

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ZINC IN MARCH 2014

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in March 2014 was 70,600 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in March was 2,280 t, 6% less than that in February 2014 but 26% more than that in March 2013. Mine production in the first quarter of 2014 was 19% greater than during the first quarter of 2013.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for March 2014 was 100.62 cents per pound, essentially unchanged from the February 2014 average price and 4% more than the March 2013 average price. The average North American SHG zinc price for the

first quarter of the year was 101.30 cents per pound, essentially unchanged from the average price of the first quarter of 2013. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for March 2014 was \$2,014.07 per metric ton, slightly less than the February 2014 average price but 4% more than the March 2013 average price. The average LME cash price of zinc for the first quarter of the year was \$2,029.07, essentially unchanged from the average price of the first quarter of the prior year. In March 2014, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 75,625 t to 833,575 t.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014		
	January– December	February	March	January– March
<b>Production:</b>				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate <sup>2</sup>	788,000	70,200 <sup>r</sup>	73,000	214,000
Mine, recoverable zinc <sup>2</sup>	761,000	67,800 <sup>r</sup>	70,600	207,000
Smelter, refined zinc <sup>e</sup>	233,000 <sup>r</sup>	18,000 <sup>r</sup>	18,000	53,900
<b>Consumption of refined zinc:</b>				
Apparent <sup>3</sup>	939,000 <sup>r</sup>	62,400 <sup>r</sup>	69,200	237,000
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	2,570	--	--	--
Refined zinc	717,000	48,500	52,100	189,000 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Exports:</b>				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	670,000	14,100	7,730	25,600
Refined zinc	11,500	4,040	878	6,010
<b>Price:<sup>5</sup></b>				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,910.04	2,035.01	2,014.07	2,029.07
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.57	101.57	100.62	101.30

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.

<sup>3</sup>Smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports.

<sup>4</sup>Part of these data has been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau of verification.

<sup>5</sup>Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2  
MINE AND SMELTER PRODUCTION OF ZINC  
IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine <sup>2</sup>		Smelter <sup>e</sup>
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
<b>2013:</b>			
March	57,800	56,000	18,900 <sup>r</sup>
April	65,800	63,500	20,100 <sup>r</sup>
May	68,700	66,400	20,100 <sup>r</sup>
June	63,500	61,300	20,100 <sup>r</sup>
July	63,000	61,000	20,100 <sup>r</sup>
August	64,600	62,400	20,100 <sup>r</sup>
September	69,000	66,700	20,100 <sup>r</sup>
October	70,700	68,300	18,700 <sup>r</sup>
November	71,300	68,800	18,700 <sup>r</sup>
December	71,100	68,700	18,700 <sup>r</sup>
January–December	788,000	761,000	233,000 <sup>r</sup>
<b>2014:</b>			
January <sup>f</sup>	70,500	68,200	18,000
February <sup>f</sup>	70,200	67,800	18,000
March	73,000	70,600	18,000
January–March	214,000	207,000	53,900

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>f</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes the zinc content in both lead and zinc concentrates.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2013		2014			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	March		January–March	
			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 <sup>2</sup>	1,430,000 <sup>2</sup>	52,100	\$111,000	189,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$390,000 <sup>3</sup>
Zinc alloys	7,940	16,100	491	1,020	2,120	4,410
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,540	7,360	172	627	525	1,690
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,570	13,900	202	884	877	3,400
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,900	16,400	688	1,200	1,440	2,670
Powders, flakes, dust	24,600	71,600	2,860	9,120	7,540	23,600
Waste and scrap	21,000	25,300	1,740	2,160	4,630	6,100
Chemicals:						
Oxide	97,400	192,000	11,200	23,600	30,000	62,200
Chloride	269	1,830	24	256	48	477
Sulfate	50,800	42,900	3,840	3,200	14,100	11,900
Compounds, other <sup>4</sup>	3,280	11,600	366	1,380	873	3,090

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Reflects 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 5,506 metric tons valued at \$10,227,601.

<sup>3</sup>Part of these data has been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau of verification.

<sup>4</sup>Includes 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 COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2013	2014		2013	2014	
		March	January–March		March	January–March
<b>Ore and concentrate (zinc content):</b>						
Canada	2,500	--	--	2,500	--	--
Malaysia	52	--	--	52	--	--
Russia	14	--	--	14	--	--
Total	2,570	--	--	2,570	--	--
<b>Refined (slab) zinc:</b>						
Argentina	1,000	--	--	1,000	--	--
Australia	--	--	--	55,100 <sup>2</sup>	--	32,900 <sup>3</sup>
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	3,660
Brazil	9,390	--	--	2,800	--	--
Canada	480,000	34,000	101,000	484,000	34,200	101,000
China	76	12	18	462	262	569
Japan	--	--	--	74	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	365	2,000	12,100
Mexico	97,800	5,080	21,300	97,800	6,550	22,800
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	399
Peru	75,200	4,180	10,700	75,200	4,180	10,700
Spain	--	--	--	23	4,940	4,940
Taiwan	81	1	28	81	1	28
Other	7	(4)	(4)	7	(4)	(4)
Total	664,000	43,300	133,000	717,000 <sup>2</sup>	52,100	189,000 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Oxide:</b>						
Australia	1,020	--	80	1,020	--	80
Belgium	265	103	210	265	103	210
Brazil	382	--	--	382	--	--
Canada	54,500	7,080	18,800	54,500	7,080	18,800
China	365	22	46	365	22	46
Congo (Brazzaville)	1,320	--	--	1,320	--	--
Congo (Kinshasa)	895	--	--	895	--	--
France	699	--	--	699	--	--
Germany	3,190	100	416	3,190	100	416
India	233	20	59	233	20	59
Indonesia	216	--	--	216	--	--
Italy	185	--	--	185	--	--
Japan	1,150	144	353	1,150	144	353
Mexico	28,000	2,820	7,970	28,000	2,820	7,970
Netherlands	3,300	711	1,360	3,300	711	1,360
Peru	928	169	334	928	169	334
Trinidad and Tobago	205	--	68	205	--	68
Turkey	405	39	119	405	39	119
Other	162	21	142	162	21	142
Total	97,400	11,200	30,000	97,400	11,200	30,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Reflects 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 valued at \$10,200,000.

<sup>3</sup>Part of these data has been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau of verification.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2013		2014			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	March		January–March	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	670,000	\$904,000	7,730	\$12,100	25,600	\$37,900
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	11,500	11,000	878	943	6,010	24,600
Zinc alloys	23,200	58,600	1,340	3,440	4,980	12,900
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	8,580	16,400	858	1,690	2,310	4,570
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,500	22,600	592	2,180	1,680	6,020
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	18,600	25,600	1,340	1,370	2,890	3,160
Powders, flakes, dust	10,700	28,900	625	1,850	2,200	6,130
Waste and scrap	87,500	104,000	5,810	8,390	17,500	22,700
Chemicals:						
Oxide	17,400	32,000	570	1,900	1,530	5,720
Chloride	776	1,070	25	36	172	258
Sulfate	691	760	36	35	72	73
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	6,720	21,000	135	1,560	484	5,350

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Includes 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 <sup>1</sup>	London Metal Exchange cash <sup>2</sup>	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2013:			
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
March	100.62	91.36	2,014.07
January–March	101.30	92.04	2,029.07

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

<sup>2</sup>Average 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				
2013:							
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
March	84,275	643,000	2,000	729,275	76,725	27,575	833,575

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.