

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

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

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

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

ZINC IN OCTOBER 2014

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in October 2014 was 63,200 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in October was 2,040 t, 8% less than that in September 2014 and 5% less than that in October 2013.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for October 2014 was 112.03 cents per pound, essentially unchanged from the September 2014 average price but 18% more than the October 2013 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for October 2014 was \$2,272.37 per metric ton, essentially unchanged from the September 2014 average price but 21% more than the October 2013 average price. In October 2014, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 52,500 t to 698,225 t.

Update

In November, Voigt & Schweitzer LLC (Columbus, OH) opened a new after-fabrication, hot-dip galvanizing plant in Millington, TN. The company operated six other galvanizing plants in the Northeast and Great Lakes regions. The Millington, TN, plant would expand the company's customer base into the South and would operate as V&S Memphis Galvanizing LLC (Voigt & Schweitzer LLC, 2014).

In December, Teck Resources Ltd. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) announced that it had begun shipping zinc and lead concentrates from the Pend Oreille Mine in

Washington State to the company's nearby metallurgical facility in Trail, British Columbia, Canada, for processing. Early in the year, Teck had announced plans to restart the mine in anticipation of future market conditions, including a series of expected global zinc mine closures by yearend 2016 totaling around 1.5 million metric tons per year of zinc production. The mine was expected to produce zinc in concentrate at a rate of about 44,000 metric tons per year (Teck Resources Ltd., 2014).

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References Cited

- Teck Resources Ltd., 2014, Teck announces first shipment of concentrate from restarted Pend Oreille operations: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Teck Resources Ltd. news release, December 17. (Accessed on December 17, 2014, at <http://www.teck.com/Generic.aspx?PAGE=Teck+Site%2fMedia+Pages%2fMedia+Detail&releaseNumber=14-29-TR&portalName=c>.)
- Voigt & Schweitzer LLC, 2014, V&S Memphis Galvanizing LLC: Columbus Ohio, Voigt & Schweitzer LLC. (Accessed on December 22, 2014, at <http://www.hotdipgalvanizing.com/memphis/>.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2013 ^p	2014		
	January– December	September	October	January– October
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	784,000	68,700	65,500	680,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	758,000	66,400	63,200	657,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^e	233,000	10,500 ^r	14,200	151,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ³	935,000	72,200 ^r	62,900	804,000
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	2,550	--	--	--
Refined zinc	713,000	64,100	57,600	674,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	669,000	177,000	51,600	597,000
Refined zinc	11,500	2,360	8,820	21,400
Price:⁴				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,910.04	2,293.74	2,272.37	2,150.96
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.57	113.06	112.03	106.70

^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.

⁴Special 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:			
October	68,700	66,300	18,700
November	62,700	60,600	18,700
December	70,900	68,500	18,700
January–December	784,000	758,000	233,000
2014:			
January	77,100	74,500	18,000
February	65,400	63,100	18,000
March	70,500	68,200	18,000
April	69,200	66,800	17,100 ³
May	65,500	63,300	17,100 ³
June	63,400	61,200	17,100 ³
July	66,500	64,200	10,500 ^r
August	67,900	65,600	10,500 ^r
September	68,700	66,400	10,500 ^r
October	65,500	63,200	14,200
January–October	680,000	657,000	151,000

^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.

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)	October		January–October	
			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	57,600	\$137,000	674,000	\$1,450,000
Zinc alloys	7,940	16,100	687	1,630	6,890	15,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,540	7,360	256	801	2,250	7,030
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,570	13,900	335	1,590	3,380	12,500
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,000	16,400	952	1,500	8,060	11,700
Powders, flakes, dust	24,500	71,400	2,780	9,800	27,100	87,600
Waste and scrap	21,000	25,300	1,870	2,400	21,000	26,200
Chemicals:						
Oxide	97,400	192,000	10,000	23,000	106,000	226,000
Chloride	278	1,900	19	194	141	1,200
Sulfate	52,600	44,100	11,100	8,240	66,800	48,900
Compounds, other ²	3,310	11,800	361	1,010	3,750	11,000

-- Zero.

