

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN FEBRUARY 2016

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in February 2016 was 56,500 metric tons (t) (table 2). Average daily mine production in February was 1,950 t, 11% more than that in January but 14% less than that in February 2015 (fig. 1).

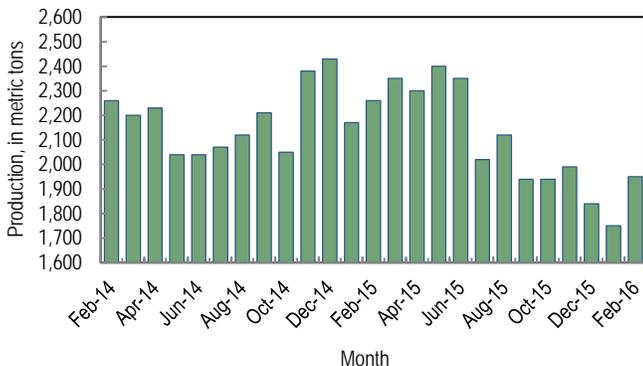


Figure 1. Average daily domestic zinc mine production (recoverable) from February 2014 through February 2016. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Global London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) stocks of Special High Grade (SHG) zinc increased by 3,050 t to 475,100 t in February 2016 (fig. 2, table 7).

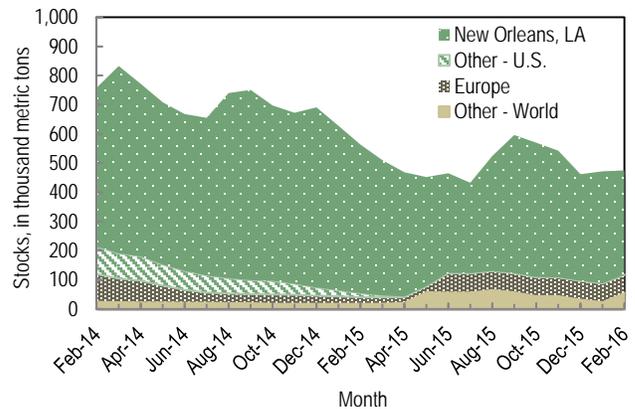


Figure 2. Global LME stocks of SHG zinc, monthend, from February 2014 through February 2016. Source: London Metal Exchange Ltd.

After trending downward for 8 months, the monthly average Platts Metals Week North American SHG zinc price increased by 13% in February 2016 to 84.54 cents per pound but remained 19% less than that in February 2015. The February average LME cash price for SHG zinc was \$1,710.46 per metric ton, 13% more than that in the previous month but 19% less than that in February 2015. The North American premium to the LME cash price in January averaged about 7 cents per pound, 7% more than that in January (fig. 3, table 6).

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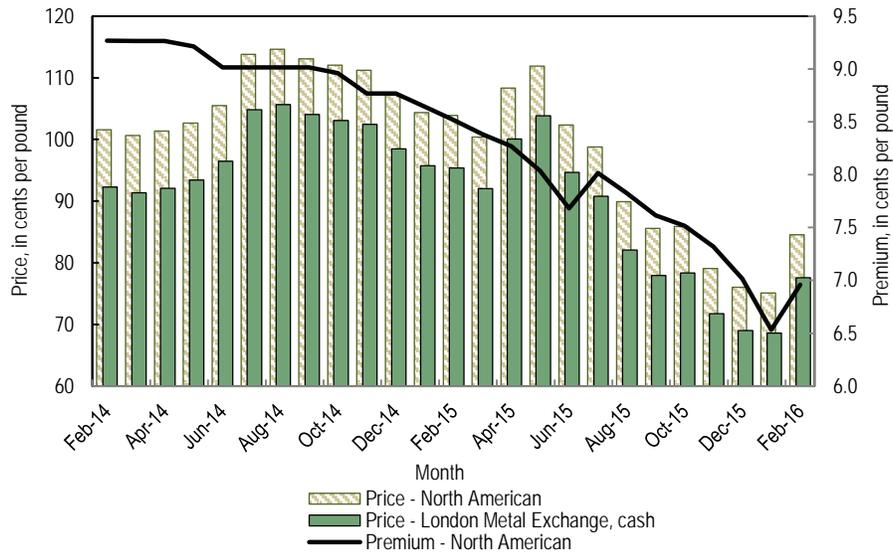


Figure 3. Average monthly prices and premium for SHG zinc from February 2014 through February 2016. The North American price is based on the LME cash price plus the premium. Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2015	2016		
	January– December ^P	January	February	January– February
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	808,000	58,900	58,400	117,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	781,000	54,300	56,500	111,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^e	172,000	W	W	W
Consumption of refined zinc, apparent ³	931,000	W	W	W
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	22	--	--	--
Refined zinc	771,000	54,100	52,000	106,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	708,000	9,900	18,000	27,900
Refined zinc	12,700	10,500	21,400	31,900
Price:⁴				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,932.14	1,511.88	1,710.46	1,611.17
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.54	75.11	84.54	79.83

