



Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN SEPTEMBER 2007

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in September 2007 was 61,300 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in September was 2,040 t, 9% lower than that in August 2007 and 7% lower than that in September 2006. Year-to-date mine production for 2007 through September was 5% higher than that of the similar period of 2006.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade Zinc for September was 135.70 cents per pound, 11% lower than the August average price and a decrease of 19% from the September 2006 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of zinc for September was \$2,880.76 per metric ton, 11% lower than the average price in August and a 15% decrease compared with the

average price in September 2006. During September 2007, global LME zinc stocks fell by 4,525 t to 60,850 t.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in September, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was approximately 185 t (204 short tons), with an approximate value of \$466,000 (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2007).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2007, Stockpile announces BOA sales for September 2007: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, October 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2006	2007		
	January- December	August	September	January- September
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	727,000	72,200	63,700	580,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	699,000	69,500	61,300	555,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 2}	252,000	22,100	22,100	194,000
Consumption:				
Refined zinc, reported	419,000	22,700 ^r	23,200	223,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	732	61	61	549
Zinc-base scrap ³ (zinc content)	178,000	14,800 ^e	14,800 ^e	133,000 ^e
Copper-base scrap ³ (zinc content)	163,000	13,600 ^e	13,600 ^e	122,000 ^e
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^{3, 4} (zinc content)	520	43 ^e	43 ^e	390 ^e
Total ^e	761,000	51,200 ^r	51,700	479,000
Apparent consumption, metal ⁵	1,130,000	84,500 ^r	NA	640,000 ^{r, 6}
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:				
Producer and consumer ⁷	XX	35,800 ^r	31,100	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	33,000	3,190	174	9,940
Imports for consumption:				
Refined (slab) zinc	851,000	55,000	NA	462,000 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	125,000	6,360	NA	81,800 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	383,000	4,550	NA	253,000 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	14,200	1,560	NA	15,600 ⁶
Exports:				
Refined (slab) zinc	2,530	391	NA	7,580 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	28,800	3,080	NA	23,600 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	825,000	290,000	NA	526,000 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	83,800	8,530	NA	68,800 ⁶
Price:				
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	3,274.42	3,250.58	2,880.76	3,447.92
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	158.89	152.67	135.70	164.72

^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.

³Monthly estimates are based on reported annual data from the prior year.

⁴Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap data have fallen due to a change in assumption on the estimated zinc content of magnesium-base scrap.

⁵Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁶Includes data through August only.

⁷Does not include an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁸Monthly shipments are not reflected by changes in inventory due to an inventory adjustment or shipment delay.

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

(Metric tons)

Month	Production	Shipments
2006: ³		
September	20,500	21,600
October	19,500	18,100
November	19,500	18,100
December	19,500	18,100
January-December	252,000	256,000
2007:		
January	20,600	22,400
February	20,600	22,400
March	20,600	22,400
April	22,000	23,400
May	22,000	23,400
June	22,000	23,400
July	22,100	21,300
August	22,100	21,300
September	22,100	21,300
January-September	194,000	201,000

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

²Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

³Partially estimated.

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

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2006	2007		
	January-December	July ^f	August	January-August
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	477,000	33,500	38,000	286,000
Other	159,000	10,900	13,200	96,400
Total	636,000	44,300	51,200	382,000
Brass and bronze	172,000	11,800	14,200	107,000
Zinc-base alloy	238,000	10,200	12,200	96,400
Other uses ²	85,600	6,170	6,900	54,300
Grand total	1,130,000	72,500	84,500	640,000

^fRevised.

