



Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JULY 2012

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in July 2012 was 58,400 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in July was 1,890 t, 3% higher than that in June 2012 and 17% lower compared with that in July 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for July 2012 was 91.30 cents per pound, slightly lower than the June 2012 average price and

21% lower than the July 2011 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for July 2012 was \$1,850.82 per metric ton, slightly lower than the average price in June 2012 and 23% lower compared with the average price in July 2011. During July 2012, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 2,450 t to 997,125 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2011 ^P	2012		
	January– December	June	July	January– July
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	769,000	56,600	60,500	422,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	743,000	54,700	58,400	408,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,3}	248,000	23,000	23,000	157,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	939,000	85,200	72,400	529,000
Reported	604,000	37,500 ^r	37,300	258,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer				
	114,000	82,500	81,800	81,800
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	167	225	4,610
Refined zinc	716,000	63,800	49,800	378,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	4,340	71,600	117,000
Refined zinc	19,000	2,140	1,000	7,980
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,192.89	1,855.49	1,850.82	1,957.84
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	106.24	91.43	91.30	96.04

^eEstimated. ^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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 AND SMELTER PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine		Smelter ^{e,3}
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2011: ^P			
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	23,500
November	59,900	57,900	23,500
December	69,500	67,200	23,500
January–December	769,000	743,000	248,000
2012:			
January	60,100	58,000	21,700
February	59,600	57,500	21,700
March	60,400	58,400	21,700
April	62,600	60,400	23,000
May	62,300	60,200	23,000
June	56,600	54,700	23,000
July	60,500	58,400	23,000
January–July	422,000	408,000	157,000

^eEstimated. ^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.

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	June	July	January– July
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	387,000	45,800 ^r	40,900	295,000
Other	165,000	11,500 ^r	8,880	67,600
Total	552,000	57,300 ^r	49,800	363,000
Brass and bronze	164,000	11,300 ^r	8,920	68,800
Zinc-base alloy	159,000	11,600 ^r	9,140	68,800
Other uses ²	64,000	5,030 ^r	4,500	28,900
Grand total	939,000	85,200	72,400	529,000

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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)	July		January–July	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	\$43,000	225	\$509	4,610	\$8,080
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	716,000	1,610,000	49,800	96,300	378,000	770,000
Zinc alloys	47,400	106,000	952	1,880	17,200	35,200
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,680	8,120	245	675	1,560	4,550
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,650	16,500	210	1,050	1,730	7,560
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,400	17,600	2,330	3,210	14,100	16,600
Powders, flakes, dust	30,100	89,300	2,820	7,930	17,200	49,300
Waste and scrap	18,500	23,400	2,010	2,510	11,300	14,500
Chemicals:						
Oxide	90,000	181,000	6,200	11,900	50,300	97,100
Chloride	255	1,290	13	132	95	740
Sulfate	53,900	51,700	3,750	3,510	30,600	28,500
Compounds, other ²	3,850	6,620	312	1,200	2,240	6,280

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	
		July	January–July		July	January–July
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	4,650	225	1,930	4,650	225	1,930
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	225	4,610	26,700	225	4,610
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Australia	4,000	--	17,500	13,500	--	18,800
Brazil	8,050	--	5,800	8,050	--	5,800
Canada	448,000	35,900	263,000	448,000	35,900	263,000
China	65	(2)	36	65	(2)	36
France	--	52	52	--	52	52
Germany	1	--	(2)	1	--	(2)
Japan	1,420	--	(2)	1,490	--	(2)
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12,000	--	20
Malaysia	10	--	--	10	--	--
Mexico	88,700	9,390	54,900	88,700	9,390	54,900
Namibia	59,500	--	--	59,500	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	1,300	--	--	1,300
Peru	61,900	4,360	33,100	62,300	4,360	33,100
Russia	1,480	--	--	1,480	--	--
Spain	--	--	1	21,600	--	666
Sweden	2	--	--	2	--	--
Taiwan	53	12	40	53	12	40
Total	673,000	49,800	376,000	716,000	49,800	378,000
Oxide:						
Australia	1,310	110	568	1,310	110	568
Belgium	1,170	4	163	1,170	4	163
Canada	45,000	3,140	25,700	45,000	3,140	25,700
China	566	77	442	566	77	442
Germany	3,390	267	1,760	3,390	267	1,760
Indonesia	107	--	--	107	--	--
Japan	2,490	363	1,580	2,490	363	1,580
Mexico	27,700	1,740	16,000	27,700	1,740	16,000
Netherlands	4,060	425	3,430	4,060	425	3,430
Peru	2,000	--	123	2,000	--	123
Spain	144	--	--	144	--	--
Turkey	1,780	20	175	1,780	20	175
United Arab Emirates	140	--	--	140	--	--
Other	163	54	307	163	54	307
Total	90,000	6,200	50,300	90,000	6,200	50,300

-- 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)	July		January–July	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	\$997,000	71,600	\$124,000	117,000	\$188,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	19,000	19,800	1,000	1,080	7,980	8,600
Zinc alloys	13,500	34,900	1,730	4,570	9,090	23,600
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	25,700	39,100	1,750	2,940	12,800	19,700
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,730	26,000	476	1,600	3,560	12,100
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	19,700	11,700	15,300	2,320	23,100	9,450
Powders, flakes, dust	15,600	34,000	1,120	2,320	7,900	18,200
Waste and scrap	85,600	93,900	5,580	6,670	51,000	59,600
Chemicals:						
Oxide	31,600	51,300	2,610	3,610	21,200	29,500
Chloride	1,800	2,860	118	195	493	896
Sulfate	285	588	96	151	370	566
Compounds, other ²	5,630	8,800	849	1,320	4,960	8,240

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 ¢/lb.	cash ² ¢/lb. \$/t	
2011:			
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
June	91.43	84.16	1,855.49
July	91.30	83.95	1,850.82
January–July	96.04	88.81	1,957.84

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.