

Mineral Industry Surveys

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 A. Wiser (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7956
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: pwiser@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ZINC IN MAY 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in May 2010 was 63,600 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in May was 2,050 t, slightly lower than that in April 2010 but 13% higher than that in May 2009.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for May 2010 was 92.82 cents per pound, 16% lower than the April 2010 average price but

33% higher than the May 2009 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for May 2010 decreased to \$1,967.90 per metric ton, 17% lower than the average price in April 2010 but a 33% increase compared with the average price in May 2009. During May 2010, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 60,725 t to 620,200 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2009	2010		
	January- December	April	May	January- May
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	736,000	63,800 ^r	65,800	315,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	710,000	61,600 ^r	63,600	304,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,3}	203,000	20,200	20,200	101,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	891,000	76,100	75,600	388,000
Reported	215,000	20,800 ^r	18,200	98,100
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer ⁵	XX	28,900	26,500	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	686,000	58,000	53,300	287,000
Oxide (gross weight)	69,200	7,560	7,390	34,700
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	5,390	--	20,200
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,100	1,350	1,210	5,130
Exports:				
Refined zinc	2,960	300	270	1,660
Oxide (gross weight)	17,300	1,170	1,430	6,120
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	13,200	7,980	60,600
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	47,100	6,280	9,270	29,000
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,654.69	2,366.34	1,967.90	2,239.91
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	77.91	110.48	92.82	104.67

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. 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:		
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	58,100 ^r	56,100 ^r
March	65,600 ^r	63,300 ^r
April	63,800 ^r	61,600 ^r
May	65,800	63,600
January-May	315,000	304,000

^rRevised.

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	April	May	January- May
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	402,000	35,600 ^r	34,000	178,000
Other	152,000	11,800	12,200	62,300
Total	554,000	47,300	46,200	241,000
Brass and bronze	153,000	13,300	12,300	65,100
Zinc-base alloy	134,000	11,200	11,500	57,900
Other uses ²	49,600	4,270	5,640	24,300
Grand total	891,000	76,100	75,500	388,000

^rRevised.

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:		
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
May	--	7,490
January-May	--	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: DLA Strategic Materials.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2009		2010			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	May		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	\$68,200	--	--	20,200	\$26,800
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	686,000	1,080,000	53,300	\$118,000	287,000	656,000
Zinc alloys	4,900	8,980	386	885	2,280	5,320
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	1,900	4,730	200	586	1,130	3,370
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,010	13,500	270	1,430	1,460	6,660
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	7,760	3,810	4,480	10,700	11,500
Powders, flakes, dust	20,400	44,300	2,390	7,040	11,500	33,300
Waste and scrap	9,100	8,800	1,210	1,520	5,130	6,550
Chemicals:						
Oxide	69,200	98,500	7,390	14,600	34,700	66,700
Chloride	249	964	45	170	169	608
Sulfate	31,700	23,000	3,220	2,700	14,000	11,900
Compounds, other ²	3,160	4,610	379	562	1,900	2,780

-- Zero.

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	
		May	Year to date		May	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	--	20,200	55,600	--	20,200
Total	74,200	--	20,200	74,200	--	20,200
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Brazil	2,060	76	2,310	2,060	76	2,310
Canada	551,000	41,000	239,000	551,000	41,000	239,000
China	318	(2)	9	318	(2)	45
Germany	1	--	--	1	--	--
Japan	696	330	1,370	696	330	1,370
Kazakhstan	493	--	1,000	493	--	1,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	32	--	36
Malaysia	(2)	--	--	(2)	--	--
Mexico	85,600	8,460	33,500	85,600	8,460	33,500
Peru	44,800	1,970	7,250	45,000	3,380	8,660
South Africa	897	--	508	897	--	508
Sweden	(2)	--	1	(2)	--	1
Taiwan	8	6	20	8	6	20
Total	686,000	51,900	285,000	686,000	53,300	287,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	3,810	10,700	8,610	3,810	10,700
Grand total	769,000	55,700	316,000	769,000	57,100	318,000
Oxide:						
Argentina	--	101	101	--	101	101
Australia	384	20	40	384	20	40
Belgium	857	38	149	857	38	149
Canada	33,500	4,030	19,200	33,500	4,030	19,200
China	379	34	219	379	34	219
France	1	--	--	1	--	--
Germany	344	53	256	344	53	256
India	1	--	1	1	--	1
Italy	2,110	3	6	2,110	3	6
Japan	1,520	231	1,110	1,520	231	1,110
Mexico	24,400	2,360	10,800	24,400	2,360	10,800
Netherlands	3,890	462	2,580	3,890	462	2,580
Norway	1,110	--	1	1,110	--	1
Peru	199	37	98	199	37	98
Spain	487	--	--	487	--	--
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	17	--	--	17
Turkey	80	20	91	80	20	91
United Kingdom	62	--	121	62	--	121
Total	69,200	7,390	34,700	69,200	7,390	34,700

-- 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)	May		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	\$656,000	7,980	\$8,490	60,600	\$62,100
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	2,960	3,070	270	282	1,660	1,710
Zinc alloys	6,280	14,300	1,070	2,440	4,560	11,000
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	16,600	28,500	2,680	4,400	9,700	17,000
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,160	17,700	621	2,240	2,900	9,840
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	11,000	1,160	1,030	6,100	4,610
Powders, flakes, dust	12,100	24,800	1,080	2,340	5,580	12,700
Waste and scrap	47,100	54,300	9,270	9,990	29,000	33,200
Chemicals:						
Oxide	17,300	31,100	1,430	3,580	6,120	15,300
Chloride	1,800	2,750	173	230	834	1,230
Sulfate	1,030	1,610	76	169	720	1,050
Compounds, other ²	5,240	12,000	327	970	2,890	5,820

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	London Metal Exchange cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2009:			
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
May	92.82	89.26	1,967.90
January-May	104.67	101.60	2,239.91

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.