

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Amy C. Tolcin, Zinc Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4940, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: atolcin@usgs.gov

Pamela Wiser (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7956
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: pwiser@usgs.gov

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

ZINC IN JULY 2009

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in July 2009 was 57,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in July was 1,840 t, 6% lower than that in June 2009 and 18% lower than that in July 2008.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for July 2009 was 74.36 cents per pound, slightly higher than the June 2009 average price but

16% lower than the July 2008 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for July 2009 increased to \$1,578.21 per metric ton, slightly higher than the average price in June 2009 but a 15% decrease compared with the average price in July 2008. During July 2009, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 54,575 t to 407,950 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2008	2009		
	January- December	June	July	January- July
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	778,000	60,700	59,000	423,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	748,000	58,600	57,000	409,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	286,000	15,300	18,400	109,000
Consumption:				
Apparent, refined zinc ⁴	1,000,000	70,800	80,000	518,000
Reported:				
Refined zinc	248,000	17,300	17,800	120,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	732	61	61	427
Zinc-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	178,000	14,800	14,800	104,000
Copper-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	148,000	12,400	12,400	86,500
Aluminum- and magnesium-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	603	50	50	352
Total ^e	575,000	44,600	45,000	311,000
Stocks of refined zinc, end of period:				
Producer and consumer ⁵	XX	33,400	33,200	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	250	--	--	1
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	725,000	56,100	61,500	412,000
Oxide (gross weight)	114,000	5,860	5,010	36,900
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	63,200	10,800	4,120	34,300
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	17,000	645	577	4,400
Exports:				
Refined zinc	3,250	882	117	1,820
Oxide (gross weight)	39,900	1,660	1,800	9,390
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	725,000	14,600	91,400	190,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	91,000	3,990	3,330	22,700
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,874.20	1,556.92	1,578.21	1,358.84
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	88.93	73.39	74.36	64.50

⁶Estimated. 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- December	June	July	January- July
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	438,000	31,900	35,700	234,000
Other	168,000	12,100	13,900	89,500
Total	606,000	44,000	49,600	323,000
Brass and bronze	165,000	12,400	13,600	87,700
Zinc-base alloy	149,000	10,500	12,300	78,300
Other uses ²	81,600	3,940	4,510	28,900
Grand total	1,000,000	70,800	80,000	518,000

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:		
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
July	--	7,490
January-July	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)	July		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	63,200	\$73,200	4,120	\$3,240	34,300	\$25,400
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	725,000	1,480,000	61,500	95,600	412,000	542,000
Zinc alloys	7,170	14,900	369	627	1,850	2,720
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,330	6,860	108	293	911	2,150
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,330	17,100	267	1,140	2,100	9,720
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,200	17,200	458	625	4,330	3,930
Powders, flakes, dust	28,500	81,200	1,660	3,850	12,300	23,700
Waste and scrap	17,000	20,300	577	583	4,400	3,660
Chemicals:						
Oxide	114,000	192,000	5,010	7,340	36,900	49,600
Chloride	462	1,780	26	91	194	601
Sulfate	41,900	45,700	2,760	1,930	18,500	13,400
Compounds, other ²	4,600	7,650	253	427	1,940	2,670

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	
		July	Year to date		July	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	7,480	--	1,550	7,480	--	1,550
Ireland	--	4,120	4,120	--	4,120	4,120
Mexico	2,730	--	5,410	2,730	--	5,410
Peru	53,000	--	23,200	53,000	--	23,200
Total	63,200	4,120	34,300	63,200	4,120	34,300
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Argentina	5,010	--	--	5,010	--	--
Australia	--	--	--	25	--	--
Belgium	908	--	--	908	--	--
Brazil	982	488	983	982	488	983
Canada	563,000	50,300	318,000	563,000	50,300	318,000
China	215	--	308	1,370	--	308
Germany	1	--	--	1	--	--
Italy	17	--	--	17	--	--
Japan	1,220	100	492	1,220	100	492
Kazakhstan	38,100	--	493	38,100	--	493
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	702	32	32
Mexico	90,800	8,200	56,600	90,800	8,200	56,600
Peru	21,200	2,370	34,800	21,200	2,380	35,000
Spain	--	--	--	40	--	--
Sweden	2	--	--	2	--	--
Taiwan	18	3	4	18	3	4
Uzbekistan	2,260	--	--	2,260	--	--
Total	724,000	61,500	411,000	725,000	61,500	412,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)						
Grand total	800,000	66,000	450,000	802,000	66,100	450,000
Oxide:						
Australia	81	(2)	338	81	(2)	338
Belgium	11,600	8	65	11,600	8	65
Canada	40,400	2,630	18,800	40,400	2,630	18,800
China	346	22	189	346	22	189
Germany	1,150	79	138	1,150	79	138
India	1	--	1	1	--	1
Italy	25,100	1	3	25,100	1	3
Japan	1,490	35	708	1,490	35	708
Mexico	26,100	1,920	14,300	26,100	1,920	14,300
Netherlands	5,470	309	2,150	5,470	309	2,150
Norway	3	--	2	3	--	2
Peru	1,150	--	157	1,150	--	157
Spain	681	--	--	681	--	--
United Kingdom	76	--	9	76	--	9
Other	233	--	--	233	--	--
Total	114,000	5,010	36,900	114,000	5,010	36,900

-- 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)	July		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	725,000	\$598,000	91,400	\$75,700	190,000	\$139,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	3,250	3,260	117	155	1,820	1,840
Zinc alloys	8,550	22,800	725	1,570	2,770	6,260
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	28,100	47,500	1,010	1,720	9,240	15,900
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	4,970	20,900	389	1,160	3,270	9,110
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	10,500	5,120	1,130	1,220	5,500	5,250
Powders, flakes, dust	13,000	28,500	1,390	2,680	6,790	12,700
Waste and scrap	91,000	99,100	3,330	3,950	22,700	24,500
Chemicals:						
Oxide	39,900	61,700	1,800	2,760	9,390	15,500
Chloride	1,830	2,110	96	149	1,130	1,580
Sulfate	578	799	--	--	467	798
Compounds, other ²	7,210	11,900	331	1,120	2,720	7,270

-- Zero.

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 ¢/lb.	cash ² ¢/lb. \$/t	
2008:			
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	67.28	1,483.16
June	73.39	70.62	1,556.92
July	74.36	71.59	1,578.21
January-July	64.50	61.64	1,358.84

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.