

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Christine L. Thomas, Zinc Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-7713 Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: clthomas@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 JULY 2017

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in July 2017 was 64,900 metric tons (t) (table 2). Average daily mine production in July was 2,090 t, 18% more than that in June and 12% more than that in July 2016 (fig. 1).

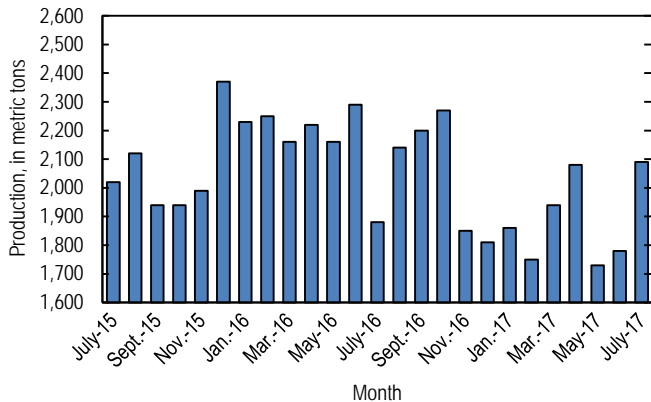


Figure 1. Average daily domestic zinc mine production (recoverable) from July 2015 through July 2017. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Global London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) stocks of Special High Grade (SHG) zinc decreased by 24,675 t to 264,600 t in July, 9% less than stocks at the end of June 2017 and 39% less than stocks at the end of July 2016 (fig. 2, table 7).

The monthly average Platts Metals Week North American SHG zinc price in July 2017 was \$1.35 per pound, 8% less from that in June 2017 and 27% more than that in July 2016. The July 2017 average LME cash price for SHG zinc was \$2,784.63 per metric ton, 8% more than that in the previous month and 27% more than that in July 2016.

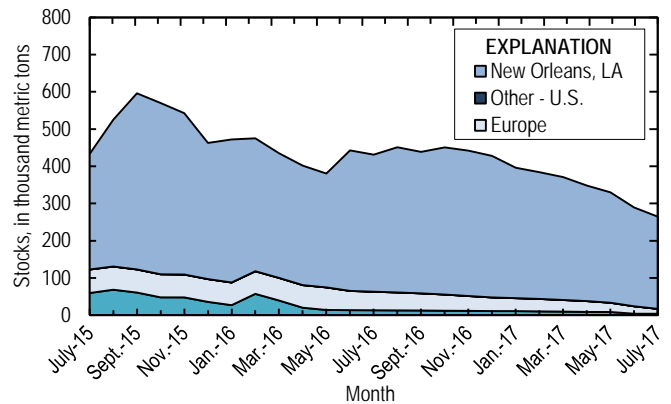


Figure 2. Global LME stocks of Special High Grade zinc, monthend, from July 2015 through July 2017. Source: London Metal Exchange Ltd.

The North American premium to the LME cash price in July averaged about 8.52 cents per pound, a slight decrease from that in June and 26% more than that in July 2016 (fig. 3, table 6).

According to news sources, a large volume of zinc ingots left LME-approved warehouses in New Orleans, LA, for Asia in June reportedly as a result of arbitrage trading. In June, stocks dropped by 30,800 t to 266,925 tons. Further drops in zinc stock levels continued into July and August, with warehouses in New Orleans registering declines of 18,050 t and 16,550 t, respectively (Luk, 2017b).

Update

In August, Trevali Mining Corporation (Canada) completed a \$417.9 million purchase of assets from Glencore (Switzerland), which was expected to double Trevali's annual zinc output. The deal included an 80% stake in the Rosh Pinah Mine in Namibia, a 90% stake in the Perkoa Mine in Burkina Faso, a 39% stake in the Gergarub project in Namibia, and an option to acquire 100% interest in the Heath Steele project in Canada (Luk, 2017a).

In September, Dynacast International Inc. (Charlotte, NC) received investments from the government of Ontario, Canada, to aid with the expansion of its zinc die-casting plant in Peterborough, Ontario. The grant money was for the plant's infrastructure development and for

staff and training to implement the expansion (Dent, 2017).

References Cited

- Dent, Millicent, 2017, Dynacast plant gets Ontario government funds: American Metal Market, September 1. (Accessed September 11, 2017, via <http://www.amm.com/>.)
- Luk, Julian, 2017a, Trevali confirms \$417M buy of Glencore zinc assets: American Metal Market, August 31. (Accessed September 11, 2017, via <http://www.amm.com/>.)
- Luk, Julian, 2017b, Zinc ingots exiting NOLA to capture arbitrage profit: American Metal Market, September 7. (Accessed September 11, 2017, via <http://www.amm.com/>.)

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/>.

