

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

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

Barbara J. McNair (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7952
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: bmcnair@usgs.gov

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

ZINC IN APRIL 2007

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in April 2007 was 56,600 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in April was 1,890 t, 8% lower than that in March 2007 but 4% higher than that in April 2006. Year-to-date mine production for 2007 was 5% higher than that of 2006.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade Zinc for the month of April was 170.47 cents per pound, 8% higher than the March average price and an increase of 15% from the April 2006 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of zinc for April increased to \$3,556.53 per metric ton, 9% higher than the average price in March and a 15% increase compared with the

average price in April 2006. During April 2007, global LME zinc stocks fell by 10,950 t to 95,150 t.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in April, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was approximately 500 t (551 short tons), with an approximate value of \$1.8 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2007).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2007, Stockpile announces BOA sales for April 2007: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, May 7, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2006	2007		
	January- December	March	April	January- April
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	727,000	67,800 ^r	58,800	251,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	699,000	63,500	56,600	237,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 2}	248,000	22,100	19,300	81,700
Consumption:				
Refined zinc, reported	404,000	22,300 ^r	22,600	105,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	732	61	61	244
Zinc-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	63,500
Copper-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	58,700
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	1,440	120	120	480
Total ^e	773,000	53,100 ^r	53,400	228,000
Apparent consumption, metal ³	1,130,000	84,400	NA	259,000 ⁶
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:				
Producer ^{e, 4}	XX	8,670	9,240	XX
Consumer ⁵	XX	46,300	51,000	XX
Merchant	XX	10,200	10,200	XX
Total	XX	65,200	70,400	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	33,000	375	516	1,950
Imports for consumption:				
Refined (slab) zinc	851,000	68,300	NA	193,000 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	125,000	7,020	NA	33,300 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	383,000	9,020	NA	184,000 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	14,200	1,810	NA	5,040
Exports:				
Refined (slab) zinc	2,530	5,080	NA	5,740 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	28,800	2,530	NA	8,560 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	825,000	23,000	NA	52,600 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	88,300	9,350	NA	25,700 ⁶
Price:				
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	3,274.42	3,270.82	3,556.53	3,480.54
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	158.89 ^r	158.48	170.47	168.40

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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

²Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

³Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁴Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

⁵Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁶Includes data through March only.

TABLE 2
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks ³	Production ^c	Shipments ^e	Ending stocks ³
2006:				
April	6,580	19,300	18,800	7,150
May	7,150	19,100	19,900	6,300
June	6,300	19,200	19,000	6,510
July	6,510	22,100	22,300	6,340
August	6,340	19,200	19,100	6,450
September	6,450	24,100	23,400	7,110
October	7,110	23,800	23,700	7,160
November	7,160	19,000	19,500	6,750
December	6,750	20,200	19,300	7,660
January-December	XX	248,000	246,000	XX
2007:				
January	7,660	21,200	20,100	8,810
February	8,810	19,000	20,200	7,620
March	7,620	22,100	21,100	8,670
April	8,670	19,300	18,800	9,240
January-April	XX	81,700	80,100	XX

^cEstimated. XX Not applicable.

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

²Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

³Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

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

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2006	2007		
	January- December	February	March	January- March
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	468,000	36,100	36,000	112,000
Other	160,000	11,700	13,700	39,200
Total	627,000	47,800	49,700	151,000
Brass and bronze	173,000	13,500	14,800	42,600
Zinc-base alloy	240,000	10,700	12,600	43,700
Other uses ²	85,800	6,800	7,310	21,500
Grand total	1,130,000	78,800	84,400	259,000

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, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
AVERAGE ZINC PRICES¹

Period	North American	LME ² cash	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2006:			
April	148.56	139.88	3,083.75
May	172.59	161.68	3,564.51
June	157.93	146.27	3,224.66
July	163.73	151.45	3,338.80
August	163.83	151.77	3,346.00
September	166.60	154.32	3,402.25
October	186.07	173.37	3,822.07
November	210.78	198.73	4,381.27
December	211.83	199.79	4,404.51
January-December	158.89 ^r	148.53	3,274.42
2007:			
January	183.47	171.74	3,786.21
February	161.17	150.08	3,308.59
March	158.48	148.36	3,270.82
April	170.47	161.32	3,556.53
January-April	168.40	157.88	3,480.54

^rRevised.

