

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ZINC IN NOVEMBER 2012

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in November 2012 was 65,100 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in November was 2,170 t, 20% more than that in October 2012 and 12% more compared with that in November 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for November 2012 was 93.88 cents per pound, slightly less than the October 2012 and

November 2011 average prices. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for November 2012 was \$1,904.01 per metric ton, essentially unchanged from the average price in October 2012 and slightly less than the average price in November 2011. During November 2012, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 63,700 t to 1,233,575 t.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2011 <sup>p</sup>	2012		
	January– December	October	November	January– November
<b>Production:</b>				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate <sup>2</sup>	769,000	57,800	67,300	669,000
Mine, recoverable zinc <sup>2</sup>	743,000	55,800	65,100	646,000
Smelter, refined zinc <sup>e, 3</sup>	248,000	20,000	20,000	233,000
<b>Consumption of refined zinc:</b>				
Apparent <sup>4</sup>	939,000	77,100	70,100	819,000
Reported	604,000	37,300	36,700	406,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer	114,000	81,700	81,800	81,800
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	327	225	5,640
Refined zinc	716,000	57,600	52,500	597,000
<b>Exports:</b>				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	114,000	29,200	583,000
Refined zinc	19,000	960	2,340	13,800
<b>Price:<sup>5</sup></b>				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,192.89	1,911.42	1,904.01	1,939.60
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	106.24	94.88	93.88	95.38

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

<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 AND SMELTER PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine <sup>2</sup>		Smelter <sup>e, 3</sup>
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
<b>2011:<sup>p</sup></b>			
November	59,900	57,900	23,500
December	69,500	67,200	23,500
January–December	769,000	743,000	248,000
<b>2012:</b>			
January	60,100	58,000	21,700
February	59,600	57,500	21,700
March	60,400	58,400	21,700
April	62,600	60,400	22,600
May	62,300	60,200	22,600
June	56,600	54,700	22,600
July	60,600	58,600	20,000
August	58,900	56,900	20,000
September	62,300	60,200	20,000
October	57,800	55,800	20,000
November	67,300	65,100	20,000
January–November	669,000	646,000	233,000

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

<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	October	November	January– November
<b>Galvanizing:</b>				
Sheet and strip	387,000	43,100	40,700	460,000
Other	165,000	9,920	8,510	103,000
Total	552,000	53,000	49,200	564,000
Brass and bronze	164,000	9,440	8,360	104,000
Zinc-base alloy	159,000	10,300	9,270	106,000
Other uses <sup>2</sup>	64,000	4,320	3,290	44,900
Grand total	939,000	77,100	70,100	819,000

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary.

<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			
			November		January–November	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	26,700	\$43,000	225	\$510	5,640	\$10,400
<b>Unwrought:</b>						
Refined (slab) zinc	716,000	1,610,000	52,500	103,000	597,000	1,200,000
Zinc alloys	47,400	106,000	856	1,670	20,100	41,000
<b>Wrought:</b>						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,680	8,120	170	471	2,390	6,790
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,650	16,500	207	794	2,720	12,000
<b>Other:</b>						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	14,400	17,600	1,640	1,950	21,500	25,100
Powders, flakes, dust	30,100	89,300	2,250	5,830	26,400	75,300
Waste and scrap	18,500	23,400	1,680	1,880	18,900	23,400
<b>Chemicals:</b>						
Oxide	90,000	181,000	6,420	11,800	77,000	147,000
Chloride	255	1,290	4	40	180	1,400
Sulfate	53,900	51,700	7,680	6,590	53,700	48,800
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	3,850	6,620	178	651	3,160	9,650

<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	
		November	January–November		November	January–November
<b>Ore and concentrate (zinc content):</b>						
Canada	4,650	225	2,950	4,650	225	2,950
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	225	5,640	26,700	225	5,640
<b>Refined (slab) zinc:</b>						
Australia	4,000	--	21,500	13,500	--	24,000
Brazil	8,050	--	6,500	8,050	--	6,500
Canada	448,000	40,300	425,000	448,000	40,300	425,000
China	65	2	56	65	2	56
France	--	--	52	--	--	52
Japan	1,420	--	(2)	1,490	--	(2)
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12,000	--	471
Mexico	88,700	7,100	86,200	88,700	7,100	86,200
Namibia	59,500	--	--	59,500	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	1,300	--	1	1,320
Peru	61,900	5,080	53,100	62,300	5,080	53,100
Russia	1,480	--	--	1,480	--	--
Spain	--	--	1	21,600	13	729
Taiwan	53	2	43	53	2	43
Other	13	--	(2)	13	--	(2)
Total	673,000	52,500	594,000	716,000	52,500	597,000
<b>Oxide:</b>						
Australia	1,310	118	1,000	1,310	118	1,000
Belgium	1,170	--	167	1,170	--	167
Canada	45,000	3,050	39,800	45,000	3,050	39,800
China	566	40	656	566	40	656
Germany	3,390	133	2,980	3,390	133	2,980
Indonesia	107	--	1	107	--	1
Japan	2,490	636	2,910	2,490	636	2,910
Mexico	27,700	2,200	24,200	27,700	2,200	24,200
Netherlands	4,060	212	4,420	4,060	212	4,420
Peru	2,000	--	170	2,000	--	170
Spain	144	--	(2)	144	--	(2)
Turkey	1,780	40	315	1,780	40	315
United Arab Emirates	140	--	--	140	--	--
Other	163	2	394	163	2	394
Total	90,000	6,420	77,000	90,000	6,420	77,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

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)	November		January–November	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	660,000	\$997,000	29,200	\$36,200	583,000	\$793,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	19,000	19,800	2,340	2,370	13,800	14,700
Zinc alloys	13,500	34,900	1,750	4,360	16,400	41,900
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	25,700	39,100	612	1,120	17,300	27,900
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,730	26,000	374	1,370	5,640	19,300
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	19,700	11,700	1,700	1,760	31,300	16,200
Powders, flakes, dust	15,600	34,000	1,430	3,860	13,200	30,900
Waste and scrap	85,600	93,900	9,020	11,100	80,600	95,200
Chemicals:						
Oxide	31,600	51,300	4,000	3,870	39,400	47,200
Chloride	1,800	2,860	152	275	857	1,520
Sulfate	285	588	16	17	771	1,150
Compounds, other <sup>2</sup>	5,630	8,800	1,070	1,890	7,980	13,600

<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 American <sup>1</sup>	London Metal Exchange cash <sup>2</sup>	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2011:			
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
July	91.30	83.95	1,850.82
August	89.77	82.26	1,813.46
September	98.31	90.80	2,001.81
October	94.88	86.70	1,911.42
November	93.88	86.36	1,904.01
January–November	95.38	87.98	1,939.60

<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.

Source: Platts Metals Week.