



Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN OCTOBER 2013

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in October 2013 was 67,900 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in October was 2,190 t, slightly less than that in September 2013 but 22% more than that in October 2012.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for October 2013 was 94.65 cents per pound, slightly more than the September 2013 average price and essentially unchanged from the October

2012 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for October 2013 was \$1,882.50 per metric ton, slightly more than the September 2013 average price and slightly less than the October 2012 average price. During October 2013, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 3,350 t to 1,027,375 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2012 ^p	2013		
	January– December	September	October	January– October
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	738,000	69,000 ^r	70,300	645,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	713,000	66,700 ^r	67,900	623,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	261,000	19,800	19,800	194,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ^{e, 4, 5}	904,000	85,100	78,900	844,000
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	6,140	134	--	2,520
Refined zinc	655,000	66,600	59,500	661,000 ⁶
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	592,000	114,000	76,000	634,000
Refined zinc	14,100	1,250	338	11,100
Price:⁷				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,947.73	1,848.17	1,882.50	1,907.82
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.76	93.09	94.65	95.41

^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.

⁶Part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

⁷Special 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			
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	63,000	61,000	19,800
August	64,600 ^r	62,400 ^r	19,800
September	69,000 ^r	66,700 ^r	19,800
October	70,300	67,900	19,800
January–October	645,000	623,000	194,000

^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)	October		January–October	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	6,140	\$11,200	--	--	2,520	\$4,390
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	655,000	1,320,000	59,500	\$117,000	661,000 ²	1,320,000
Zinc alloys	20,600	41,900	781	1,520	7,040	14,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,570	7,270	188	694	2,130	6,250
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	2,920	12,700	210	833	3,160	12,400
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	23,200	26,800	702	990	12,500	14,800
Powders, flakes, dust	28,200	80,500	2,180	6,460	21,200	61,300
Waste and scrap	20,000	24,600	2,170	2,680	17,500	21,400
Chemicals:						
Oxide	82,700	158,000	8,090	15,800	82,700	164,000
Chloride	190	1,490	25	246	250	1,640
Sulfate	56,300	51,100	4,430	3,510	43,800	37,200
Compounds, other ³	3,460	10,500	220	959	2,630	9,570

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

³Includes 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	
		October	January–October		October	January–October
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	3,450	--	2,500	3,450	--	2,500
Mexico	2,680	--	--	2,680	--	--
Russia	--	--	14	--	--	14
Total	6,140	--	2,520	6,140	--	2,520
Refined zinc:						
Argentina	--	--	1,000	--	--	1,000
Australia	26,500	--	--	29,000	4,640	103,000 ²
Brazil	7,020	--	9,390	7,020	--	2,800
Canada	463,000	43,500	408,000	463,000	43,500	412,000
China	65	2	67	65	2	178
France	52	--	--	52	--	--
Japan	(3)	--	--	(3)	--	74
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	471	--	365
Mexico	94,400	7,070	79,300	94,400	7,070	79,300
Netherlands	1,300	--	--	1,330	--	--
Peru	58,300	4,250	62,700	58,300	4,250	62,700
Spain	1	--	--	729	--	23
Taiwan	49	5	75	49	5	75
Other	(3)	--	7	(3)	--	7
Total	651,000	54,900	561,000	655,000	59,500	661,000
Oxide:						
Australia	1,080	118	925	1,080	118	925
Belgium	175	--	181	175	--	181
Brazil	1	--	382	1	--	382
Canada	42,500	4,840	46,200	42,500	4,840	46,200
China	675	16	343	675	16	343
Congo (Brazzaville)	--	--	1,320	--	--	1,320
France	22	--	699	22	--	699
Germany	3,210	299	3,000	3,210	299	3,000
India	81	--	173	81	--	173
Indonesia	1	--	216	1	--	216
Italy	37	3	185	37	3	185
Japan	3,050	79	893	3,050	79	893
Mexico	25,900	2,460	23,600	25,900	2,460	23,600
Netherlands	5,240	40	2,980	5,240	40	2,980
Peru	170	--	928	170	--	928
Trinidad and Tobago	--	94	205	--	94	205
Turkey	355	106	365	355	106	365
Other	265	39	143	265	39	143
Total	82,700	8,090	82,700	82,700	8,090	82,700

-- Zero.

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

²Part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

³Less 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)	October		January–October	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	592,000	\$806,000	76,000	\$131,000	634,000	\$849,000
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	14,100	14,900	338	354	11,100	10,600
Zinc alloys	17,900	46,000	2,000	4,920	20,900	53,000
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	17,700	28,900	728	1,430	7,240	13,800
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,040	20,600	374	1,270	5,470	18,800
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	34,900	19,900	2,060	3,490	16,100	22,300
Powders, flakes, dust	14,200	33,200	1,270	3,440	9,200	25,100
Waste and scrap	90,500	107,000	8,700	9,570	71,100	83,500
Chemicals:						
Oxide	41,800	50,200	763	2,350	16,000	28,400
Chloride	902	1,590	37	70	611	840
Sulfate	774	1,160	162	128	498	627
Compounds, other ²	8,690	15,000	137	2,130	6,430	17,500

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	London Metal Exchange	
	American ¹	cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2012:			
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
September	93.09	83.83	1,848.17
October	94.65	85.39	1,882.50
January–October	95.41	86.54	1,907.82

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:							
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
September	112,675	643,075	5,450	761,200	231,225	31,600	1,024,025
October	112,375	659,850	4,975	777,200	218,675	31,500	1,027,375

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.