

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN APRIL 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in April 2010 was 63,600 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in April was 2,120 t, 3% higher than that in March 2010 and 9% higher than that in April 2009.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for April 2010 was 110.48 cents per pound, 4% higher than the March 2010 average price and

69% higher than the April 2009 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for April 2010 increased to \$2,366.34 per metric ton, 4% higher than the average price in March 2010 and a 72% increase compared with the average price in April 2009. During April 2010, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 17,375 t to 559,475 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2009	2010		
	January-December	March	April	January-April
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	736,000	65,800	65,600	251,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	710,000	63,500	63,600	243,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	203,000	20,200	20,200	80,800
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	891,000	84,300	76,100	312,000
Reported	215,000	20,400	20,700	79,900
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer ⁵	XX	27,100	28,900	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	686,000	64,300	58,000	233,000
Oxide (gross weight)	69,200	7,450	7,560	27,400
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	5,230	5,390	20,200
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,100	1,110	1,350	3,920
Exports:				
Refined zinc	2,960	519	300	1,390
Oxide (gross weight)	17,300	1,560	1,170	4,690
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	18,000	13,200	52,600
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	47,100	3,870	6,280	19,700
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,654.69	2,274.73	2,366.34	2,307.92
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	77.91	106.07	110.48	107.63

^aEstimated. 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:		
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
April	65,600	63,600
January-April	251,000	243,000

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- April
	January- December	March	April	
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	402,000	38,400	35,500	144,000
Other	152,000	13,600	11,800	50,100
Total	554,000	52,000	47,300	194,000
Brass and bronze	153,000	14,300	13,300	52,700
Zinc-base alloy	134,000	12,700	11,200	46,400
Other uses ²	49,600	5,360	4,270	18,700
Grand total	891,000	84,300	76,100	312,000

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:		
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
April	--	7,490
January-April	--	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.

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)	April		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	\$68,200	5,390	\$7,580	20,200	\$26,800
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	686,000	1,080,000	58,000	133,000	233,000	539,000
Zinc alloys	4,900	8,980	362	856	1,900	4,430
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	1,900	4,730	136	422	928	2,790
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,010	13,500	287	1,320	1,190	5,230
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	7,760	1,340	1,470	6,930	7,050
Powders, flakes, dust	20,400	44,300	3,090	8,600	9,160	26,300
Waste and scrap	9,100	8,800	1,350	1,680	3,920	5,030
Chemicals:						
Oxide	69,200	98,500	7,560	15,000	27,400	52,200
Chloride	249	964	27	126	123	438
Sulfate	31,700	23,000	3,030	2,670	10,800	9,240
Compounds, other ²	3,160	4,610	427	589	1,530	2,220

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	
		April	Year to date		April	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	5,390	20,200	55,600	5,390	20,200
Total	74,200	5,390	20,200	74,200	5,390	20,200
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Brazil	2,060	275	2,230	2,060	275	2,230
Canada	551,000	49,700	198,000	551,000	49,700	198,000
China	318	1	9	318	1	45
Germany	1	--	--	1	--	--
Japan	696	340	1,040	696	340	1,040
Kazakhstan	493	375	1,000	493	375	1,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	32	--	36
Malaysia	(2)	--	--	(2)	--	--
Mexico	85,600	6,020	25,000	85,600	6,020	25,000
Peru	44,800	1,240	5,280	45,000	1,240	5,280
South Africa	897	--	508	897	--	508
Sweden	(2)	(2)	1	(2)	(2)	1
Taiwan	8	9	14	8	9	14
Total	686,000	58,000	233,000	686,000	58,000	233,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	1,340	6,930	8,610	1,340	6,930
Grand total	769,000	64,700	260,000	769,000	64,700	261,000
Oxide:						
Australia	384	--	19	384	--	19
Belgium	857	27	111	857	27	111
Canada	33,500	4,290	15,200	33,500	4,290	15,200
China	379	34	185	379	34	185
France	1	--	--	1	--	--
Germany	344	60	203	344	60	203
India	1	--	1	1	--	1
Italy	2,110	2	3	2,110	2	3
Japan	1,520	255	875	1,520	255	875
Mexico	24,400	2,220	8,400	24,400	2,220	8,400
Netherlands	3,890	542	2,110	3,890	542	2,110
Norway	1,110	--	1	1,110	--	1
Peru	199	23	61	199	23	61
Spain	487	--	--	487	--	--
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	17	--	--	17
Turkey	80	11	71	80	11	71
United Kingdom	62	95	121	62	95	121
Total	69,200	7,560	27,400	69,200	7,560	27,400

-- 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)	April		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	\$656,000	13,200	\$15,400	52,600	\$53,600
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	2,960	3,070	300	318	1,390	1,420
Zinc alloys	6,280	14,300	904	2,220	3,500	8,570
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	16,600	28,500	2,290	4,360	7,010	12,600
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,160	17,700	793	2,570	2,280	7,600
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	11,000	1,220	950	4,930	3,580
Powders, flakes, dust	12,100	24,800	1,410	3,110	4,500	10,400
Waste and scrap	47,100	54,300	6,280	7,100	19,700	23,200
Chemicals:						
Oxide	17,300	31,100	1,170	2,630	4,690	11,700
Chloride	1,800	2,750	105	235	661	996
Sulfate	1,030	1,610	97	138	644	877
Compounds, other ²	5,240	12,000	397	924	2,560	4,850

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	London Metal Exchange	
	American ¹	cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2009:			
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
April	110.48	107.34	2,366.34
January-April	107.63	104.69	2,307.92

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.