

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Amy C. Tolcin, Zinc Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-4940, Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: atolcin@usgs.gov

Hodan A. Fatah (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-4971
 Fax: (703) 648-7975
 Email: hfatah@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

ZINC IN MARCH 2016

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in March 2016 was 56,000 metric tons (t) (table 2). Average daily mine production in March was 1,810 t, 6% less than that in February and 23% less than that in March 2015 (fig. 1).

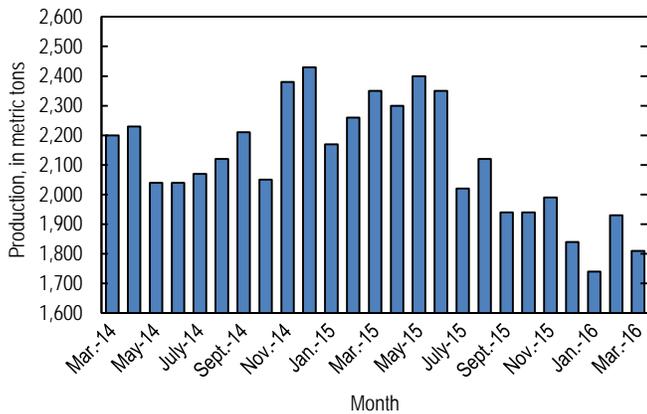


Figure 1. Average daily domestic zinc mine production (recoverable) from March 2014 through March 2016. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Global London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) stocks of Special High Grade (SHG) zinc decreased by 40,075 t to 433,025 t in March 2016 (fig. 2, table 7).

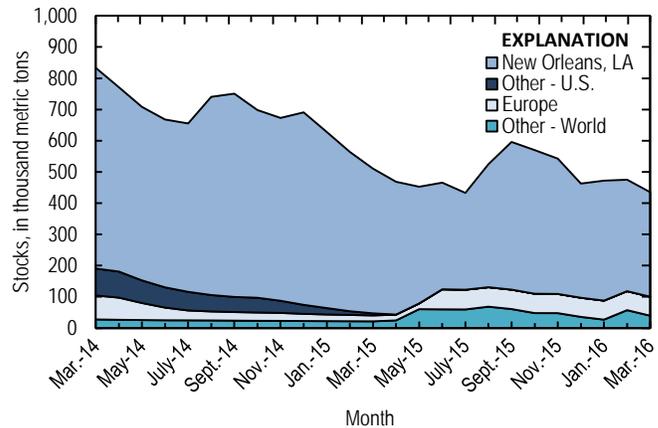


Figure 2. Global LME stocks of SHG zinc, monthend, from March 2014 through March 2016. Source: London Metal Exchange Ltd.

The monthly average Platts Metals Week North American SHG zinc price increased by 5% in March 2016 to 88.69 cents per pound but remained 12% less than that in March 2015. The March average LME cash price for SHG zinc was \$1,804.32 per metric ton, 5% more than that in the previous month but 11% less than that in March 2015. The North American premium to the LME cash price in March averaged about 6.85 cents per pound, slightly less than that in February (fig. 3, table 6).

