Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JANUARY 2015

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in January 2015 was 67,300 metric tons (t) (Fig. 1). Average daily mine production in January was 2,170 t, 10% less than that in December 2014 and in January 2014.

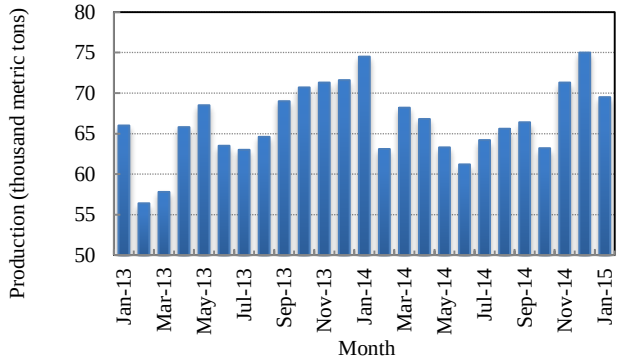

Figure 1. Monthly domestic zinc mine production (recoverable) from January 2013–January 2015. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

In January 2015, global London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) stocks of Special High Grade (SHG) zinc decreased by 62,750 t to 628,075 t (Fig. 2).

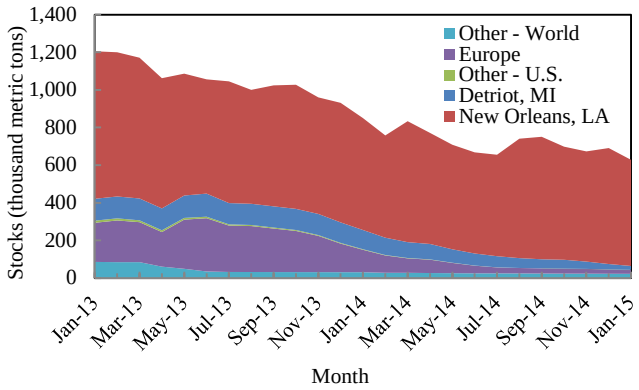

Figure 2. Global LME stocks of SHG zinc, month-end, from January 2013–January 2015. Source: London Metal Exchange Ltd.

In January, zinc prices continued their downward trend, decreasing to their lowest level since May 2014 (Fig. 3). The North American SHG zinc price was 104.37 per pound, and the average LME cash price for SHG zinc was $2,110.32 per metric ton.

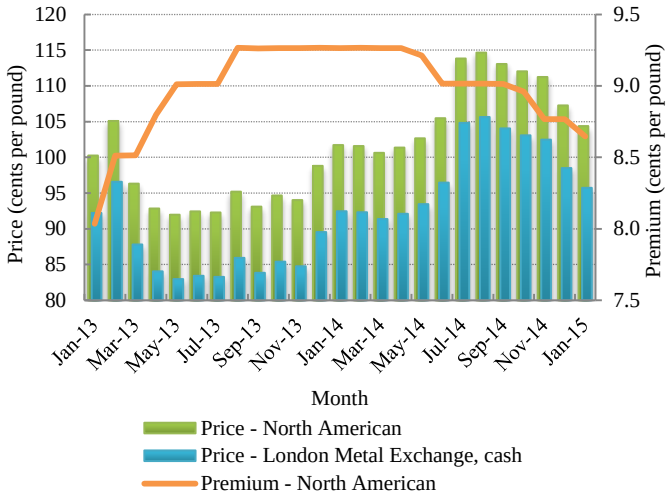

Figure 3. Average monthly prices and premium for SHG zinc from January 2013–January 2015. North American price is based on the LME cash price plus premium. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Update

In late March, Advance Die Casting Co. (Milwaukee, WI) notified State officials that it will permanently close its aluminum and zinc die casting facility in Milwaukee in May. In April, Cascade Die Casting Group Inc. (Grand Rapids, MI) announced that it planned to expand capacity at its two die casting operations in High Point, NC, to meet additional demand from the automotive industry. Cascade Die Casting Group produced aluminum and zinc die castings for a variety of markets, including appliances, automotive, electronics, medical equipment, off-road vehicles, and power tools (High Point Economic Development Corp., 2015; MacAulay, 2015).

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References Cited

High Point Economic Development Corp., 2015, Cascade Die Casting Group to expand in High Point: High Point, NC, High Point Economic Development Corp. news release, April 1. (Accessed on April 1, 2015, at http://www.cascade-cdc.com/downloads/Cascade%20Die%20Casting%20Group%20to%20expand%20in%20High%20Point%20--%2004-01-2015.pdf.)