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

²Includes 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	
		October	January–October		October	January–October
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	2,500	--	--	2,500	--	--
Malaysia	52	--	--	52	--	--
Total	2,550 ^r	--	--	2,550 ^r	--	--
Refined zinc:						
Argentina	1,000	--	--	1,000	--	--
Australia	--	--	46,000	55,100	3,580	115,000
Belgium	--	--	--	--	727	15,300
Brazil	9,390	--	--	2,800	--	--
Canada	480,000	40,800	364,000	480,000	40,800	364,000
China	81	--	59	467	--	661
Italy	--	18	18	--	18	18
Japan	--	--	--	74	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	365	--	37,400
Mexico	97,800	8,060	82,800	97,800	8,060	84,300
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	12	1,320
Peru	75,200	4,090	37,700	75,200	4,090	37,700
Spain	--	--	--	23	300	18,200
Taiwan	81	5	68	81	5	68
Other	7	--	1	7	--	1
Total	664,000	53,000	531,000	713,000	57,600	674,000
Oxide:						
Australia	1,020	--	290	1,020	--	290
Belgium	265	103	710	265	103	707
Brazil	382	--	--	382	--	--
Canada	54,500	6,380	63,700	54,500	6,380	63,700
China	365	25	264	365	25	264
Congo (Brazzaville)	1,320	--	--	1,320	--	--
Congo (Kinshasa)	895	--	1,440	895	--	1,440
France	699	--	(2)	699	--	(2)
Germany	3,190	78	1,850	3,190	78	1,850
India	233	--	285	233	--	285
Indonesia	216	--	64	216	--	64
Israel	74	--	24	74	--	24
Italy	185	--	--	185	--	--
Japan	1,170	55	957	1,170	55	957
Malaysia	39	20	234	39	20	234
Mexico	28,000	3,020	29,500	28,000	3,020	29,500
Netherlands	3,280	165	3,920	3,300	165	3,920
Peru	928	150	2,190	928	150	2,190
Sri Lanka	--	--	60	--	--	60
Taiwan	7	--	16	7	--	16
Trinidad and Tobago	205	--	68	205	--	68
Turkey	405	--	309	405	--	309
United Kingdom	20	5	19	20	5	19
Other	15	--	4	15	--	4
Total	97,400	10,000	106,000	97,400	10,000	106,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Less 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)	October		January–October	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	669,000	\$868,000	51,600	\$82,100	597,000	\$1,040,000
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	11,500	11,000	8,820	11,300	21,400	50,400
Zinc alloys	23,200	58,600	1,900	4,990	24,600	63,500
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	8,580	16,400	893	1,720	8,580	16,500
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,520	22,700	659	2,730	5,840	21,200
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	18,600	25,600	2,580	4,290	20,800	34,900
Powders, flakes, dust	10,700	28,900	891	3,050	8,100	25,000
Waste and scrap	88,000	105,000	7,260	8,420	59,500	78,600
Chemicals:						
Oxide	17,500	32,000	418	1,750	4,980	17,500
Chloride	776	1,070	36	60	639	939
Sulfate	525	660	42	46	410	431
Compounds, other ²	6,720	21,000	196	2,900	1,700	20,600

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:			
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
July	113.83	104.81	2,310.69
August	114.65	105.64	2,328.88
September	113.06	104.04	2,293.74
October	112.03	103.07	2,272.37
January–October	106.70	97.57	2,150.96

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				Europe	Other	Total LME
	Detroit, MI	New Orleans, LA	Other	Total			
2013:							
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
July	59,225	539,400	450	599,075	31,550	24,650	655,275
August	52,350	634,900	200	687,450	28,825	24,300	740,575
September	48,400	651,150	--	699,550	27,475	23,700	750,725
October	47,250	601,275	--	648,525	26,500	23,200	698,225

-- Zero.

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.