

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN OCTOBER 2012

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in October 2012 was 55,800 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in October was 1,800 t, 10% less than that in September 2012 and slightly more compared with that in October 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for October 2012 was 94.88 cents per pound, 3% less than the September 2012 average price

but 3% more than the October 2011 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for October 2012 was \$1,911.42 per metric ton, 5% less than the average price in September 2012 but 3% more compared with the average price in October 2011. During October 2012, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 180,375 t to 1,169,875 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2011 ^p	2012		
	January– December	September	October	January– October
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	769,000	62,300 ^r	57,800	601,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	743,000	60,200 ^r	55,800	581,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,3}	248,000	20,000	20,000	213,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	939,000	71,700	77,100	749,000
Reported	604,000	36,700	37,300	369,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer	114,000	82,100	81,700	81,700
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	225	327	5,410
Refined zinc	716,000	52,400	57,600	545,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	157,000	114,000	554,000
Refined zinc	19,000	1,000	960	11,500
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,192.89	2,001.81	1,911.42	1,943.16
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	106.24	98.31	94.88	95.53

^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 STATES¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine ²		Smelter ^{e,3}
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2011:^p			
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
May	62,300	60,200	22,600
June	56,600	54,700	22,600
July	60,600 ^r	58,600 ^r	20,000
August	58,900 ^r	56,900 ^r	20,000
September	62,300 ^r	60,200 ^r	20,000
October	57,800	55,800	20,000
January–October	601,000	581,000	213,000

^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 January– December	2012		
		September	October	January– October
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	387,000	40,900	43,100	420,000
Other	165,000	8,820	9,920	94,900
Total	552,000	49,700	53,000	515,000
Brass and bronze	164,000	8,680	9,440	95,500
Zinc-base alloy	159,000	9,180	10,300	97,200
Other uses ²	64,000	4,110	4,320	41,600
Grand total	939,000	71,700	77,100	749,000

^PPreliminary.

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)	October		January–October	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	\$43,000	327	\$742	5,410	\$9,900
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	716,000	1,610,000	57,600	118,000	545,000	1,100,000
Zinc alloys	47,400	106,000	822	1,640	19,300	39,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,680	8,120	188	519	2,220	6,320
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,650	16,500	255	1,420	2,520	11,200
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,400	17,600	2,340	2,790	19,900	23,100
Powders, flakes, dust	30,100	89,300	1,840	5,700	24,200	69,500
Waste and scrap	18,500	23,400	1,770	2,090	17,200	21,500
Chemicals:						
Oxide	90,000	181,000	6,850	13,200	70,600	135,000
Chloride	255	1,290	37	189	176	1,360
Sulfate	53,900	51,700	3,810	3,440	46,000	42,200
Compounds, other ²	3,850	6,620	233	943	2,980	9,000

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	
		October	January–October		October	January–October
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	4,650	327	2,730	4,650	327	2,730
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	327	5,410	26,700	327	5,410
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Australia	4,000	4,000	21,500	13,500	4,000	24,000
Brazil	8,050	--	6,500	8,050	--	6,500
Canada	448,000	42,900	384,000	448,000	42,900	384,000
China	65	1	54	65	1	54
France	--	--	52	--	--	52
Japan	1,420	--	(2)	1,490	--	(2)
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12,000	451	471
Mexico	88,700	8,180	79,100	88,700	8,180	79,100
Namibia	59,500	--	--	59,500	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	1,300	--	--	1,320
Peru	61,900	2,110	48,000	62,300	2,110	48,000
Russia	1,480	--	--	1,480	--	--
Spain	--	--	1	21,600	--	716
Taiwan	53	(2)	42	53	(2)	42
Other	13	--	(2)	13	--	(2)
Total	673,000	57,200	541,000	716,000	57,600	545,000
Oxide:						
Australia	1,310	78	882	1,310	78	882
Belgium	1,170	4	167	1,170	4	167
Canada	45,000	3,820	36,700	45,000	3,820	36,700
China	566	53	616	566	53	616
Germany	3,390	297	2,850	3,390	297	2,850
Indonesia	107	1	1	107	1	1
Japan	2,490	207	2,270	2,490	207	2,270
Mexico	27,700	2,220	22,000	27,700	2,220	22,000
Netherlands	4,060	73	4,210	4,060	73	4,210
Peru	2,000	29	170	2,000	29	170
Spain	144	(2)	(2)	144	(2)	(2)
Turkey	1,780	40	275	1,780	40	275
United Arab Emirates	140	--	--	140	--	--
Other	162	26	392	162	26	392
Total	90,000	6,850	70,600	90,000	6,850	70,600

-- 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)	October		January–October	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	\$997,000	114,000	\$150,000	554,000	\$757,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	19,000	19,800	960	1,030	11,500	12,300
Zinc alloys	13,500	34,900	1,440	3,660	14,600	37,500
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	25,700	39,100	1,500	2,510	16,600	26,800
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,730	26,000	643	1,960	5,270	18,000
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	19,700	11,700	2,540	1,520	29,600	14,500
Powders, flakes, dust	15,600	34,000	848	2,170	11,800	27,100
Waste and scrap	85,600	93,900	6,740	8,750	71,600	84,100
Chemicals:						
Oxide	31,600	51,300	5,780	4,840	35,400	43,400
Chloride	1,800	2,860	55	93	706	1,250
Sulfate	285	588	34	47	755	1,140
Compounds, other ²	5,630	8,800	726	1,230	6,910	11,700

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:			
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
September	98.31	90.80	2,001.81
October	94.88	86.70	1,911.42
January–October	95.53	88.14	1,943.16

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.