



Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN AUGUST 2012

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in August 2012 was 56,800 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in August was 1,830 t, 3% lower than that in July 2012 and 11% lower compared with that in August 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for August 2012 was 89.77 cents per pound, slightly lower than the July 2012 average price

and 17% lower than the August 2011 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for August 2012 was \$1,813.46 per metric ton, slightly lower than the average price in July 2012 and 18% lower compared with the average price in August 2011. During August 2012, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 46,050 t to 951,075 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2011 ^P	2012		
	January– December	July	August	January– August
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	769,000	60,500	58,700	481,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	743,000	58,400	56,800	464,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{6,3}	248,000	22,300 ^r	22,300	178,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	939,000	71,700 ^r	77,000	605,000
Reported	604,000	37,200 ^r	37,100	295,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer				
	114,000	81,400 ^r	81,700	81,700
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	225	247	4,860
Refined zinc	716,000	49,800	56,600	435,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	71,600	167,000	283,000
Refined zinc	19,000	1,000	1,530	9,520
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,192.89	1,850.82	1,813.46	1,939.79
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	106.24	91.30	89.77	95.26

⁶Estimated. ^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 ^{6,3}
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2011:^P			
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	22,600 ^r
May	62,300	60,200	22,600 ^r
June	56,600	54,700	22,600 ^r
July	60,500	58,400	22,300 ^r
August	58,700	56,800	22,300
January–August	481,000	464,000	178,000

⁶Estimated. ^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	July ^F	August	January– August
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	387,000	40,700	42,900	338,000
Other	165,000	8,740	9,910	77,100
Total	552,000	49,400	52,800	415,000
Brass and bronze	164,000	8,820	9,550	78,100
Zinc-base alloy	159,000	9,010	9,980	78,500
Other uses ²	64,000	4,470	4,650	33,400
Grand total	939,000	71,700	77,000	605,000

^PPreliminary. ^FRevised.

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)	August		January–August	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	\$43,000	247	\$559	4,860	\$8,640
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	716,000	1,610,000	56,600	108,000	435,000	878,000
Zinc alloys	47,400	106,000	653	1,250	17,800	36,400
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,680	8,120	277	721	1,830	5,270
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,650	16,500	276	1,100	2,010	8,660
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,400	17,600	2,100	2,160	16,200	18,800
Powders, flakes, dust	30,100	89,300	2,260	6,390	19,500	55,700
Waste and scrap	18,500	23,400	2,160	2,500	13,500	17,000
Chemicals:						
Oxide	90,000	181,000	6,750	12,500	57,000	110,000
Chloride	255	1,290	20	211	115	951
Sulfate	53,900	51,700	5,360	4,820	36,000	33,300
Compounds, other ²	3,850	6,620	313	1,030	2,550	7,310

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	
		August	January–August		August	January–August
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	4,650	247	2,180	4,650	247	2,180
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	247	4,860	26,700	247	4,860
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Australia	4,000	--	17,500	13,500	1,230	20,000
Brazil	8,050	300	6,100	8,050	300	6,100
Canada	448,000	43,000	306,000	448,000	43,000	306,000
China	65	10	47	65	10	47
France	--	--	52	--	--	52
Japan	1,420	--	(2)	1,490	--	(2)
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12,000	--	20
Mexico	88,700	7,960	62,900	88,700	7,960	62,900
Namibia	59,500	--	--	59,500	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	1,300	--	25	1,320
Peru	61,900	3,960	37,100	62,300	3,960	37,100
Russia	1,480	--	--	1,480	--	--
Spain	--	--	1	21,600	50	716
Taiwan	53	1	41	53	1	41
Other	13	--	(2)	13	--	(2)
Total	673,000	55,300	431,000	716,000	56,600	435,000
Oxide:						
Australia	1,310	98	667	1,310	98	667
Belgium	1,170	(2)	163	1,170	(2)	163
Canada	45,000	3,280	29,000	45,000	3,280	29,000
China	566	100	543	566	100	543
Germany	3,390	554	2,320	3,390	554	2,320
Indonesia	107	--	--	107	--	--
Japan	2,490	221	1,800	2,490	221	1,800
Mexico	27,700	2,130	18,200	27,700	2,130	18,200
Netherlands	4,060	288	3,720	4,060	288	3,720
Peru	2,000	--	123	2,000	--	123
Spain	144	--	--	144	--	--
Turkey	1,780	40	215	1,780	40	215
United Arab Emirates	140	--	--	140	--	--
Other	163	44	351	163	44	351
Total	90,000	6,750	57,000	90,000	6,750	57,000

-- 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)	August		January–August	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	\$997,000	167,000	\$204,000	283,000	\$392,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	19,000	19,800	1,530	1,630	9,520	10,200
Zinc alloys	13,500	34,900	2,280	5,740	11,400	29,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	25,700	39,100	1,100	2,100	13,900	21,800
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,730	26,000	628	2,150	4,190	14,300
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	19,700	11,700	1,440	1,730	24,500	11,200
Powders, flakes, dust	15,600	34,000	1,470	3,030	9,370	21,200
Waste and scrap	85,600	93,900	6,940	7,890	58,000	67,500
Chemicals:						
Oxide	31,600	51,300	2,210	3,440	23,500	33,000
Chloride	1,800	2,860	98	180	591	1,080
Sulfate	285	588	180	266	551	832
Compounds, other ²	5,630	8,800	639	1,140	5,600	9,370

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:			
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
August	89.77	82.26	1,813.46
January–August	95.26	87.99	1,939.79

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.