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2006		2007			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	March		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	2,530	\$3,800	5,080	\$3,370	5,740	\$4,060
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	825,000	1,060,000	23,000	42,100	52,600	74,100
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	88,300	103,000	9,350	9,510	25,700	26,100
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	16,400	33,300	1,630	3,160	4,700	9,790
Oxide (gross weight)	28,800	47,900	2,530	4,510	8,560	16,200
Chloride (gross weight)	1,510	1,930	138	167	632	753
Sulfate (gross weight)	42,800	22,500	9	17	69	194
Compounds, other (gross weight) ²	1,740 ^r	3,750 ^r	624	796	1,860	2,820

^rRevised.

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 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

Material	2006		2007			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	March		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	851,000	\$2,050,000	68,300	\$214,000	193,000	\$664,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	383,000	183,000	9,020	23,200	184,000	67,300
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	14,200	18,700	1,810	3,150	5,040	7,970
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	30,100	107,000	2,560	11,500	6,880	33,300
Oxide (gross weight)	125,000	243,000	7,020	21,600	33,300	90,000
Chloride (gross weight)	1,260	1,780	23	201	78	557
Sulfate (gross weight)	44,400	34,100	2,610	2,750	8,090	8,420
Compounds, other (gross weight) ²	7,980 ^r	9,620 ^r	850	1,230	2,300	2,960

^rRevised.

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 7
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory ²
2006:		
April	3,590	33,500
May	4,640	28,800
June	3,380	25,500
July	994	24,500
August	3,690	20,800
September	5,460	15,300
October	1,900	13,400
November	NA ³	15,500
December	237	15,300
January-December	33,000 ^r	XX
2007:		
January	472	14,800
February	590	14,200
March	375	13,900
April	516	13,300
January-April	1,950	XX

^rRevised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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

²Includes excess material and material committed for sale/pending shipment.

³Monthly shipments are not reflected by changes in inventory due to an inventory adjustment or shipment delay.

Source: Defense National Stockpile Center.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
		March	Year to date		March	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	2,850	--	--	2,850	--	--
Canada	2,750	--	31	2,750	--	31
Ireland	17,000	--	49,800	17,000	--	49,800
Mexico	88,100	82	452	88,100	82	452
Peru	273,000	8,940	133,000	273,000	8,940	133,000
Total	383,000	9,020	184,000	383,000	9,020	184,000
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	15,000	--	7,000	47,100	919	7,920
Brazil	8,790	--	1,000	13,000	--	1,000
Canada	535,000	39,300	110,000	535,000	39,300	110,000
China	2,000	13	2,810	57,300	4,290	7,910
Finland	--	--	--	51	374	374
India	12,200	1,500	4,080	12,200	1,500	4,080
Japan	251	--	--	6,200	--	--
Kazakhstan	6,000	7,000	28,000	6,000	7,000	28,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	66,800	8,310	9,120
Mexico	103,000	6,600	24,900	103,000	6,600	24,900
Norway	--	--	--	1,160	--	25
Peru	1,080	--	--	1,360	--	--
Other	21 ^r	--	--	1,740	--	--
Total	683,000	54,400	177,000	851,000	68,300	193,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)						
	31,100	2,080	6,710	31,100	2,080	6,710
Grand total	1,100,000	65,500	368,000	1,270,000	79,400	383,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	49,100	4,110	11,600	49,100	4,110	11,600
China	277	18	93	277	18	93
Germany	800	39	291	800	39	291
Italy	24,500	--	5,050	24,500	--	5,050
Japan	1,290	30	121	1,290	30	121
Mexico	31,900	2,000	7,570	31,900	2,000	7,570
Netherlands	7,820	444	7,720	7,820	444	7,720
Spain	1,150	298	778	1,150	298	778
Sweden	7,500	--	--	7,500	--	--
Other	618	83	151	618	83	151
Total	125,000	7,020	33,300	125,000	7,020	33,300
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	14,200	1,810	5,040	14,200	1,810	5,040
Sheets	2,050	103	259	2,050	103	259
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	30,100	2,560	6,880	30,100	2,560	6,880

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.