

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN APRIL 2013

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in April 2013 was 63,200 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in April was 2,110 t, 17% more than that in March 2013 and 5% more than that in April 2012.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for April 2013 was 92.83 cents per pound, 4% less than the March 2013 average price and 5% less than the April 2012 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for April 2013 was \$1,852.63 per metric ton, 4% less than the average price in March 2013 and 7% less than the average price in April 2012. During April 2013, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 108,925 t to 1,062,175 t.

Zinc Nacional, S.A. planned to double its French-process zinc oxide production capacity at its plant in Monterrey, Mexico, to 24,000 metric tons per year (t/yr). The plant also

had the capacity to produce more than 40,000 t/yr of American-process zinc oxide. In addition to the planned capacity increase, Zinc Nacional was considering the construction of a French-process zinc oxide plant at its steel dust recycling facility in Millport, AL. The French process uses zinc metal as the feed material for the production of zinc oxide, whereas the American process uses secondary zinc oxides or roasted zinc sulfide concentrates (O'Donovan, 2013).

Reference Cited

O'Donovan, Barbara, 2013, Zinc Nacional to grow Mexican oxide capacity: American Metal Market, May 3, 1 p. (Accessed on May 3, 2013, via <http://www.amm.com/>)

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2012 ^p January– December	2013		
		March	April	January– April
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	738,000	57,800 ^f	65,400	246,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	713,000	56,000 ^f	63,200	237,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,3}	261,000	18,500	20,200	75,700
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ^{e,4,5}	904,000	77,300	98,400	327,000
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	6,140	245	247	870
Refined zinc	655,000	57,300	75,700	245,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	592,000	19,200	10,700	40,500
Refined zinc	14,100	1,560	2,440	5,890
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,947.73	1,935.56	1,852.63	1,987.51
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.76	96.31	92.83	98.62

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^fRevised.

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 for consumption minus domestic exports plus stock change.

⁵The collection of monthly consumer stocks data is in the process of being discontinued. As of January 2013, apparent consumption is equal to smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports.

⁶Special 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	
2012: ^p			
April	62,600	60,400	22,600
May	62,300	60,200	22,600
June	56,600	54,700	22,600
July	60,600	58,600	20,000
August	58,900	56,900	20,000
September	62,300	60,200	20,000
October	57,500	55,500	22,700
November	67,000	64,800	22,700
December	70,600	68,200	22,700
January–December	738,000	713,000	261,000
2013:			
January	66,000	63,800	18,500
February	56,400	54,500	18,500
March	57,800 ^r	56,000 ^r	18,500
April	65,400	63,200	20,200
January–April	246,000	237,000	75,700

^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
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2012		2013			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	April		January–April	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	6,140	\$11,200	247	\$559	870	\$1,920
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	655,000	1,320,000	75,700	152,000	245,000	511,000
Zinc alloys	20,600	41,900	844	1,690	3,010	6,360
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,570	7,270	223	594	971	2,780
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	2,920	12,700	373	1,480	1,180	4,890
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	23,200	26,800	1,440	1,770	6,270	7,320
Powders, flakes, dust	28,200	80,500	2,090	6,080	8,490	25,000
Waste and scrap	20,000	24,600	1,840	2,300	4,910	6,250
Chemicals:						
Oxide	82,700	158,000	10,100	19,800	32,800	66,900
Chloride	190	1,490	39	219	102	677
Sulfate	56,300	51,100	4,530	4,010	17,800	15,600
Compounds, other ²	3,460	10,500	255	966	1,050	3,590

