

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN FEBRUARY 2014

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in February 2014 was 67,600 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in February was 2,410 t, 10% more than that in January 2014 and 24% more than that in February 2013.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for February 2014 was 101.57 cents per pound, essentially unchanged from the January 2014 average price and 3% less than the February 2013 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for February 2014 was \$2,035.01 per metric ton, essentially unchanged from the January 2014 average price and 4% less than the February 2013 average price. During February 2014, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 92,150 t to 757,950 t.

Update

In April, Teck Resources Ltd. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) announced plans to reopen the Pend

Oreille zinc-lead mine in Washington State. Pend Oreille had been on care-and-maintenance status since 2009, and Teck expected to have the mine ready for production in 7 months (November 2014). The company decided to reopen the mine in anticipation of future market conditions, including a series of expected zinc mine closures by yearend 2016 totaling around 1.5 million metric tons per year of zinc production. Pend Oreille had the capacity to produce 44,000 metric tons per year of zinc in concentrate (Teck Resources Ltd., 2014, p. 3–4).

Reference Cited

Teck Resources Ltd., 2014, Teck reports unaudited first quarter results for 2014: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Teck Resources Ltd. news release, April 22, 50 p. (Accessed on April 22, 2014, at [http://www.teck.com/document/DocumentViewer.aspx?portal=tc&path=_ces_portal_meta/downloads/Investors/Quarterly Shareholder Report/Q1 2014 Report.pdf](http://www.teck.com/document/DocumentViewer.aspx?portal=tc&path=_ces_portal_meta/downloads/Investors/Quarterly%20Shareholder%20Report/Q1%202014%20Report.pdf).)

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2013	2014		
	January– December ^p	January	February	January– February
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	788,000	70,200 ^r	69,900	140,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	761,000	67,900 ^r	67,600	135,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^e	229,000	18,300	18,300	36,500
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ³	934,000	106,000	62,700	169,000
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	2,570	--	--	--
Refined zinc	717,000	88,700 ⁴	48,500	137,000 ⁴
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	670,000	3,780	14,100	17,800
Refined zinc	11,500	1,080	4,040	5,130
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,910.04	2,038.11	2,035.01	2,036.56
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.57	101.71	101.57	101.64

^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.

³Smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports.

⁴Part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau of verification.

⁵Special High Grade Zinc.

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

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine ²		Smelter ^e
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2013:			
February	56,400	54,500	18,500
March	57,800	56,000	18,500
April	65,800	63,500	19,700
May	68,700	66,400	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	70,700	68,300	18,300
November	71,300	68,800	18,300
December	71,100	68,700	18,300
January–December	788,000	761,000	229,000
2014,			
January	70,200 ^r	67,900 ^r	18,300
February	69,900	67,600	18,300
January–February	140,000	135,000	36,500

^eEstimated. ^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.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2013		2014			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	February		January–February	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	2,570	\$4,430	--	--	--	--
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	717,000 ²	1,430,000 ²	48,500	\$97,200	137,000 ³	\$279,000 ³
Zinc alloys	7,940	16,100	720	1,520	1,630	3,390
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,540	7,360	176	499	354	1,060
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,570	13,900	226	887	675	2,520
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,900	16,400	397	727	753	1,470
Powders, flakes, dust	24,600	71,600	2,220	6,850	4,680	14,500
Waste and scrap	21,000	25,300	1,450	2,030	2,890	3,940
Chemicals:						
Oxide	97,400	192,000	9,580	19,600	18,700	38,600
Chloride	269	1,830	9	87	24	221
Sulfate	50,800	42,900	4,550	3,660	10,200	8,700
Compounds, other ⁴	3,280	11,600	247	606	507	1,710

-- Zero.

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

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.

³Part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

⁴Includes 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 3206.42.000).

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		
	2013	2014		2013	2014	
		February	January–February		February	January–February
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	2,500	--	--	2,500	--	--
Malaysia	52	--	--	52	--	--
Russia	14	--	--	14	--	--
Total	2,570	--	--	2,570	--	--
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Argentina	1,000	--	--	1,000	--	--
Australia	--	--	--	55,100 ²	--	32,900 ³
Belgium	--	--	--	--	1,610	3,660
Brazil	9,390	--	--	2,800	--	--
Canada	480,000	30,500	67,000	484,000	30,500	67,000
China	76	--	7	462	300	306
Japan	--	--	--	74	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	365	7,420	10,100
Mexico	97,800	6,160	16,300	97,800	6,160	16,300
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	399
Peru	75,200	2,500	6,520	75,200	2,500	6,520
Spain	--	--	--	23	--	--
Taiwan	81	--	27	81	--	27
Other	7	(4)	(4)	7	(4)	(4)
Total	664,000	39,100	89,800	717,000 ²	48,500	137,000 ³
Oxide:						
Australia	1,020	--	80	1,020	--	80
Belgium	265	107	107	265	107	107
Brazil	382	--	--	382	--	--
Canada	54,500	5,880	11,700	54,500	5,880	11,700
China	365	12	25	365	12	25
Congo (Brazzaville)	1,320	--	--	1,320	--	--
Congo (Kinshasa)	895	--	--	895	--	--
France	699	--	--	699	--	--
Germany	3,190	117	316	3,190	117	316
India	233	39	39	233	39	39
Indonesia	216	--	--	216	--	--
Italy	185	--	--	185	--	--
Japan	1,150	128	208	1,150	128	208
Mexico	28,000	2,790	5,160	28,000	2,790	5,160
Netherlands	3,300	261	654	3,300	261	654
Peru	928	165	165	928	165	165
Trinidad and Tobago	205	--	68	205	--	68
Turkey	405	40	80	405	40	80
Other	162	41	82	162	41	82
Total	97,400	9,580	18,700	97,400	9,580	18,700

-- 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.

³Part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau of verification.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2013		2014			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	February		January–February	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	670,000	\$904,000	14,100	\$19,500	17,800	\$25,700
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	11,500	11,000	4,040	6,290	5,130	23,600
Zinc alloys	23,200	58,600	1,930	5,110	3,640	9,430
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	8,580	16,400	675	1,360	1,450	2,870
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,500	22,600	597	2,190	1,090	3,850
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	18,600	25,600	688	787	1,550	1,790
Powders, flakes, dust	10,700	28,900	745	2,070	1,570	4,280
Waste and scrap	87,500	104,000	5,330	6,750	11,700	14,300
Chemicals:						
Oxide	17,400	32,000	457	1,700	962	3,820
Chloride	776	1,070	65	98	146	222
Sulfate	691	760	27	25	36	38
Compounds, other ²	6,720	21,000	194	1,730	348	3,790

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

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	
2013:			
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
December	98.80	89.53	1,973.88
January–December	95.57	86.64	1,910.04
2014:			
January	101.71	92.45	2,038.11
February	101.57	92.31	2,035.01
January–February	101.64	92.38	2,036.56

¹Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premium.

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 PERIOD¹

(metric tons)

Period	United States				Europe	Other	Total LME
	Detroit, MI	New Orleans, LA	Other	Total			
2013:							
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
December	109,025	635,575	3,750	748,350	151,925	30,900	931,175
2014:							
January	102,175	594,950	3,025	700,150	119,125	30,825	850,100
February	92,250	543,625	2,250	638,125	92,100	27,725	757,950

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

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.