



Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JUNE 2012

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in June 2012 was 54,700 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in June was 1,820 t, 6% less than that in May 2012 and 6% less compared with that in June 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for June 2012 was 91.43 cents per pound, 4% less than the May 2012 average price and 16%

less than the June 2011 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for June 2012 was \$1,855.49 per metric ton, 4% less than the average price in May 2012 and 17% less compared with the average price in June 2011. During June 2012, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 55,425 t to 994,675 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2011 ^P	2012						
	January– December	January	February	March	April	May	June	January– June
Production:								
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	769,000	60,100	59,600	60,400	62,600 ^r	62,300 ^r	56,600	362,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	743,000	58,000	57,500	58,400	60,400 ^r	60,200 ^r	54,700	349,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,3}	248,000 ^r	21,700 ^r	21,700 ^r	21,700 ^r	23,000 ^r	23,000 ^r	23,000	134,000
Consumption of refined zinc:								
Apparent ⁴	939,000 ^r	73,100 ⁵	71,400	72,900	77,000	77,400	85,200	457,000
Reported	604,000 ^r	35,600	35,500	37,500	36,200	38,300	38,100	221,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer								
	114,000 ^r	82,600	82,600	82,200	82,800	83,100	82,500	82,500
Imports for consumption:								
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	247	283	327	3,070	298	167	4,390
Refined zinc	716,000	50,600	50,900	51,700	55,000	56,300	63,800	328,000
Exports:								
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	3	16,900	1,910	5,440	16,700	4,340	45,200
Refined zinc	19,000	688	1,330	803	463	1,560	2,140	6,980
Price:⁶								
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,192.89	1,980.38	2,057.86	2,034.21	1,996.47	1,929.68	1,855.49	1,975.68
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	106.24	96.84	100.57	99.54	97.82	94.79	91.43	96.83

^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.

⁵Does not reflect reported stock change.

⁶Special High Grade Zinc.

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

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine ²		Smelter ^{e,3}
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2011: ^p			
June	59,900	57,900	21,800
July	72,600	70,100	15,500
August	65,900	63,600	15,500
September	62,200	60,000	15,500
October	56,700	54,700	23,500 ^r
November	59,900	57,900	23,500 ^r
December	69,500	67,200	23,500 ^r
January–December	769,000	743,000	248,000 ^r
2012:			
January	60,100	58,000	21,700 ^r
February	59,600	57,500	21,700 ^r
March	60,400	58,400	21,700 ^r
April	62,600 ^r	60,400 ^r	23,000 ^r
May	62,300 ^r	60,200 ^r	23,000 ^r
June	56,600	54,700	23,000
January–June	362,000	349,000	134,000

^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,r}	2012						January– June
	January– December	January	February	March	April	May	June	
Galvanizing:								
Sheet and strip	387,000	41,400	40,700	41,300	42,700	42,700	45,500	254,000
Other	165,000	9,410	9,030	8,940	10,100	9,710	11,400	58,500
Total	552,000	50,800	49,700	50,200	52,800	52,400	56,900	313,000
Brass and bronze	164,000	9,440	9,260	9,620	9,800	10,500	11,800	60,500
Zinc-base alloy	159,000	9,570	9,370	9,250	10,100	9,790	11,500	59,600
Other uses ²	64,000	3,250	3,110	3,850	4,370	4,750	5,000	24,300
Grand total	939,000	73,100	71,400	72,900	77,000	77,400	85,200	457,000

^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)	June		January–June	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	\$43,000	167	\$373	4,390	\$7,570
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	716,000	1,610,000	63,800	128,000	328,000	674,000
Zinc alloys	47,400	106,000	799	1,600	16,200	33,300
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,680	8,120	227	684	1,310	3,870
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,650	16,500	231	1,060	1,520	6,520
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,400	17,600	2,220	2,310	11,800	13,400
Powders, flakes, dust	30,100	89,300	2,410	6,970	14,400	41,400
Waste and scrap	18,500	23,400	2,270	2,890	9,320	12,000
Chemicals:						
Oxide	90,000	181,000	7,450	14,400	44,100	85,200
Chloride	255	1,290	15	129	82	608
Sulfate	53,900	51,700	3,130	2,870	26,800	25,000
Compounds, other ²	3,850	6,620	428	1,510	1,930	5,070

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	
		June	January–June		June	January–June
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	4,650	167	1,710	4,650	167	1,710
Mexico	2,800	--	2,680	2,800	--	2,680
Netherlands	81	--	--	81	--	--
Peru	17,800	--	--	17,800	--	--
Turkey	1,270	--	--	1,270	--	--
United Kingdom	155	--	--	155	--	--
Total	26,700	167	4,390	26,700	167	4,390
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Australia	4,000	10,000	17,500	13,500	10,000	18,800
Brazil	8,050	--	5,800	8,050	--	5,800
Canada	448,000	38,500	227,000	448,000	38,500	227,000
China	65	7	36	65	7	36
Germany	1	(2)	(2)	1	(2)	(2)
Japan	1,420	--	(2)	1,490	--	(2)
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12,000	--	20
Malaysia	10	--	--	10	--	--
Mexico	88,700	8,680	45,500	88,700	8,680	45,500
Namibia	59,500	--	--	59,500	--	--
Netherlands	--	1,300	1,300	--	1,300	1,300
Peru	61,900	4,840	28,800	62,300	4,840	28,800
Russia	1,480	--	--	1,480	--	--
Spain	--	--	1	21,600	468	666
Sweden	2	--	--	2	--	--
Taiwan	53	6	28	53	6	28
Total	673,000	63,300	326,000	716,000	63,800	328,000
Oxide:						
Australia	1,310	79	459	1,310	79	459
Belgium	1,170	10	159	1,170	10	159
Canada	45,000	3,870	22,500	45,000	3,870	22,500
China	566	76	365	566	76	365
Germany	3,390	440	1,500	3,390	440	1,500
Indonesia	107	--	--	107	--	--
Japan	2,490	171	1,220	2,490	171	1,220
Mexico	27,700	2,100	14,300	27,700	2,100	14,300
Netherlands	4,060	659	3,010	4,060	659	3,010
Peru	2,000	--	123	2,000	--	123
Spain	144	--	--	144	--	--
Switzerland	--	34	35	--	34	35
Turkey	1,780	20	155	1,780	20	155
United Arab Emirates	140	--	--	140	--	--
Other	163	3	219	163	3	219
Total	90,000	7,450	44,100	90,000	7,450	44,100

-- 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 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2011		2012			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	June		January–June	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	\$997,000	4,340	\$8,770	45,200	\$64,200
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	19,000	19,800	2,140	2,130	6,980	7,530
Zinc alloys	13,500	34,900	1,610	4,310	7,360	19,000
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	25,700	39,100	1,890	2,900	11,000	16,800
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,730	26,000	481	1,730	3,080	10,500
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	19,700	11,700	592	921	7,820	7,130
Powders, flakes, dust	15,600	34,000	1,180	2,700	6,780	15,900
Waste and scrap	85,600	93,900	6,150	6,850	45,400	52,900
Chemicals:						
Oxide	31,600	51,300	2,590	4,050	18,600	25,900
Chloride	1,800	2,860	79	141	375	701
Sulfate	285	588	12	35	275	415
Compounds, other ²	5,630	8,800	742	1,180	4,110	6,920

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:			
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
April	97.82	90.56	1,996.47
May	94.79	87.53	1,929.68
June	91.43	84.16	1,855.49
January–June	96.83	89.62	1,975.68

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.