

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN OCTOBER 2005

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in October of 64,400 metric tons (t) was about 4% more than that in September and about 5% more than that in October 2004, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Estimated smelter production of 16,100 t of refined zinc was about 10% less than that in September and about 32% less than that in October 2004. Apparent consumption of 59,300 t of zinc was about 10% lower than that in September and 29% lower than that in October 2004.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for North American Special High Grade zinc increased to 72.66 cents per pound in October. The price was 7% (4.77 cents per pound) higher than in September and 36% (19.35 cents per pound) higher than in October 2004. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price increased to \$1,487.91 per

metric ton of zinc, a 7% increase compared with the September price, and 40% higher than that in October 2004. During October, global LME zinc stocks dropped by 45,625 t to 484,350 t.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in October, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was 3,005 t (approximately 3,312 short tons), with an approximate value of \$4.45 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005, Stockpile announces zinc BOA sales for October 2005: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, November 8, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004	2005			
	January-December	August	September	October	January-October
Production:					
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	739,000	71,500	64,200 ^r	66,800	630,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	713,000	68,900	61,800 ^r	64,400	606,000
Smelter, refined zinc	320,000	16,200 ^e	17,900 ^e	16,100 ^e	223,000 ^e
Consumption:					
Refined zinc, reported	421,000	33,700	34,800	34,700	338,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	727	61	61	61	606
Zinc-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	15,900	159,000
Copper-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	14,700	147,000
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	1,430	120	120	120	1,200
Total ^e	790,000	64,500	65,500	65,400	645,000
Apparent consumption, metal ²	1,160,000	75,300	65,700	59,300	796,000 ³
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:					
Producer ⁴	XX	7,010	7,470	7,020	XX
Consumer ⁵	XX	56,300	56,400	55,900	XX
Merchant	XX	10,200	10,200	10,200	XX
Total	XX	73,600	74,100	73,200	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	31,500	3,680	3,710	3,010	17,200
Imports for consumption:					
Refined (slab) zinc	812,000	48,400	42,300	NA	501,000 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	103,000	8,710	12,300	NA	84,300 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	231,000	17,600	556	NA	115,000 ⁶
Exports:					
Refined (slab) zinc	3,300	42	22	NA	725 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	14,400	1,260	1,680	NA	10,900 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	745,000	198,000	199,000	NA	676,000 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	53,900	5,960	5,350	NA	40,900 ⁶
Price:					
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	\$1,047.35	\$1,298.05	\$1,397.08	\$1,487.91	\$1,314.44
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	52.47	62.94	67.89	72.66	63.92

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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

²Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

³Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

⁴Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

⁵Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁶Includes data through September only.

TABLE 2
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES^{e, 1}

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks ²	Production	Shipments	Ending stocks ²
2004:				
October	7,020	23,800	23,700	7,070
November	7,070	23,500	23,800	6,780
December	6,780	20,200	20,500	6,430
January-December	XX	320,000	321,000	XX
2005:				
January	6,430	24,600	21,200	9,860
February	9,860	25,600	24,500	11,000
March	11,000	22,700	24,000	9,760
April	9,760	23,400	23,800	9,420
May	9,420	23,900	25,800	7,470
June	7,470	23,700	24,500	6,670
July	6,670	29,200	29,200	6,710
August	6,710	16,200	16,000	6,900
September	6,900	17,900	17,400	7,360
October	7,360	16,100	16,600	6,910
January-October	XX	223,000	223,000	XX

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable.

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

²Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC
ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2004	2005			January-October ²
	January-December	August	September	October ²	
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	477,000	32,000	27,800	25,100	331,000
Other	167,000	9,600	7,200	6,000	104,000
Total	644,000	41,600	35,000	31,100	435,000
Brass and bronze	188,000	11,400	10,600	9,900	125,000
Zinc-base alloy	244,000	16,100	14,400	12,800	172,000
Other uses ³	85,800	6,200	5,700	5,400	64,600
Grand total	1,160,000	75,300	65,700	59,300	796,000

