

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JUNE 2016

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in June 2016 was 68,900 metric tons (t) (table 2). Average daily mine production in June was 2,300 t, 6% more than that in May (revised) but slightly less than that in June 2015 (fig. 1).

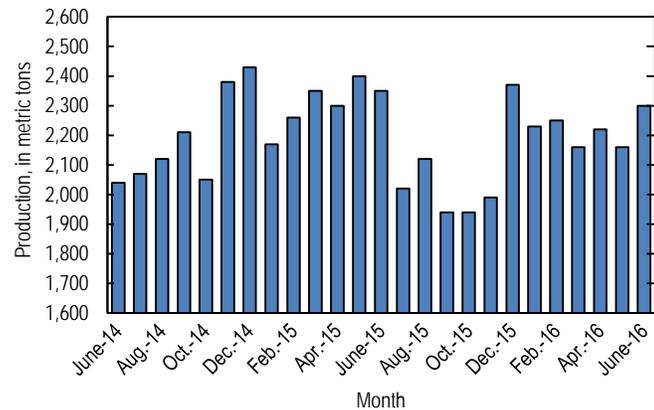


Figure 1. Average daily domestic zinc mine production (recoverable) from June 2014 through June 2016. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Recoverable mine production of zinc in the first half of 2016 was 404,000 t, 3% less than that in the first half of 2015. A decrease in zinc mine production in Tennessee was partially offset by an increase in zinc production at the Red Dog Mine in Alaska. Nyrstar NV's (Belgium) Middle Tennessee Mines (Cumberland, Elmwood, and Gordonsville zinc mines) were placed on care-and-maintenance status in December 2015, reportedly to reduce the company's costs in its mining business segment. The mines produced about 50,000 metric tons per year of zinc in concentrate. (See Zinc in October 2015.) Teck Resources Ltd. (Canada) reported that Red Dog produced 310,000 t of zinc in concentrate in the first half of the 2016, 3% more than that produced in the first

half of 2015. However, the company projected that zinc production would decrease in the second half of the year owing to anticipated lower ore grades (Teck Resources Ltd., 2016, p. 17, 33).

Global London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) stocks of Special High Grade (SHG) zinc increased by 62,250 t to 442,700 t in June, a 16% increase compared with the stock level at the end of May 2016. A 71,675-t increase in zinc stocks in New Orleans, LA, warehouses more than offset decreases in warehouses outside the United States (fig. 2, table 7).

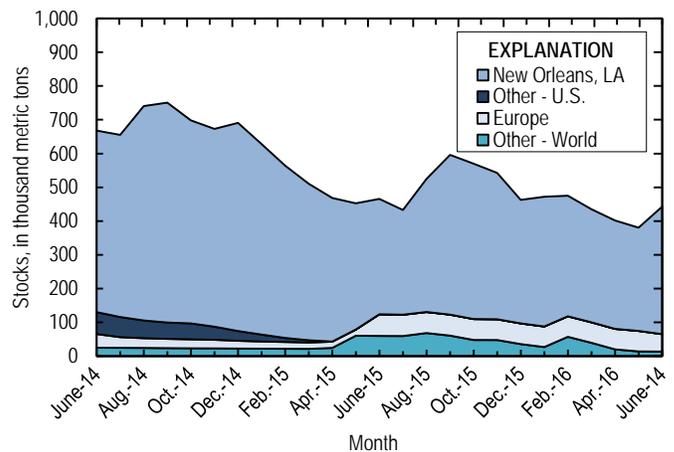


Figure 2. Global LME stocks of Special High Grade zinc, monthend, from June 2014 through June 2016. Source: London Metal Exchange Ltd.

Monthly average SHG zinc prices have increased by more than 30% from January 2016 through June 2016. The monthly average Platts Metals Week North American SHG zinc price in June 2016 was 98.51 cents per pound, 8% more than that in May 2016 and 31% more than that in January 2016, but 4% less than that in June 2015. The June average LME cash price for SHG zinc was \$2,022.59

per metric ton, 8% more than that in the previous month and 34% more than that in January 2016, but 3% less than that in June 2015. The North American premium to the LME cash price in June averaged about 6.8 cents per pound, 4% more than that in May (fig. 3, table 6).

