

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN NOVEMBER 2011

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in November 2011 was 60,800 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in November was 2,030 t, 14% higher than that in October 2011 and 23% higher compared to that in November 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for November 2011 was 94.41 cents per pound, 3% higher than the October 2011 average price

but 13% lower than the November 2010 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for November 2011 was \$1,915.69 per metric ton, 3% higher than the average price in October 2011 but 16% lower compared with the average price in November 2010. During November 2011, global LME stocks of SHG zinc decreased by 35,925 t to 741,350 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2010 ^p	2011		
	January– December	October	November	January– November
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	748,000	57,400	63,000	703,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	723,000	55,400	60,800	679,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,3}	248,000	15,500	15,500	208,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	919,000	95,000	59,400	817,000
Reported ⁵	234,000	25,800	25,600	285,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period,				
producer and consumer ⁵	37,900	81,500	85,200	85,200
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	671,000	83,300	49,100	652,000
Oxide (gross weight)	94,300	6,450	6,680	84,500
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	429	689	23,500
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	15,600	1,490	2,000	16,600
Exports:				
Refined zinc	4,200	1,420	1,410	17,700
Oxide (gross weight)	16,700	2,890	2,150	24,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	119,000	14,200	657,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	77,900	8,630	6,140	78,200
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,160.31	1,858.77	1,915.69	2,218.08
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	101.98	91.83	94.41	107.31

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. -- 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.

³Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

⁴Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁵Includes estimates for respondents that report annually.

⁶Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
MINE PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Period	Zinc content	Recoverable
2010: ^p		
November	51,000	49,300
December	64,500	62,300
January–December	748,000	723,000
2011:		
January	70,900	68,500
February	57,000	54,900
March	64,300	62,100
April	61,700	59,600
May	68,500	66,200
June	59,900	57,900
July	72,500	70,100
August	65,900	63,600
September	62,200	60,000
October	57,400	55,400
November	63,000	60,800
January–November	703,000	679,000

^pPreliminary.

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
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

	2010 ^p	2011		
	January– December	October	November	January– November
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	410,000	43,700	30,500	397,000
Other	151,000	15,500	8,040	122,000
Total	561,000	59,100	38,600	519,000
Brass and bronze	158,000	14,600	8,370	122,000
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	15,200	8,580	125,000
Other uses ²	58,300	6,030	3,940	51,000
Grand total	919,000	95,000	59,400	817,000

^pPreliminary.

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

²Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, casting, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory ²
2010:		
November	--	7,490
December	--	7,490
January–December	1	7,490
2011:		
January	--	7,490
February	--	7,490
March	--	7,490
April	--	7,490
May	--	7,490
June	--	7,490
July	--	7,490
August	--	7,490
September	--	7,490
October	--	7,490
November	--	7,490
January–November	--	7,490

-- Zero.

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

²Includes only uncommitted inventory.

Source: DLA Strategic Materials.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2010		2011			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	\$43,700	689	\$1,170	23,500	\$38,500
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	671,000	1,450,000	49,100	97,100	652,000	1,480,000
Zinc alloys	7,220	15,900	3,390	6,710	42,700	97,000
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,630	7,710	154	421	2,470	7,490
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,440	15,300	455	2,090	3,450	15,500
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	19,200	1,120	1,190	12,400	15,600
Powders, flakes, dust	31,600	88,400	2,320	6,550	28,500	84,800
Waste and scrap	15,600	19,400	2,000	2,330	16,600	21,100
Chemicals:						
Oxide	94,300	185,000	6,680	12,600	84,500	171,000
Chloride	405	1,290	11	136	251	1,250
Sulfate	37,500	32,300	4,430	4,120	47,300	45,700
Compounds, other ²	4,040	7,030	124	216	3,630	6,310

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.

