



Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN MAY 2012

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in May 2012 was 60,100 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in May was 1,940 t, 4% lower than that in April 2012 and 9% lower compared with that in May 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for May 2012 was 94.79 cents per pound, 3% lower than the April 2012 average price and 9%

lower than the May 2011 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for May 2012 was \$1,929.68 per metric ton, 3% lower than the average price in April 2012 and 11% lower compared with the average price in May 2011. During May 2012, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 12,700 t to 939,250 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2011 ^P	2012		
	January– December	April	May	January– May
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	769,000	62,500	62,200	305,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	743,000	60,400	60,100	294,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{6,3}	252,000	21,800 ^r	21,800	116,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	923,000	NA	NA	NA
Reported	310,000	NA	NA	NA
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer	85,700	NA	NA	NA
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	3,070	298	4,220
Refined zinc	716,000	55,000	56,300	265,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	5,440	16,700	40,900
Refined zinc	19,000	463	1,560	4,840
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,192.89	1,996.47	1,929.68	1,999.72
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	106.24	97.82	94.79	97.91

⁶Estimated. ^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		Smelter ^{e,3}
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2011: ^p			
May	68,500	66,200	21,800
June	59,900	57,900	21,800
July	72,600	70,100	15,500
August	65,900	63,600	15,500
September	62,200	60,000	15,500
October	56,700	54,700	25,000
November	59,900	57,900	25,000
December	69,500	67,200	25,000
January–December	769,000	743,000	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	21,800 ^r
May	62,200	60,100	21,800
January–May	305,000	294,000	116,000

^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	April	May	January– May
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	467,000	NA	NA	NA
Other	140,000	NA	NA	NA
Total	586,000	NA	NA	NA
Brass and bronze	138,000	NA	NA	NA
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	NA	NA	NA
Other uses ²	56,300	NA	NA	NA
Grand total	923,000	NA	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)	May		January–May	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	\$43,000	298	\$674	4,220	\$7,200
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	716,000	1,610,000	56,300	115,000	265,000	546,000
Zinc alloys	47,400	106,000	829	1,730	15,400	31,700
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,680	8,120	201	596	1,080	3,190
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,650	16,500	275	1,350	1,290	5,450
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,400	17,600	1,860	2,170	9,570	11,100
Powders, flakes, dust	30,100	89,300	2,800	8,130	12,000	34,400
Waste and scrap	18,500	23,400	1,600	1,960	7,050	9,090
Chemicals:						
Oxide	90,000	181,000	7,990	15,500	36,600	70,700
Chloride	255	1,290	12	109	67	479
Sulfate	53,900	51,700	5,730	5,190	23,700	22,100
Compounds, other ²	3,850	6,620	305	1,140	1,500	3,560

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	
		May	January–May		May	January–May
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	4,650	298	1,540	4,650	298	1,540
Mexico	2,800	--	2,680	2,800	--	2,680
Netherlands	81	--	--	81	--	--
Peru	17,800	--	--	17,800	--	--
Turkey	1,270	--	--	1,270	--	--
United Kingdom	155	--	--	155	--	--
Total	26,700	298	4,220	26,700	298	4,220
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Australia	4,000	--	7,500	13,500	--	8,810
Brazil	8,050	--	5,800	8,050	--	5,800
Canada	448,000	38,900	189,000	448,000	38,900	189,000
China	65	15	30	65	15	30
Germany	1	--	--	1	--	--
Japan	1,420	(2)	(2)	1,490	(2)	(2)
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12,000	20	20
Malaysia	10	--	--	10	--	--
Mexico	88,700	11,600	36,800	88,700	11,600	36,800
Namibia	59,500	--	--	59,500	--	--
Peru	61,900	5,740	23,900	62,300	5,740	23,900
Russia	1,480	--	--	1,480	--	--
Spain	--	--	1	21,600	118	198
Sweden	2	--	--	2	--	--
Taiwan	53	(2)	23	53	(2)	23
Total	673,000	56,200	263,000	716,000	56,300	265,000
Oxide:						
Australia	1,310	84	380	1,310	84	380
Belgium	1,170	82	149	1,170	82	149
Canada	45,000	4,040	18,700	45,000	4,040	18,700
China	566	83	290	566	83	290
Germany	3,390	195	1,060	3,390	195	1,060
Indonesia	107	--	--	107	--	--
Japan	2,490	217	1,050	2,490	217	1,050
Mexico	27,700	2,680	12,200	27,700	2,680	12,200
Netherlands	4,060	571	2,350	4,060	571	2,350
Peru	2,000	--	123	2,000	--	123
Spain	144	--	--	144	--	--
Turkey	1,780	20	135	1,780	20	135
United Arab Emirates	140	--	--	140	--	--
Other	163	22	215	163	22	215
Total	90,000	7,990	36,600	90,000	7,990	36,600

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

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)	May		January–May	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	\$997,000	16,700	\$18,900	40,900	\$55,500
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	19,000	19,800	1,560	1,630	4,840	5,400
Zinc alloys	13,500	34,900	1,070	2,870	5,740	14,700
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	25,700	39,100	2,200	3,260	9,110	13,900
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,730	26,000	482	1,590	2,600	8,800
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	19,700	11,700	857	1,190	7,230	6,210
Powders, flakes, dust	15,600	34,000	1,270	3,240	5,600	13,200
Waste and scrap	85,600	93,900	6,760	8,520	39,300	46,100
Chemicals:						
Oxide	31,600	51,300	3,160	4,950	16,000	21,900
Chloride	1,800	2,860	71	152	296	560
Sulfate	285	588	9	15	263	380
Compounds, other ²	5,630	8,800	581	1,330	3,370	5,730

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	London Metal Exchange cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2011:			
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
May	94.79	87.53	1,929.68
January–May	97.91	90.71	1,999.72

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.