

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN APRIL 2011

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in April 2011 was 59,300 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in April was 1,980 t, slightly lower than that in March 2011 and 3% lower than that in April 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for April 2011 was 114.01 cents

per pound, 2% higher than the March 2011 average price and 3% higher than the April 2010 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for April 2011 was \$2,372 per metric ton, slightly higher than the average price in March 2011 and a slight increase compared with the average price in April 2010. During April 2011, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 85,625 t to 821,850 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2010 ^p	2011		
	January- December	March	April	January- April
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	748,000	64,300	61,400	254,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	723,000	62,100	59,300	245,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	248,000	21,700	21,700	86,900
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	919,000	83,200 ^r	72,100	300,000
Reported ⁵	213,000	22,000 ^r	20,900	83,800
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period,				
producer and consumer ⁵	37,900	44,500 ^r	46,600	46,600
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	671,000	66,700	54,400	230,000
Oxide (gross weight)	94,300	7,870	7,340	31,600
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	308	4,620	11,700
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	15,600	1,470	1,590	5,370
Exports:				
Refined zinc	4,200	3,510	1,810	8,200
Oxide (gross weight)	16,700	2,520	1,610	8,040
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	13,000	22,700	62,900
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	77,900	7,660	6,330	28,100
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,160.31	2,348.91	2,372.00	2,398.14
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	101.98	112.36	114.01	113.99

^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		
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	67,600	65,300
November	51,000	49,300
December	64,500	62,300
January-December	748,000	723,000
2011:		
January	70,900	68,500
February	57,000	54,900
March	64,300	62,100
April	61,400	59,300
January-April	254,000	245,000

^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	March	April	January-April
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	410,000	38,100 ^r	34,100	140,000
Other	151,000	13,400 ^r	11,200	47,400
Total	561,000	51,500 ^r	45,300	188,000
Brass and bronze	158,000	13,700	11,600	49,100
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	12,800 ^r	10,900	45,900
Other uses ²	58,300	5,260 ^r	4,250	17,800
Grand total	919,000	83,200 ^r	72,100	300,000

^pPreliminary. ^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
2010:		
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
March	--	7,490
April	--	7,490
January–April	--	7,490

-- 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	2010		2011			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	April		January–April	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	\$43,700	4,620	\$7,860	11,700	\$19,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	671,000	1,450,000	54,400	132,000	230,000	554,000
Zinc alloys	7,220	15,900	5,240	12,700	7,920	19,400
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,630	7,710	241	730	1,050	3,210
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,440	15,300	118	512	921	4,150
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	19,200	594	874	2,880	3,960
Powders, flakes, dust	31,600	88,400	2,450	7,770	10,500	32,700
Waste and scrap	15,600	19,400	1,590	2,060	5,370	6,860
Chemicals:						
Oxide	94,300	185,000	7,340	16,200	31,600	67,000
Chloride	405	1,290	41	84	148	528
Sulfate	37,500	32,300	4,440	4,240	17,600	16,900
Compounds, other ²	4,040	7,030	315	420	1,380	2,270

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 COUNTRY ¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
		April	January–April		April	January–April
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	64	484	1,210	64	484	1,210
Mexico	20	--	--	20	--	--
Netherlands	89	--	--	89	--	--
Peru	32,100	2,710	9,100	32,100	2,710	9,100
Turkey	--	1,270	1,270	--	1,270	1,270
United Kingdom	--	155	155	--	155	155
Total	32,200	4,620	11,700	32,200	4,620	11,700
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Brazil	3,010	2,490	3,990	3,010	2,490	3,990
Canada	506,000	35,800	159,000	506,000	35,800	159,000
China	180	1	14	216	1	14
Colombia	19	--	--	19	--	--
Germany	--	--	1	--	--	1
Japan	3,990	17	1,420	3,990	17	1,420
Kazakhstan	1,000	--	--	1,000	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	310	--	100
Malaysia	--	--	10	--	--	10
Mexico	79,500	8,470	24,700	79,500	8,470	24,700
Namibia	--	--	17,400	--	--	17,400
Peru	24,900	7,600	22,500	28,100	7,600	22,500
Russia	4,740	--	1,480	4,740	--	1,480
South Africa	508	--	--	508	--	--
Spain	47	--	--	43,600	--	--
Sweden	7	1	1	7	1	1
Switzerland	--	--	--	47	--	--
Taiwan	34	8	15	34	8	15
Total	623,000	54,400	230,000	671,000	54,400	230,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	594	2,880	17,900	594	2,880
Grand total	674,000	59,600	245,000	721,000	59,600	245,000
Oxide:						
Argentina	464	--	--	464	--	--
Australia	173	29	584	173	29	584
Belgium	242	22	50	242	22	50
Brazil	322	--	--	322	--	--
Canada	50,900	4,250	16,600	50,900	4,250	16,600
China	1,650	31	153	1,650	31	153
Germany	818	77	1,210	818	77	1,210
Japan	2,700	133	851	2,700	133	851
Mexico	27,700	2,260	9,510	27,700	2,260	9,510
Netherlands	5,550	539	2,400	5,550	539	2,400
Peru	2,390	--	38	2,390	--	38
Spain	728	--	--	728	--	--
Turkey	310	--	80	310	--	80
United Kingdom	121	--	3	121	--	3
Other	330	4	71	330	4	71
Total	94,300	7,340	31,600	94,300	7,340	31,600

-- 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	2011					
	2010		April		January–April	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	\$903,000	22,700	\$39,100	62,900	\$78,300
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	4,200	4,320	1,810	1,910	8,200	8,650
Zinc alloys	11,400	29,300	1,140	2,970	4,670	13,000
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	27,800	53,300	1,950	2,870	8,530	13,400
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	7,380	21,900	2,060	5,660	3,560	10,400
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	10,700	2,900	819	8,610	4,120
Powders, flakes, dust	14,900	33,600	1,560	3,230	5,000	10,700
Waste and scrap	77,900	85,200	6,330	6,850	28,100	29,900
Chemicals:						
Oxide	16,700	36,700	1,610	3,670	8,040	15,100
Chloride	1,930	2,950	164	286	621	1,020
Sulfate	1,870	2,360	12	18	47	75
Compounds, other ²	6,360	11,700	325	658	1,710	2,770

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:			
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
March	112.36	106.54	2,348.91
April	114.01	107.59	2,372.00
January–April	113.99	108.37	2,389.14

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.