

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JULY 2013

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in July 2013 was 61,700 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in July was 1,990 t, 3% less than that in June 2013 but 5% more than that in July 2012.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for July 2013 was 92.28 cents per pound, essentially unchanged from the June 2013 average

price and slightly more than the July 2012 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for July 2013 was \$1,835.60 per metric ton, essentially unchanged from the June 2013 and July 2012 average prices. During July 2013, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 10,675 t to 1,045,400 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

| | 2012 ^p | 2013 | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | January– December | June | July | January– July |
| Production: | | | | |
| Mine, zinc content of concentrate ² | 738,000 | 63,500 ^r | 63,800 | 442,000 |
| Mine, recoverable zinc ² | 713,000 | 61,300 ^r | 61,700 | 427,000 |
| Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,3} | 261,000 | 19,700 | 19,700 | 134,000 |
| Consumption of refined zinc: | | | | |
| Apparent ^{e,4,5} | 904,000 | 76,700 ^r | 74,500 ^r | 542,000 |
| Imports for consumption: | | | | |
| Ore and concentrate (zinc content) | 6,140 | 385 | 343 | 1,910 |
| Refined zinc | 655,000 | 58,100 | 55,700 | 417,000 |
| Exports: | | | | |
| Ore and concentrate (zinc content) | 592,000 | 14,500 | 206,000 | 268,000 |
| Refined zinc | 14,100 | 1,050 | 855 | 9,240 |
| Price:⁶ | | | | |
| London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton | 1,947.73 | 1,838.91 | 1,835.60 | 1,921.90 |
| Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound | 95.76 | 92.43 | 92.28 | 95.88 |

^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 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 | | | |
| 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 | 56,000 | 18,500 |
| April | 65,800 ^r | 63,500 ^r | 19,700 |
| May | 68,500 ^r | 66,200 ^r | 19,700 |
| June | 63,500 ^r | 61,300 ^r | 19,700 |
| July | 63,800 | 61,700 | 19,700 |
| January–July | 442,000 | 427,000 | 134,000 |

^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
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

| Material | 2012 | | 2013 | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| | Quantity (metric tons) | Value (thousands) | July | | January–July | |
| | | | Quantity (metric tons) | Value (thousands) | Quantity (metric tons) | Value (thousands) |
| Ore and concentrate (zinc content) | 6,140 | \$11,200 | 343 | \$460 | 1,910 | \$3,540 |
| Unwrought: | | | | | | |
| Refined zinc | 655,000 | 1,320,000 | 55,700 | 107,000 | 417,000 | 843,000 |
| Zinc alloys | 20,600 | 41,900 | 601 | 1,150 | 4,880 | 10,100 |
| Wrought: | | | | | | |
| Bars, rods, profiles, wire | 2,570 | 7,270 | 232 | 631 | 1,560 | 4,390 |
| Plates, sheets, strip, foil | 2,920 | 12,700 | 345 | 1,360 | 2,300 | 9,130 |
| Other: | | | | | | |
| Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content) | 23,200 | 26,800 | 697 | 981 | 10,200 | 11,900 |
| Powders, flakes, dust | 28,200 | 80,500 | 2,130 | 6,010 | 14,700 | 42,500 |
| Waste and scrap | 20,000 | 24,600 | 1,980 | 2,330 | 11,300 | 14,100 |
| Chemicals: | | | | | | |
| Oxide | 82,700 | 158,000 | 10,500 | 17,900 | 59,500 | 118,000 |
| Chloride | 190 | 1,490 | 46 | 166 | 175 | 1,100 |
| Sulfate | 56,300 | 51,100 | 4,990 | 4,320 | 30,500 | 26,200 |
| Compounds, other ² | 3,460 | 10,500 | 350 | 995 | 1,900 | 6,630 |