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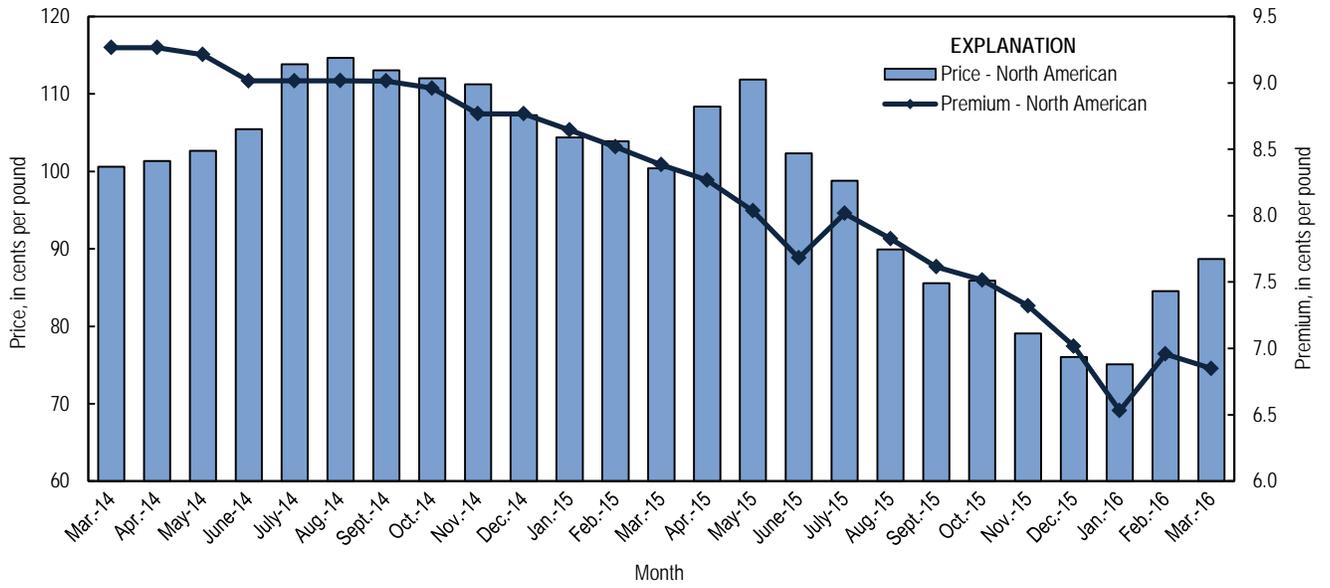


Figure 3. Average monthly North American price and premium for SHG zinc from March 2014 through March 2016. Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2015	2016		
	January– December ^p	February	March	January– March ²
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ³	808,000	57,800 ^r	58,000	174,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ³	781,000	55,900 ^r	56,000	166,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^e	172,000	10,600 ^r	10,600	31,800
Consumption of refined zinc, apparent ⁴	931,000	41,200 ^r	63,200	159,000
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	22	--	--	--
Refined zinc	771,000	52,000	54,800	161,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	708,000	18,000	4,210	32,100
Refined zinc	12,700	21,400	2,260	34,100
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,932.14	1,710.46	1,804.32	1,675.55
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.54	84.54	88.69	82.78

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.

⁴Smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports.

⁵Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
MINE AND SMELTER PRODUCTION OF ZINC
IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine ²		Smelter ^e
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2015:			
March	75,300	72,800	14,500
April	71,200	68,900	14,000
May	76,900	74,500	15,200
June	72,800	70,400	14,800
July	64,700	62,500	14,400
August	68,000	65,700	13,700
September	60,400	58,300	13,500
October	62,400	60,300	13,400
November	61,800	59,800	14,400
December	58,900	56,900	13,500
January–December	808,000	781,000	172,000
2016:			
January	58,600 ^r	54,000 ^r	10,600 ^r
February	57,800 ^r	55,900 ^r	10,600 ^r
March	58,000	56,000	10,600
January–March	174,000	166,000	31,800

^eEstimated. ^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.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2015		2016			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	March		January–March ²	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	22	\$48	--	--	--	--
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	771,000	1,620,000	54,800	\$100,000	161,000	\$279,000
Zinc alloys	8,070	17,100	592	1,110	2,240	3,820
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	3,020	9,590	181	535	494	1,440
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,680	14,600	446	1,310	1,060	3,410
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	5,610	8,350	237	356	931	1,510
Powders, flakes, dust	29,100	91,400	2,430	7,190	6,410	18,900
Waste and scrap	18,000	20,100	675	608	2,060	1,940
Chemicals:						
Oxide	116,000	250,000	10,900	20,300	30,100	57,000
Chloride	156	1,170	13	111	25	226
Sulfate	88,800	68,100	8,680	6,480	21,700	16,000
Compounds, other ³	3,800	11,900	453	1,110	1,420	3,090

