

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JUNE 2014

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in June 2014 was 61,200 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in June was 2,040 t, essentially unchanged from that in May 2014 and June 2013. Mine production in the first half of 2014 was 9% more than that in the first half of 2013 owing primarily to increased production at Teck Resources Ltd.'s Red Dog zinc-lead mine in Alaska. Teck reported that zinc in concentrate production at Red Dog increased by 10% in the first half of 2014 compared with production in the same period of the prior year owing to increased mill throughput from processing softer ores (Teck Resources Ltd., 2014, p. 16).

Zinc smelter production in the first half of 2014 decreased by 10% from that of 2013 owing to the shutdown of Horsehead Holding Corp.'s zinc smelter in Monaca, PA, in April 2014. The closure coincided with the commencement of zinc production at the company's new solvent extraction-electrowinning plant in Mooresboro, NC, in late May. In June, the Mooresboro plant produced about 2,630 t of zinc metal, operating at 23% of design capacity (140,000 metric tons per year). Horsehead expected the plant to take 6 months to ramp up to full capacity (Horsehead Holding Corp., 2014, p. 35).

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for June 2014 was 105.47 cents per pound, 3% more than the May 2014 average price and 14% more than the June 2013 average price. The average North American SHG zinc price for the second quarter of the

year was 103.16 cents per pound, slightly more than the average price of the prior quarter. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for June 2014 was \$2,126.46 per metric ton, 3% more than the May 2014 average price and 16% more than the June 2013 average price. The average LME cash price of zinc for the second quarter of the year was \$2,072.25, slightly more than the average price of the prior quarter. In June 2014, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 40,475 t to 667,950 t.

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References Cited

- Horsehead Holding Corp., 2014, Form 10-Q—For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2014: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 60 p. (Accessed on September 3, 2014, at <http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1385544/000138554414000015/zinc-20140630x10q.htm>.)
- Teck Resources Ltd., 2014, Teck reports unaudited second quarter results for 2014: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Teck Resources Ltd. news release, July 24, 52 p. (Accessed on September 3, 2014, at http://www.teck.com/res/tc/documents/_ces_portal_meta/downloads/investors/quarterly%20shareholder%20report/q2%202014%20report.pdf.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2013 ^P	2014		
	January– December	May	June	January– June
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	777,000 ^r	65,500 ^r	63,400	411,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	751,000 ^r	63,300 ^r	61,200	397,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^e	233,000	17,100 ^{r,3}	17,100 ³	105,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	935,000	116,000	69,300	508,000
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	2,550	--	--	--
Refined zinc	713,000	99,900	52,400	412,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	669,000	24,800	12,500	71,800
Refined zinc	11,500	1,490	263	9,490
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,910.04	2,060.01	2,126.46	2,050.66
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.57	102.65	105.47	102.23

⁶Estimated. ^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.

³Data are based partially on smelter shipments rather than production.

⁴Smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports.

⁵Special High Grade Zinc.

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

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine ²		Smelter ^c
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2013:			
June	63,500	61,300	20,100
July	63,000	61,000	20,100
August	64,600	62,400	20,100
September	69,000	66,700	20,100
October	68,700 ^r	66,300 ^r	18,700
November	62,700 ^r	60,600 ^r	18,700
December	70,900 ^r	68,500 ^r	18,700
January–December	777,000 ^r	751,000 ^r	233,000
2014:			
January	77,100 ^r	74,500 ^r	18,000
February	65,400 ^r	63,100 ^r	18,000
March	70,500 ^r	68,200 ^r	18,000
April	69,200 ^r	66,800 ^r	17,100 ^{r,3}
May	65,500 ^r	63,300 ^r	17,100 ^{r,3}
June	63,400	61,200	17,100 ³
January–June	411,000	397,000	105,000

^cEstimated. ^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.