Reference Cited

Teck Resources Ltd., 2016, Teck reports unaudited second quarter results for 2016: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Teck Resources Ltd. news release, July 28, 57 p. (Accessed July 28, 2016, at <http://www.teck.com/media/16-29-TR.pdf>.)

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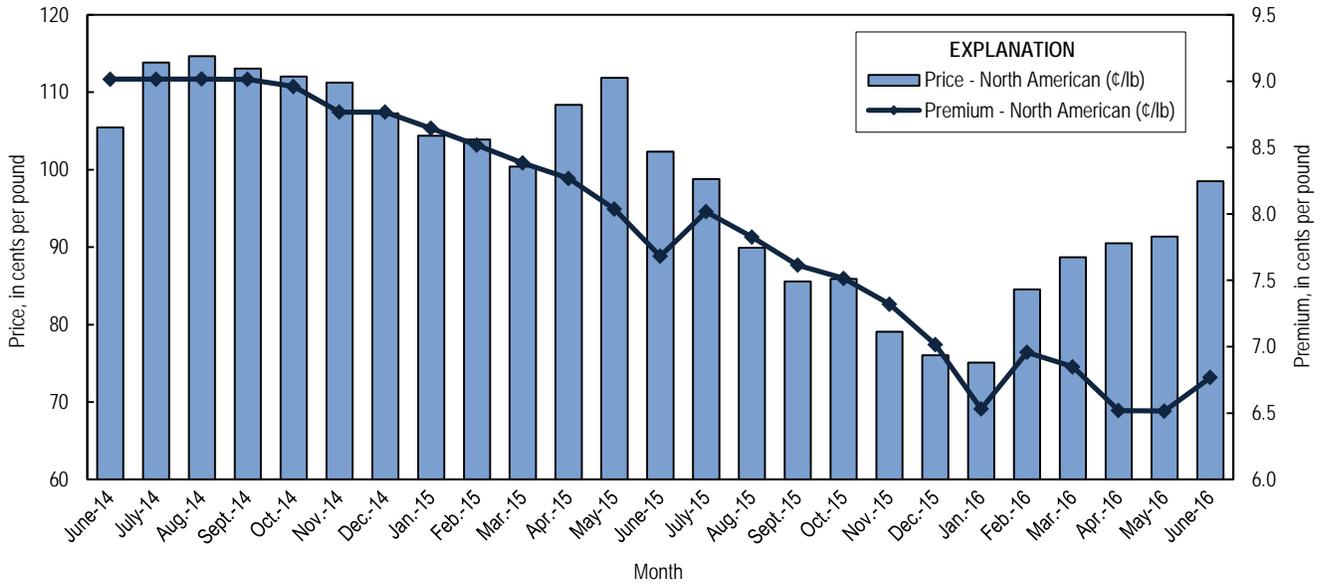


Figure 3. Average monthly North American price and premium for Special High Grade zinc from June 2014 through June 2016. Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2015	2016		
	January– December ^P	May	June	January– June ²
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ³	825,000	69,400 ^r	71,300	420,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ³	797,000	67,100 ^r	68,900	404,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^e	172,000	10,600	10,600	63,500
Consumption of refined zinc, apparent ⁴	931,000	95,500	60,300	371,000
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	22	--	--	50
Refined zinc	771,000	85,500	51,800	351,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	709,000	4,710	5,980	51,100
Refined zinc	12,700	548	2,030	43,800
Price:⁵				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	1,932.14	1,870.86	2,022.59	1,795.21
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	95.54	91.38	98.51	88.12

^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:			
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	76,100	73,600	13,500
January–December	825,000	797,000	172,000
2016:			
January	74,100	69,100	10,600
February	67,300	65,200	10,600
March	69,300	67,000	10,600
April	68,800 ^r	66,600 ^r	10,600
May	69,400 ^r	67,100 ^r	10,600
June	71,300	68,900	10,600
January–June	420,000	404,000	63,500