MacAulay, Brad, 2015, Advance Die Casting to shut operations in May: American Metal Market, March 26. (Accessed on March 26, 2015, via http://www.amm.com/.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2014[p]		
	January–December	December	2015 January
Production:			
Mine, zinc content of concentrate[2]	831,000	77,500	69,500
Mine, recoverable zinc[2]	803,000	75,000	67,300
Smelter, refined zinc[e]	180,000	15,700	15,000
Consumption of refined zinc:			
Apparent[3]	962,000	79,200	73,200
Imports for consumption:			
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	2	--	--
Refined zinc	806,000	65,800	58,900
Exports:			
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	642,000	12,200	9,750
Refined zinc	24,400	2,250	747
Price:[4]			
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,161.67	2,171.36	2,110.32
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	107.12	107.26	104.37

[e]Estimated. [p]Preliminary. -- Zero.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.
[3]Smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports.
[4]Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
MINE AND SMELTER PRODUCTION OF ZINC
IN THE UNITED STATES[1]

(Metric tons)

	Mine[2]		
Period	Zinc content	Recoverable	Smelter[e]
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
August	67,900	65,600	10,500
September	68,700	66,400	10,500
October	65,500	63,200	13,800
November	73,700	71,300	13,800
December	77,500	75,000	15,700
January–December	831,000	803,000	180,000
2015, January	69,500	67,300	15,000

[e]Estimated.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Includes the zinc content in both lead and zinc concentrates.
[3]Data are based partially on smelter shipments rather than production.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC[1]

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2014 Quantity (metric tons)	2014 Value (thousands)	2015 January Quantity (metric tons)	2015 January Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	2	$4	--	--
Unwrought:				
Refined zinc	806,000	1,760,000	58,900	$135,000
Zinc alloys	7,930	17,800	807	1,820
Wrought:				
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,600	8,210	246	870
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	4,090	15,400	204	878
Other:				
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	8,960	13,200	522	846
Powders, flakes, dust	31,600	103,000	2,060	7,010
Waste and scrap	24,900	30,900	1,610	2,030
Chemicals:				
Oxide	125,000	272,000	10,100	22,800
Chloride	156	1,330	10	93
Sulfate	84,200	62,000	6,870	5,240
Compounds, other[2]	4,210	12,400	231	779

-- Zero.

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

[2]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, U.S. International Trade Commission.

TABLE 4

U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY[1]

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports 2014	General imports 2015 January	Imports for consumption 2014	Imports for consumption 2015 January
Ore and concentrate (zinc content), Mexico	2	--	2	--
Refined zinc:				
Australia	46,000	--	115,000	--
Austria	--	--	557	--
Belgium	--	--	15,700	--
Brazil	--	--	6,590	--
Canada	444,000	41,300	444,000	41,300
China	61	23	663	23
Italy	18	--	18	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	37,900	502
Mexico	103,000	10,500	104,000	10,500
Netherlands	--	--	1,320	--
Peru	46,400	2,470	46,400	2,470
Spain	--	--	34,100	4,130
Taiwan	81	--	81	--
Other	1	(2)	1	(2)
Total	664,000	54,300	806,000	58,900
Oxide:				
Australia	302	--	302	--
Belgium	821	5	818	5
Canada	76,400	6,610	76,400	6,610
China	390	20	390	15
Congo (Kinshasa)	1,440	--	1,440	--
Germany	2,740	113	2,740	113
India	492	68	492	68
Indonesia	185	--	185	--
Japan	1,050	44	1,050	44
Malaysia	234	--	234	--
Mexico	34,000	2,650	34,000	2,650
Netherlands	4,540	422	4,540	422
Peru	2,210	212	2,210	212
Turkey	403	--	403	--
Other	206 r	4	206 r	4
Total	125,000	10,100	125,000	10,100

[r]Revised. -- Zero.

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

[2]Less than ½ unit.

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

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC[1]

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2014 Quantity (metric tons)	2014 Value (thousands)	2015 January Quantity (metric tons)	2015 January Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	642,000	$1,120,000	9,750	$12,900
Unwrought:				
Refined zinc	24,400	57,000	747	1,650
Zinc alloys	27,100	69,900	1,530	3,850
Wrought:				
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	10,000	19,300	795	1,560
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,710	24,400	465	1,740
Other:				
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	27,400	45,700	1,170	1,600
Powders, flakes, dust	10,300	32,000	751	2,330
Waste and scrap	71,500	93,700	4,600	5,710
Chemicals:				
Oxide	6,160	20,800	353	958
Chloride	681	1,000	51	82
Sulfate	462	512	25	27
Compounds, other[2]	2,210	24,300	167	2,160

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.
[2]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, U.S. International Trade Commission.

TABLE 6
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North American[1] ¢/lb.	London Metal Exchange cash[2] ¢/lb.	London Metal Exchange cash[2] $/t
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
November	111.24	102.47	2,259.05
December	107.26	98.49	2,171.36
January–December	107.12	98.05	2,161.67
2015, January	104.37	95.72	2,110.32

[1]Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premium.
[2]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				Europe	Other	Total LME
	Detroit, MI	New Orleans, LA	Other	Total			
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
November	38,825	585,750	--	624,575	25,450	22,975	673,000
December	28,850	616,500	--	645,350	23,000	22,475	690,825
2015, January	20,575	564,150	--	584,725	21,175	22,175	628,075

-- Zero.

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.