

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN APRIL 2016

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in April 2016 was 67,000 metric tons (t) (table 2). Average daily mine production in April was 2,230 t, essentially unchanged from that in March and slightly less than that in April 2015 (fig. 1).

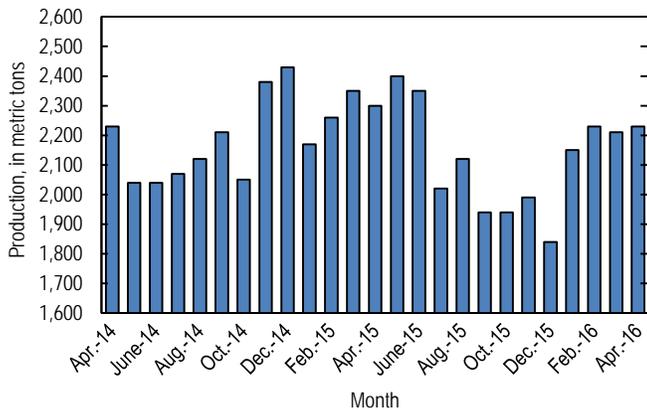


Figure 1. Average daily domestic zinc mine production (recoverable) from April 2014 through April 2016. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Global London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) stocks of Special High Grade (SHG) zinc decreased by 33,225 t to 401,800 t in April 2016 (fig. 2, table 7).

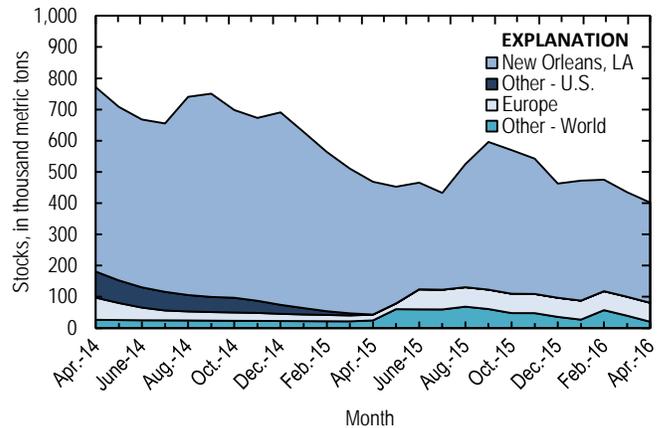


Figure 2. Global LME stocks of SHG zinc, monthend, from April 2014 through April 2016. Source: London Metal Exchange Ltd.

The monthly average Platts Metals Week North American SHG zinc price increased slightly in April 2016 to 90.48 cents per pound but was 16% less than that in April 2015. The April average LME cash price for SHG zinc was \$1,851.12 per metric ton, slightly more than that in the previous month but 16% less than that in April 2015. The North American premium to the LME cash price in April averaged about 6.5 cents per pound, 5% less than that in March (fig. 3, table 6).

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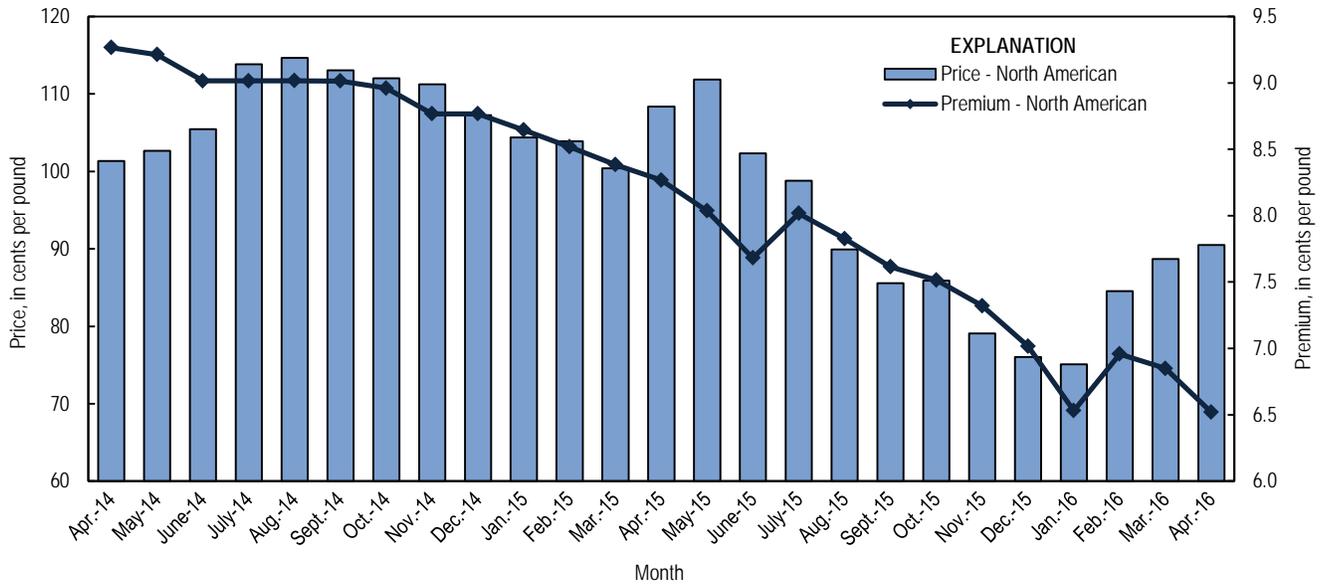


Figure 3. Average monthly North American price and premium for SHG zinc from April 2014 through April 2016. Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2015	2016		
	January– December ^p	March	April	January– April ²
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ³	808,000	71,000 ^r	69,200	279,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ³	781,000	68,600 ^r	67,000	267,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^e	172,000	10,600	10,600	42,300
Consumption of refined zinc, apparent ⁴	931,000	63,200	56,700	215,000
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	22	--	50	50
Refined zinc	771,000	54,800	53,100	214,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	708,000	4,210	8,260	40,400
Refined zinc	12,700	2,260	7,050	41,200
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,932.14	1,804.32	1,851.12	1,719.44
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.54	88.69	90.48	84.71

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.

