

Mineral Industry Surveys

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LEAD IN OCTOBER 2012

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of lead in October was 27,400 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in October was 882 t, down slightly from that in September. Year-to-date mine production through October was slightly more than that of the same period of 2011. Secondary refinery production of lead increased slightly from that of the previous month but year-to-date was slightly lower than that in the corresponding period of 2011.

Total imports of lead for consumption in October were 10% higher than those in September and during the first 10 months of 2012, were 11% higher than those through the same period of 2011. Canada (78%) and Mexico (16%) were the principal sources of imported refined lead through October 2012. In October, total exports of lead, exclusive of scrap, were about five times greater than those in September owing to an increase in exports of lead contained in ore and concentrates. China was the primary destination for the lead contained in ore and concentrates exported in October. Total exports of lead through October were 7% lower than those through the same period of 2011. Exports of lead contained in ore and concentrates during the first 10 months of 2012 were 10% lower than those through the same period of 2011. Exports of spent lead-acid batteries through October were 9% lower than those through the same period of 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average North American producer price for lead in October 2012 was \$1.15 per pound, up slightly from that of the previous month and that in October 2011. The London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price in October 2012 averaged \$2,153 per metric ton, down slightly from that of the previous month and 11% higher than that in October 2011. Global LME lead stocks at the end of October 2012 were 322,525 t, up by 22% from those at the end of September.

The Battery Council International reported that about 104 million lead-acid automotive batteries were shipped by North American producers during the first 10 months of 2012, a 3% increase compared with shipments during the same period of 2011. North American producer shipments of replacement lead-acid automotive batteries (89 million) through October were slightly more than those in the corresponding period of 2011. Shipments of original equipment lead-acid automotive batteries (15 million) through October increased by 15% compared with shipments through October 2011 (Battery Council International, 2012, p. 19–20).

Reference Cited

Battery Council International, 2012, BCI 2012 monthly shipment report: Chicago, IL, Battery Council International, November 27, 20 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2011		2012		
	January– December ^p	January– October	September	October	January– October
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	336,000	274,000	27,000 ^r	27,400	278,000
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,170,000	974,000	94,200	96,400	969,000
Estimated	11,700	12,500	942	964	9,750
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^e	15,000	12,500	1,250	1,250	12,500
Total secondary	1,190,000	996,000	97,300	99,600	991,000
Consumption:					
Reported	1,530,000	1,250,000	121,000	121,000	1,230,000
Undistributed ^e	45,800	37,400	3,620	3,630	36,800
Total	1,570,000	1,280,000	124,000	125,000	1,270,000
Stocks, end of period, consumers and secondary smelters	54,800	56,300	63,400	61,300	61,300
Imports for consumption:					
Base bullion	434	434	77	57	771
Refined metal	313,000	232,000	25,800	28,500	256,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	223,000	206,000	11,300	83,100	185,000
Bullion	70	8	--	--	72
Wrought and unwrought lead	47,200	37,900	6,020	5,170	46,100
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	6,270	5,970	181	159	1,480
Scrap (gross weight)	31,100	26,800	1,450	3,710	21,900
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	121.70	123.28	114.63	114.81	113.98

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

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

TABLE 2
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price ¢/lb	London Metal Exchange cash		Sterling exchange rate \$/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2011:				
October	113.86	1,948.25	1,237.07	1.574886
November	113.73	1,981.59	1,252.77	1.581773
December	113.87	2,018.59	1,292.71	1.561520
January–December	121.70	2,401.20	1,548.94	1.550217
2012:				
January	114.17	2,093.74	1,349.68	1.551290
February	114.29	2,125.79	1,345.68	1.579710
March	114.03	2,061.01	1,302.73	1.582068
April	114.03	2,062.67	1,287.68	1.601844
May	113.81	1,998.51	1,283.48	1.557100
June	113.26	1,854.42	1,190.94	1.557100
July	113.34	1,875.97	1,203.77	1.558400
August	113.42	1,895.42	1,205.06	1.572889
September	114.63	2,168.91	1,378.93	1.572889
October	114.81	2,152.96	1,338.53	1.608449
January–October	113.98	2,028.94	1,288.65	1.574174

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	September 30, 2012	receipts		October 31, 2012
Battery-lead	38,000	89,600	88,000	39,600
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	4,530	2,130	2,190	4,460
Total	42,600	91,700	90,200	44,000
Percent change from preceding month ³	XX	+2.2	+2.3	+3.4

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

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

²Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap.

³Based on unrounded data; preceding monthly data may have been revised.

TABLE 4
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN OCTOBER 2012¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	80,200	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	10,500	W	W
Other ²	5,710	148	277
Total lead-base	96,400	148	277

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other."
-- Zero.