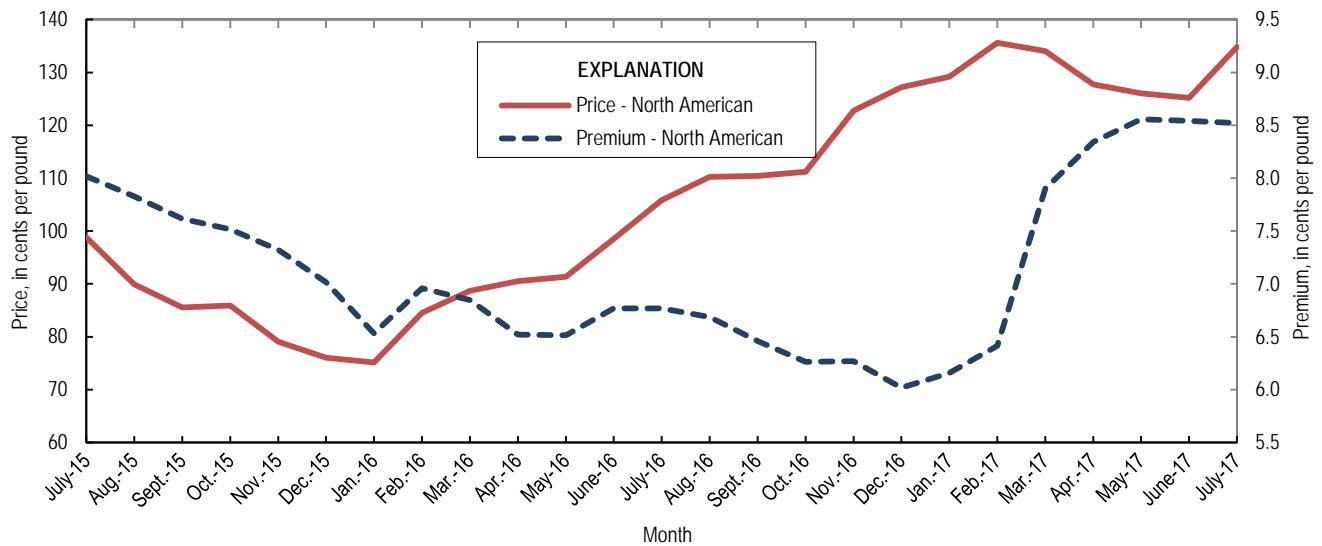


Figure 3. Average monthly North American price and premium for Special High Grade zinc from July 2015 through July 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2016	2017		
	January– December ^p	June	July	January– July ²
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ³	805,000	55,200	67,000	415,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ³	778,000	53,400	64,900	401,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^e	126,000	11,300	11,300	77,800
Consumption of refined zinc, apparent ⁴	792,000	65,300	52,100	518,000
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	60	--	6,750	6,780
Refined zinc	713,000	56,900	45,100	463,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	597,000	12,700	173,000	262,000
Refined zinc	46,900	2,910	4,210	22,800
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,090.00	2,570.00	2,790.00	2,700.00
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	101.37	125.18	134.83	130.38

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. -- 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		
	Zinc content	Recoverable	Smelter ^e
2016:			
July	60,200	58,200	9,580
August	68,500	66,300	9,580
September	68,300	66,100	9,580
October	72,700	70,300	11,300
November	57,400	55,500	11,300
December	58,100	56,200	11,300
January–December	805,000	778,000	126,000
2017:			
January	59,600	57,700	10,900
February	50,700	49,100	10,900
March	62,100	60,000	10,900
April	64,400	62,400	11,300
May	55,600	53,700	11,300
June	55,200	53,400	11,300
July	67,000	64,900	11,300
January–July	415,000	401,000	77,800

^eEstimated.

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	2016		2017			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	July		January–July ²	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	60	\$15	6,750	\$6,990	6,780	\$14,900
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	713,000	1,500,000	45,100	125,000	463,000	1,260,000
Zinc alloys	7,570	15,600	1,030	2,850	5,220	14,400
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,740	8,370	80	399	1,620	6,040
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,650	12,000	260	1,100	2,100	8,180
Ash and residues:						
Hard zinc spelter	247	392	--	--	190	344
Zinc dross and skimmings	3,770	5,620	496	830	4,030	7,450
Other (zinc content)	1,180	886	--	--	1,120	621
Other:						
Powders, flakes, dust	27,800	85,400	2,570	9,080	16,300	57,200
Waste and scrap	11,300	12,800	1,360	2,030	5,880	10,700
Chemicals:						
Lithopone	2,670	6,310	21	58	1,050	884
Zinc oxide	123,000	239,000	10,100	24,500	67,700	171,000
Zinc chloride	137	1,290	16	138	95	808
Zinc sulfate	79,900	60,400	6,250	6,480	46,800	44,100
Zinc sulfide	579	1,600	85	345	1,220	3,650

-- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country or locality	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2016	2017		2016	2017	
		July	January–July ²		July	January–July ²
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	--	--	23	--	--	23
Japan	10	--	--	10	--	--
Korea, Republic of	50	--	--	50	--	--
Peru	--	6,750	6,760	--	6,750	6,760
Total	60	6,750	6,780	60	6,750	6,780
Refined zinc:						
Australia	26,000	--	47,700	29,200	--	103,000
Belgium	--	--	--	2,190	77	1,870
Canada	506,000	29,200	245,000	506,000	29,200	245,000
China	5	2	6	405	2	684
India	3,020	--	7,500	3,020	--	7,500
Japan	--	--	--	397	--	--
Korea, Republic of	6	2,010	2,010	9,310	2,330	3,550
Mexico	88,800	7,300	51,100	88,800	7,300	51,100
Namibia	--	--	--	123	--	375
Netherlands	--	--	--	346	595	2,200
Peru	66,600	3,840	32,700	66,600	3,840	32,700
Poland	294	--	292	294	--	292
Spain	--	--	--	6,190	1,750	14,700
Taiwan	31	--	15	31	--	15
Other (5 countries)	5	--	255	5	--	255
Total	691,000	42,300	387,000	713,000	45,100	463,000
Oxide:						
Australia	97	--	54	97	--	54
Belgium	12	--	2	12	--	2
Canada	69,100	5,150	39,100	69,100	5,150	39,100
China	428	2	132	427	2	132
France	31	(3)	5	31	(3)	5
Germany	2,490	172	1,640	2,490	172	1,640
India	101	24	50	101	24	50
Indonesia	27	--	--	27	--	--
Israel	34	--	--	34	--	--
Japan	352	34	275	352	34	275
Korea, Republic of	14	--	16	14	--	16
Mexico	35,100	3,680	20,100	35,100	3,680	20,100
Netherlands	5,390	987	5,580	5,390	987	5,580
Peru	9,180	19	543	9,180	19	543
Russia	11	--	--	11	--	--
Switzerland	8	--	--	8	--	--
Taiwan	10	--	--	10	--	--
Thailand	14	--	2	14	--	2
United Kingdom	273	(3)	182	273	(3)	182
Other (4 countries)	4	--	9	4	--	9
Total	123,000	10,100	67,700	123,000	10,100	67,700

-- 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	2016		2017			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	July		January–July ²	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	597,000	\$938,000	173,000	\$332,000	262,000	\$472,000
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	46,900	95,300	4,210	4,510	22,800	49,600
Zinc alloys	16,200	40,900	876	2,380	8,030	22,800
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	8,100	20,200	640	1,450	5,010	12,300
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	6,960	23,900	780	2,970	4,780	18,100
Ash and residues:						
Hard zinc spelter	12,100	18,200	569	1,120	4,460	8,130
Other (zinc content)	22,800	29,900	1,320	1,930	10,300	16,000
Other:						
Powders, flakes, dust	12,700	39,600	1,150	3,390	8,040	24,800
Waste and scrap	30,100	37,800	2,720	3,460	15,300	20,000
Chemicals:						
Lithopone	1,260	7,160	32	232	522	3,100
Zinc oxide	55,300	56,300	3,580	4,280	32,000	41,700
Zinc chloride	856	1,130	3	12	126	251
Zinc sulfate	588	850	24	22	382	506
Zinc sulfide	1,040	14,500	41	1,310	334	9,160

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

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
2016:			
July	105.85	99.08	2,184.43
August	110.22	103.53	2,282.40
September	110.44	103.98	2,292.44
October	111.22	104.95	2,313.83
November	122.77	116.50	2,568.41
December	127.19	121.17	2,671.34
January–December	101.37	94.82	2,090.34
2017:			
January	129.20	123.05	2,712.68
February	135.60	129.18	2,848.04
March	134.06	126.16	2,781.33
April	127.75	119.41	2,632.50
May	126.03	117.47	2,589.77
June	125.18	116.64	2,571.53
July	134.83	126.31	2,784.63
January–July	130.38	122.60	2,702.93

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
	New Orleans, LA	Total			
2016:					
July	368,000	368,000	49,900	13,200	431,000
August	390,000	390,000	48,300	12,900	451,000
September	380,000	380,000	46,100	12,600	439,000
October	395,000	395,000	43,600	12,000	451,000
November	390,000	390,000	39,900	11,700	442,000
December	380,000	380,000	36,800	11,000	428,000
2017:					
January	350,000	350,000	34,800	11,000	396,000
February	340,000	340,000	33,500	10,200	384,000
March	330,000	330,000	31,200	9,650	371,000
April	310,000	310,000	29,200	8,730	348,000
May	296,000	296,000	24,900	8,550	330,000
June	265,000	265,000	20,000	3,900	289,000
July	248,000	248,000	13,100	3,850	265,000

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.