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes 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 4
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		
	2015	2016		2015	2016	
		March	January–March ²		March	January–March ²
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	19	--	--	19	--	--
Germany	3	--	--	3	--	--
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	22	--	--	22	--	--
Refined zinc:						
Australia	45,100	--	--	82,400	--	--
Belgium	1,250	--	--	19,600	--	231
Brazil	--	--	--	99	--	--
Canada	479,000	44,300	122,000	479,000	44,300	122,000
China	64	--	--	1,800	--	125
Germany	(3)	--	2	(3)	--	2
India	2,500	--	--	2,500	--	--
Korea, Republic of	1,500	--	--	20,900	555	1,410
Mexico	99,000	4,410	20,000	99,000	4,410	20,000
Netherlands	--	--	--	2,840	--	--
Peru	31,200	5,550	17,300	31,200	5,550	17,300
Spain	31	--	--	32,000	--	131
Sweden	(3)	--	--	(3)	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	28	--	--
Taiwan	32	6	24	32	6	24
United Kingdom	--	--	--	49	--	--
Total	659,000	54,300	159,000	771,000	54,800	161,000
Oxide:						
Australia	26	17	55	26	17	55
Belgium	155	(3)	(3)	155	(3)	(3)
Canada	71,200	6,560	18,600	71,200	6,560	18,600
China	585	60	102	580	60	102
France	--	5	8	--	5	8
Germany	2,380	192	527	2,380	192	527
India	202	15	33	202	15	33
Indonesia	1	--	--	1	--	--
Israel	--	21	21	--	21	21
Japan	485	39	87	485	39	87
Korea, Republic of	--	(3)	(3)	--	(3)	(3)
Mexico	32,500	3,390	9,080	32,500	3,390	9,080
Netherlands	5,790	473	1,350	5,790	473	1,350
Norway	5	--	--	5	--	--
Peru	1,510	38	142	1,510	38	142
Philippines	(3)	--	--	(3)	--	--
Russia	--	--	11	--	--	11
Singapore	--	(3)	(3)	--	(3)	(3)
Switzerland	21	4	4	21	4	4
Turkey	417	--	--	417	--	--
United Kingdom	232	56	109	232	56	109
Total	116,000	10,900	30,100	116,000	10,900	30,100

-- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2015		2016			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	March		January–March ²	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	708,000	\$987,000	4,210	\$5,180	32,100	\$31,200
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	12,700	29,000	2,260	13,300	34,100	68,600
Zinc alloys	19,700	50,600	1,440	3,280	4,140	9,290
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	15,400	25,000	655	1,590	1,780	4,350
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,010	28,000	638	2,270	1,570	5,370
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	29,300	37,600	3,050	3,820	8,970	10,000
Powders, flakes, dust	12,300	38,700	499	1,380	2,560	6,930
Waste and scrap	55,200	68,600	2,350	2,860	7,200	8,290
Chemicals:						
Oxide	21,800	29,100	4,300	3,570	12,600	11,900
Chloride	421	662	88	88	263	300
Sulfate	726	751	56	88	99	182
Compounds, other ³	1,840	21,900	169	1,790	630	5,200

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes 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 6
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North	London Metal Exchange	
	American ¹ ¢/lb.	cash ²	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2015:			
March	100.40	92.02	2,028.60
April	108.35	100.09	2,206.51
May	111.87	103.83	2,289.13
June	102.35	94.67	2,087.05
July	98.81	90.80	2,001.69
August	89.91	82.08	1,809.61
September	85.57	77.96	1,718.64
October	85.88	78.37	1,727.73
November	79.08	71.76	1,581.96
December	76.04	69.02	1,521.74
January–December	95.54	87.64	1,932.14
2016:			
January	75.11	68.58	1,511.88
February	84.54	77.59	1,710.46
March	88.69	81.84	1,804.32
January–March	82.78	76.00	1,675.55

¹Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premium.

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

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 7
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (LME) STOCKS OF SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC, END OF PERIOD

(Metric tons)

Period	United States			Europe	Other	Total LME
	Detroit, MI	New Orleans, LA	Total			
2015:						
March	6,775	463,525	470,300	18,825	21,500	510,625
April	325	425,250	425,575	18,425	24,425	468,425
May	250	373,725	373,975	18,125	60,475	452,575
June	250	341,550	341,800	63,975	59,850	465,625
July	250	310,025	310,275	63,000	59,525	432,800
August	25	394,175	394,200	62,325	68,400	524,925
September	25	473,100	473,125	62,100	60,800	596,025
October	25	460,050	460,075	62,000	47,875	569,950
November	25	433,375	433,400	61,450	47,750	542,600
December	25	365,725	365,750	61,250	35,700	462,700
2016:						
January	25	384,250	384,275	60,850	26,925	472,050
February	25	357,075	357,100	60,725	57,275	475,100
March	25	334,825	334,850	60,700	39,475	435,025

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.