

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN MARCH 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in March 2010 was 63,500 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in March was 2,050 t, 2% higher than that in February 2010 and 15% higher than that in March 2009.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for March 2010 was 106.07 cents per pound, 5% higher than the February 2010 average

price and 83% higher than the March 2009 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for March 2010 increased to \$2,274.73 per metric ton, 6% higher than the average price in February 2010 and an 87% increase compared with the average price in March 2009. During March 2010, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 725 t to 542,100 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2009	2010		
	January- December	February	March	January- March
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	736,000	58,500	65,800	186,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	710,000	56,500	63,500	179,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	203,000	20,200	20,200	60,600
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	891,000	72,700	84,300	236,000
Reported	215,000	19,100	20,400	59,200
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer ⁵	XX	27,400	27,100	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	686,000	52,600	64,300	175,000
Oxide (gross weight)	69,200	6,330	7,450	19,800
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	9,610	5,230	14,800
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,100	707	1,110	2,570
Exports:				
Refined zinc	2,960	170	519	1,080
Oxide (gross weight)	17,300	1,090	1,560	3,530
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	14,300	18,000	39,400
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	47,100	6,700	3,870	13,400
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,654.69	2,156.49	2,274.73	2,288.44
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	77.91	100.69	106.07	106.68

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.

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
MINE PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Period	Zinc content	Recoverable
2009:		
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
February	58,500	56,500
March	65,800	63,500
January-March	186,000	179,000

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

²Includes the zinc content in both lead and zinc concentrates.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

	2009	2010		
	January- December	February	March	January- March
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	402,000	34,000	38,400	109,000
Other	152,000	11,400	13,600	38,300
Total	554,000	45,400	52,000	147,000
Brass and bronze	153,000	12,100	14,300	39,400
Zinc-base alloy	134,000	10,700	12,700	35,200
Other uses ²	49,600	4,500 [†]	5,360	14,400
Grand total	891,000	72,700	84,300	236,000

[†]Revised.

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 4
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory ²
2009:		
March	1 ³	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
February	--	7,490
March	--	7,490
January-March	--	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.

³Inventory reconciliation.

Source: Defense National Stockpile Center.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2009		2010			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	March		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	\$68,200	5,230	\$7,290	14,800	\$19,300
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	686,000	1,080,000	64,300	144,000	175,000	406,000
Zinc alloys	4,900	8,980	520	1,170	1,540	3,580
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	1,900	4,730	260	796	792	2,370
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,010	13,500	214	994	901	3,900
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	7,760	2,700	2,800	5,590	5,580
Powders, flakes, dust	20,400	44,300	2,640	7,320	6,070	17,700
Waste and scrap	9,100	8,800	1,110	1,500	2,570	3,350
Chemicals:						
Oxide	69,200	98,500	7,450	13,200	19,800	37,200
Chloride	249	964	41	93	96	312
Sulfate	31,700	23,000	3,020	2,610	7,770	6,560
Compounds, other ²	3,160	4,610	376	608	1,100	1,630

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 6
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		
	2009	2010		2009	2010	
		March	Year to date		March	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	1,550	--	--	1,550	--	--
Ireland	11,600	--	--	11,600	--	--
Mexico	5,410	--	--	5,410	--	--
Peru	55,600	5,230	14,800	55,600	5,230	14,800
Total	74,200	5,230	14,800	74,200	5,230	14,800
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Brazil	2,060	--	1,960	2,060	--	1,960
Canada	551,000	55,300	149,000	551,000	55,300	149,000
China	318	7	8	318	7	44
Germany	1	--	--	1	--	--
Japan	696	272	704	696	272	704
Kazakhstan	493	627	627	493	627	627
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	32	--	36
Malaysia	(2)	--	--	(2)	--	--
Mexico	85,600	6,240	19,000	85,600	6,240	19,000
Peru	44,800	1,890	4,040	45,000	1,890	4,040
South Africa	897	--	508	897	--	508
Sweden	(2)	1	1	(2)	1	1
Taiwan	8	--	5	8	--	5
Total	686,000	64,300	175,000	686,000	64,300	175,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)						
Grand total	8,610	2,700	5,590	8,610	2,700	5,590
Oxide:						
Australia	384	--	19	384	--	19
Belgium	857	38	85	857	38	85
Canada	33,500	3,670	10,900	33,500	3,670	10,900
China	379	52	151	379	52	151
France	1	--	--	1	--	--
Germany	344	58	143	344	58	143
India	1	--	1	1	--	1
Italy	2,110	--	1	2,110	--	1
Japan	1,520	215	620	1,520	215	620
Mexico	24,400	2,240	6,190	24,400	2,240	6,190
Netherlands	3,890	1,120	1,570	3,890	1,120	1,570
Norway	1,110	1	1	1,110	1	1
Peru	199	20	38	199	20	38
Spain	487	--	--	487	--	--
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	17	--	--	17
Turkey	80	40	60	80	40	60
United Kingdom	62	--	26	62	--	26
Total	69,200	7,450	19,800	69,200	7,450	19,800

-- 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 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2009		2010			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	March		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	\$656,000	18,000	\$18,700	39,400	\$38,300
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	2,960	3,070	519	542	1,080	1,110
Zinc alloys	6,280	14,300	983	2,430	2,590	6,350
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	16,600	28,500	1,420	2,610	4,720	8,280
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,160	17,700	590	2,100	1,490	5,030
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	11,000	1,370	707	3,720	2,630
Powders, flakes, dust	12,100	24,800	1,220	3,030	3,080	7,280
Waste and scrap	47,100	54,300	3,870	4,990	13,400	16,100
Chemicals:						
Oxide	17,300	31,100	1,560	4,060	3,530	9,110
Chloride	1,800	2,750	221	279	557	761
Sulfate	1,030	1,610	241	284	547	739
Compounds, other ²	5,240	12,000	690	1,290	2,170	3,920

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 8
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North American ¹ ¢/lb.	London Metal Exchange cash ²	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2009:			
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
February	100.69	97.82	2,156.49
March	106.07	103.18	2,274.73
January-March	106.68	103.80	2,288.44

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.