

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**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 SEPTEMBER 2009

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in September 2009 was 60,500 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in September was 2,020 t, slightly higher than that in August 2009 and 3% higher than that in September 2008.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for September 2009 was 88.22 cents per pound, 3% higher than the August 2009 average price

and 7% higher than the September 2008 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for September 2009 increased to \$1,883.66 per metric ton, 3% higher than the average price in August 2009 and a 9% increase compared with the average price in September 2008. During September 2009, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 2,125 t to 436,775 t.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2008	2009		
	January- December	August	September	January- September
<b>Production:</b>				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate <sup>2</sup>	778,000	64,300	62,700	550,000
Mine, recoverable zinc <sup>2</sup>	748,000	62,100	60,500	531,000
Smelter, refined zinc <sup>e, 3</sup>	286,000	18,400	18,400	146,000
<b>Consumption:</b>				
Apparent, refined zinc <sup>4</sup>	1,000,000	72,600	76,900	668,000
<b>Reported:</b>				
Refined zinc	248,000	20,200	21,000	161,000
Ores <sup>c</sup> (zinc content)	732	61	61	549
Zinc-base scrap <sup>c</sup> (zinc content)	178,000	14,800	14,800	133,000
Copper-base scrap <sup>c</sup> (zinc content)	148,000	12,400	12,400	111,000
Aluminum- and magnesium-base scrap <sup>c</sup> (zinc content)	603	50	50	452
Total <sup>c</sup>	575,000	47,500	48,300	407,000
<b>Stocks of refined zinc, end of period:</b>				
Producer and consumer <sup>5</sup>	XX	33,000	33,500	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	250	--	--	1
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>				
Refined zinc	725,000	54,200	59,200	525,000
Oxide (gross weight)	114,000	5,820	9,620	52,300
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	63,200	13,100	9,270	56,700
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	17,000	555	798	5,760
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined zinc	3,250	193	188	2,200
Oxide (gross weight)	39,900	1,610	1,840	12,800
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	725,000	237,000	211,000	638,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	91,000	5,110	5,790	33,600
<b>Price:<sup>6</sup></b>				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,874.20	1,821.06	1,883.66	1,468.51
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	88.93	85.38	88.22	69.46

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Partially estimated.

<sup>3</sup>Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

<sup>4</sup>Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

<sup>5</sup>Does not include an estimate for companies that report annually.

<sup>6</sup>Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2  
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING  
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2008	2009		January- September
	January- December	August	September	
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	438,000	33,300	35,400	302,000
Other	168,000	11,900	12,600	114,000
Total	606,000	45,200	48,000	416,000
Brass and bronze	165,000	12,500	13,000	113,000
Zinc-base alloy	149,000	10,500	11,200	100,000
Other uses <sup>2</sup>	81,600	4,440	4,760	38,100
Grand total	1,000,000	72,600	76,900	668,000

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

<sup>2</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

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

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes only uncommitted inventory.

<sup>3</sup>Inventory reconciliation.

Source: Defense National Stockpile Center.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2008		2009			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	September		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	63,200	\$73,200	9,270	\$9,880	56,700	\$47,200
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	725,000	1,480,000	59,200	107,000	525,000	740,000
Zinc alloys	7,170	14,900	929	1,780	3,080	5,100
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,330	6,860	178	460	1,300	3,100
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,330	17,100	124	457	2,490	11,300
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,200	17,200	1,090	747	6,020	5,170
Powders, flakes, dust	28,500	81,200	1,750	4,400	15,400	31,300
Waste and scrap	17,000	20,300	798	796	5,760	4,890
Chemicals:						
Oxide	114,000	192,000	9,620	12,200	52,300	70,300
Chloride	462	1,780	11	97	212	770
Sulfate	41,900	45,700	3,090	2,320	23,600	17,100
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	4,600	7,650	253	441	2,410	3,460

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
		September	Year to date		September	Year to date
<b>Ore and concentrate (zinc content):</b>						
Canada	7,480	--	1,550	7,480	--	1,550
Ireland	--	--	11,600	--	--	11,600
Mexico	2,730	--	5,410	2,730	--	5,410
Peru	53,000	9,270	38,100	53,000	9,270	38,100
Total	63,200	9,270	56,700	63,200	9,270	56,700
<b>Refined (slab) zinc:</b>						
Argentina	5,010	--	--	5,010	--	--
Australia	--	--	--	25	--	--
Belgium	908	--	--	908	--	--
Brazil	982	196	2,060	982	196	2,060
Canada	563,000	48,600	412,000	563,000	48,600	412,000
China	215	3	315	1,370	3	315
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	70,000	90,800	6,710	70,000
Peru	21,200	2,790	38,000	21,200	2,790	38,100
South Africa	--	897	897	--	897	897
Spain	--	--	--	40	--	--
Sweden	2	--	--	2	--	--
Taiwan	18	3	6	18	3	6
Uzbekistan	2,260	--	--	2,260	--	--
Total	724,000	59,200	525,000	725,000	59,200	525,000
<b>Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)</b>						
	13,200	1,090	6,020	13,200	1,090	6,020
Grand total	800,000	69,600	587,000	802,000	69,600	588,000
<b>Oxide:</b>						
Australia	81	--	338	81	--	338
Belgium	11,600	695	778	11,600	695	778
Canada	40,400	2,650	24,600	40,400	2,650	24,600
China	346	22	278	346	22	278
France	1	--	1	1	--	1
Germany	1,150	51	207	1,150	51	207
India	1	--	1	1	--	1
Italy	25,100	2,100	2,110	25,100	2,100	2,110
Japan	1,490	160	998	1,490	160	998
Mexico	26,100	2,090	18,200	26,100	2,090	18,200
Netherlands	5,470	216	2,990	5,470	216	2,990
Norway	3	1,110	1,110	3	1,110	1,110
Peru	1,150	19	176	1,150	19	176
Spain	681	487	487	681	487	487
United Kingdom	76	12	21	76	12	21
Other	232	--	--	232	--	--
Total	114,000	9,620	52,300	114,000	9,620	52,300

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2009					
	2008		September		Year to date	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	725,000	\$598,000	211,000	\$205,000	638,000	\$528,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	3,250	3,260	188	212	2,200	2,260
Zinc alloys	8,550	22,800	830	1,800	4,210	9,530
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	28,100	47,500	1,520	2,670	12,100	21,000
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	4,970	20,900	522	1,450	4,480	12,600
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	10,500	5,120	1,760	871	8,960	7,440
Powders, flakes, dust	13,000	28,500	1,290	2,950	9,090	17,700
Waste and scrap	91,000	99,100	5,790	6,870	33,600	37,000
Chemicals:						
Oxide	39,900	61,700	1,840	2,930	12,800	21,100
Chloride	1,830	2,110	191	444	1,410	2,190
Sulfate	578	799	159	145	779	1,150
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	7,210	11,900	366	912	3,380	8,710

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>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 <sup>1</sup> ¢/lb.	London Metal Exchange cash <sup>2</sup>	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2008:			
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
September	88.22	85.44	1,883.66
January-September	69.46	66.61	1,468.51

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

<sup>2</sup>Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.