



# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ZINC IN OCTOBER 2009

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in October 2009 was 69,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in October was 2,230 t, 10% higher than that in September 2009 and 32% higher than that in October 2008.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for October 2009 was 96.82 cents per pound, 10% higher than the September 2009 average

price and 54% higher than the October 2008 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for October 2009 increased to \$2,071.19 per metric ton, 10% higher than the average price in September 2009 and a 59% increase compared with the average price in October 2008. During October 2009, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 8,250 t to 428,525 t.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2008	2009		
	January- December	September	October	January- October
<b>Production:</b>				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate <sup>2</sup>	778,000	62,700	71,400	622,000
Mine, recoverable zinc <sup>2</sup>	748,000	60,500	69,000	600,000
Smelter, refined zinc <sup>e,3</sup>	286,000	18,400	18,400	164,000
<b>Consumption:</b>				
Apparent, refined zinc <sup>4</sup>	1,000,000	76,900	67,200	735,000
<b>Reported:</b>				
Refined zinc	248,000	21,000	20,300	182,000
Ores <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	732	61	61	610
Zinc-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	178,000	14,800	14,800	148,000
Copper-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	148,000	12,400	12,400	124,000
Aluminum- and magnesium-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	603	50	50	503
Total <sup>e</sup>	575,000	48,300	47,600	455,000
<b>Stocks of refined zinc, end of period:</b>				
Producer and consumer <sup>5</sup>	XX	33,500	33,800	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	250	--	--	1
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>				
Refined zinc	725,000	59,200	49,300	574,000
Oxide (gross weight)	114,000	9,620	5,830	58,200
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	63,200	9,270	5,300	62,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	17,000	798	1,040	6,800
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined zinc	3,250	188	186	2,390
Oxide (gross weight)	39,900	1,840	1,280	14,100
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	725,000	211,000	123,000	761,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	91,000	5,790	4,700	38,300
<b>Price:<sup>6</sup></b>				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,874.20	1,883.66	2,071.19	1,528.78
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	88.93	88.22	96.82	72.19

<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- October
	January- December	September	October	
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	438,000	35,400	32,400	335,000
Other	168,000	12,600	10,700	125,000
Total	606,000	48,000	43,100	459,000
Brass and bronze	165,000	13,000	10,800	124,000
Zinc-base alloy	149,000	11,200	9,520	109,000
Other uses <sup>2</sup>	81,600	4,760	3,830	41,900
Grand total	1,000,000	76,900	67,200	735,000

<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:		
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
October	--	7,490
January-October	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)	October		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	63,200	\$73,200	5,300	\$5,420	62,000	\$52,700
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	725,000	1,480,000	49,300	95,500	574,000	835,000
Zinc alloys	7,170	14,900	506	1,030	3,590	6,120
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,330	6,860	212	410	1,510	3,510
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,330	17,100	214	789	2,700	12,100
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,200	17,200	685	590	6,700	5,760
Powders, flakes, dust	28,500	81,200	1,960	4,850	17,400	36,200
Waste and scrap	17,000	20,300	1,040	1,270	6,800	6,160
Chemicals:						
Oxide	114,000	192,000	5,830	8,940	58,200	79,200
Chloride	462	1,780	26	102	239	871
Sulfate	41,900	45,700	3,290	2,140	26,900	19,300
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	4,600	7,650	286	404	2,700	3,870

<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	
		October	Year to date		October	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	5,300	43,400	53,000	5,300	43,400
Total	63,200	5,300	62,000	63,200	5,300	62,000
<b>Refined (slab) zinc:</b>						
Argentina	5,010	--	--	5,010	--	--
Australia	--	--	--	25	--	--
Belgium	908	--	--	908	--	--
Brazil	982	--	2,060	982	--	2,060
Canada	563,000	41,400	454,000	563,000	41,400	454,000
China	215	3	318	1,370	3	318
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	5,460	75,500	90,800	5,460	75,500
Peru	21,200	2,390	40,400	21,200	2,390	40,500
South Africa	--	--	897	--	--	897
Spain	--	--	--	40	--	--
Sweden	2	(2)	(2)	2	(2)	(2)
Taiwan	18	2	8	18	2	8
Uzbekistan	2,260	--	--	2,260	--	--
Total	724,000	49,300	574,000	725,000	49,300	574,000
<b>Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)</b>						
	13,200	685	6,700	13,200	685	6,700
Grand total	800,000	55,300	643,000	802,000	55,300	643,000
<b>Oxide:</b>						
Australia	81	20	358	81	20	358
Belgium	11,600	20	799	11,600	20	799
Canada	40,400	2,710	27,300	40,400	2,710	27,300
China	346	14	292	346	14	292
France	1	--	1	1	--	1
Germany	1,150	35	242	1,150	35	242
India	1	--	1	1	--	1
Italy	25,100	1	2,110	25,100	1	2,110
Japan	1,490	102	1,100	1,490	102	1,100
Mexico	26,100	2,150	20,400	26,100	2,150	20,400
Netherlands	5,470	737	3,730	5,470	737	3,730
Norway	3	--	1,110	3	--	1,110
Peru	1,150	--	176	1,150	--	176
Spain	681	--	487	681	--	487
Turkey	5	20	20	5	20	20
United Kingdom	76	19	39	76	19	39
Other	225	--	--	225	--	--
Total	114,000	5,830	58,200	114,000	5,830	58,200

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2008		2009			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	October		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	725,000	\$598,000	123,000	\$112,000	761,000	\$640,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	3,250	3,260	186	204	2,390	2,460
Zinc alloys	8,550	22,800	667	1,460	4,880	11,000
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	28,100	47,500	1,430	2,280	13,600	23,300
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	4,970	20,900	722	2,000	5,200	14,600
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	10,500	5,120	1,480	967	10,400	8,410
Powders, flakes, dust	13,000	28,500	1,140	2,490	10,200	20,100
Waste and scrap	91,000	99,100	4,700	6,100	38,300	43,100
Chemicals:						
Oxide	39,900	61,700	1,280	3,070	14,100	24,200
Chloride	1,830	2,110	134	187	1,540	2,380
Sulfate	578	799	44	103	823	1,250
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	7,210	11,900	779	1,310	4,160	10,000

<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:			
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
October	96.82	93.95	2,071.19
January-October	72.19	69.34	1,528.78

<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.