



Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN APRIL 2012

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in April 2012 was 60,400 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in April was 2,010 t, 7% higher than that in March 2012 and slightly higher compared with that in April 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for April 2012 was 97.82 cents per pound, slightly lower than the March 2012 average price and

14% lower than the April 2011 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for April 2012 was \$1,996.47 per metric ton, slightly lower than the average price in March 2012 and 16% lower compared with the average price in April 2011. During April 2012, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 29,725 t to 926,550 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2011 ^P	2012		
	January– December	March	April	January– April
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	769,000 ^r	60,400	62,500	243,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	743,000 ^r	58,400	60,400	234,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	252,000	24,100	24,100	96,300
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	923,000	75,000	NA	NA
Reported	310,000	24,600 ^e	NA	NA
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer	85,700	85,700 ^e	NA	NA
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	327	3,070	3,920
Refined zinc	716,000	51,700	55,000	208,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	1,910	5,440	24,200
Refined zinc	19,000	803	463	3,280
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,192.89	2,034.21	1,996.47	2,017.23
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	106.24	99.54	97.82	98.69

^eEstimated. ^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

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.

⁵Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
MINE PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN THE UNITED STATES^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine		
	Zinc content	Recoverable	Smelter ^{e, 3}
2011:^P			
April	61,700	59,600	21,800
May	68,500	66,200	21,800
June	59,900	57,900	21,800
July	72,600 ^r	70,100	15,500
August	65,900	63,600	15,500
September	62,200	60,000	15,500
October	56,700 ^r	54,700 ^r	25,000
November	59,900 ^r	57,900 ^r	25,000
December	69,500 ^r	67,200 ^r	25,000
January–December	769,000 ^r	743,000 ^r	252,000
2012:			
January	60,100	58,000	24,100
February	59,600	57,500	24,100
March	60,400	58,400	24,100
April	62,500	60,400	24,100
January–April	243,000	234,000	96,300

^eEstimated. ^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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 ^p	2012		
	January– December	March	April	January– April
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	467,000	37,100	NA	NA
Other	140,000	11,500	NA	NA
Total	586,000	48,600	NA	NA
Brass and bronze	138,000	10,800	NA	NA
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	11,800	NA	NA
Other uses ²	56,300	3,780	NA	NA
Grand total	923,000	75,000	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. NA Not available.

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			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	April		January–April	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	\$43,000	3,070	\$4,590	3,920	\$6,530
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	716,000	1,610,000	55,000	117,000	208,000	431,000
Zinc alloys	47,400	106,000	712	1,490	14,600	30,000
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,680	8,120	266	844	883	2,590
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,650	16,500	204	839	1,020	4,100
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,400	17,600	1,740	2,210	7,710	8,950
Powders, flakes, dust	30,100	89,300	2,690	7,810	9,160	26,300
Waste and scrap	18,500	23,400	1,700	2,240	5,450	7,130
Chemicals:						
Oxide	90,000	181,000	7,700	15,100	28,600	55,300
Chloride	255	1,290	4	33	55	371
Sulfate	53,900	51,700	5,390	5,070	18,000	16,900
Compounds, other ²	3,850	6,620	393	734	1,190	2,420

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 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		2011	2012	
		April	January–April		April	January–April
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	4,650	385	1,240	4,650	385	1,240
Mexico	2,800	2,680	2,680	2,800	2,680	2,680
Netherlands	81	--	--	81	--	--
Peru	17,800	--	--	17,800	--	--
Turkey	1,270	--	--	1,270	--	--
United Kingdom	155	--	--	155	--	--
Total	26,700	3,070	3,920	26,700	3,070	3,920
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Australia	4,000	4,000	7,500	13,500	4,020	8,810
Brazil	8,050	1,500	5,800	8,050	1,500	5,800
Canada	448,000	37,800	150,000	448,000	37,800	150,000
Japan	1,420	--	--	1,490	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12,000	--	--
Mexico	88,700	8,350	25,300	88,700	8,350	25,300
Namibia	59,500	--	--	59,500	--	--
Peru	61,900	3,310	18,200	62,300	3,310	18,200
Russia	1,480	--	--	1,480	--	--
Spain	--	--	1	21,600	61	80
Other	131	18	36	131	18	36
Total	673,000	54,900	207,000	716,000	55,000	208,000
Oxide:						
Australia	1,310	98	295	1,310	98	295
Belgium	1,170	4	68	1,170	4	68
Canada	45,000	3,850	14,600	45,000	3,850	14,600
China	566	4	207	566	4	207
Germany	3,390	391	861	3,390	391	861
Indonesia	107	--	--	107	--	--
Japan	2,490	398	828	2,490	299	828
Mexico	27,700	2,550	9,530	27,700	2,550	9,530
Netherlands	4,060	423	1,780	4,060	423	1,780
Peru	2,000	29	123	2,000	29	123
Spain	144	--	--	144	--	--
Turkey	1,780	40	116	1,780	40	116
United Arab Emirates	140	--	--	140	--	--
Other	163	12	193	163	12	193
Total	90,000	7,440	20,900	90,000	7,700	28,600

-- 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			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	April		January–April	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	\$997,000	5,440	\$9,120	24,200	\$36,500
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	19,000	19,800	463	461	3,280	3,780
Zinc alloys	13,500	34,900	843	2,100	4,680	11,800
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	25,700	39,100	1,910	2,830	6,910	10,600
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,730	26,000	711	2,250	2,120	7,210
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	19,700	11,700	835	1,190	6,370	5,020
Powders, flakes, dust	15,600	34,000	1,130	2,610	4,330	9,940
Waste and scrap	85,600	93,900	12,600	13,800	32,500	37,500
Chemicals:						
Oxide	31,600	51,300	4,070	5,200	12,900	16,900
Chloride	1,800	2,860	47	87	225	408
Sulfate	285	588	51	42	254	365
Compounds, other ²	5,630	8,800	750	1,140	2,790	4,400

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	London Metal Exchange	
	American ¹	cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2011:			
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	106.24	99.47	2,192.89
2012:			
January	96.84	89.83	1,980.38
February	100.57	93.34	2,057.86
March	99.54	92.27	2,034.21
April	97.82	90.56	1,996.47
January–April	98.69	91.50	2,017.23

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.