

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

Hodan A. Fatah (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-4971
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: hfatah@usgs.gov

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

ZINC IN FEBRUARY 2011

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in February 2011 was 54,400 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in February was 1,940 t, 13% lower than that in January 2011 and 3% lower than that in February 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for February 2011 was 117.03 cents per pound, 4% higher than the January 2011 average price

and 16% higher than the February 2010 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for February 2011 increased to \$2,464.70 per metric ton, 4% higher than the average price in January 2011 and a 14% increase compared with the average price in February 2010. During February 2011, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 1,775 t to 708,300 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2010 ^p	2011		
	January- December	January	February	January- February
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	751,000	71,900	56,400	128,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	725,000	69,500	54,400	124,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	248,000	20,200 ^r	20,200	40,400
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	919,000	76,300 ^r	65,600	142,000
Reported ⁵	213,000	20,500 ^r	20,000	40,400
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer ⁵	37,900	41,100	42,800	42,800
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	671,000	60,400	48,800	109,000
Oxide (gross weight)	94,300 ^r	8,550	7,800	16,300
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	6,610	198	6,810
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	15,600	853	1,460	2,320
Exports:				
Refined zinc	4,200	1,090	1,790	2,880
Oxide (gross weight)	16,700	1,560	2,360	3,910
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	553	26,700	27,200
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	77,900	5,060	9,090	14,100
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,160.31	2,370.96	2,464.70	2,417.83
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	101.98	112.57	117.03	114.80

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. -- 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: ^P		
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
February	56,400	54,400
January-February	128,000	124,000

^PPreliminary.

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 ^P	2011		
	January- December	January ^f	February	January- February
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	410,000	35,300	31,200	66,500
Other	151,000	12,200	10,000	22,200
Total	561,000	47,500	41,300	88,700
Brass and bronze	158,000	12,800	10,600	23,400
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	11,800	9,870	21,700
Other uses ²	58,300	4,290	3,840	8,120
Grand total	919,000	76,300	65,600	142,000

^PPreliminary. ^fRevised.

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

-- 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 ZINC ¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2010		2011			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	February		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	\$43,700	198	\$450	6,810	\$10,500
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	671,000	1,450,000	48,800	119,000	109,000	260,000
Zinc alloys	7,220	15,900	376	944	895	2,190
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,630	7,710	325	974	555	1,650
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,440	15,300	231	1,000	451	2,020
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	19,200	653	924	1,270	1,730
Powders, flakes, dust	31,600	88,400	2,390	7,720	4,600	14,200
Waste and scrap	15,600	19,400	1,460	1,960	2,320	2,860
Chemicals:						
Oxide	94,300	185,000	7,800	16,300	16,300	33,400
Chloride	405	1,290	35	175	69	341
Sulfate	37,500	32,300	3,910	3,830	7,410	7,170
Compounds, other ²	4,040	7,030	361	703	569	1,100

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		
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
		February	Year to date		February	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	64	198	418	64	198	418
Mexico	20	--	--	20	--	--
Netherlands	89	--	--	89	--	--
Peru	32,100	--	6,390	32,100	--	6,390
Total	32,200	198	6,810	32,200	198	6,810
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Brazil	3,010	--	--	3,010	--	--
Canada	506,000	39,200	84,200	506,000	39,200	84,200
China	1	(2)	6	216	(2)	6
Japan	3,990	510	969	3,990	510	969
Kazakhstan	1,000	--	--	1,000	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	310	--	--
Mexico	79,500	5,330	12,600	79,500	5,330	12,600
Peru	24,900	3,770	9,980	28,100	3,770	9,980
Russia	4,740	--	1,480	4,740	--	1,480
South Africa	508	--	--	508	--	--
Spain	47	--	--	43,600	--	--
Other	60	12	12	107	12	12
Total	623,000	48,800	109,000	671,000	48,800	109,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	653	1,270	17,900	653	1,270
Grand total	674,000	49,700	117,000	721,000	49,700	117,000
Oxide:						
Argentina	464	--	--	464	--	--
Australia	173	555	555	173	555	555
Belgium	242	--	10	242	--	10
Brazil	322	--	--	322	--	--
Canada	50,900	3,850	8,320	50,900	3,850	8,320
China	1,650	30	84	1,650	30	84
Germany	818	684	829	818	684	829
Japan	2,700	147	512	2,700	147	512
Mexico	27,700	2,170	4,660	27,700	2,170	4,660
Netherlands	5,550	325	1,300	5,550	325	1,300
Peru	2,390	--	19	2,390	--	19
Spain	728	--	--	728	--	--
Turkey	310	20	40	310	20	40
United Kingdom	121	3	3	121	3	3
Other	332 ^r	5	11	332 ^r	5	11
Total	94,300	7,800	16,400	94,300	7,800	16,300

^rRevised. -- 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		2011			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	February		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	\$903,000	26,700	\$25,900	27,200	\$26,900
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	4,200	4,320	1,790	2,030	2,880	3,020
Zinc alloys	11,400	29,300	1,420	3,950	2,200	6,430
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	27,800	53,300	2,120	3,540	3,930	6,460
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	7,380	21,900	487	1,530	952	3,030
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	10,700	1,030	1,020	4,360	1,910
Powders, flakes, dust	14,900	33,600	1,030	2,370	2,150	4,840
Waste and scrap	77,900	85,200	9,090	8,930	14,100	15,000
Chemicals:						
Oxide	16,700	36,700	2,360	3,750	3,910	6,480
Chloride	1,930	2,950	128	203	250	419
Sulfate	1,870	2,360	11	20	22	38
Compounds, other ²	6,360	11,700	499	748	749	1,170

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
2010:			
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
February	117.03	111.80	2,464.70
January-February	114.80	109.68	2,417.83

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.