

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JUNE 2009

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in June 2009 was 58,600 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in June was 1,950 t, 8% higher than that in May 2009 but 16% lower than that in June 2008.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for June 2009 was 73.39 cents

per pound, 5% higher than the May 2009 average price but 18% lower than the June 2008 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for June 2009 increased to \$1,556.92 per metric ton, 5% higher than the average price in May 2009 but an 18% decrease compared with the average price in June 2008. During June 2009, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 29,775 t to 353,375 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2008	2009		
	January- December	May	June	January- June
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	778,000	58,200	60,700	364,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	748,000	56,100	58,600	352,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,3}	286,000	15,300	15,300	90,400
Consumption:				
Apparent, refined zinc ⁴	1,000,000	72,600	70,800	438,000
Reported:				
Refined zinc	248,000	17,300	17,300	103,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	732	61	61	366
Zinc-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	178,000	14,800	14,800	88,900
Copper-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	148,000	12,400	12,400	74,200
Aluminum- and magnesium-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	603	50	50	302
Total ^e	575,000	44,600	44,600	266,000
Stocks of refined zinc, end of period:				
Producer and consumer ⁵	XX	33,600	33,400	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	250	--	--	1
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	725,000	55,500	56,100	350,000
Oxide (gross weight)	114,000	4,550	5,860	31,900
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	63,200	--	10,800	30,200
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	17,000	298	645	3,830
Exports:				
Refined zinc	3,250	191	882	1,700
Oxide (gross weight)	39,900	1,360	1,660	7,590
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	725,000	20,100	14,600	98,700
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	91,000	3,680	3,990	19,400
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,874.20	1,483.16	1,556.92	1,322.28
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	88.93	70.05	73.39	62.86

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Partially estimated.

³Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

⁴Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁵Does not include an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁶Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

	2008	2009		January- June
	January- December	May	June	
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	438,000	32,500	31,900	198,000
Other	168,000	12,400	12,100	75,500
Total	606,000	44,900	44,000	273,000
Brass and bronze	165,000	12,800	12,400	74,200
Zinc-base alloy	149,000	10,900	10,500	66,100
Other uses ²	81,600	4,090	3,940	24,400
Grand total	1,000,000	72,600	70,800	438,000

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

²Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, casting, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 3
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory ²
2008:		
June	--	7,600
July	101	7,500
August ³	--	7,500
September	--	7,500
October	8 ⁴	7,490
November	--	7,490
December	--	7,490
January-December	250	XX
2009:		
January	--	7,490
February	--	7,490
March	1 ⁴	7,490
April	--	7,490
May	--	7,490
June	--	7,490
January-June	1	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Includes only uncommitted inventory.

³On August 6, 2008, the Defense National Stockpile Center announced that sales of zinc from the National Defense Stockpile were suspended until further notice.

⁴Inventory reconciliation.

Source: Defense National Stockpile Center.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2008		2009			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	June		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	63,200	\$73,200	10,800	\$8,780	30,200	\$22,200
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	725,000	1,480,000	56,100	84,600	350,000	447,000
Zinc alloys	7,170	14,900	233	377	1,480	2,090
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,330	6,860	57	215	804	1,860
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,330	17,100	175	725	1,830	8,580
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,200	17,200	626	460	3,870	3,300
Powders, flakes, dust	28,500	81,200	1,780	3,830	10,600	19,800
Waste and scrap	17,000	20,300	645	560	3,830	3,080
Chemicals:						
Oxide	114,000	192,000	5,860	8,360	31,900	42,200
Chloride	462	1,780	61	129	168	511
Sulfate	41,900	45,700	1,530	1,140	15,800	11,500
Compounds, other ²	4,600	7,650	277	386	1,680	2,240

