

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN AUGUST 2013

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in August 2013 was 67,900 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in August was 2,190 t, 10% more than that in July 2013 and 19% more than that in August 2012.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for August 2013 was 95.19 cents per pound, 3% more than the July 2013 average price and 6% more than the August 2012 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for August 2013 was \$1,894.24 per metric ton, 3% more than the July 2013 average price and 4% more than the August 2012 average price. During August 2013, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 45,200 t to 1,000,200 t.

Update

Zinc Oxide LLC (Dickson, TN) announced plans to open a 40,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) zinc oxide (ZnO) plant in June 2014, partially offsetting the estimated 74,000 t/yr of ZnO production capacity that will be removed when Horsehead Corp. (Pittsburgh, PA) closes its Monaca zinc smelter later this year. Zinc Oxide's facility would use the French (or indirect) process, consuming mostly SHG and High Grade zinc to produce several grades of zinc oxide. The company planned to supply domestic markets mostly located in the Southeast (Isenberg-O'Loughlin, 2013).

Reference Cited

Isenberg-O'Loughlin, Jo, 2013, Zinc industry vets form new venture: American Metal Market, November 6. (Accessed on November 7, 2013, via <http://www.amm.com/>)

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2012 ^p January– December	2013		
		July	August	January– August
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	738,000	63,800	70,200	512,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	713,000	61,700	67,900	495,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,3}	261,000	20,300 ^r	20,300	155,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ^{e,4,5}	904,000	75,200 ^r	138,000	681,000
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	6,140	343	471	2,380
Refined zinc	655,000	55,700	118,000	535,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	592,000	206,000	176,000	444,000
Refined zinc	14,100	855	318	9,550
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,950.00	1,840.00	1,890.00	1,920.00
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.76	92.28	95.19	95.79

^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			
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	63,500	19,700
May	68,500	66,200	19,700
June	63,500	61,300	19,700
July	63,800	61,700	20,300 ^r
August	70,200	67,900	20,300
January–August	512,000	495,000	155,000

^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	2013					
	2012		August		January–August	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	6,140	\$11,200	471	\$622	2,380	\$4,160
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	655,000	1,320,000	118,000	230,000	535,000	1,070,000
Zinc alloys	20,600	41,900	649	1,250	5,530	11,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,570	7,270	272	814	1,830	5,210
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	2,920	12,700	270	1,050	2,570	10,200
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	23,200	26,800	1,060	1,130	11,300	13,100
Powders, flakes, dust	28,200	80,500	2,100	5,880	16,800	48,400
Waste and scrap	20,000	24,600	1,990	2,280	13,300	16,400
Chemicals:						
Oxide	82,700	158,000	7,830	15,300	67,300	133,000
Chloride	190	1,490	34	171	209	1,270
Sulfate	56,300	51,100	3,910	3,570	34,400	29,800
Compounds, other ²	3,460	10,500	333	1,170	2,240	7,800

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	
		August	January–August		August	January–August
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	3,450	457	2,370	3,450	457	2,370
Mexico	2,680	--	--	2,680	--	--
Russia	--	14	14	--	14	14
Total	6,140	471	2,380	6,140	471	2,380
Refined zinc:						
Argentina	--	--	1,000	--	--	1,000
Australia	26,500	--	--	29,000	63,200	90,900
Brazil	7,020	--	9,390	7,020	--	2,800
Canada	463,000	40,600	325,000	463,000	40,600	328,000
China	65	14	61	65	14	172
France	52	--	--	52	--	--
Japan	(2)	--	--	(2)	--	74
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	471	--	365
Mexico	94,400	8,770	62,800	94,400	8,770	62,800
Netherlands	1,300	--	--	1,330	--	--
Peru	58,300	5,790	48,900	58,300	5,790	48,900
Spain	1	--	--	729	--	23
Taiwan	49	11	69	49	11	69
Other	(2)	--	5	(2)	--	5
Total	651,000	55,200	447,000	655,000	118,000	535,000
Oxide:						
Australia	1,080	59	748	1,080	59	748
Belgium	175	--	176	175	--	176
Brazil	1	--	382	1	--	382
Canada	42,500	4,680	37,000	42,500	4,680	37,000
China	675	76	327	675	76	327
Congo (Brazzaville)	--	--	1,320	--	--	1,320
France	22	--	699	22	--	699
Germany	3,210	357	2,480	3,210	357	2,480
India	81	69	173	81	69	173
Indonesia	1	--	216	1	--	216
Italy	37	2	177	37	2	177
Japan	3,050	78	729	3,050	78	729
Mexico	25,900	2,310	19,000	25,900	2,310	19,000
Netherlands	5,240	151	2,660	5,240	151	2,660
Peru	170	19	902	170	19	902
Turkey	355	40	239	355	40	239
Other	265	(2)	76	265	(2)	76
Total	82,700	7,830	67,300	82,700	7,830	67,300

-- 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 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2012		2013			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	August		January–August	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	592,000	\$806,000	176,000	\$222,000	444,000	\$564,000
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	14,100	14,900	318	344	9,550	9,060
Zinc alloys	17,900	46,000	2,270	5,650	16,600	42,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	17,700	28,900	795	1,600	5,890	11,200
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,040	20,600	636	2,300	4,480	15,400
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	34,900	19,900	1,090	1,910	12,100	15,200
Powders, flakes, dust	14,200	33,200	680	1,740	7,190	19,700
Waste and scrap	90,500	107,000	7,220	8,940	54,400	64,800
Chemicals:						
Oxide	41,800	50,200	697	2,650	14,700	24,400
Chloride	902	1,590	30	39	540	731
Sulfate	774	1,160	11	18	326	487
Compounds, other ²	8,690	15,000	129	1,770	6,180	13,700

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:			
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
August	95.19	85.92	1,894.24
January–August	95.79	87.02	1,918.45

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:							
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
August	112,675	605,650	5,750	724,075	244,225	31,900	1,000,200

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.