

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN OCTOBER 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in October 2010 was 66,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in October was 2,130 t, 6% higher than that in September 2010 and slightly higher than that in October 2009.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for October 2010 was 112.35 cents per pound, 10% higher than the September 2010 average

price and 16% higher than the October 2009 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for October 2010 increased to \$2,371.79 per metric ton, 10% higher than the average price in September 2010 and a 15% increase compared with the average price in October 2009. During October 2010, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 12,175 t to 628,000 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2009	2010		
	January- December	September	October	January- October
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	736,000	62,100 ^r	68,300	633,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	710,000	60,000 ^r	66,000	612,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	203,000	20,800	20,800	207,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	891,000	66,700	73,200	767,000
Reported	306,000	16,400	14,900	186,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer ⁵	XX	25,100	25,100	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	686,000	47,700	52,700	560,000
Oxide (gross weight)	69,200	9,490	9,750	78,200
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	--	3,030	23,400
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,100	1,670	1,320	12,300
Exports:				
Refined zinc	2,960	533	293	3,550
Oxide (gross weight)	17,300	681	1,140	12,100
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	81,000	170,000	719,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	47,100	5,600	6,980	60,600
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,654.69	2,151.00	2,371.79	2,135.23
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	77.91	102.34	112.35	100.64

^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:		
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	67,500 ^r	65,200 ^r
August	62,700 ^r	60,600 ^r
September	62,100 ^r	60,000 ^r
October	68,300	66,000
January-October	633,000	612,000

^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	September	October	January- October
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	402,000	30,200	30,800	344,000
Other	152,000	10,700	12,400	124,000
Total	554,000	40,900	43,300	469,000
Brass and bronze	153,000	11,400	12,900	132,000
Zinc-base alloy	134,000	10,300	11,900	117,000
Other uses ²	49,600	4,030	5,180	49,300
Grand total	891,000	66,700	73,200	767,000

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:		
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
October	--	7,490
January-October	--	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)	October		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	74,200	\$68,200	3,030	\$4,140	23,400	\$31,100
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	686,000	1,080,000	52,700	119,000	560,000	1,200,000
Zinc alloys	4,900	8,980	804	1,860	6,090	13,200
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	1,900	4,730	166	491	2,240	6,500
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,010	13,500	267	1,200	2,960	13,300
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	7,760	489	605	16,000	16,700
Powders, flakes, dust	20,400	44,300	3,960	10,700	25,200	69,900
Waste and scrap	9,100	8,800	1,320	1,590	12,300	15,000
Chemicals:						
Oxide	69,200	98,500	9,750	19,800	78,200	151,000
Chloride	249	964	46	116	321	1,140
Sulfate	31,700	23,000	3,840	3,420	30,400	25,800
Compounds, other ²	3,160	4,610	327	615	3,490	5,870

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	
		October	Year to date		October	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	3,030	23,300	55,600	3,030	23,300
Total	74,200	3,030	23,400	74,200	3,030	23,400
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Brazil	2,060	500	3,010	2,060	500	3,010
Canada	551,000	42,200	430,000	551,000	42,200	430,000
China	318	2	25	318	2	61
Japan	696	297	3,210	696	297	3,210
Kazakhstan	493	--	1,000	493	--	1,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	32	--	310
Mexico	85,600	5,740	69,000	85,600	5,740	69,000
Peru	44,800	2,290	20,800	45,000	2,290	24,000
Russia	--	1,720	1,720	--	1,720	1,720
South Africa	897	--	508	897	--	508
Spain	--	--	47	--	--	27,400
Other	9	3	54	9	3	101
Total	686,000	52,700	529,000	686,000	52,700	560,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,610	489	16,000	8,610	489	16,000
Grand total	769,000	56,200	569,000	769,000	56,200	600,000
Oxide:						
Argentina	--	--	384	--	--	384
Australia	384	18	156	384	18	156
Belgium	857	--	227	857	--	227
Brazil	--	202	322	--	202	322
Canada	33,500	5,090	42,600	33,500	5,090	42,600
China	379	50	1,470	379	50	1,470
Germany	344	87	696	344	87	696
Italy	2,110	11	88	2,110	11	88
Japan	1,520	341	2,370	1,520	341	2,370
Mexico	24,400	3,060	22,700	24,400	3,060	22,700
Netherlands	3,890	297	4,840	3,890	297	4,840
Norway	1,110	--	1	1,110	--	1
Peru	199	304	1,290	199	304	1,290
Spain	487	287	517	487	287	517
Turkey	80	--	230	80	--	230
United Kingdom	62	--	121	62	--	121
Other	2	(2)	232	2	(2)	232
Total	69,200	9,750	78,200	69,200	9,750	78,200

-- 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	2010					
	2009		October		Year to date	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	785,000	\$656,000	170,000	\$235,000	719,000	\$882,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	2,960	3,070	293	298	3,550	3,660
Zinc alloys	6,280	14,300	1,120	3,250	9,340	23,600
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	16,600	28,500	4,600	9,680	21,500	40,500
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,160	17,700	1,680	3,000	6,520	19,200
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	11,000	1,120	1,000	11,500	8,790
Powders, flakes, dust	12,100	24,800	1,190	2,450	12,400	27,700
Waste and scrap	47,100	54,300	6,980	7,350	60,600	67,700
Chemicals:						
Oxide	17,300	31,100	1,140	2,180	12,100	29,700
Chloride	1,800	2,750	117	177	1,660	2,480
Sulfate	1,030	1,610	11	19	1,770	2,190
Compounds, other ²	5,240	12,000	560	1,000	5,340	10,300

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:			
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
October	112.35	107.58	2,371.79
January-October	100.64	96.85	2,135.23

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.