^eEstimated. ^PPreliminary. 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 ^e
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2015:			
February	65,400	63,200	14,400
March	75,300	72,800	14,500
April	71,200	68,900	14,000
May	76,900	74,500	15,200
June	72,800	70,400	14,800
July	64,700	62,500	14,400
August	68,000	65,700	13,700
September	60,400	58,300	13,500
October	62,400	60,300	13,400
November	61,800	59,800	14,400
December	58,900	56,900	13,500
January–December	808,000	781,000	172,000
2016:			
January	58,900	54,300	W
February	58,400	56,500	W
January–February	117,000	111,000	W

^eEstimated. 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)	February		January–February	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	22	\$48	--	--	--	--
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	771,000	1,620,000	52,000	\$89,800	106,000	178,000
Zinc alloys	8,070	17,100	494	886	1,650	2,710
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	3,020	9,590	189	501	313	901
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,680	14,600	295	1,080	616	2,100
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	5,610	8,350	443	757	694	1,200
Powders, flakes, dust	29,100	91,400	1,980	5,830	3,990	11,700
Waste and scrap	18,000	20,100	635	629	1,390	1,340
Chemicals:						
Oxide	116,000	250,000	10,100	19,100	19,200	36,700
Chloride	156	1,170	8	66	12	116
Sulfate	88,800	68,100	6,860	4,790	13,000	9,570
Compounds, other ²	3,800	11,900	417	1,350	970	1,990

-- 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, 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		
	2015	2016		2015	2016	
		February	January–February		February	January–February
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	19	--	--	19	--	--
Germany	3	--	--	3	--	--
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	22	--	--	22	--	--
Refined zinc:						
Australia	45,100	--	--	82,400	--	--
Belgium	1,250	--	--	19,600	--	231
Brazil	--	--	--	99	--	--
Canada	479,000	39,000	77,500	479,000	39,000	77,500
China	64	--	--	1,800	--	125
India	2,500	--	--	2,500	--	--
Korea, Republic of	1,500	--	--	20,900	725	859
Mexico	99,000	6,040	15,500	99,000	6,040	15,500
Netherlands	--	--	--	2,840	--	--
Peru	31,200	6,240	11,700	31,200	6,240	11,700
Spain	31	--	--	32,000	--	131
Switzerland	--	--	--	28	--	--
Taiwan	32	18	18	32	18	18
United Kingdom	--	--	--	49	--	--
Other	(2)	2	2	(2)	2	2
Total	659,000	51,300	105,000	771,000	52,000	106,000
Oxide:						
Australia	26	38	38	26	38	38
Belgium	155	--	--	155	--	--
Canada	71,200	6,260	12,000	71,200	6,260	12,000
China	585	14	42	580	14	42
France	--	3	3	--	3	3
Germany	2,380	121	335	2,380	121	335
India	202	--	18	202	--	18
Indonesia	1	--	--	1	--	--
Japan	485	19	49	485	19	49
Mexico	32,500	3,010	5,690	32,500	3,010	5,690
Netherlands	5,790	507	879	5,790	507	879
Norway	5	--	--	5	--	--
Peru	1,510	103	103	1,510	103	103
Philippines	(2)	--	--	(2)	--	--
Russia	--	--	11	--	--	11
Switzerland	21	--	--	21	--	--
Turkey	417	--	--	417	--	--
United Kingdom	232	49	52	232	49	52
Total	116,000	10,100	19,200	116,000	10,100	19,200

-- 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	2016					
	2015		February		January–February	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	708,000	\$987,000	18,000	\$20,400	27,900	\$26,000
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	12,700	29,000	21,400	39,900	31,900	55,300
Zinc alloys	19,700	50,600	1,340	2,980	2,710	6,010
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	15,400	25,000	603	1,450	1,120	2,760
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,010	28,000	441	1,420	932	3,100
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	29,300	37,600	3,660	3,810	5,920	6,210
Powders, flakes, dust	12,300	38,700	1,250	3,400	2,060	5,550
Waste and scrap	55,200	68,600	2,800	3,120	4,850	5,440
Chemicals:						
Oxide	21,800	29,100	4,600	4,230	8,270	8,320
Chloride	421	662	122	140	175	212
Sulfate	726	751	11	32	42	94
Compounds, other ²	1,840	21,900	243	1,660	461	3,420

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	London Metal Exchange	
	American ¹ ¢/lb.	cash ² ¢/lb. \$/t	
2015:			
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
February	84.54	77.59	1,710.46
January–February	79.83	73.08	1,611.17

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:						
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
February	25	357,075	357,100	60,725	57,275	475,100

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.