Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN SEPTEMBER 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in September 2010 was 59,600 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in September was 1,990 t, slightly higher than that in August 2010 but slightly lower than that in September 2009.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for September 2010 was 102.34 cents per pound, 5% higher than the August 2010 average price and 16% higher than the September 2009 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for September 2010 increased to $2,151 per metric ton, 5% higher than the average price in August 2010 and a 14% increase compared with the average price in September 2009. During September 2010, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 5,575 t to 615,825 t.

TABLE 1

SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2009	2010		
	January-December	August	September	January-September
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate[2]	736,000	62,500	61,500	564,000
Mine, recoverable zinc[2]	710,000	60,300	59,600	545,000
Smelter, refined zinc[e, 3]	203,000	20,800	20,800	186,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent[4]	891,000	98,500 r	66,700	694,000
Reported	306,000	18,300 r	16,400	171,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer[5]	XX	24,000 r	25,100	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	686,000	76,000	47,700	508,000
Oxide (gross weight)	69,200	11,000	9,490	68,400
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	89	--	20,300
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,100	1,480	1,670	10,900
Exports:				
Refined zinc	2,960	485	533	3,260
Oxide (gross weight)	17,300	929	681	11,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	266,000	81,000	549,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	47,100	7,820	5,600	53,600
Price:[6]				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,654.69	2,044.12	2,151.00	2,108.95
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	77.91	97.37	102.34	99.34

[e]Estimated. [r]Revised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

[2]Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.

[3]Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

[4]Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

[5]Does not include an estimate for companies that report annually.

[6]Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2

MINE PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN THE UNITED STATES[1, 2]

(Metric tons)

Period	Zinc content	Recoverable
2009:		
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	56,100
March	65,300	63,100
April	63,600	61,400
May	64,800	62,600
June	59,400	57,400
July	67,100	64,800
August	62,500	60,300
September	61,500	59,600
January-September	564,000	545,000

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

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

TABLE 3

APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT[1]

(Metric tons)

	2009	2010		
	January-December	August[r]	September	January-September
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	402,000	42,400	30,200	313,000
Other	152,000	17,000	10,700	112,000
Total	554,000	59,400	40,900	425,000
Brass and bronze	153,000	16,800	11,400	119,000
Zinc-base alloy	134,000	16,100	10,300	105,000
Other uses[2]	49,600	6,120	4,030	44,100
Grand total	891,000	98,500	66,700	694,000

[r]Revised.

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

[2]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[1]

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory[2]
2009:		
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
June	--	7,490
July	--	7,490
August	--	7,490
September	--	7,490
January-September	--	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

[2]Includes only uncommitted inventory.

Source: DLA Strategic Materials.

TABLE 5

U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC[1]

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2009 Quantity (metric tons)	2009 Value (thousands)	2010 September Quantity (metric tons)	2010 September Value (thousands)	2010 Year to date Quantity (metric tons)	2010 Year to date Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	$68,200	--	--	20,300	$26,900
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	686,000	1,080,000	47,700	$99,000	508,000	1,080,000
Zinc alloys	4,900	8,980	1,070	2,250	5,280	11,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	1,900	4,730	211	580	2,080	6,010
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,010	13,500	212	925	2,690	12,100
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	7,760	458	549	15,600	16,100
Powders, flakes, dust	20,400	44,300	2,670	7,010	21,200	59,100
Waste and scrap	9,100	8,800	1,670	2,160	10,900	13,400
Chemicals:						
Oxide	69,200	98,500	9,490	18,700	68,400	131,000
Chloride	249	964	26	94	275	1,020
Sulfate	31,700	23,000	3,140	2,710	26,500	22,400
Compounds, other[2]	3,160	4,610	327	594	3,170	5,260

-- Zero.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

[2]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[1]

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
		2010			2010	
	2009	September	Year to date	2009	September	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	1,550	--	--	1,550	--	--
Ireland	11,600	--	--	11,600	--	--
Mexico	5,410	--	20	5,410	--	20
Netherlands	--	--	89	--	--	89
Peru	55,600	--	20,200	55,600	--	20,200
Total	74,200	--	20,300	74,200	--	20,300
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Brazil	2,060	--	2,510	2,060	--	2,510
Canada	551,000	36,800	388,000	551,000	36,800	388,000
China	318	14	23	318	14	59
Japan	696	148	2,910	696	148	2,910
Kazakhstan	493	--	1,000	493	--	1,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	32	--	310
Mexico	85,600	7,010	63,300	85,600	7,010	63,300
Peru	44,800	3,710	18,500	45,000	3,740	21,700
South Africa	897	--	508	897	--	508
Spain	--	--	47	--	--	27,400
Other	9	4	51	9	4	98
Total	686,000	47,600	477,000	686,000	47,700	508,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	458	15,600	8,610	458	15,600
Grand total	769,000	48,100	512,000	769,000	48,100	543,000
Oxide:						
Argentina	--	--	384	--	--	384
Australia	384	--	138	384	--	138
Belgium	857	--	227	857	--	227
Brazil	--	--	120	--	--	120
Canada	33,500	4,890	37,500	33,500	4,890	37,500
China	379	47	1,420	379	47	1,420
Germany	344	122	610	344	122	610
Italy	2,110	--	77	2,110	--	77
Japan	1,520	570	2,030	1,520	570	2,030
Mexico	24,400	2,760	19,600	24,400	2,760	19,600
Netherlands	3,890	449	4,540	3,890	449	4,540
Norway	1,110	--	1	1,110	--	1
Peru	199	389	988	199	389	988
Spain	487	230	230	487	230	230
Turkey	80	40	230	80	40	230
United Kingdom	62	--	121	62	--	121
Other	2	--	232	2	--	232
Total	69,200	9,490	68,400	69,200	9,490	68,400

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC[1]

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2009 Quantity (metric tons)	2009 Value (thousands)	2010 September Quantity (metric tons)	2010 September Value (thousands)	2010 Year to date Quantity (metric tons)	2010 Year to date Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	$656,000	81,000	$106,000	549,000	$647,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	2,960	3,070	533	527	3,260	3,360
Zinc alloys	6,280	14,300	810	2,230	8,220	20,400
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	16,600	28,500	1,480	2,690	16,900	30,800
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,160	17,700	525	1,820	4,840	16,200
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	11,000	1,290	765	10,400	7,780
Powders, flakes, dust	12,100	24,800	1,240	2,760	11,200	25,300
Waste and scrap	47,100	54,300	5,600	5,930	53,600	60,300
Chemicals:						
Oxide	17,300	31,100	681	1,830	11,000	27,500
Chloride	1,800	2,750	156	212	1,540	2,300
Sulfate	1,030	1,610	34	41	1,760	2,170
Compounds, other[2]	5,240	12,000	368	652	4,780	9,250

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.
[2]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[1] ¢/lb.	London Metal Exchange cash[2] ¢/lb.	London Metal Exchange cash[2] $/t
2009:			
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
June	83.09	79.04	1,742.47
July	87.89	83.61	1,843.39
August	97.37	92.72	2,044.12
September	102.34	97.57	2,151.00
January-September	99.34	95.66	2,108.95

[1]Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premiums or discounts, depending on market conditions.
[2]Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.