

Mineral Industry Surveys

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LEAD IN AUGUST 2006

Domestic mine production of lead, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 36,800 metric tons (t) in August, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Mine production for the first 8 months of 2006 was slightly greater than that of January through August 2005. Secondary refinery production of lead was 97,000 t in August, 2% higher than that of July.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average North American producer price increased slightly from that of the previous month to 76.47 cents per pound. The London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price in August averaged \$1,173.36 per metric ton, a 12% increase from the July

2006 average price. During August, global LME lead stocks decreased by 20,850 t to 78,350 t at month's end.

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of lead in August, under the Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Lead-005, was 1,100 t, with an approximate value of \$1.3 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006, Stockpile announces lead BOA sales for August 2006: 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)

	2005		2006		
	Year	January - August	July	August	January - August
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	426,000	281,000 ^r	36,600	36,800	283,000
Primary refinery	143,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,140,000 ^r	763,000 ^r	92,700 ^r	94,800	758,000
Estimated	11,600 ^r	7,710 ^r	936 ^r	957	7,650
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^c	15,000	10,000	1,250	1,250	10,000
Total secondary	1,170,000 ^r	781,000 ^r	94,900 ^r	97,000	775,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Secondary smelters and consumers	64,700 ^r	59,200	49,000 ^r	48,000	48,000
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrate	29	29	29	NA	278 ²
Refined metal	298,000	191,000	29,100	NA	209,000 ²
Consumption:					
Reported	1,460,000	976,000 ^r	121,000 ^r	122,000	979,000
Undistributed ^c	45,300	30,200 ^r	3,760 ^r	3,780	30,300
Total	1,510,000	1,010,000 ^r	125,000 ^r	126,000	1,010,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	390,000	260,000	19,100	NA	85,500 ²
Bullion	198	134	20	NA	173 ²
Wrought and unwrought lead	64,600	40,400	4,440	NA	42,900 ²
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,270	1,110	498	NA	3,730 ²
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	67,300	46,500	9,000	NA	54,600 ²
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	61.03	60.67	76.05	76.47	75.35

^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	
2005:				
August	60.46	886.53	494.05	1.794426
December	64.78	1,123.51	643.55	1.745805
Year	61.03	975.98	537.10	1.817133
2006:				
June	75.69	963.34	522.55	1.843536
July	76.05	1,051.74	570.25	1.844345
August	76.47	1,173.36	619.49	1.894070

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	July 31, 2006	receipts		August 31, 2006
Battery-lead	28,100	108,000	107,000	28,600
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	1,890	9,470	9,380	1,980
Total	30,000	117,000	117,000	30,600
Percent change from preceding month	XX	5.0	4.5	1.9

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 2006¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	72,000	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	22,400	(2)	(2)
Other ³	352	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	94,800	137	300

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	2005		2006		
	January - December	January - August ^r	July	August	January - August
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	61,300 ^r	40,900	5,910 ^r	6,500	51,700
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	3,900 ^r	2,600	382	412	3,220
Cable covering, power and communication and calking lead, building construction	6,460 ^r	4,300	541	564	5,460
Casting metals	19,500 ^r	13,000	1,630	1,630	13,000
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	30,300 ^r	20,200	2,450	2,450	19,900
Solder	8,370 ^r	5,580	652	655	5,430
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,290,000 ^r	857,000	106,000 ^r	106,000	849,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	1,680 ^r	1,120	144	148	1,190
Total metal products	1,420,000 ^r	945,000	118,000 ^r	118,000	949,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	47,100 ^r	31,400	3,800	3,800	30,300
Total reported	1,460,000	976,000	121,000 ^r	122,000	979,000
Undistributed ^c	45,300	30,200	3,760 ^r	3,780	30,300
Grand total	1,510,000	1,010,000	125,000 ^r	126,000	1,010,000

^rEstimated. ^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.

