



Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JANUARY 2012

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in January 2012 was 58,400 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in January was 1,880 t, 14% lower than that in December 2011 and 15% lower compared with that in January 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for January 2012 was 96.84 cents per pound, 3% higher than the December 2011 average

price but 14% lower than the January 2011 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for January 2012 was \$1,980.38 per metric ton, 3% higher than the average price in December 2011 but 16% lower compared with the average price in January 2011. During January 2012, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 22,200 t to 842,500 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2011		2012 January
	January– December	December	
Production:			
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	771,000	70,100	60,500
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	744,000	67,800	58,400
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	252,000	25,000	25,000
Consumption of refined zinc:			
Apparent ⁴	923,000	87,200	75,000
Reported ⁵	310,000	24,600	24,600 ^e
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer ⁵	85,700	85,700	85,700 ^e
Imports for consumption:			
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	3,250	247
Refined zinc	716,000	64,000	50,600
Exports:			
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	3,300	3
Refined zinc	19,000	1,320	688
Price:⁶			
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,192.89	1,915.85	1,980.38
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	106.23	94.35	96.84

^eEstimated.

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 stock change.

⁵Includes estimates for respondents that report annually.

⁶Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
MINE AND SMELTER PRODUCTION OF ZINC
IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine ²		Smelter ^{e,3}
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2011:			
January	70,900	68,500	21,800
February	57,000	54,900	21,800
March	64,300	62,100	21,800
April	61,700	59,600	21,800
May	68,500	66,200	21,800
June	59,900	57,900	21,800
July	72,500	70,100	15,500
August	65,900	63,600	15,500
September	62,200	60,000	15,500
October	57,200	55,200	25,000
November	60,500	58,500	25,000
December	70,100	67,800	25,000
January–December	771,000	744,000	252,000
2012, January	60,500	58,400	25,000

^eEstimated.

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.

³Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

	2011		2012 January
	January– December	December	
Galvanizing:			
Sheet and strip	467,000	41,900	37,100
Other	140,000	14,000	11,500
Total	586,000	55,900	48,600
Brass and bronze	138,000	12,800	10,800
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	14,100	11,800
Other uses ²	56,300	4,380	3,780
Grand total	923,000	87,200	75,000

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
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2011		2012 January	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	\$43,000	247	\$559
Unwrought:				
Refined (slab) zinc	716,000	1,610,000	50,600	101,000
Zinc alloys	47,400	106,000	5,750	11,300
Wrought:				
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,680	8,120	233	734
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,650	16,500	280	1,260
Other:				
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,400	17,600	1,670	1,860
Powders, flakes, dust	30,100	89,300	1,450	3,730
Waste and scrap	18,500	23,400	976	1,120
Chemicals:				
Oxide	90,000	181,000	7,240	13,700
Chloride	255	1,290	13	130
Sulfate	53,900	51,700	4,510	4,290
Compounds, other ²	3,850	6,620	253	647

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 3206.42.000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
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	
	2011	2012 January	2011	2012 January
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):				
Canada	4,650	247	4,650	247
Mexico	2,800	--	2,800	--
Netherlands	81	--	81	--
Peru	17,800	--	17,800	--
Turkey	1,270	--	1,270	--
United Kingdom	155	--	155	--
Total	26,700	247	26,700	247
Refined (slab) zinc:				
Australia	4,000	--	13,500	--
Brazil	8,050	--	8,050	--
Canada	448,000	38,100	448,000	38,100
Japan	1,420	--	1,490	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	12,000	--
Mexico	88,700	7,750	88,700	7,750
Namibia	59,500	--	59,500	--
Peru	61,900	4,770	62,300	4,770
Russia	1,480	--	1,480	--
Spain	--	1	21,600	1
Other	131	--	131	--
Total	673,000	50,600	716,000	50,600
Oxide:				
Argentina	1,310	60	1,310	60
Belgium	1,170	40	1,170	40
Canada	45,000	4,060	45,000	4,060
China	566	37	566	37
Germany	3,390	145	3,390	145
Indonesia	107	--	107	--
Japan	2,490	74	2,490	74
Mexico	27,700	2,400	27,700	2,400
Netherlands	4,060	282	4,060	282
Peru	2,000	57	2,000	57
Spain	144	--	144	--
Turkey	1,780	40	1,780	40
United Arab Emirates	140	--	140	--
Other	163	49	163	49
Total	90,000	7,240	90,000	7,240

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2011		2012 January	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	(metric tons)	(thousands)	(metric tons)	(thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	\$997,000	3	\$10
Unwrought:				
Refined (slab) zinc	19,000	19,800	688	765
Zinc alloys	13,500	34,900	1,130	2,850
Wrought:				
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	25,700	39,100	1,750	2,750
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,730	26,000	453	1,620
Other:				
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	19,700	11,700	1,590	891
Powders, flakes, dust	15,600	34,000	1,010	2,330
Waste and scrap	85,600	93,900	4,130	5,400
Chemicals:				
Oxide	31,600	51,300	3,710	4,200
Chloride	1,800	2,860	66	155
Sulfate	285	588	63	96
Compounds, other ²	5,630	8,800	867	1,140

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 7
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North American ¹ ¢/lb.	London Metal Exchange cash ²	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
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
November	94.41	86.89	1,915.69
December	94.35	86.90	1,915.85
January–December	106.23	99.47	2,192.89
2012, January	96.84	89.83	1,980.38

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.