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

²Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2011		2012		
	January– December	January– October	September	October	January– October ²
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	69,300	60,000	6,180	5,760	59,100
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	1,660	2,620	283	283	2,830
Cable covering, power and communication and caulking lead, building construction	8,410	6,830	233	231	3,340
Casting metals	14,600	12,100	872	993	9,860
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	26,800	22,900	3,860	2,200	23,400
Solder	6,400	6,000	531	531	5,310
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,360,000	1,100,000	105,000	107,000	1,090,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ³	16,400	13,000	1,230	1,230	12,400
Total metal products	1,500,000	1,220,000	118,000	118,000	1,200,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	26,500	20,400	2,880	2,830	26,000
Total reported	1,530,000	1,250,000	121,000	121,000	1,230,000
Undistributed ^c	45,800	37,400	3,620	3,630	36,800
Grand total	1,570,000	1,280,000	124,000	125,000	1,270,000

^cEstimated.

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

²May include revisions to previous months' data.

³Includes lead consumed in bearing metals, foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

U.S. Consumption of Lead

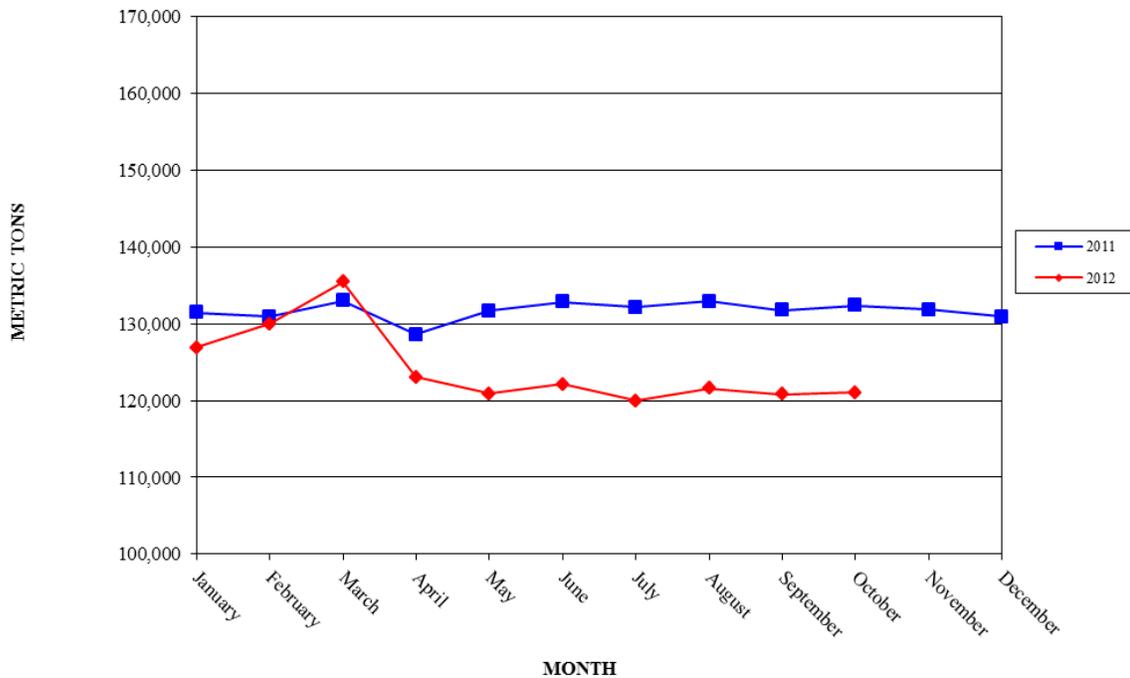


TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks September 30, 2012	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks October 31, 2012
Soft lead	41,000	73,900	77,600	37,400
Antimonial lead	20,800	35,400	33,800	22,400
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	63,400	119,000	121,000	61,300

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

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

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

	2011		2012		
	January– December	January– October	September	October	January– October
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	223,000	206,000	11,300	83,100	185,000
Bullion	70	8	--	--	72
Wrought and unwrought lead	47,200	37,900	6,020	5,170	46,100
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	6,270	5,970	181	159	1,480
Total	277,000	250,000	17,500	88,400	233,000
Gross weight, scrap	31,100	26,800	1,450	3,710	21,900
Spent lead-acid batteries, used for starting engines (units)	25,400,000	21,400,000	1,850,000	2,250,000	19,400,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Material and country of origin	2011		2012		
	January– December	January– October	September	October	January– October
Ore, matte, etc; Canada	--	--	--	--	1,530
Base bullion:					
Canada	35	35	--	--	--
Mexico	199	199	77	--	695
Venezuela	200	200	--	57	76
Total	434	434	77	57	771
Pigs and bars:					
Canada	250,000	183,000	20,400	21,500	201,000
China	32	--	--	--	5,000
Mexico	56,000	43,800	4,540	5,950	41,900
Other	7,560	5,050	875	1,030	8,360
Total	313,000	232,000	25,800	28,500	256,000
Grand total	314,000	233,000	25,900	28,500	259,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.