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 ^e
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2015:			
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	71,600 ^r	66,600 ^r	10,600
February	66,900 ^r	64,800 ^r	10,600
March	71,000 ^r	68,600 ^r	10,600
April	69,200	67,000	10,600
January–April	279,000	267,000	42,300

^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.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2015		2016			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	April		January–April ²	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	22	\$48	50	\$10	50	\$10
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	771,000	1,620,000	53,100	98,600	214,000	377,000
Zinc alloys	8,070	17,100	586	1,140	2,830	4,960
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	3,020	9,590	259	737	753	2,170
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,680	14,600	269	1,020	1,330	4,420
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	5,610	8,350	326	484	1,260	2,040
Powders, flakes, dust	29,100	91,400	2,950	8,860	9,360	27,800
Waste and scrap	18,000	20,100	897	955	2,960	2,900
Chemicals:						
Oxide	116,000	250,000	10,600	21,000	40,800	78,000
Chloride	156	1,170	14	128	39	354
Sulfate	88,800	68,100	5,650	4,380	27,300	20,400
Compounds, other ³	3,800	11,900	322	758	1,740	3,850

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

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 3206.42.0000).

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		2015	2016	
		April	January–April ²		April	January–April ²
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	19	--	--	19	--	--
Germany	3	--	--	3	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	50	50	--	50	50
Total	22	50	50	22	50	50
Refined zinc:						
Australia	45,100	--	--	82,400	--	--
Belgium	1,250	--	--	19,600	124	355
Brazil	--	--	--	99	--	--
Canada	479,000	40,700	163,000	479,000	40,700	163,000
China	64	3	3	1,800	3	128
Germany	-3	2	4	(3)	2	4
India	2,500	--	--	2,500	--	--
Korea, Republic of	1,500	6	6	20,900	31	1,450
Mexico	99,000	3,380	23,300	99,000	3,380	23,300
Netherlands	--	--	--	2,840	346	346
Peru	31,200	6,930	24,200	31,200	6,930	24,200
Spain	31	--	--	32,000	1,600	1,730
Sweden	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Switzerland	--	--	--	28	--	--
Taiwan	32	--	24	32	--	24
United Kingdom	--	--	--	49	--	--
Total	659,000	51,000	210,000	771,000	53,100	214,000
Oxide:						
Australia	26	18	73	26	18	73
Belgium	155	--	(3)	155	--	(3)
Canada	71,200	6,670	25,200	71,200	6,670	25,200
China	585	83	185	580	83	185
France	--	4	12	--	4	12
Germany	2,380	76	603	2,380	76	603
India	202	19	52	202	19	52
Indonesia	1	--	--	1	--	--
Israel	--	3	24	--	3	24
Japan	485	30	117	485	30	117
Korea, Republic of	--	(3)	(3)	--	(3)	(3)
Mexico	32,500	3,170	12,300	32,500	3,170	12,300
Netherlands	5,790	471	1,820	5,790	471	1,820
Norway	5	--	--	5	--	--
Peru	1,510	18	160	1,510	18	160
Philippines	(3)	--	--	(3)	--	--
Russia	--	--	11	--	--	11
Singapore	--	--	(3)	--	--	(3)
Switzerland	21	(3)	4	21	(3)	4
Taiwan	--	(3)	(3)	--	(3)	(3)
Turkey	417	--	--	417	--	--
United Kingdom	232	80	189	232	80	189
Total	116,000	10,600	40,800	116,000	10,600	40,800

-- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Less 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)	April		January–April ²	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	708,000	\$987,000	8,260	\$13,300	40,400	\$44,500
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	12,700	29,000	7,050	7,830	41,200	76,400
Zinc alloys	19,700	50,600	1,250	2,930	5,400	12,200
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	15,400	25,000	751	1,780	2,530	6,130
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,010	28,000	899	3,370	2,470	8,740
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	29,300	37,600	3,060	4,010	12,000	14,000
Powders, flakes, dust	12,300	38,700	959	3,440	3,520	10,400
Waste and scrap	55,200	68,600	3,120	3,920	10,300	12,200
Chemicals:						
Oxide	21,800	29,100	4,830	5,400	17,400	17,300
Chloride	421	662	41	60	304	360
Sulfate	726	751	73	78	172	261
Compounds, other ³	1,840	21,900	230	1,940	860	7,140

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes 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 American ¹	London Metal Exchange cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2015:			
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
March	88.69	81.84	1,804.32
April	90.48	83.97	1,851.12
January–April	84.71	77.99	1,719.44

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:						
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
March	25	334,825	334,850	60,700	39,475	435,025
April	--	321,000	321,000	60,700	20,100	401,800
-- Zero.						

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.