

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN OCTOBER 2011

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in October 2011 was 55,400 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in October was 1,790 t, 11% lower than that in September 2011 and 15% lower than that in October 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for October 2011 was 91.83 cents per pound, 10% lower than the September 2011 average

price and 18% lower than the October 2010 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for October 2011 was \$1,858.77 per metric ton, 10% lower than the average price in September 2011 and 22% lower than the average price in October 2010. During October 2011, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 41,550 t to 777,275 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2010 ^P	2011		
	January– December	September	October	January– October
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	748,000	62,200	57,400	640,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	723,000	60,000	55,400	618,000
Smelter, refined zinc ³	248,000	15,500	15,500	193,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	919,000	73,400	95,000	757,000
Reported ⁵	234,000	25,800	25,800	259,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer ⁵	37,900	79,200	81,500	81,500
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	671,000	61,500	83,300	603,000
Oxide (gross weight)	94,300	6,690	6,450	77,900
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	364	429	22,800
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	15,600	1,270	1,490	14,600
Exports:				
Refined zinc	4,200	903	1,420	16,300
Oxide (gross weight)	16,700	2,550	2,890	21,800
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	105,000	119,000	643,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	77,900	7,360	8,630	72,000
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,160.31	2,076.40	1,858.77	2,248.31
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	101.98	101.70	91.83	108.61

⁶Estimated. ^PPreliminary. -- 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 estimates for 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		
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	72,500	70,100
August	65,900	63,600
September	62,200	60,000
October	57,400	55,400
January–October	640,000	618,000

^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 January– December	2011		
		September	October	January– October
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	410,000	36,000	43,700	367,000
Other	151,000	10,900	15,500	114,000
Total	561,000	46,900	59,100	480,000
Brass and bronze	158,000	10,500	14,600	114,000
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	10,900	15,200	116,000
Other uses ²	58,300	5,110	6,030	47,100
Grand total	919,000	73,400	95,000	757,000

^PPreliminary.

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:		
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
September	--	7,490
October	--	7,490
January–October	--	7,490

-- Zero.

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

²Includes only uncommitted inventory.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2010		2011			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	October		January–October	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	\$43,700	429	\$899	22,800	\$37,400
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	671,000	1,450,000	83,300	167,000	603,000	1,380,000
Zinc alloys	7,220	15,900	5,860	12,100	39,400	90,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,630	7,710	214	648	2,320	7,070
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,440	15,300	283	1,380	2,990	13,400
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	19,200	1,260	1,500	11,300	14,400
Powders, flakes, dust	31,600	88,400	3,070	8,960	26,200	78,300
Waste and scrap	15,600	19,400	1,490	1,880	14,600	18,800
Chemicals:						
Oxide	94,300	185,000	6,450	12,700	77,900	159,000
Chloride	405	1,290	8	76	239	1,110
Sulfate	37,500	32,300	5,530	5,030	42,800	41,600
Compounds, other ²	4,040	7,030	310	437	3,510	6,090

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).

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	
		October	January–October		October	January–October
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	64	429	3,570	64	429	3,570
Mexico	20	--	2,800	20	--	2,800
Netherlands	89	--	81	89	--	81
Peru	32,100	--	14,900	32,100	--	14,900
Turkey	--	--	1,270	--	--	1,270
United Kingdom	--	--	155	--	--	155
Total	32,200	429	22,800	32,200	429	22,800
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Australia	--	--	4,000	--	5,160	13,500
Brazil	3,010	--	6,680	3,010	--	6,680
Canada	506,000	36,900	374,000	506,000	36,900	374,000
China	180	--	55	216	--	55
Japan	3,990	--	1,420	3,990	74	1,490
Kazakhstan	1,000	--	--	1,000	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	310	11,900	12,000
Mexico	79,500	8,770	73,700	79,500	8,770	73,700
Namibia	--	--	47,500	--	--	47,500
Peru	24,900	3,560	50,700	28,100	3,610	51,100
Russia	4,740	--	1,480	4,740	--	1,480
South Africa	508	--	--	508	--	--
Spain	47	--	--	43,600	16,900	21,600
Other	60	2,076	35	107	--	35
Total	623,000	49,200	560,000	671,000	83,300	603,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)						
	17,900	1,260	11,300	17,900	1,260	11,300
Grand total*	674,000	50,900	594,000	721,000	85,000	637,000
Oxide:						
Argentina	464	--	--	464	--	--
Australia	173	138	1,090	173	138	1,090
Belgium	242	91	911	242	91	911
Brazil*	322	--	--	322	--	--
Canada	50,900	3,660	39,300	50,900	3,660	39,300
China	1,650	52	428	1,650	52	428
Germany	818	306	2,790	818	306	2,790
Japan	2,700	226	2,180	2,700	226	2,180
Mexico	27,700	1,950	23,200	27,700	1,950	23,200
Netherlands	5,550	18	3,860	5,550	18	3,860
Peru	2,390	--	1,970	2,390	--	1,970
Spain	728	--	--	728	--	--
Turkey	310	3	1,720	310	3	1,720
United Arab Emirates	--	--	140	--	--	140
United Kingdom	121	--	16	121	--	16
Other	332	10	181	332	10	181
Total	94,300	6,450	77,900	94,300	6,450	77,900

-- Zero.

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

*Correction posted on January 31, 2012.

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)	October		January–October	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	\$903,000	119,000	\$185,000	643,000	\$978,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	4,200	4,320	1,420	1,400	16,300	17,100
Zinc alloys	11,400	29,300	858	1,920	11,600	30,000
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	27,800	53,300	2,000	2,920	22,600	34,000
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	7,380	21,900	436	1,310	7,250	22,000
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	10,700	1,330	777	15,400	9,050
Powders, flakes, dust	14,900	33,600	1,150	2,500	13,000	28,300
Waste and scrap	77,900	85,200	8,630	9,780	72,000	79,200
Chemicals:						
Oxide	16,700	36,700	2,890	4,530	21,800	39,900
Chloride	1,930	2,950	142	234	1,510	2,410
Sulfate	1,870	2,360	23	27	211	478
Compounds, other ²	6,360	11,700	534	772	4,630	7,280

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:			
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
September	101.70	94.18	2,076.40
October	91.83	84.31	1,858.77
January–October	108.61	101.98	2,248.31

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.