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 4
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		
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
		April	January–April		April	January–April
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	3,450	247	870	3,450	247	870
Mexico	2,680	--	--	2,680	--	--
Total	6,140	247	870	6,140	247	870
Refined zinc:						
Argentina	--	--	1,000	--	--	1,000
Australia	26,500	--	--	29,000	17,200	25,200
Brazil	7,020	--	2,050	7,020	--	2,050
Canada	463,000	43,700	160,000	463,000	47,400	164,000
China	65	13	40	65	13	151
France	52	--	--	52	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	471	--	91
Mexico	94,400	7,410	31,400	94,400	7,410	31,400
Netherlands	1,300	--	--	1,330	--	--
Peru	58,300	3,740	21,900	58,300	3,740	21,900
Spain	1	--	--	729	--	23
Taiwan	49	11	20	49	11	20
Other	(2)	(2)	3	(2)	(2)	3
Total	651,000	54,800	216,000	655,000	75,700	245,000
Oxide:						
Australia	1,080	117	374	1,080	117	374
Belgium	175	5	12	175	5	12
Brazil	1	127	128	1	127	128
Canada	42,500	4,820	17,700	42,500	4,820	17,700
China	675	59	202	675	59	202
Denmark	7	--	7	7	--	7
France	22	699	699	22	699	699
Germany	3,210	169	1,320	3,210	169	1,320
India	81	--	36	81	--	36
Israel	1	19	19	1	19	19
Italy	37	110	117	37	110	117
Japan	3,050	86	313	3,050	86	313
Korea, Republic of	64	5	12	64	5	12
Mexico	25,900	2,840	9,830	25,900	2,840	9,830
Netherlands	5,240	429	1,150	5,240	429	1,150
Peru	170	638	698	170	638	698
Turkey	355	20	120	355	20	120
United Kingdom	47	1	14	47	1	14
Other	147 ^r	--	(2)	147 ^r	--	(2)
Total	82,700	10,100	32,800	82,700	10,100	32,800

^rRevised. -- 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 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2012		2013			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	April		January–April	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	592,000	\$806,000	10,700	\$13,600	40,500	\$60,800
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	14,100	14,900	2,440	2,180	5,890	5,570
Zinc alloys	17,900	46,000	1,990	5,010	8,270	21,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	17,700	28,900	734	1,450	2,700	5,110
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,040	20,600	451	1,700	2,160	7,440
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	34,900	19,900	3,210	3,530	8,130	9,300
Powders, flakes, dust	14,200	33,200	1,180	3,370	3,590	9,840
Waste and scrap	90,500	107,000	7,380	7,830	27,600	32,400
Chemicals:						
Oxide	41,800	50,200	3,630	3,960	11,700	13,800
Chloride	902	1,590	52	88	367	464
Sulfate	774	1,160	168	146	259	386
Compounds, other ²	8,690	15,000	1,340	2,540	3,860	7,390

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

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 6
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North American ¹	London Metal Exchange cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2012:			
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
November	93.88	86.36	1,904.01
December	99.93	92.41	2,037.18
January–December	95.76	88.35	1,947.73
2013:			
January	100.25	92.21	2,032.86
February	105.08	96.57	2,129.00
March	96.31	87.80	1,935.56
April	92.83	84.03	1,852.63
January–April	98.62	90.15	1,987.51

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.

TABLE 7
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (LME) STOCKS OF SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC, END OF PERIOD

(metric tons)

Period	United States			Total	Europe	Other	Total LME
	Detroit, MI	New Orleans, LA	Other				
2012:							
April	96,900	598,125	32,675	727,700	31,525	167,325	926,550
May	97,125	636,750	21,100	754,975	31,000	153,275	939,250
June	107,850	683,475	18,525	809,850	31,825	153,000	994,675
July	108,800	705,975	16,775	831,550	33,100	132,475	997,125
August	109,500	667,250	15,425	792,175	32,600	126,300	951,075
September	109,750	703,225	14,825	827,800	32,600	129,100	989,500
October	111,325	723,725	14,075	849,125	188,875	131,875	1,169,875
November	114,175	802,900	12,975	930,050	196,625	106,900	1,233,575
December	116,225	800,025	11,950	928,200	197,650	94,875	1,220,725
2013:							
January	116,225	784,125	11,375	911,725	208,025	85,525	1,205,275
February	116,225	766,650	11,275	894,150	221,600	84,300	1,200,050
March	116,225	748,300	9,825	874,350	212,450	84,300	1,171,100
April	116,225	692,225	9,475	817,925	183,850	60,400	1,062,175

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.