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

²Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

³Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
AVERAGE ZINC PRICES¹

Period	North	LME ² cash	
	American ¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2004:			
October	53.31	48.28	1,064.49
November	54.81	49.68	1,095.18
December	58.53	53.52	1,179.83
January-December	52.47	47.51	1,047.35
2005:			
January	61.54	56.51	1,245.81
February	64.49	60.14	1,325.81
March	66.49	62.47	1,377.33
April	63.03	58.96	1,299.81
May	60.46	56.39	1,243.23
June	61.73	57.85	1,275.33
July	57.96	54.16	1,194.08
August	62.94	58.88	1,298.05
September	67.89	63.37	1,397.08
October	72.66	67.49	1,487.91
January-October	63.92	59.62	1,314.44

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2004		2005 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	September		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	3,300	\$5,330	22	\$34	725	\$1,400
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	745,000	413,000	199,000	132,000	676,000	401,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	53,900	48,300	5,350	6,220	40,900	43,700
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	7,640	13,500	615	1,050	6,880	13,600
Oxide (gross weight)	14,400	19,800	1,680	2,430	10,900	17,500
Chloride (gross weight)	1,870	2,200	131	210	1,510	1,880
Sulfate (gross weight)	3,060	1,860	66	56	2,110	1,370
Compounds, other (gross weight)	194	711	105	71	865	700

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

²Data for October 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

Material	2004		2005 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	September		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	812,000	\$888,000	42,300	\$57,400	501,000	\$649,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	231,000	98,700	556	391	115,000	79,900
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	10,800	7,740	750	681	5,920	5,150
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	24,800	40,200	2,400	4,750	17,200	32,600
Oxide (gross weight)	103,000	89,000	12,300	12,300	84,300	96,300
Chloride (gross weight)	705	863	27	86	528	947
Sulfate (gross weight)	29,100	14,000	2,700	1,470	22,600	11,900
Compounds, other (gross weight)	4,660	4,230	706	694	5,000	4,560

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

²Data for October 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Beginning inventory	Shipments	Ending inventory
2004:			
October	66,400	--	66,400
November	66,400	--	66,400
December	66,400	--	66,400
January-December	XX	31,500	XX
2005:			
January	66,400	20	66,300
February	66,300	738	65,600
March	65,600	--	65,600
April	65,600	220	65,400
May	65,400	301	65,100
June	65,100	2,960	62,100
July	62,100	2,600	59,500
August	59,500	3,680	55,800
September	55,800	3,710	52,100
October	52,100	3,010	49,100
January-October	XX	17,200	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

Source: Defense Logistics Agency.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
		September	Year to date		September	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	27,900	--	8,590	27,900	--	8,590
Ireland	17,700	--	8,700	17,700	--	8,700
Mexico	6,530	--	24,200	6,530	--	24,200
Peru	178,000	--	71,900	178,000	--	71,900
Other	877	556	1,730	877	556	1,730
Total	231,000	556	115,000	231,000	556	115,000
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	7,940	--	1	27,500	375	16,500
Brazil	26,400	5,800	33,400	26,400	5,800	33,600
Canada	501,000	23,800	344,000	501,000	23,800	344,000
China	35	--	--	16,500	--	876
Japan	--	--	--	690	--	--
Kazakhstan	2,310	--	--	2,310	--	--
Korea, Republic of	8,030	--	5,030	31,900	--	888
Mexico	123,000	12,200	105,000	123,000	12,200	105,000
Namibia	47,900	--	--	47,900	--	--
Peru	25,600	--	162	30,500	--	760
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	204	57	57	3,970	57	282
Total	743,000	41,900	487,000	812,000	42,300	501,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)						
	16,100	1,650	11,400	16,100	1,650	11,400
Grand total	990,000	44,100	613,000	1,060,000	44,500	628,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	49,700	6,230	48,500	49,700	6,230	48,500
China	207	--	86	207	--	86
Italy	13,400	3,700	13,300	13,400	3,700	13,300
Japan	1,060	41	827	1,060	41	827
Mexico	33,200	1,840	17,100	33,200	1,840	17,100
Netherlands	4,700	418	3,850	4,700	418	3,850
Other	796	91	711	796	91	711
Total	103,000	12,300	84,300	103,000	12,300	84,300
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	10,800	750	5,920	10,800	750	5,920
Sheets	2,500	336	2,160	2,500	336	2,160
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	24,800	2,400	17,200	24,800	2,400	17,200

-- Zero.

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

²Data for October 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.