

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Amy C. Tolcin, Zinc Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4940, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: atolcin@usgs.gov

Hodan A. Fatah (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-4971
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: hfatah@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ZINC IN NOVEMBER 2013

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in November 2013 was 68,500 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in November was 2,280 t, 4% more than that in October 2013 and 6% more than that in November 2012.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for November 2013 was 94.01 cents per pound, essentially unchanged from the October 2013

and November 2012 average prices. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for November 2013 was \$1,868.36 per metric ton, essentially unchanged from the October 2013 average price and slightly less than the November 2012 average price. During November 2013, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 67,125 t to 960,250 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2012 ^p	2013		
	January– December	October	November	January– November
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	738,000	70,400 ^r	70,900	716,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	713,000	68,000 ^r	68,500	692,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,3}	261,000	19,800	19,800	213,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ^{e,4,5}	904,000	78,900	70,000	856,000
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	6,140	--	52	2,570
Refined zinc	655,000	59,500	50,500	654,000 ⁶
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	592,000	76,000	25,100	659,000
Refined zinc	14,100	338	261	11,400
Price:⁷				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,947.73	1,882.50	1,868.36	1,904.24
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.76	94.65	94.01	95.28

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

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.

⁶Year-to-date values reflect changes to previously published data. The U.S. Census Bureau revised the quantity and value of unwrought zinc imported from Australia for August 2013 to 5,510 metric tons valuing \$10,200,000.

⁷Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
MINE AND SMELTER PRODUCTION OF ZINC
IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine ²		Smelter ³
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2012: ^P			
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	62,400	19,800
September	69,000	66,700	19,800
October	70,400 ^r	68,000 ^r	19,800
November	70,900	68,500	19,800
January–November	716,000	692,000	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
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2013					
	2012		November		January–November	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	6,140	\$11,200	52	\$41	2,570	\$4,430
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	655,000	1,320,000	50,500	99,200	654,000 ²	1,310,000 ²
Zinc alloys	20,600	41,900	517	1,040	7,560	15,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,570	7,270	219	597	2,340	6,850
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	2,920	12,700	160	619	3,320	13,000
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	23,200	26,800	747	757	13,200	15,600
Powders, flakes, dust	28,200	80,500	2,050	6,410	23,300	67,700
Waste and scrap	20,000	24,600	1,970	1,900	19,400	23,300
Chemicals:						
Oxide	82,700	158,000	7,180	13,800	89,900	177,000
Chloride	190	1,490	8	81	258	1,720
Sulfate	56,300	51,100	3,390	2,870	47,200	40,000
Compounds, other ³	3,460	10,500	221	802	2,850	10,400

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

²Year-to-date values reflect changes to previously published data. The U.S. Census Bureau revised the quantity and value of unwrought zinc imported from Australia for August 2013 to 5,510 metric tons valuing \$10,200,000.

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	
		November	January–November		November	January–November
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	3,450	--	2,500	3,450	--	2,500
Malaysia	--	52	52	--	52	52
Mexico	2,680	--	--	2,680	--	--
Russia	--	--	14	--	--	14
Total	6,140	52	2,570	6,140	52	2,570
Refined zinc:						
Argentina	--	--	1,000	--	--	1,000
Australia	26,500	--	--	29,000	--	45,100 ²
Brazil	7,020	--	9,390	7,020	--	2,800
Canada	463,000	36,200	445,000	463,000	36,200	448,000
China	65	2	69	65	2	180
France	52	--	--	52	--	--
Japan	(3)	--	--	(3)	--	74
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	471	--	365
Mexico	94,400	8,030	87,300	94,400	8,030	87,300
Netherlands	1,300	--	--	1,330	--	--
Peru	58,300	6,260	69,000	58,300	6,260	69,000
Spain	1	--	--	729	--	23
Taiwan	49	6	80	49	6	80
Other	(3)	(3)	7	(3)	(3)	7
Total	651,000	50,500	611,000	655,000	50,500	654,000 ²
Oxide:						
Australia	1,080	39	965	1,080	39	965
Belgium	175	80	261	175	80	261
Brazil	1	--	382	1	--	382
Canada	42,500	4,030	50,200	42,500	4,030	50,200
China	675	11	354	675	11	354
Congo (Brazzaville)	--	--	1,320	--	--	1,320
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	446	446	--	446	446
France	22	--	699	22	--	699
Germany	3,210	102	3,100	3,210	102	3,100
India	81	60	233	81	60	233
Indonesia	1	--	216	1	--	216
Italy	37	--	185	37	--	185
Japan	3,050	121	1,010	3,050	121	1,010
Mexico	25,900	2,110	25,700	25,900	2,110	25,700
Netherlands	5,240	140	3,120	5,240	140	3,120
Peru	170	--	928	170	--	928
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	205	--	--	205
Turkey	355	20	385	355	20	385
Other	265	19	162	265	19	162
Total	82,700	7,180	89,900	82,700	7,180	89,900

-- Zero.

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

²Reflects changes to previously published data. The U.S. Census Bureau revised the quantity and value of unwrought zinc imported from Australia for August 2013 to 5,510 metric tons valuing \$10,200,000.

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)	November		January–November	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	592,000	\$806,000	25,100	\$37,900	659,000	\$886,000
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	14,100	14,900	261	285	11,400	10,800
Zinc alloys	17,900	46,000	1,190	2,850	22,100	55,800
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	17,700	28,900	619	1,160	7,860	15,000
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,040	20,600	538	1,950	6,000	20,800
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	34,900	19,900	1,640	2,490	17,700	24,800
Powders, flakes, dust	14,200	33,200	809	2,090	10,000	27,200
Waste and scrap	90,500	107,000	8,990	11,300	80,000	94,800
Chemicals:						
Oxide	41,800	50,200	646	1,470	16,700	29,900
Chloride	902	1,590	89	129	701	969
Sulfate	774	1,160	193	130	690	757
Compounds, other ²	8,690	15,000	152	1,970	6,580	19,500

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 ¢/lb.	cash ² ¢/lb. \$/t	
2012:			
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
November	94.01	84.75	1,868.36
January–November	95.28	86.37	1,904.24

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:							
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
November	112,375	619,550	4,350	736,275	192,775	31,200	960,250

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.