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

²Includes zinc sulfide (HTS 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), chromates of zinc or of lead (HTS 2841.90.4500), and lithopone and other pigments and preparations based on zinc sulfide (HTS 3206.42.0000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
		June	Year to date		June	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	7,480	--	1,550	7,480	--	1,550
Mexico	2,730	--	5,410	2,730	--	5,410
Peru	53,000	10,800	23,200	53,000	10,800	23,200
Total	63,200	10,800	30,200	63,200	10,800	30,200
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Argentina	5,010	--	--	5,010	--	--
Australia	--	--	--	25	--	--
Belgium	908	--	--	908	--	--
Brazil	982	495	495	982	495	495
Canada	563,000	41,800	267,000	563,000	41,800	267,000
China	215	--	308	1,370	--	308
Germany	1	--	--	1	--	--
Italy	17	--	--	17	--	--
Japan	1,220	201	392	1,220	201	392
Kazakhstan	38,100	--	493	38,100	--	493
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	702	--	--
Mexico	90,800	6,750	48,400	90,800	6,750	48,400
Peru	21,200	6,810	32,500	21,200	6,810	32,600
Spain	--	--	--	40	--	--
Sweden	2	--	--	2	--	--
Taiwan	18	--	1	18	--	1
Uzbekistan	2,260	--	--	2,260	--	--
Total	724,000	56,100	350,000	725,000	56,100	350,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)						
	13,200	626	3,870	13,200	626	3,870
Grand total	800,000	67,500	384,000	802,000	67,500	384,000
Oxide:						
Australia	81	--	338	81	--	338
Belgium	11,600	19	57	11,600	19	57
Canada	40,400	3,260	16,200	40,400	3,260	16,200
China	346	48	168	346	48	168
Germany	1,150	(2)	59	1,150	(2)	59
India	1	1	1	1	1	1
Italy	25,100	--	2	25,100	--	2
Japan	1,490	65	673	1,490	65	673
Mexico	26,100	1,930	12,400	26,100	1,930	12,400
Netherlands	5,470	513	1,840	5,470	513	1,840
Norway	3	--	2	3	--	2
Peru	1,150	18	157	1,150	18	157
Spain	681	--	--	681	--	--
United Kingdom	76	--	9	76	--	9
Other	233	--	--	233	--	--
Total	114,000	5,860	31,900	114,000	5,860	31,900

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2008		2009			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	June		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	725,000	\$598,000	14,600	\$9,840	98,700	\$63,500
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	3,250	3,260	882	823	1,700	1,680
Zinc alloys	8,550	22,800	564	1,480	2,040	4,680
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	28,100	47,500	1,550	2,480	8,230	14,200
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	4,970	20,900	618	1,670	2,880	7,950
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	10,500	5,120	997	1,130	4,380	4,030
Powders, flakes, dust	13,000	28,500	1,350	2,410	5,410	9,990
Waste and scrap	91,000	99,100	3,990	4,720	19,400	20,500
Chemicals:						
Oxide	39,900	61,700	1,660	2,660	7,590	12,700
Chloride	1,830	2,110	173	265	1,030	1,430
Sulfate	578	799	111	235	467	798
Compounds, other ²	7,210	11,900	356	1,170	2,390	6,150

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

²Includes zinc sulfide (Schedule B 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), chromates of zinc or of lead (Schedule B 2841.90.4500), and lithopone and other pigments and preparations based on zinc sulfide (Schedule B 3206.42.0000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North	London Metal Exchange	
	American ¹	cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2008:			
June	89.93	85.91	1,893.89
July	88.02	84.00	1,851.88
August	82.17	78.14	1,722.70
September	82.72	78.70	1,735.05
October	63.01	59.03	1,301.49
November	55.84	52.26	1,152.16
December	53.42	49.90	1,100.01
January-December	88.93	85.01	1,874.20
2009:			
January	56.94	53.85	1,187.11
February	53.44	50.43	1,111.75
March	58.03	55.17	1,216.31
April	65.30	62.53	1,378.44
May	70.05	67.27	1,483.16
June	73.39	70.62	1,556.92
January-June	62.86	59.98	1,322.28

¹Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premiums or discounts, depending on market conditions.

²Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.