

Mineral Industry Surveys

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LEAD IN AUGUST 2005

Domestic mine production, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 38,300 metric tons (t) in August, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This was a decrease of about 3% compared with production in July 2005 and an increase of about 4% compared with that of August 2004. Secondary refined lead production (94,800 t) was essentially unchanged from that of the previous month and reported consumption (126,000 t) was up by about 4% compared with that of July. When compared with that of August 2004, secondary production was down by about 2% and reported consumption was up by about 11%.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average August North American producer price increased nominally (less than 0.2%) from that of the previous month to 60.46 cents per pound and was about 6% higher than the August 2004 price. The London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME)

cash price in August ranged from a low of \$844 per metric ton (August 9) to a high of \$914.00 per metric ton (August 12), and averaged \$886.53 per metric ton, about a 4% increase compared with the July price and a 4% decrease compared with the price in August 2004. During August, global LME lead stocks decreased by 10,375 t to 54,050 t.

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of lead in August, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Lead-005, was 2,040 t (approximately 2,250 short tons), with an approximate value of \$1.9 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005, Stockpile announces lead sales for August 2005: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, September 6, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2004		2005		
	Year	January - August	July	August	January - August
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	430,000	293,000 ^r	39,500	38,300	288,000
Primary refinery	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,120,000	745,000 ^r	92,600	92,600	740,000
Estimated	11,300	7,520	935	936	7,480
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^c	15,000	10,000	1,250	1,250	10,000
Total secondary	1,140,000	762,000 ^r	94,700	94,800	758,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Primary refineries	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary smelters and consumers	66,100	85,300 ^r	61,500 ^r	59,200	59,200
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrate	3	1	--	NA	10 ²
Refined metal	197,000	125,000	27,500	NA	168,000 ²
Consumption:					
Reported	1,480,000	985,000 ^r	120,000	126,000	998,000
Undistributed ^c	44,300	29,500 ^r	3,610	3,770	29,900
Total	1,520,000	1,010,000 ^r	124,000	129,000	1,030,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	292,000	182,000	20,800	NA	98,800 ²
Bullion	129	64	6	NA	94 ²
Wrought and unwrought lead	82,400	58,600	4,090	NA	34,500 ²
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,020	565	47	NA	1,060 ²
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	56,300	37,500	5,090	NA	40,900 ²
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	55.14	52.58	60.36	60.46	60.67

^cEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

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

²Includes data for January - July only; August data were 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	
2004:				
August	53.88	869.66	457.77	1.827909
December	60.73	974.39	505.22	1.928639
Year	55.14	885.95	483.26	1.832475
2005:				
June	60.76	985.66	542.25	1.817736
July	60.36	854.07	487.83	1.750745
August	60.46	886.53	494.05	1.794426

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	July 31, 2005	receipts		August 31, 2005
Battery-lead	12,700	83,500	83,400	12,800
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	13,700	13,400	13,600	13,500
Total	26,400	96,900	97,000	26,300
Percent change from preceding month	XX	3.4	3.4	-0.4

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 not elsewhere classified.

TABLE 4
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN AUGUST 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	70,100	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	22,200	(2)	(2)
Other ³	378	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	92,600	140	259

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

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

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	2004		2005		
	January - December	January - August ^r	July	August	January - August
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	61,500	41,000	4,240	5,090	38,900
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	4,190	2,790	281	281	2,250
Cable covering, power and communication and calking lead, building construction	5,540	3,690	174	413	3,660
Casting metals	17,900	11,900	1,490	1,490	12,000
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	32,400	21,600	2,690	2,690	21,600
Solder	7,440	4,960	533	632	4,990
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,290,000	858,000	106,000	110,000	875,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	1,770	1,180	185	185	2,090
Total metal products	1,420,000	945,000	116,000	121,000	960,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	59,600	39,700	4,650	4,870	37,800
Total reported	1,480,000	985,000	120,000	126,000	998,000
Undistributed ^c	44,300	29,500	3,610	3,770	29,900
Grand total	1,520,000	1,010,000	124,000	129,000	1,030,000

^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.

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

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks		Consumption	Stocks
	July 31, 2005	Net receipts		August 31, 2005
Soft lead	33,200 ^r	58,900	59,800	32,300
Antimonial lead	12,100	33,000	34,400	10,800
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	61,500 ^r	111,000	114,000	59,200

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

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

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS¹

(Metric tons)

	2004		2005		
	July	Year	June	July	January -
					July
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	46,500	292,000	4,440	20,800	98,800
Bullion	7	129	12	6	94
Materials excluding scrap	5,960	82,400	3,220	4,090	34,500
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	13	1,020	140	47	1,060
Total	52,500	375,000	7,810	24,900	134,000
Gross weight: Scrap	3,130	56,300	6,400	5,090	40,900

¹Data 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 ORIGIN¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2004		2005			2004		2005		
	Year	January - July	June	July	January - July	Year	January - July	June	July	January - July
Base bullion:										
Mexico	3	1	--	--	--	3	1	--	--	--
Other	--	--	4	--	10	--	--	4	--	10
Total	3	1	4	--	10	3	1	4	--	10
Pigs and bars:										
Australia	--	--	--	--	18,800	13,700	10,200	--	5,590	24,400
Canada	166,000	89,400	17,400	14,200	115,000	166,000	89,400	17,400	14,200	115,000
Mexico	8,810	7,500	1,880	1,810	5,800	8,810	7,500	1,880	1,810	5,800
Peru	7,270	2,390	468	3,170	10,600	7,270	2,390	468	3,170	10,600
Other	1,310	1,060 ^r	5,010	2,680	11,900	1,450	1,180 ^r	5,010	2,690	11,900
Total	183,000	100,000	24,800	21,900	162,000	197,000	111,000	24,800	27,500	168,000
Grand total	183,000	100,000	24,800	21,900	162,000	197,000	111,000	24,800	27,500	168,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.