

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN MARCH 2012

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in March 2012 was 58,400 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in March was 1,880 t, 5% lower than that in February 2012 and 6% lower compared to that in March 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for March 2012 was 99.54 cents per pound, slightly lower than the February 2012 average price

and 11% lower than the March 2011 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for March 2012 was \$2,034.21 per metric ton, slightly lower than the average price in February 2012 and 13% lower compared with the average price in March 2011. During March 2012, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 29,400 t to 896,825 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2011 ^P January– December	2012		
		February	March	January– March
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	771,000	59,600 ^r	60,400	180,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	744,000	57,500 ^r	58,400	174,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	252,000	24,100 ^r	24,100	72,300
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	923,000	73,700 ^r	75,000	223,000
Reported	310,000	24,600 ^e	24,600 ^e	73,900 ^e
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer	85,700	85,700 ^e	85,700 ^e	85,700 ^e
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	283	327	857
Refined zinc	716,000	50,900	51,700	153,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	16,900	1,910	18,800
Refined zinc	19,000	1,330	803	2,820
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,192.89	2,057.86	2,034.21	2,024.15
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	106.24	100.57	99.54	98.98

^eEstimated. ^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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.

⁵Special High Grade Zinc.

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

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine ²		Smelter ^{e, 3}
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2011:^P			
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	60,100 ^r	58,000 ^r	24,100 ^r
February	59,600 ^r	57,500 ^r	24,100 ^r
March	60,400	58,400	24,100
January–March	180,000	174,000	72,300

^eEstimated. ^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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.

³Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

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

(Metric tons)

	2011 ^P	2012		
	January– December	February ^r	March	January– March
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	467,000	36,600	37,100	110,000
Other	140,000	11,200	11,500	34,000
Total	586,000	47,800	48,600	144,000
Brass and bronze	138,000	10,600	10,800	32,200
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	11,500	11,800	34,900
Other uses ²	56,300	3,720	3,780	11,200
Grand total	923,000	73,700	75,000	223,000

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2011		2012			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	March		January–March	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	\$43,000	327	\$741	857	\$1,940
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	716,000	1,610,000	51,700	108,000	153,000	314,000
Zinc alloys	47,400	106,000	4,610	9,840	13,900	28,500
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,680	8,120	219	569	616	1,750
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,650	16,500	322	1,260	812	3,270
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,400	17,600	2,310	2,700	5,970	6,750
Powders, flakes, dust	30,100	89,300	3,150	9,040	6,460	18,400
Waste and scrap	18,500	23,400	1,230	1,570	3,740	4,890
Chemicals:						
Oxide	90,000	181,000	7,440	14,200	20,900	40,200
Chloride	255	1,290	11	97	52	338
Sulfate	53,900	51,700	4,580	4,290	12,600	11,900
Compounds, other ²	3,850	6,620	310	537	800	1,690

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 5
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		
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
		March	January–March		March	January–March
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	4,650	327	857	4,650	327	857
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	327	857	26,700	327	857
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Australia	4,000	--	3,490	13,500	624	4,790
Brazil	8,050	3,000	4,300	8,050	3,000	4,300
Canada	448,000	38,700	112,000	448,000	38,700	112,000
Japan	1,420	--	--	1,490	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12,000	--	--
Mexico	88,700	3,500	16,900	88,700	3,500	16,900
Namibia	59,500	--	--	59,500	--	--
Peru	61,900	5,880	14,900	62,300	5,880	14,900
Russia	1,480	--	--	1,480	--	--
Spain	--	--	1	21,600	18	19
Other	131	2	19	131	2	19
Total	673,000	51,000	152,000	716,000	51,700	153,000
Oxide:						
Australia	1,310	118	197	1,310	118	197
Belgium	1,170	14	64	1,170	14	64
Canada	45,000	3,320	10,800	45,000	3,320	10,800
China	566	89	203	566	89	203
Germany	3,390	128	470	3,390	128	470
Indonesia	107	--	--	107	--	--
Japan	2,490	398	529	2,490	398	529
Mexico	27,700	2,390	6,990	27,700	2,390	6,990
Netherlands	4,060	836	1,350	4,060	836	1,350
Peru	2,000	37	94	2,000	37	94
Spain	144	--	--	144	--	--
Turkey	1,780	36	76	1,780	36	76
United Arab Emirates	140	--	--	140	--	--
Other	163	86	181	163	86	181
Total	90,000	7,440	20,900	90,000	7,440	20,900

-- Zero.

¹Data 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 ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2011		2012			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	March		January–March	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	\$997,000	1,910	\$4,730	18,800	\$27,400
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	19,000	19,800	803	829	2,820	3,320
Zinc alloys	13,500	34,900	1,460	3,790	3,830	9,740
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	25,700	39,100	1,800	2,710	5,000	7,790
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,730	26,000	537	1,830	1,410	4,960
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	19,700	11,700	1,610	1,320	5,540	3,820
Powders, flakes, dust	15,600	34,000	1,060	2,440	3,200	7,320
Waste and scrap	85,600	93,900	8,280	9,860	19,900	23,700
Chemicals:						
Oxide	31,600	51,300	2,680	4,200	8,810	11,700
Chloride	1,800	2,860	69	116	178	321
Sulfate	285	588	21	31	203	323
Compounds, other ²	5,630	8,800	661	1,210	2,040	3,270

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 7
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North	London Metal Exchange	
	American ¹ ¢/lb.	cash ² ¢/lb. \$/t	
2011:			
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	99.47	2,192.89
2012:			
January	96.84	89.83	1,980.38
February	100.57	93.34	2,057.86
March	99.54	92.27	2,034.21
January–March	98.98	91.81	2,024.15

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.