

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 JANUARY 2016

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in January 2016 was 54,300 metric tons (t) (table 2). Average daily mine production in January was 1,750 t, 5% less than that in December 2015 and 19% less than that in January 2015 (fig. 1).

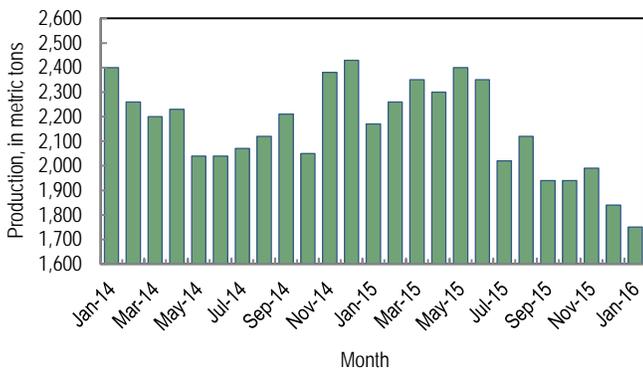


Figure 1. Average daily domestic zinc mine production (recoverable) from January 2014 through January 2016. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Global London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) stocks of Special High Grade (SHG) zinc increased by 9,350 t to 472,050 t in January 2016 (fig. 2, table 7).

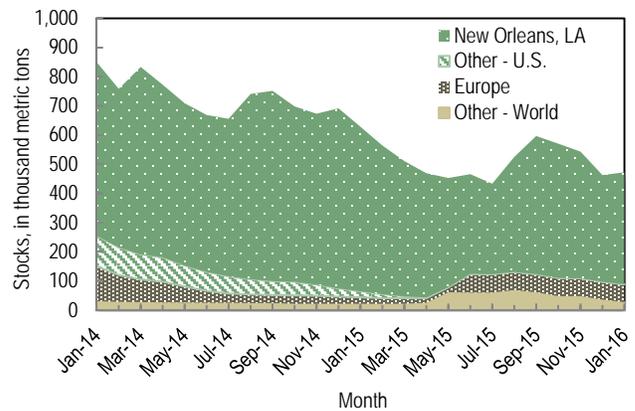


Figure 2. Global LME stocks of SHG zinc, monthend, from January 2014 through January 2016. Source: London Metal Exchange Ltd.

The monthly average Platts Metals Week North American SHG zinc price for January 2016 was 75.11 cents per pound, slightly less than that in December 2015 and 28% less than that in January 2015. The January average LME cash price for SHG zinc was \$1,511.88 per metric ton, essentially unchanged from that in the previous month and 28% less than that in January 2015. The North American premium to the LME cash price in January averaged about 6.5 cents per pound, 7% less than that in December (fig. 3, table 6).

List services and Web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>.

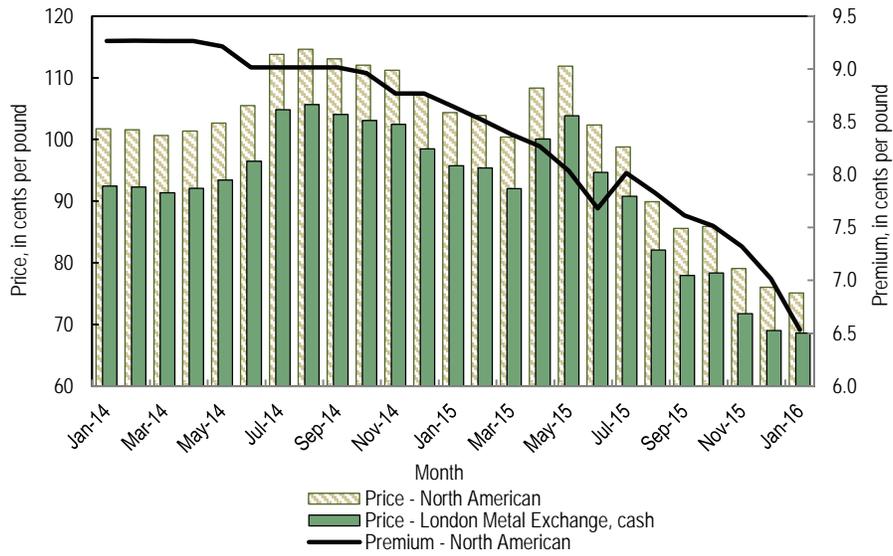


Figure 3. Average monthly prices and premium for SHG zinc from January 2014 through January 2016. North American price is based on the LME cash price plus premium. Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2015 ^p		2016 January
	January– December ^p	December	
Production:			
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	807,524 ^r	58,897 ^r	58,910
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	780,636 ^r	56,903 ^r	54,302
Smelter, refined zinc ^c	172,297	13,481	W
Consumption of refined zinc, apparent ³	930,572	68,535	W
Imports for consumption:			
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	22	--	--
Refined zinc	770,954	56,188	54,123
Exports:			
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	708,378	4,569	9,904
Refined zinc	12,679	1,134	10,491
Price:⁴			
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,932.14	1,521.74	1,511.88
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.54	76.04	75.11

^cEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- 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 ^c
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2015:			
January	69,598 ^r	67,302 ^r	16,325
February	65,423 ^r	63,219 ^r	14,420
March	75,298 ^r	72,813 ^r	14,511
April	71,225	68,877	14,025
May	76,945	74,524	15,205
June	72,838	70,397	14,842
July	64,724 ^r	62,538 ^r	14,447
August	67,956 ^r	65,723 ^r	13,722
September	60,372 ^r	58,287 ^r	13,540
October	62,427 ^r	60,290 ^r	13,390
November	61,820 ^r	59,764 ^r	14,388
December	58,897 ^r	56,903 ^r	13,481
January–December	807,524 ^r	780,636 ^r	172,297
2016, January	58,910	54,302	W

^cEstimated. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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	2015		2016	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	January	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	22	\$48	--	--
Unwrought:				
Refined zinc	770,954	1,621,305	54,123	\$88,421
Zinc alloys	8,070	17,061	1,158	1,826
Wrought:				
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	3,015	9,590	125	401
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,676	14,551	321	1,020
Other:				
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	5,606	8,354	251	446
Powders, flakes, dust	29,080	91,386	2,007	5,916
Waste and scrap	17,986	20,086	754	706
Chemicals:				
Oxide	115,543	249,694	9,112	17,651
Chloride	156	1,167	5	49
Sulfate	88,800	68,090	6,121	4,773
Compounds, other ²	3,795	11,896	553	641

-- 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 3206.42.0000).

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	
	2015	2016 January	2015	2016 January
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):				
Canada	19	--	19	--
Germany	3	--	3	--
Mexico	--	--	--	--
Total	22	--	22	--
Refined zinc:				
Australia	45,055	--	82,351	--
Belgium	1,254	--	19,574	231
Brazil	--	--	99	--
Canada	478,520	38,499	478,520	38,499
China	64	--	1,799	125
India	2,495	--	2,495	--
Korea, Republic of	1,504	--	20,897	134
Mexico	99,001	9,499	99,001	9,499
Netherlands	--	--	2,843	--
Peru	31,245	5,504	31,245	5,504
Spain	31	--	32,021	131
Switzerland	--	--	28	--
Taiwan	32 ^r	--	32	--
United Kingdom	--	--	49	--
Other	(2)	--	(2)	--
Total	659,202	53,502	770,954	54,123
Oxide:				
Australia	26	(2)	26	(2)
Belgium	155	--	155	--
Canada	71,248	5,754	71,248	5,754
China	585	29	580	29
Germany	2,382	214	2,382	214
India	202	18	202	18
Indonesia	1	--	1	--
Japan	485	30	485	30
Mexico	32,491	2,680	32,491	2,680
Netherlands	5,792	373	5,792	373
Norway	5	--	5	--
Peru	1,506	--	1,506	--
Philippines	(2)	--	(2)	--
Russia	--	11	--	11
Switzerland	21	--	21	--
Turkey	417	--	417	--
United Kingdom	232	3	232	3
Total	115,548	9,112	115,543	9,112

^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.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2015		2016	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	January	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	708,378	\$986,545	9,904	\$5,670
Unwrought:				
Refined zinc	12,679	29,030	10,491	15,394
Zinc alloys	19,696	50,597	1,369	3,029
Wrought:				
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	15,378	25,019	521	1,307
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,011	28,015	491	1,680
Other:				
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	29,263	37,626	2,257	2,393
Powders, flakes, dust	12,337	38,696	808	2,152
Waste and scrap	55,221	68,610	2,051	2,321
Chemicals:				
Oxide	21,778	29,079	3,662	4,090
Chloride	421	662	53	72
Sulfate	726	751	31	62
Compounds, other ²	1,844	21,921	217	1,754

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
2015:			
January	104.37	95.72	2,110.32
February	103.90	95.38	2,102.74
March	100.40	92.02	2,028.60
April	108.35	100.09	2,206.51
May	111.87	103.83	2,289.13
June	102.35	94.67	2,087.05
July	98.81	90.80	2,001.69
August	89.91	82.08	1,809.61
September	85.57	77.96	1,718.64
October	85.88	78.37	1,727.73
November	79.08	71.76	1,581.96
December	76.04	69.02	1,521.74
January–December	95.54	87.64	1,932.14
2016, January	75.11	68.58	1,511.88

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	Total			
2015:						
January	20,575	564,150	584,725	21,175	22,175	628,075
February	11,925	510,300	522,225	20,150	21,800	564,175
March	6,775	463,525	470,300	18,825	21,500	510,625
April	325	425,250	425,575	18,425	24,425	468,425
May	250	373,725	373,975	18,125	60,475	452,575
June	250	341,550	341,800	63,975	59,850	465,625
July	250	310,025	310,275	63,000	59,525	432,800
August	25	394,175	394,200	62,325	68,400	524,925
September	25	473,100	473,125	62,100	60,800	596,025
October	25	460,050	460,075	62,000	47,875	569,950
November	25	433,375	433,400	61,450	47,750	542,600
December	25	365,725	365,750	61,250	35,700	462,700
2016, January	25	384,250	384,275	60,850	26,925	472,050

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.