Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN AUGUST 2009

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in August 2009 was 62,100 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in August was 2,000 t, 9% higher than that in July 2009 and slightly higher than that in August 2008.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for August 2009 was 85.38 cents per pound, 15% higher than the July 2009 average price and 4% higher than the August 2008 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for August 2009 increased to $1,821.06 per metric ton, 15% higher than the average price in July 2009 and a 6% increase compared with the average price in August 2008. During August 2009, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 26,700 t to 434,650 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2008	2009		
	January-December	July	August	January-August
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate[2]	778,000	59,000	64,300	488,000
Mine, recoverable zinc[2]	748,000	57,000	62,100	471,000
Smelter, refined zinc[e, 3]	286,000	18,400	18,400	127,000
Consumption:				
Apparent, refined zinc[4]	1,000,000	80,000	72,600	591,000
Reported:				
Refined zinc	248,000	17,800	20,200	140,000
Ores[e] (zinc content)	732	61	61	488
Zinc-base scrap[e] (zinc content)	178,000	14,800	14,800	119,000
Copper-base scrap[e] (zinc content)	148,000	12,400	12,400	98,900
Aluminum- and magnesium-base scrap[e] (zinc content)	603	50	50	402
Total[e]	575,000	45,000	47,500	359,000
Stocks of refined zinc, end of period:				
Producer and consumer[5]	XX	33,200	33,000	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	250	--	--	1
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	725,000	61,500	54,200	466,000
Oxide (gross weight)	114,000	5,010	5,820	42,700
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	63,200	4,120	13,100	47,400
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	17,000	577	555	4,960
Exports:				
Refined zinc	3,250	117	193	2,010
Oxide (gross weight)	39,900	1,800	1,610	11,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	725,000	91,400	237,000	427,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	91,000	3,330	5,110	27,900
Price:[6]				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,874.20	1,578.21	1,821.06	1,416.62
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	88.93	74.36	85.38	67.11

[e]Estimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Partially estimated.
[3]Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.
[4]Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.
[5]Does not include an estimate for companies that report annually.
[6]Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT[1]

(Metric tons)

	2008	2009		
	January-December	July	August	January-August
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	438,000	35,700	33,300	267,000
Other	168,000	13,900	11,900	101,000
Total	606,000	49,600	45,200	368,000
Brass and bronze	165,000	13,600	12,500	100,000
Zinc-base alloy	149,000	12,300	10,500	88,800
Other uses[2]	81,600	4,510	4,440	33,300
Grand total	1,000,000	80,000	72,600	591,000

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Includes 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 STOCKPILE[1]

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory[2]
2008:		
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
August	--	7,490
January-August	1	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Includes only uncommitted inventory.
[3]On August 6, 2008, the Defense National Stockpile Center announced that sales of zinc from the National Defense Stockpile were suspended until further notice.
[4]Inventory reconciliation.

Source: Defense National Stockpile Center.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC[1]

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2008 Quantity (metric tons)	2008 Value (thousands)	2009 August Quantity (metric tons)	2009 August Value (thousands)	2009 Year to date Quantity (metric tons)	2009 Year to date Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	63,200	$73,200	13,100	$11,900	47,400	$37,400
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	725,000	1,480,000	54,200	89,700	466,000	632,000
Zinc alloys	7,170	14,900	303	594	2,150	3,310
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,330	6,860	210	493	1,120	2,640
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,330	17,100	264	1,160	2,360	10,900
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,200	17,200	604	493	4,930	4,420
Powders, flakes, dust	28,500	81,200	1,410	3,220	13,700	26,900
Waste and scrap	17,000	20,300	555	425	4,960	4,090
Chemicals:						
Oxide	114,000	192,000	5,820	8,560	42,700	58,100
Chloride	462	1,780	8	72	201	673
Sulfate	41,900	45,700	2,030	1,410	20,600	14,800
Compounds, other[2]	4,600	7,650	224	353	2,160	3,020

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.
[2]Includes 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 COUNTRY[1]

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
		2009			2009	
	2008	August	Year to date	2008	August	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	7,480	--	1,550	7,480	--	1,550
Ireland	--	7,490	11,600	--	7,490	11,600
Mexico	2,730	--	5,410	2,730	--	5,410
Peru	53,000	5,620	28,800	53,000	5,620	28,800
Total	63,200	13,100	47,400	63,200	13,100	47,400
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Argentina	5,010	--	--	5,010	--	--
Australia	--	--	--	25	--	--
Belgium	908	--	--	908	--	--
Brazil	982	879	1,860	982	879	1,860
Canada	563,000	46,200	364,000	563,000	46,200	364,000
China	215	4	312	1,370	4	312
Germany	1	--	--	1	--	--
Italy	17	--	--	17	--	--
Japan	1,220	--	492	1,220	--	492
Kazakhstan	38,100	--	493	38,100	--	493
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	702	--	32
Mexico	90,800	6,710	63,300	90,800	6,710	63,300
Peru	21,200	369	35,200	21,200	369	35,400
Spain	--	--	--	40	--	--
Sweden	2	--	--	2	--	--
Taiwan	18	--	4	18	--	4
Uzbekistan	2,260	--	--	2,260	--	--
Total	724,000	54,200	466,000	725,000	54,200	466,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,200	604	4,930	13,200	604	4,930
Grand total	800,000	67,900	518,000	802,000	67,900	518,000
Oxide:						
Australia	81	--	338	81	--	338
Belgium	11,600	19	84	11,600	19	84
Canada	40,400	3,150	22,000	40,400	3,150	22,000
China	346	66	256	346	66	256
France	1	1	1	1	1	1
Germany	1,150	18	156	1,150	18	156
India	1	--	1	1	--	1
Italy	25,100	--	3	25,100	--	3
Japan	1,490	130	838	1,490	130	838
Mexico	26,100	1,820	16,100	26,100	1,820	16,100
Netherlands	5,470	626	2,770	5,470	626	2,770
Norway	3	--	2	3	--	2
Peru	1,150	--	157	1,150	--	157
Spain	681	--	--	681	--	--
United Kingdom	76	--	9	76	--	9
Other	232	--	--	232	--	--
Total	114,000	5,820	42,700	114,000	5,820	42,700

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC[1]

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2008 Quantity (metric tons)	2008 Value (thousands)	2009 August Quantity (metric tons)	2009 August Value (thousands)	2009 Year to date Quantity (metric tons)	2009 Year to date Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	725,000	$598,000	237,000	$184,000	427,000	$323,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	3,250	3,260	193	208	2,010	2,040
Zinc alloys	8,550	22,800	610	1,480	3,380	7,730
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	28,100	47,500	1,390	2,410	10,600	18,400
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	4,970	20,900	693	2,070	3,960	11,200
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	10,500	5,120	1,700	1,330	7,200	6,570
Powders, flakes, dust	13,000	28,500	1,010	2,040	7,800	14,700
Waste and scrap	91,000	99,100	5,110	5,630	27,900	30,100
Chemicals:						
Oxide	39,900	61,700	1,610	2,730	11,000	18,200
Chloride	1,830	2,110	88	171	1,210	1,750
Sulfate	578	799	152	209	619	1,010
Compounds, other[2]	7,210	11,900	294	531	3,020	7,800

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.
[2]Includes 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 American[1] ¢/lb.	London Metal Exchange cash[2] ¢/lb.	London Metal Exchange cash[2] $/t
2008:			
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
August	85.38	82.60	1,821.06
January-August	67.11	64.26	1,416.62

[1]Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premiums or discounts, depending on market conditions.
[2]Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.