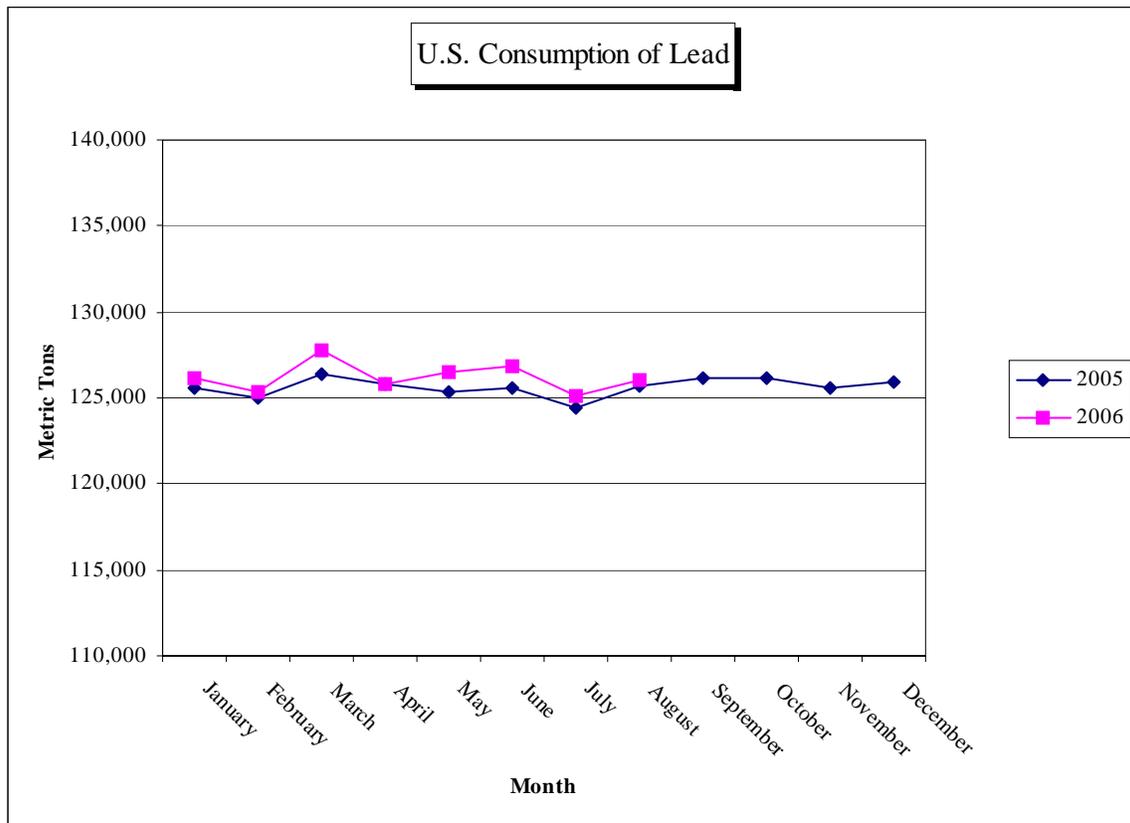


TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION
OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks
	July 31, 2006			August 31, 2006
Soft lead	22,800 ^r	68,000	68,200	22,600
Antimonial lead	9,390	26,200	26,900	8,660
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	49,000 ^r	121,000	122,000	48,000

^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)

	2005		2006		
	July	Year	June	July	January - July
	Lead content:				
Ore and concentrates	20,800	390,000	5,360	19,100	85,500
Bullion	6	198	24	20	173
Materials excluding scrap	4,090	64,600	4,590	4,440	42,900
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	47	1,270	681	498	3,730
Total	24,900	456,000	10,700	24,100	132,000
Gross weight: Scrap	5,090	67,300	10,400	9,000	54,600

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				
	2005		2006			2005		2006		
	Year	January - July	June	July	July	Year	January - July	June	July	January - July
Base bullion:										
Canada	18	--	249	29	278	18	--	249	29	278
Other	10	10	--	--	--	10	10	--	--	--
Total	29	10	249	29	278	29	10	249	29	278
Pigs and bars:										
Australia	19,300	18,800	--	8,750	9,230	39,600	24,400	--	8,750	9,230
Canada	190,000	115,000	15,000	13,700	132,000	190,000	115,000	15,000	13,700	132,000
Mexico	15,200	5,800	1,710	2,060	8,690	15,200	5,800	1,710	2,060	8,690
Peru	23,900	10,600	1,660	3,300	19,600	23,900	10,600	1,660	3,300	19,600
Other	28,300	11,900	1,450	1,250	38,800	29,000	11,900	1,450	1,250	38,800
Total	277,000	162,000	19,800	29,100	209,000	298,000	168,000	19,800	29,100	209,000
Grand total	277,000	162,000	20,000	29,100	209,000	298,000	168,000	20,000	29,100	209,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.