



Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JANUARY 2011

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in January 2011 was 69,500 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in January was 2,240 t, 10% higher than that in December 2010 and 17% higher than that in January 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for January 2011 was 112.57 cents per pound, 4% higher than the December 2010 average

price and slightly lower than the January 2010 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for January 2011 increased to \$2,370.96 per metric ton, 4% higher than the average price in December 2010 and a 3% decrease compared with the average price in January 2010. During January 2011, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 8,850 t to 710,275 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2010			2011
	January- December	November	December	January
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	751,000	51,800	65,400	71,900
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	725,000	50,000	63,200	69,500
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	248,000	20,600	20,600	20,600
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	919,000	75,800	76,000	76,700
Reported	213,000	14,000	13,100	20,500
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer	XX	26,600	37,900 ^r	41,100
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	--	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	671,000	57,200	53,100	60,400
Oxide (gross weight)	94,300	8,510	7,650	8,550
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	--	8,880	6,610
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	15,600	1,310	2,040	852
Exports:				
Refined zinc	4,200	477	177	1,090
Oxide (gross weight)	16,700	2,510	2,070	1,560
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	13,500	19,500	553
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	77,900	7,920	9,340	5,060
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,160.31	2,291.14	2,280.29	2,370.96
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	101.98	108.95	108.46	112.57

^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.

⁵Includes estimate for those respondents 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
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	65,200
August	62,700	60,600
September	62,100	60,000
October	68,300	66,000
November	51,800	50,000
December	65,400	63,200
January-December	751,000	725,000
2011, January	71,900	69,500

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)

	2010			2011 January
	January- December	November	December	
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	410,000	33,000	32,800	35,400
Other	151,000	13,200	13,300	12,300
Total	561,000	46,200	46,100	47,700
Brass and bronze	158,000	12,500	12,800	12,800
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	12,400	12,800	11,900
Other uses ²	58,300	4,680	4,260	4,310
Grand total	919,000	75,800	76,000	76,700

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
2010:		
January	--	7,490
February	--	7,490
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
2011, January	--	7,490

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: DLA Strategic Materials.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2010		2011	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	January	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	\$43,700	6,610	\$10,000
Unwrought:				
Refined (slab) zinc	671,000	1,450,000	60,400	141,000
Zinc alloys	7,220	15,900	519	1,250
Wrought:				
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,630	7,710	230	675
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,440	15,300	220	1,020
Other:				
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	19,200	613	806
Powders, flakes, dust	31,600	88,400	2,210	6,510
Waste and scrap	15,600	19,400	852	900
Chemicals:				
Oxide	94,300	185,000	8,550	17,100
Chloride	405	1,290	34	167
Sulfate	37,500	32,300	3,500	3,350
Compounds, other ²	4,040	7,030	208	392

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

²Includes zinc sulfide (HTS 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), lithopone chromates of zinc or of lead (HTS 2841.90.4500), and 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	
	2010	2011 January	2010	2011 January
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):				
Canada	64	220	64	220
Mexico	20	--	20	--
Netherlands	89	--	89	--
Peru	32,100	6,390	32,100	6,390
Total	32,200	6,610	32,200	6,610
Refined (slab) zinc:				
Brazil	3,010	--	3,010	--
Canada	506,000	45,000	506,000	45,000
China	180	6	216	6
Japan	3,990	460	3,990	460
Kazakhstan	1,000	--	1,000	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	310	--
Mexico	79,500	7,240	79,500	7,240
Peru	24,900	6,220	28,100	6,220
Russia	4,740	1,480	4,740	1,480
South Africa	508	--	508	--
Spain	47	--	43,600	--
Other	60	--	107	--
Total	623,000	60,400	671,000	60,400
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	613	17,900	613
Grand total	674,000	67,700	721,000	67,700
Oxide:				
Argentina	464	--	464	--
Australia	173	--	173	--
Belgium	242	10	242	10
Brazil	322	--	322	--
Canada	50,900	4,470	50,900	4,470
China	1,650	54	1,650	54
Germany	818	146	818	146
Japan	2,700	365	2,700	365
Mexico	27,700	2,490	27,700	2,490
Netherlands	5,550	979	5,550	979
Peru	2,390	19	2,390	19
Spain	728	--	728	--
Turkey	310	20	310	20
United Kingdom	121	--	121	--
Other	317 ^r	6	317 ^r	5
Total	94,300	8,560	94,300	8,550

-- Zero.

¹Data 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 ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2010		2011	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	January	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	\$903,000	553	\$934
Unwrought:				
Refined (slab) zinc	4,200	4,320	1,090	999
Zinc alloys	11,400	29,300	780	2,480
Wrought:				
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	27,800	53,300	1,810	2,910
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	7,380	21,900	465	1,500
Other:				
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	10,700	3,330	895
Powders, flakes, dust	14,900	33,600	1,120	2,460
Waste and scrap	77,900	85,200	5,060	6,030
Chemicals:				
Oxide	16,700	36,700	1,560	2,730
Chloride	1,930	2,950	123	216
Sulfate	1,870	2,360	12	18
Compounds, other ²	6,360	11,700	250	425

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 ¢/lb.	cash ² ¢/lb. \$/t	
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
November	108.95	103.92	2,291.14
December	108.46	103.43	2,280.29
January-December	101.98	97.99	2,160.31
2011, January	112.57	107.55	2,370.96

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.