^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)	June		January-June ²	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	22	\$48	--	--	50	\$10
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	771,000	1,620,000	51,800	\$104,000	351,000	643,000
Zinc alloys	8,070	17,000	624	1,210	3,840	6,900
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	3,020	9,620	328	940	1,380	3,920
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,680	14,600	349	1,170	1,990	6,650
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	5,610	8,350	647	778	2,080	3,060
Powders, flakes, dust	29,100	91,300	2,030	6,070	14,000	42,100
Waste and scrap	18,000	20,100	1,250	1,430	5,400	5,680
Chemicals:						
Oxide	116,000	250,000	10,000	20,200	60,600	118,000
Chloride	154	1,150	10	101	66	635
Sulfate	89,000	68,100	4,420	3,360	38,300	28,600
Compounds, other ³	3,800	11,900	43	125	2,230	5,020

-- 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	
		June	January–June ²		June	January–June ²
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	19	--	--	19	--	--
Germany	3	--	--	3	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	50	--	--	50
Total	22	--	50	22	--	50
Refined zinc:						
Australia	45,100	--	26,000	82,400	962	27,000
Belgium	1,250	--	--	19,600	195	550
Brazil	--	--	--	99	--	--
Canada	479,000	38,100	242,000	479,000	38,100	242,000
China	64	--	5	1,800	--	130
Germany	(3)	--	4	(3)	--	4
India	2,500	--	--	2,500	--	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	397
Korea, Republic of	1,500	--	6	20,900	--	7,520
Mexico	99,000	7,750	35,000	99,000	7,750	35,000
Namibia	--	--	--	--	--	123
Netherlands	--	--	--	2,840	--	346
Peru	31,200	4,450	33,800	31,200	4,450	33,800
Spain	31	--	--	32,000	394	4,380
Sweden	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	--	(3)
Switzerland	--	--	--	28	--	--
Taiwan	32	--	29	32	--	29
United Kingdom	--	--	--	49	--	--
Total	659,000	50,200	337,000	771,000	51,800	351,000
Oxide:						
Australia	26	6	86	26	6	86
Belgium	155	--	(3)	155	--	(3)
Canada	71,200	6,420	38,300	71,200	6,420	38,300
China	585	84	334	580	83	333
France	--	--	12	--	--	12
Germany	2,380	260	1,120	2,380	260	1,120
India	202	--	52	202	--	52
Indonesia	1	--	--	1	--	--
Israel	--	10	34	--	10	34
Japan	485	35	189	485	35	189
Korea, Republic of	--	--	6	--	--	6
Mexico	32,500	2,410	17,200	32,500	2,410	17,200
Netherlands	5,790	706	2,940	5,790	706	2,940
Norway	5	--	--	5	--	--
Peru	1,510	65	225	1,510	65	225
Philippines	(3)	--	--	(3)	--	--
Russia	--	--	11	--	--	11
Singapore	--	--	(3)	--	--	(3)
Switzerland	21	--	4	21	--	4
Taiwan	--	--	(3)	--	--	(3)
Turkey	417	--	--	417	--	--
United Kingdom	232	1	190	232	1	190
Total	116,000	10,000	60,600	116,000	10,000	60,600

-- 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)	June		January–June ²	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	709,000	\$987,000	5,980	\$10,500	51,100	\$62,000
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	12,700	28,700	2,030	4,450	43,800	81,900
Zinc alloys	19,700	50,700	1,440	3,500	8,410	19,400
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	15,400	25,000	785	1,760	3,970	9,600
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	8,010	28,000	524	1,820	3,440	12,100
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	29,300	37,600	3,290	4,330	18,100	22,200
Powders, flakes, dust	12,300	38,200	746	2,900	5,090	16,200
Waste and scrap	55,200	68,600	2,030	2,490	16,100	19,100
Chemicals:						
Oxide	21,800	28,900	5,130	4,010	27,300	25,500
Chloride	419	657	23	37	518	632
Sulfate	726	751	74	204	264	509
Compounds, other ³	1,840	22,000	183	1,710	1,180	10,600

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:			
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
April	90.48	83.97	1,851.12
May	91.38	84.86	1,870.86
June	98.51	91.74	2,022.59
January–June	88.12	81.43	1,795.21

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:						
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
April	--	321,000	321,000	60,700	20,100	401,800
May	--	305,775	305,775	60,700	13,975	380,450
June	--	377,450	377,450	51,700	13,550	442,700

-- Zero.

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.