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	LME ² cash	
	American ¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2006:			
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	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
May	182.45	173.70	3,829.39
June	170.92	163.42	3,602.85
July	167.11	160.82	3,545.58
August	152.67	147.44	3,250.58
September	135.70	130.67	2,880.76
January-September	164.72	156.40	3,447.92

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2007					
	2006		August		Year to date	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	2,530	\$3,800	391	\$394	7,580	\$5,930
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	825,000	1,060,000	290,000	367,000	526,000	596,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	83,800	95,800	8,530	8,330	68,800	69,700
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	16,400	33,300	1,160	1,910	13,100	25,500
Oxide (gross weight)	28,800	47,900	3,080	5,240	23,600	44,200
Chloride (gross weight)	1,510	1,930	157	169	1,270	1,540
Sulfate (gross weight)	42,800	22,500	15	27	136	317
Compounds, other (gross weight) ²	1,740	3,750	486	854	3,950	6,570

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)	August		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	851,000	\$2,050,000	55,000	\$173,000	462,000	\$1,500,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	383,000	183,000	4,550	9,920	253,000	136,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	14,200	18,700	1,560	2,560	15,600	24,200
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	30,100	107,000	2,980	13,900	21,600	102,000
Oxide (gross weight)	125,000	243,000	6,360	19,200	81,800	213,000
Chloride (gross weight)	1,260	1,780	65	327	435	2,440
Sulfate (gross weight)	44,400	34,100	1,740	2,060	20,500	21,600
Compounds, other (gross weight) ²	7,980	9,620	593	1,100	5,080	7,250

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:		
September	5,460	15,300
October	1,900	13,400
November	NA ³	15,500
December	237	15,300
January-December	33,000	XX
2007:		
January	472	14,800
February	590	14,200
March	375	13,900
April	516	13,300
May	957	12,400
June	3,660	8,720
July	NA ³	11,300 ⁴
August	3,190	8,100 ⁴
September	174	7,920 ⁴
January-September	9,940	XX

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.

⁴Total uncommitted inventory. As of July 2007, the Defense National Stockpile Center no longer maintains its inventory by class.

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	
		August	Year to date		August	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	2,850	--	--	2,850	--	--
Canada	2,750	--	31	2,750	--	31
Ireland	17,000	4,550	99,200	17,000	4,550	99,200
Mexico	88,100	--	452	88,100	--	452
Peru	273,000	--	153,000	273,000	--	153,000
Total	383,000	4,550	253,000	383,000	4,550	253,000
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	15,000	--	7,000	47,100	--	8,040
Brazil	8,790	--	1,000	13,000	--	1,000
Canada	535,000	46,000	341,000	535,000	46,000	341,000
China	2,000	--	2,840	57,300	50	8,080
Finland	--	--	--	51	--	374
India	12,200	--	4,190	12,200	--	4,190
Japan	251	--	--	6,200	--	25
Kazakhstan	6,000	--	28,000	6,000	--	28,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	66,800	--	9,140
Mexico	103,000	7,950	61,300	103,000	7,950	61,300
Norway	--	--	--	1,160	--	25
Peru	1,080	980	1,010	1,360	980	1,010
Other	21	1	2	1,740	1	2
Total	683,000	54,900	446,000	851,000	55,000	462,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)						
	31,100	1,350	13,400	31,100	1,350	13,400
Grand total	1,100,000	60,800	713,000	1,270,000	60,800	729,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	49,100	3,600	32,400	49,100	3,600	32,400
China	277	18	281	277	18	281
Germany	800	105	799	800	105	799
Italy	24,500	--	10,100	24,500	--	10,100
Japan	1,290	15	713	1,290	15	713
Mexico	31,900	2,470	21,200	31,900	2,470	21,200
Netherlands	7,820	18	10,700	7,820	18	10,700
Spain	1,150	--	979	1,150	--	979
Sweden	7,500	--	3,800	7,500	--	3,800
Other	618	139	801	618	139	801
Total	125,000	6,360	81,800	125,000	6,360	81,800
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	14,200	1,560	15,600	14,200	1,560	15,600
Sheets	2,050	336	1,330	2,050	336	1,330
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	30,100	2,980	21,600	30,100	2,980	21,600

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.