

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ZINC IN JANUARY 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in January 2010 was 59,400 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in January was 1,920 t, 4% lower than that in December 2009 and 14% lower than that in January 2009.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for January 2010 was 113.28 cents per pound, 2% higher than the December 2009 average

price and 99% higher than the January 2009 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for January 2010 increased to \$2,434.11 per metric ton, 3% higher than the average price in December 2009 and a 105% increase compared with the average price in January 2009. During January 2010, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 8,000 t to 497,125 t.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2009			2010
	January- December	November	December	January
<b>Production:</b>				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate <sup>2</sup>	736,000	51,700	64,300	61,500
Mine, recoverable zinc <sup>2</sup>	710,000	49,900	62,100	59,400
Smelter, refined zinc <sup>e, 3</sup>	203,000	19,300	19,300	19,300
<b>Consumption of refined zinc:</b>				
Apparent <sup>4</sup>	891,000	75,500	80,000	78,200
Reported	215,000	18,600	20,400	19,700
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer <sup>5</sup>	XX	30,100	28,300	27,500
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>				
Refined zinc	686,000	52,700	59,300	58,500
Oxide (gross weight)	69,200	6,050	5,030	6,010
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	6,550	5,680	--
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,100	1,640	658	751
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined zinc	2,960	191	383	395
Oxide (gross weight)	17,300	1,490	1,680	880
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	2,950	21,200	6,980
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	47,100	6,000	2,780	2,880
<b>Price:<sup>6</sup></b>				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,654.69	2,193.02	2,375.49	2,434.11
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	77.91	102.34	110.62	113.28

<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>Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.

<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  
MINE PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Zinc content	Recoverable
2009:		
January	71,800	69,300
February	55,900	54,000
March	57,200	55,200
April	60,500	58,400
May	58,200	56,100
June	60,700	58,600
July	59,400	57,300
August	64,600	62,400
September	63,200	61,000
October	68,300	65,900
November	51,700	49,900
December	64,300	62,100
January-December	736,000	710,000
2010, January	61,500	59,400

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes the zinc content in both lead and zinc concentrates.

TABLE 3  
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING  
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2009			2010 January
	January- December	November	December	
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	402,000	34,900	36,000	36,100
Other	152,000	12,800	13,300	13,100
Total	554,000	47,700	49,400	49,200
Brass and bronze	153,000	12,600	15,200	12,900
Zinc-base alloy	134,000	11,400	11,900	11,600
Other uses <sup>2</sup>	49,600	3,830	3,570	4,490
Grand total	891,000	75,500	80,000	78,200

<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 4  
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL  
DEFENSE STOCKPILE<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory <sup>2</sup>
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
November	--	7,490
December	--	7,490
January-December	1	XX
2010, January	--	7,490

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 5  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2009		2010			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	January		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	\$68,200	--	--	--	--
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	686,000	1,080,000	58,500	\$139,000	58,500	\$139,000
Zinc alloys	4,900	8,980	647	1,540	647	1,540
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	1,900	4,730	306	864	306	864
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,010	13,500	478	2,040	478	2,040
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	7,760	807	644	807	644
Powders, flakes, dust	20,400	44,300	1,490	4,720	1,490	4,720
Waste and scrap	9,100	8,800	751	983	751	983
Chemicals:						
Oxide	69,200	98,500	6,010	12,100	6,010	12,100
Chloride	249	964	24	79	24	79
Sulfate	31,700	23,000	1,920	1,660	1,920	1,660
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	3,160	4,610	538	676	538	676

-- Zero.

<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 6  
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		
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
		January	Year to date		January	Year to date
<b>Ore and concentrate (zinc content):</b>						
Canada	1,550	--	--	1,550	--	--
Ireland	11,600	--	--	11,600	--	--
Mexico	5,410	--	--	5,410	--	--
Peru	55,600	--	--	55,600	--	--
Total	74,200	--	--	74,200	--	--
<b>Refined (slab) zinc:</b>						
Brazil	2,060	--	--	2,060	--	--
Canada	551,000	48,900	48,900	551,000	48,900	48,900
China	318	--	--	318	36	36
Germany	1	--	--	1	--	--
Japan	696	238	238	696	238	238
Kazakhstan	493	--	--	493	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	32	36	36
Malaysia	(2)	--	--	(2)	--	--
Mexico	85,600	7,440	7,440	85,600	7,440	7,440
Peru	44,800	1,490	1,490	45,000	1,490	1,490
South Africa	897	429	429	897	429	429
Sweden	(2)	--	--	(2)	--	--
Taiwan	8	1	1	8	1	1
Total	686,000	58,500	58,500	686,000	58,500	58,500
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	807	807	8,610	807	807
Grand total	769,000	59,300	59,300	769,000	59,300	59,300
<b>Oxide:</b>						
Australia	384	--	--	384	--	--
Belgium	857	42	42	857	42	42
Canada	33,500	3,860	3,860	33,500	3,860	3,860
China	379	54	54	379	54	54
France	1	--	--	1	--	--
Germany	344	66	66	344	66	66
India	1	--	--	1	--	--
Italy	2,110	--	--	2,110	--	--
Japan	1,520	162	162	1,520	162	162
Mexico	24,400	1,780	1,780	24,400	1,780	1,780
Netherlands	3,890	(2)	(2)	3,890	(2)	(2)
Norway	1,110	--	--	1,110	--	--
Peru	199	18	18	199	18	18
Spain	487	--	--	487	--	--
Trinidad and Tobago	--	12	12	--	12	12
Turkey	80	--	--	80	--	--
United Kingdom	62	16	16	62	16	16
Total	69,200	6,010	6,010	69,200	6,010	6,010

-- 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 ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2009		2010			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	January		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	\$656,000	6,980	\$5,850	6,980	\$5,850
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	2,960	3,070	395	392	395	392
Zinc alloys	6,280	14,300	688	1,720	688	1,720
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	16,600	28,500	1,620	2,640	1,620	2,640
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,160	17,700	414	1,430	414	1,430
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	11,000	1,360	721	1,360	721
Powders, flakes, dust	12,100	24,800	714	1,580	714	1,580
Waste and scrap	47,100	54,300	2,880	3,390	2,880	3,390
Chemicals:						
Oxide	17,300	31,100	880	2,130	880	2,130
Chloride	1,800	2,750	232	334	232	334
Sulfate	1,030	1,610	123	209	123	209
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	5,240	12,000	606	1,000	606	1,000

<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 8  
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North American <sup>1</sup>	London Metal Exchange cash <sup>2</sup>	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
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
November	102.34	99.47	2,193.02
December	110.62	107.75	2,375.49
January-December	77.91	75.06	1,654.69
2010, January	113.28	110.41	2,434.11

<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.