TABLE 6
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		
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
		November	January–November		November	January–November
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	64	689	4,250	64	689	4,250
Mexico	20	--	2,800	20	--	2,800
Netherlands	89	--	81	89	--	81
Peru	32,100	--	14,900	32,100	--	14,900
Turkey	--	--	1,270	--	--	1,270
United Kingdom	--	--	155	--	--	155
Total	32,200	689	23,500	32,200	689	23,500
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Australia	--	--	4,000	--	--	13,500
Brazil	3,010	1,370	8,050	3,010	1,370	8,050
Canada	506,000	35,100	409,000	506,000	35,100	409,000
China	180	1	56	216	1	56
Japan	3,990	--	1,420	3,990	--	1,490
Kazakhstan	1,000	--	--	1,000	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	310	--	12,000
Mexico	79,500	7,330	81,100	79,500	7,330	81,100
Namibia	--	--	47,500	--	--	47,500
Peru	24,900	5,280	56,000	28,100	5,280	56,300
Russia	4,740	--	1,480	4,740	--	1,480
South Africa	508	--	--	508	--	--
Spain	47	--	--	43,600	--	21,600
Other	60	--	35	107	--	35
Total	623,000	49,100	609,000	671,000	49,100	652,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	1,120	12,400	17,900	1,120	12,400
Grand total	674,000	50,900	645,000	721,000	50,900	688,000
Oxide:						
Argentina	464	--	--	464	--	--
Australia	173	163	1,250	173	163	1,250
Belgium	242	104	1,020	242	104	1,020
Brazil	322	--	--	322	--	--
Canada	50,900	2,910	42,200	50,900	2,910	42,200
China	1,650	63	491	1,650	63	491
Germany	818	472	3,270	818	472	3,270
Japan	2,700	79	2,260	2,700	79	2,260
Mexico	27,700	2,510	25,800	27,700	2,510	25,800
Netherlands	5,550	100	3,960	5,550	100	3,960
Peru	2,390	29	2,000	2,390	29	2,000
Spain	728	144	144	728	144	144
Turkey	310	40	1,760	310	40	1,760
United Arab Emirates	--	--	140	--	--	140
United Kingdom	121	(2)	16	121	(2)	16
Other	332	69	250	332	69	250
Total	94,300	6,680	84,500	94,300	6,680	84,500

-- 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.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2010		2011			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	November		January–November	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	\$903,000	14,200	\$13,200	657,000	\$992,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	4,200	4,320	1,410	1,390	17,700	18,500
Zinc alloys	11,400	29,300	955	2,440	12,500	32,400
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	27,800	53,300	1,790	2,940	24,300	36,900
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	7,380	21,900	483	1,560	7,740	23,600
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	10,700	2,410	1,030	17,800	10,100
Powders, flakes, dust	14,900	33,600	1,400	2,930	14,400	31,200
Waste and scrap	77,900	85,200	6,140	6,600	78,200	85,900
Chemicals:						
Oxide	16,700	36,700	2,150	3,090	24,000	43,000
Chloride	1,930	2,950	145	220	1,650	2,630
Sulfate	1,870	2,360	15	27	226	505
Compounds, other ²	6,360	11,700	593	867	5,220	8,140

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.

TABLE 8
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North	London Metal Exchange	
	American ¹ ¢/lb.	cash ² ¢/lb. \$/t	
2010:			
November	108.95	103.92	2,291.14
December	108.46	103.43	2,280.29
January–December	101.98	97.99	2,160.31
2011:			
January	112.57	107.55	2,370.96
February	117.03	111.80	2,464.70
March	112.36	106.54	2,348.91
April	114.01	107.59	2,372.00
May	104.41	97.98	2,160.01
June	108.38	101.15	2,230.08
July	115.93	108.41	2,389.99
August	107.83	100.30	2,211.33
September	101.70	94.18	2,076.40
October	91.83	84.31	1,858.77
November	94.41	86.89	1,915.69
January–November	107.31	100.61	2,218.08

¹Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premiums or discounts, depending on market conditions.

²Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.