base	84,100	49	428

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

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5  
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Uses	2002		2003		
	January - December	January - March	February	March	January - March
<b>Metal products:</b>					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	39,300	11,100	2,800	2,530	8,370
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	1,610	829	205	209	594
Cable covering, power and communication and calking lead, building construction	2,920	896	381	400	1,120
Casting metals	6,270	1,960	523	523	1,570
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	19,700	16,300	1,690	1,660	5,010
Solder	1,880	388	187	178	542
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,360,000	309,000	106,000	107,000	320,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products <sup>2</sup>	1,030	587	6	5	16
<b>Total metal products</b>	<b>1,440,000</b>	<b>341,000</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>337,000</b>
Other oxides and miscellaneous uses	83,800	18,700	5,620	5,640	19,900
<b>Total reported</b>	<b>1,520,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>357,000</b>
Undistributed consumption <sup>c</sup>	150,000	35,600	11,600	11,700	35,300
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,670,000</b>	<b>396,000</b>	<b>129,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>393,000</b>

<sup>c</sup>Estimated.

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

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

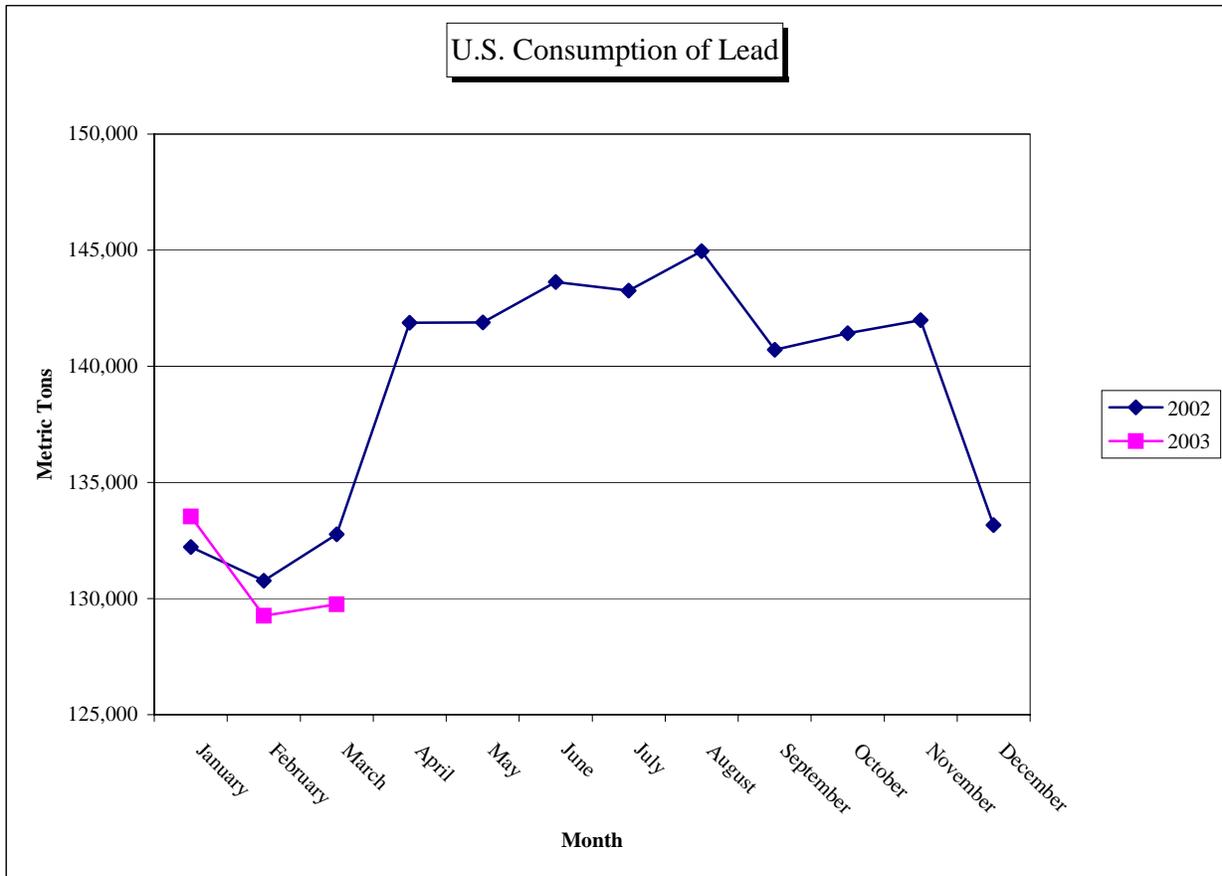


TABLE 6  
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks
	February 28, 2003			March 31, 2003
Soft lead	36,400	70,100	68,200	38,300
Antimonial lead	27,900	27,400	26,800	28,500
Lead alloys	W	22,900	22,900	W
Copper-base scrap	W	11	12	W
Total	78,200	120,000	118,000	80,700

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

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

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2002		2003		
	Year	February	January	February	January -
					February
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	241,000	3,640	13,400	15,100	28,500
Bullion	256	--	123	--	123
Materials excluding scrap	43,200	3,080	6,790	6,430	13,200
Ash and residues	--	--	--	--	--
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	516	66	39	22	61
Total	285,000	6,790	20,300	21,600	41,900
Gross weight: Scrap	106,000	6,930	7,940	5,890	13,800

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no 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 ORIGIN<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2002		2003			2002		2003		
	Year	January - February	January	February	January - February	Year	January - February	January	February	January - February
Ore, matte, etc.:										
Other	6	--	--	--	--	6	--	--	--	--
Total	6	--	--	--	--	6	--	--	--	--
Pigs and bars:										
Australia	43,700	7,720	--	10,100	10,100	2,630	1,100	--	--	--
Canada	172,000	21,400	13,900	12,400	26,300	172,000	21,400	12,000	12,400	26,300
China	28,200	9,810	--	--	--	28,200	9,810	9,810	--	--
Germany	185	24	--	--	--	185	24	--	--	--
Mexico	7,460	302	865	2,020	2,880	7,460	302	38	2,020	2,880
Other	246	3	3	1	4	94	3	--	1	1
Total	251,000	39,300	14,700	24,600	39,300	210,000	32,700	21,900	14,500	29,200
Reclaimed scrap, including ash and residues	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grand total	251,000	39,300	14,700	24,600	39,300	210,000	32,700	21,900	14,500	29,200

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.