

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ZINC IN FEBRUARY 2012

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in February 2012 was 57,700 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in February was 1,990 t, 6% higher than that in January 2012 and slightly higher compared with that in February 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for February 2012 was 100.57 cents per pound, 4% higher than the January 2012 average price

but 14% lower than the February 2011 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for February 2012 was \$2,057.86 per metric ton, 4% higher than the average price in January 2012 but 17% lower compared with the average price in February 2011. During February 2012, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 24,925 t to 867,425 t.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2011 <sup>P</sup>	2012		
	January– December	January	February	January– February
<b>Production:</b>				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate <sup>2</sup>	771,000	60,500	59,700	120,000
Mine, recoverable zinc <sup>2</sup>	744,000	58,400	57,700	116,000
Smelter, refined zinc <sup>e, 3</sup>	252,000	22,700 <sup>r</sup>	22,700	45,400
<b>Consumption of refined zinc:</b>				
Apparent <sup>4</sup>	923,000	72,600 <sup>r</sup>	72,300	145,000
Reported	310,000	24,600 <sup>e</sup>	24,600 <sup>e</sup>	49,300 <sup>e</sup>
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer	85,700	85,700 <sup>e</sup>	85,700 <sup>e</sup>	85,700 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	247	283	530
Refined zinc	716,000	50,600	50,900	102,000
<b>Exports:</b>				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	3	16,900	16,900
Refined zinc	19,000	688	1,330	2,010
<b>Price:<sup>5</sup></b>				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,192.89	1,980.38	2,057.86	2,019.12
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	106.24 <sup>r</sup>	96.84	100.57	98.71

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.

<sup>3</sup>Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

<sup>4</sup>Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

<sup>5</sup>Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2  
MINE PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine <sup>2</sup>		Smelter <sup>e,3</sup>
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2011: <sup>p</sup>			
February	57,000	54,900	21,800
March	64,300	62,100	21,800
April	61,700	59,600	21,800
May	68,500	66,200	21,800
June	59,900	57,900	21,800
July	72,500	70,100	15,500
August	65,900	63,600	15,500
September	62,200	60,000	15,500
October	57,200	55,200	25,000
November	60,500	58,500	25,000
December	70,100	67,800	25,000
January–December	771,000	744,000	252,000
2012:			
January	60,500	58,400	22,700 <sup>r</sup>
February	59,700	57,700	22,700
January–February	120,000	116,000	45,400

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes the zinc content in both lead and zinc concentrates.

<sup>3</sup>Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

TABLE 3  
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING  
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2011 <sup>p</sup>	2012		
	January– December	January <sup>r</sup>	February	January– February
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	467,000	36,200	36,100	72,300
Other	140,000	11,000	10,900	21,900
Total	586,000	47,200	47,000	94,200
Brass and bronze	138,000	10,500	10,400	20,900
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	11,300	11,200	22,600
Other uses <sup>2</sup>	56,300	3,670	3,650	7,320
Grand total	923,000	72,600	72,300	145,000

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes 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  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2011		2012			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	February		January–February	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	\$43,000	283	\$642	530	\$1,200
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	716,000	1,610,000	50,900	106,000	102,000	206,000
Zinc alloys	47,400	106,000	3,520	7,320	9,280	18,600
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,680	8,120	164	445	397	1,180
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,650	16,500	210	749	490	2,010
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,400	17,600	2,000	2,180	3,660	4,040
Powders, flakes, dust	30,100	89,300	1,870	5,680	3,310	9,410
Waste and scrap	18,500	23,400	1,540	2,200	2,510	3,320
Chemicals:						
Oxide	90,000	181,000	6,250	12,300	13,500	26,000
Chloride	255	1,290	28	112	41	241
Sulfate	53,900	51,700	3,500	3,280	8,010	7,560
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	3,850	6,620	236	503	490	1,150

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Includes 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 5  
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
		February	January-February		February	January-February
<b>Ore and concentrate (zinc content):</b>						
Canada	4,650	283	530	4,650	283	530
Mexico	2,800	--	--	2,800	--	--
Netherlands	81	--	--	81	--	--
Peru	17,800	--	--	17,800	--	--
Turkey	1,270	--	--	1,270	--	--
United Kingdom	155	--	--	155	--	--
Total	26,700	283	530	26,700	283	530
<b>Refined (slab) zinc:</b>						
Australia	4,000	3,490	3,490	13,500	4,170	4,170
Brazil	8,050	1,300	1,300	8,050	1,300	1,300
Canada	448,000	35,600	73,700	448,000	35,600	73,700
China	65	7	7	65	7	7
Japan	1,420	--	--	1,490	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12,000	--	--
Mexico	88,700	5,680	13,400	88,700	5,680	13,400
Namibia	59,500	--	--	59,500	--	--
Peru	61,900	4,220	8,990	62,300	4,220	8,990
Russia	1,480	--	--	1,480	--	--
Spain	--	--	1	21,600	--	1
Taiwan	53	11	11	53	11	11
Other	11	--	--	11	--	--
Total	673,000	50,300	101,000	716,000	50,900	102,000
<b>Oxide:</b>						
Australia	1,310	20	79	1,310	20	79
Belgium	1,170	10	50	1,170	10	50
Canada	45,000	3,410	7,470	45,000	3,410	7,470
China	566	77	114	566	77	114
Germany	3,390	198	342	3,390	198	342
Indonesia	107	--	--	107	--	--
Japan	2,490	56	131	2,490	56	131
Mexico	27,700	2,200	4,600	27,700	2,200	4,600
Netherlands	4,060	235	518	4,060	235	518
Peru	2,000	--	57	2,000	--	57
Spain	144	--	--	144	--	--
Turkey	1,780	--	40	1,780	--	40
United Arab Emirates	140	--	--	140	--	--
Other	163	46	95	163	46	95
Total	90,000	6,250	13,500	90,000	6,250	13,500

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2011		2012			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	February		January–February	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	\$997,000	16,900	\$22,700	16,900	\$22,700
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	19,000	19,800	1,330	1,720	2,010	2,490
Zinc alloys	13,500	34,900	1,250	3,100	2,370	5,950
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	25,700	39,100	1,450	2,330	3,200	5,080
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,730	26,000	418	1,510	871	3,120
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	19,700	11,700	2,340	1,620	3,930	2,510
Powders, flakes, dust	15,600	34,000	1,130	2,550	2,140	4,880
Waste and scrap	85,600	93,900	7,520	8,480	11,600	13,900
Chemicals:						
Oxide	31,600	51,300	2,420	3,330	6,130	7,530
Chloride	1,800	2,860	43	50	109	205
Sulfate	285	588	119	197	182	293
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	5,630	8,800	512	911	1,380	2,050

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Includes 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 7  
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North	London Metal Exchange	
	American <sup>1</sup> ¢/lb.	cash <sup>2</sup> ¢/lb.      \$/t	
2011:			
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
December	94.35	86.90	1,915.85
January–December	106.24 <sup>r</sup>	99.47	2,192.89
2012:			
January	96.84	89.83	1,980.38
February	100.57	93.34	2,057.86
January–February	98.71	91.59	2,019.12

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.