³Data are based partially on smelter shipments rather than production.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2013		2014			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	June		January–June	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	2,550	\$4,420	--	--	--	--
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	713,000	1,420,000	52,400	\$114,000	412,000 ²	\$847,000 ²
Zinc alloys	7,940	16,100	391	864	4,020	8,500
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,540	7,360	277	827	1,220	3,690
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,570	13,900	434	1,270	2,120	7,130
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,000	16,400	943	1,290	3,920	6,350
Powders, flakes, dust	24,500	71,400	2,850	8,770	16,200	51,000
Waste and scrap	21,000	25,300	2,370	2,540	12,000	15,000
Chemicals:						
Oxide	97,400	192,000	10,300	22,200	63,700	132,000
Chloride	278	1,900	8	86	102	816
Sulfate	52,600	44,100	6,230	3,590	32,300	24,000
Compounds, other ³	3,310	11,800	1,020	1,560	2,790	7,670

-- Zero.

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

²Part of these data has been verified by the U.S. Census Bureau.

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 3206.42.000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. International Trade Commission.

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	
		June	January–June		June	January–June
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	2,500	--	--	2,500	--	--
Malaysia	52	--	--	52	--	--
Total	2,550	--	--	2,550	--	--
Refined zinc:						
Argentina	1,000	--	--	1,000	--	--
Australia	--	--	24,000	55,100	45	74,100 ²
Belgium	--	--	--	--	374	10,100
Brazil	9,390	--	--	2,800	--	--
Canada	480,000	36,700	210,000	480,000	36,700	210,000
China	81	--	19	467	--	596
Japan	--	--	--	74	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	365	501	34,900
Mexico	97,800	10,300	51,000	97,800	10,300	52,500
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	907
Peru	75,200	4,410	24,000	75,200	4,410	24,000
Spain	--	--	--	23	75	5,040
Taiwan	81	3	38	81	3	38
Other	7	--	1	7	--	1
Total	664,000	51,400	309,000	713,000	52,400	412,000 ²
Oxide:						
Australia	1,020	39	197	1,020	39	197
Belgium	265	103	416	265	103	416
Brazil	382	--	--	382	--	--
Canada	54,500	6,400	38,200	54,500	6,400	38,200
China	365	62	155	365	62	155
Congo (Brazzaville)	1,320	--	--	1,320	--	--
Congo (Kinshasa)	895	--	--	895	--	--
France	699	--	(3)	699	--	(3)
Germany	3,190	376	1,410	3,190	376	1,410
India	233	20	183	233	20	183
Indonesia	216	--	--	216	--	--
Italy	185	--	--	185	--	--
Japan	1,170	163	745	1,170	163	745
Malaysia	39	58	194	39	58	194
Mexico	28,000	2,420	18,000	28,000	2,420	18,000
Netherlands	3,280	214	2,690	3,280	214	2,690
Peru	928	485	1,320	928	485	1,320
Trinidad and Tobago	205	--	68	205	--	68
Turkey	405	--	196	405	--	196
Other	116 ^r	9	15	116 ^r	9	15
Total	97,400	10,300	63,700	97,400	10,300	63,700

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Part of these data has been verified by the U.S. Census Bureau.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. International Trade Commission.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2013		2014			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	June		January–June	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	669,000	\$868,000	12,500	\$12,100	71,800	\$95,100
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	11,500	11,000	263	647	9,490	32,300
Zinc alloys	23,200	58,600	2,310	5,570	15,800	38,200
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	8,580	16,400	842	1,620	5,360	10,200
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,520	22,700	675	2,350	3,500	12,400
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	18,600	25,600	1,410	2,280	9,310	13,200
Powders, flakes, dust	10,700	28,900	1,090	3,490	4,610	13,400
Waste and scrap	88,000	105,000	4,870	6,800	35,500	46,700
Chemicals:						
Oxide	17,500	32,000	761	2,130	3,360	11,500
Chloride	776	1,070	21	50	349	516
Sulfate	525	660	80	50	186	170
Compounds, other ²	6,720	21,000	196	2,420	1,080	12,100

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, U.S. International Trade Commission.

TABLE 6
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North American ¹	London Metal Exchange cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2013:			
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
April	101.36	92.09	2,030.28
May	102.65	93.44	2,060.01
June	105.47	96.45	2,126.46
January–June	102.23	93.02	2,050.66

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 PERIOD

(metric tons)

Period	United States			Total	Europe	Other	Total LME
	Detroit, MI	New Orleans, LA	Other				
2013:							
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
April	82,025	590,525	1,550	674,100	70,950	26,425	771,475
May	71,325	555,825	1,100	628,250	54,575	25,600	708,425
June	64,100	537,625	750	602,475	40,600	24,875	667,950

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.