

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ZINC IN AUGUST 2011

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in August 2011 was 63,000 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in August was 2,030 t, 10% less than that in July 2011 and 4% higher than that in August 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for August 2011 was 107.83 cents per pound, 7% lower than the July 2011 average price and

11% higher than the August 2010 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for August 2011 was \$2,211.33 per metric ton, 7% lower than the average price in July 2011 and 8% higher than the average price in August 2010. During August 2011, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 33,475 t to 855,850 t.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2010 <sup>p</sup>	2011		
	January– December	July	August	January– August
<b>Production:</b>				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate <sup>2</sup>	748,000	72,400	65,200	520,000
Mine, recoverable zinc <sup>2</sup>	723,000	70,000	63,000	502,000
Smelter, refined zinc <sup>e, 3</sup>	248,000	16,200 <sup>r</sup>	16,200	163,000
<b>Consumption of refined zinc:</b>				
Apparent <sup>4</sup>	919,000	61,800 <sup>r</sup>	74,100	589,000
Reported <sup>5</sup>	234,000	25,300 <sup>r</sup>	26,000	207,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer <sup>5</sup>	37,900	76,600 <sup>r</sup>	77,200	77,200
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>				
Refined zinc	671,000	49,600	59,600	458,000
Oxide (gross weight)	94,300	9,630	7,510	64,700
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	363	6,140	22,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	15,600	1,610	1,470	11,800
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined zinc	4,200	816	1,000	14,000
Oxide (gross weight)	16,700	1,470	2,810	16,400
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	157,000	178,000	418,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	77,900	7,080	5,950	56,000
<b>Price:<sup>6</sup></b>				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,160.31	2,389.99	2,211.33	2,318.50
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	101.98	115.93	107.83	111.57

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.

<sup>3</sup>Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

<sup>4</sup>Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

<sup>5</sup>Includes estimate for those respondents that report annually.

<sup>6</sup>Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2  
MINE PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Zinc content	Recoverable
2010: <sup>P</sup>		
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	61,700	59,600
May	68,500	66,200
June	59,900	57,900
July	72,400	70,000
August	65,200	63,000
January–August	520,000	502,000

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes the zinc content in both lead and zinc concentrates.

TABLE 3  
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING  
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2010 <sup>P</sup> January– December	2011		
		July <sup>f</sup>	August	January– August
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	410,000	31,100	36,400	287,000
Other	151,000	8,550	11,000	87,400
Total	561,000	39,700	47,400	374,000
Brass and bronze	158,000	9,210	10,700	88,700
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	9,080	11,300	90,200
Other uses <sup>2</sup>	58,300	3,780	4,720	36,000
Grand total	919,000	61,800	74,100	589,000

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>f</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory <sup>2</sup>
2010:		
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
May	--	7,490
June	--	7,490
July	--	7,490
August	--	7,490
January–August	--	7,490

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes only uncommitted inventory.

Source: DLA Strategic Materials.

TABLE 5  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2010		2011			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	August		January–August	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	\$43,700	6,140	\$9,400	22,000	\$35,700
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	671,000	1,450,000	59,600	137,000	458,000	1,080,000
Zinc alloys	7,220	15,900	5,050	12,200	29,200	68,700
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,630	7,710	208	632	1,970	6,000
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,440	15,300	323	1,490	2,370	10,600
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	19,200	1,460	1,770	9,210	11,800
Powders, flakes, dust	31,600	88,400	3,310	10,000	21,000	63,400
Waste and scrap	15,600	19,400	1,470	1,970	11,800	15,200
Chemicals:						
Oxide	94,300	185,000	7,510	15,200	64,700	132,000
Chloride	405	1,290	9	106	202	942
Sulfate	37,500	32,300	3,400	3,540	32,400	31,700
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	4,040	7,030	407	845	2,810	5,070

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
		August	January–August		August	January–August
<b>Ore and concentrate (zinc content):</b>						
Canada	64	297	2,770	64	297	2,770
Mexico	20	--	2,800	20	--	2,800
Netherlands	89	--	81	89	--	81
Peru	32,100	5,840	14,900	32,100	5,840	14,900
Turkey	--	--	1,270	--	--	1,270
United Kingdom	--	--	155	--	--	155
Total	32,200	6,140	22,000	32,200	6,140	22,000
<b>Refined (slab) zinc:</b>						
Australia	--	--	4,000	--	--	7,530
Brazil	3,010	995	5,090	3,010	995	5,090
Canada	506,000	37,200	301,000	506,000	37,200	301,000
China	180	1	55	216	1	55
Japan	3,990	--	1,420	3,990	--	1,420
Kazakhstan	1,000	--	--	1,000	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	310	--	100
Mexico	79,500	8,690	58,600	79,500	8,690	58,600
Namibia	--	8,160	36,100	--	8,160	36,100
Peru	24,900	4,050	42,300	28,100	4,050	42,500
Russia	4,740	--	1,480	4,740	--	1,480
South Africa	508	--	--	508	--	--
Spain	47	--	--	43,600	495	4,140
Other	60	4	35	107	4	35
Total	623,000	59,100	450,000	671,000	59,600	458,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	1,460	9,210	17,900	1,460	9,210
Grand total	674,000	66,700	481,000	721,000	67,200	489,000
<b>Oxide:</b>						
Argentina	464	--	--	464	--	--
Australia	173	73	876	173	73	876
Belgium	242	205	582	242	205	582
Brazil	322	--	--	322	--	--
Canada	50,900	3,560	32,200	50,900	3,560	32,200
China	1,650	58	296	1,650	58	296
Germany	818	376	2,200	818	376	2,200
Japan	2,700	237	1,830	2,700	237	1,830
Mexico	27,700	2,670	19,000	27,700	2,670	19,000
Netherlands	5,550	283	3,770	5,550	283	3,770
Peru	2,390	--	1,950	2,390	--	1,950
Spain	728	--	--	728	--	--
Turkey	310	40	1,700	310	40	1,700
United Arab Emirates	--	--	140	--	--	140
United Kingdom	121	9	16	121	9	16
Other	332	3	133	332	3	133
Total	94,300	7,510	64,700	94,300	7,510	64,700

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2010		2011			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	August		January–August	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	\$903,000	178,000	\$272,000	418,000	\$634,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	4,200	4,320	1,000	1,050	14,000	14,700
Zinc alloys	11,400	29,300	1,310	3,320	10,100	26,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	27,800	53,300	2,980	4,550	18,200	27,800
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	7,380	21,900	573	1,730	6,000	18,200
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	10,700	636	1,040	13,400	7,600
Powders, flakes, dust	14,900	33,600	1,270	2,770	10,500	22,800
Waste and scrap	77,900	85,200	5,950	6,630	56,000	61,200
Chemicals:						
Oxide	16,700	36,700	2,810	4,270	16,400	31,300
Chloride	1,930	2,950	153	248	1,220	1,980
Sulfate	1,870	2,360	101	329	185	447
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	6,360	11,700	449	663	3,530	5,680

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>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	London Metal Exchange	
	American <sup>1</sup> ¢/lb.	cash <sup>2</sup> ¢/lb.      \$/t	
2010:			
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
May	104.41	97.98	2,160.01
June	108.38	101.15	2,230.08
July	115.93	108.41	2,389.99
August	107.83	100.30	2,211.33
January–August	111.57	105.17	2,318.50

<sup>1</sup>Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premiums or discounts, depending on market conditions.

<sup>2</sup>Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.