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 | |
| | | July | January–July | | July | January–July |
| Ore and concentrate (zinc content): | | | | | | |
| Canada | 3,450 | 343 | 1,910 | 3,450 | 343 | 1,910 |
| Mexico | 2,680 | -- | -- | 2,680 | -- | -- |
| Total | 6,140 | 343 | 1,910 | 6,140 | 343 | 1,910 |
| Refined zinc: | | | | | | |
| Argentina | -- | -- | 1,000 | -- | -- | 1,000 |
| Australia | 26,500 | -- | -- | 29,000 | 2,500 | 27,700 |
| Brazil | 7,020 | -- | 9,390 | 7,020 | -- | 2,800 |
| Canada | 463,000 | 41,800 | 284,000 | 463,000 | 41,800 | 288,000 |
| China | 65 | 2 | 47 | 65 | 2 | 158 |
| France | 52 | -- | -- | 52 | -- | -- |
| Japan | -2 | -- | -- | -2 | -- | 74 |
| Korea, Republic of | -- | -- | -- | 471 | -- | 365 |
| Mexico | 94,400 | 5,430 | 54,100 | 94,400 | 5,430 | 54,100 |
| Netherlands | 1,300 | -- | -- | 1,330 | -- | -- |
| Peru | 58,300 | 5,980 | 43,100 | 58,300 | 5,980 | 43,100 |
| Spain | 1 | -- | -- | 729 | -- | 23 |
| Taiwan | 49 | 28 | 59 | 49 | 28 | 59 |
| Other | -2 | -- | 5 | -2 | -- | 5 |
| Total | 651,000 | 53,200 | 392,000 | 655,000 | 55,700 | 417,000 |
| Oxide: | | | | | | |
| Australia | 1,080 | 99 | 689 | 1,080 | 99 | 689 |
| Belgium | 175 | 6 | 176 | 175 | 6 | 176 |
| Brazil | 1 | -- | 382 | 1 | -- | 382 |
| Canada | 42,500 | 5,320 | 32,400 | 42,500 | 5,320 | 32,400 |
| China | 675 | 50 | 251 | 675 | 50 | 251 |
| Congo (Brazzaville) | -- | 1,320 | 1,320 | -- | 1,320 | 1,320 |
| France | 22 | -- | 699 | 22 | -- | 699 |
| Germany | 3,210 | 255 | 2,130 | 3,210 | 255 | 2,130 |
| India | 81 | 31 | 104 | 81 | 31 | 104 |
| Indonesia | 1 | 150 | 216 | 1 | 150 | 216 |
| Italy | 37 | 5 | 175 | 37 | 5 | 175 |
| Japan | 3,050 | 117 | 651 | 3,050 | 117 | 651 |
| Mexico | 25,900 | 2,390 | 16,700 | 25,900 | 2,390 | 16,700 |
| Netherlands | 5,240 | 710 | 2,510 | 5,240 | 710 | 2,510 |
| Peru | 170 | 19 | 882 | 170 | 19 | 882 |
| Turkey | 355 | -- | 200 | 355 | -- | 200 |
| Other | 265 ^r | 18 | 76 | 265 ^r | 18 | 76 |
| Total | 82,700 | 10,500 | 59,500 | 82,700 | 10,500 | 59,500 |

^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) | July | | January–July | |
| | | | Quantity (metric tons) | Value (thousands) | Quantity (metric tons) | Value (thousands) |
| Ore and concentrate (zinc content) | 592,000 | \$806,000 | 206,000 | \$256,000 | 268,000 | \$342,000 |
| Unwrought: | | | | | | |
| Refined zinc | 14,100 | 14,900 | 855 | 781 | 9,240 | 8,710 |
| Zinc alloys | 17,900 | 46,000 | 2,170 | 5,610 | 14,300 | 36,600 |
| Wrought: | | | | | | |
| Bars, rods, profiles, wire | 17,700 | 28,900 | 631 | 1,240 | 5,100 | 9,610 |
| Plates, sheets, strip, foil | 6,040 | 20,600 | 487 | 1,700 | 3,850 | 13,100 |
| Other: | | | | | | |
| Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content) | 34,900 | 19,900 | 935 | 1,280 | 11,000 | 13,300 |
| Powders, flakes, dust | 14,200 | 33,200 | 939 | 2,760 | 6,510 | 18,000 |
| Waste and scrap | 90,500 | 107,000 | 5,300 | 6,910 | 47,200 | 55,800 |
| Chemicals: | | | | | | |
| Oxide | 41,800 | 50,200 | 655 | 2,860 | 14,000 | 21,700 |
| Chloride | 902 | 1,590 | 13 | 22 | 510 | 692 |
| Sulfate | 774 | 1,160 | 31 | 37 | 315 | 469 |
| Compounds, other ² | 8,690 | 15,000 | 799 | 1,550 | 6,050 | 11,900 |

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: | | | |
| 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 |
| May | 91.96 | 82.95 | 1,828.76 |
| June | 92.43 | 83.41 | 1,838.91 |
| July | 92.28 | 83.26 | 1,835.60 |
| January–July | 95.88 | 87.18 | 1,921.90 |

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 | | | | Europe | Other | Total LME |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| | Detroit, MI | New Orleans, LA | Other | Total | | | |
| 2012: | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| May | 119,050 | 647,825 | 9,200 | 776,075 | 261,375 | 48,900 | 1,086,350 |
| June | 122,775 | 607,375 | 8,050 | 738,200 | 283,100 | 34,775 | 1,056,075 |
| July | 113,075 | 647,125 | 6,525 | 766,725 | 246,575 | 32,100 | 1,045,400 |

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.