

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## LEAD IN SEPTEMBER 2007

Domestic mine production of lead, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 34,600 metric tons (t) in September, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Mine production for the first 9 months of 2007 was about 2% above that for the same period in 2006. Secondary refinery production of lead was down about 2% compared with that of the previous month.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average North American producer price increased slightly to \$1.51 per pound compared with that of the previous month. The London Metal Exchange cash price in September averaged \$3,225 per metric ton, about a 3% increase over that of the previous month.

U.S. Silver Corporation (Wallace, ID) started production of lead-silver concentrates at its Coeur mill in Idaho. Discoveries of high-grade lead-silver mineralization in the Galena Mine, approximately 2.4 kilometers away, resulted in the decision to restart the previously idle Coeur mill for processing. The company estimated that lead-silver ore would run through the mill at an initial rate of 90 to 180 metric tons per day (t/d), increasing to 360 t/d by early 2008. Concentrates were scheduled to be shipped to Teck Cominco Ltd.'s smelter in Trail, British Columbia, Canada (U.S. Silver Corporation, 2007).

In Canada, Newalta Income Fund (Calgary, Alberta, Canada) signed a purchase agreement to acquire Nova Pb Inc. Nova

owned Canada's leading integrated lead battery recycling facility in Ville de Sainte-Catherine, Quebec. The facility has the capacity to process up to 200,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of used batteries and up to 100,000 t/yr of recycled lead. Nova had been operating the facility at 50% of capacity at the time of the purchase agreement, so expanded production opportunities existed for Newalta (Newalta Income Fund, 2007).

Yuguang Gold and Lead Group Co. Ltd. in Henan Province, China, the leading refined lead producer in Asia, launched a project that was expected to ultimately produce 100,000 t/yr of lead-acid battery plates. Chinese demand for lead-acid batteries has grown by an annual average of 20% in recent years. This increase has been driven, in part, by the booming electric bicycle market in China (Beijing Antaike Information Development Co., Ltd., 2007).

## References Cited

- Beijing Antaike Information Development Co., Ltd., 2007, Yuguang launches 100,000 tpy bipolar plate project: China Metal Market—Lead, Zinc & Tin Monthly: Beijing, China, no. 129, September, p. 10.
- Newalta Income Fund, 2007, Newalta to acquire Canada's largest lead recycling facility: Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Newalta Income Fund news release, September 12, 2 p.
- U.S. Silver Corporation, 2007, U.S. Silver announces the commencement of lead-silver processing at the Coeur mill: Toronto, Ontario, Canada, U.S. Silver Corporation news release, September 14, 1 p.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2006		2007		
	Year	January- September	August	September	January- September
<b>Production:</b>					
Mine (recoverable)	419,000	321,000 <sup>r</sup>	41,300	34,600	326,000
Primary refinery	153,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Secondary refinery:</b>					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,150,000	851,000	101,000	99,100	875,000
Estimated	--	8,650	1,010	991	8,750
Recovered from copper-base scrap <sup>c</sup>	8,990	11,300	1,250	1,250	11,300
Total secondary	1,160,000	871,000	103,000	101,000	895,000
<b>Stocks, end of period:</b>					
Secondary smelters and consumers	53,700	47,800	54,100	58,700	58,700
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>					
Ore and concentrate	539	400	276	177	1,260
Refined metal	331,000	255,000	21,400	23,000	190,000
<b>Consumption:</b>					
Reported	1,560,000	1,100,000	130,000	128,000	1,150,000
Undistributed <sup>c</sup>	--	34,100	3,910	3,830	34,500
Total	1,560,000	1,140,000	134,000	132,000	1,180,000
<b>Exports:</b>					
Ore and concentrate	298,000	213,000	41,500	38,200	217,000
Bullion	197	177	17	26	132
Wrought and unwrought lead	68,500	53,400	4,520	5,720	38,300
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	9,520	6,880	32	56	2,590
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	121,000	88,900	11,300	11,500	81,800
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	77.40	75.54	149.76	150.65	110.98

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

TABLE 2  
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price cents/lb	LME		Sterling exchange rate dollars/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
<b>2006:</b>				
September	77.11	1,341.51	712.10	1.876500
December	86.31	1,724.38	878.51	1.962855
Year	77.40	1,289.06	651.84	1.977591
<b>2007:</b>				
January	86.71	1,665.34	850.22	1.958719
February	87.11	1,778.56	907.92	1.958947
March	93.82	1,913.11	982.38	1.947427
April	98.53	1,999.78	1,005.98	1.987886
May	99.60	2,099.68	1,058.30	1.984000
June	106.34	2,425.20	1,220.70	1.986729
July	126.28	3,082.76	1,514.52	2.035471
August	149.76	3,118.08	1,550.49	2.011026
September	150.65	3,224.98	1,597.73	2.018479

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	August 31, 2007	receipts		September 30, 2007
Battery-lead	33,700	96,100	99,100	30,800
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other <sup>2</sup>	1,430	8,080	8,620	894
Total	35,100	104,000	108,000	31,700
Percent change from preceding month	XX	-17.7	-11.5	-9.8

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap.

TABLE 4  
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM  
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN SEPTEMBER 2007<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	51,100	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	11,000	(2)	(2)
Other <sup>3</sup>	36,900	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	99,100	138	307

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other."

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

<sup>3</sup>Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5  
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2006		2007		
	Year	January-September	August	September	January-September
<b>Metal products:</b>					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	65,300	58,200	6,340	5,950	58,800
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	2,620	3,580	429	367	3,110
Cable covering, power and communication and cabling lead, building construction	W	6,270	427	485	5,310
Casting metals	29,900	14,600	2,490	2,490	22,400
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	8,560	22,400	748	648	7,160
Solder	7,140	6,100	569	568	5,120
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,400,000	956,000	116,000	114,000	1,010,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products <sup>2</sup>	24,700	1,340	1,390	1,390	12,500
<b>Total metal products</b>	<b>1,530,000</b>	<b>1,070,000</b>	<b>128,000</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>1,130,000</b>
Other oxides and miscellaneous	28,500	34,100	2,340	2,330	21,000
<b>Total reported</b>	<b>1,560,000</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>128,000</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>
Undistributed <sup>c</sup>	--	34,100	3,910	3,830	34,500
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,560,000</b>	<b>1,140,000</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>1,180,000</b>

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Metal products: Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products." -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes lead consumed in foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

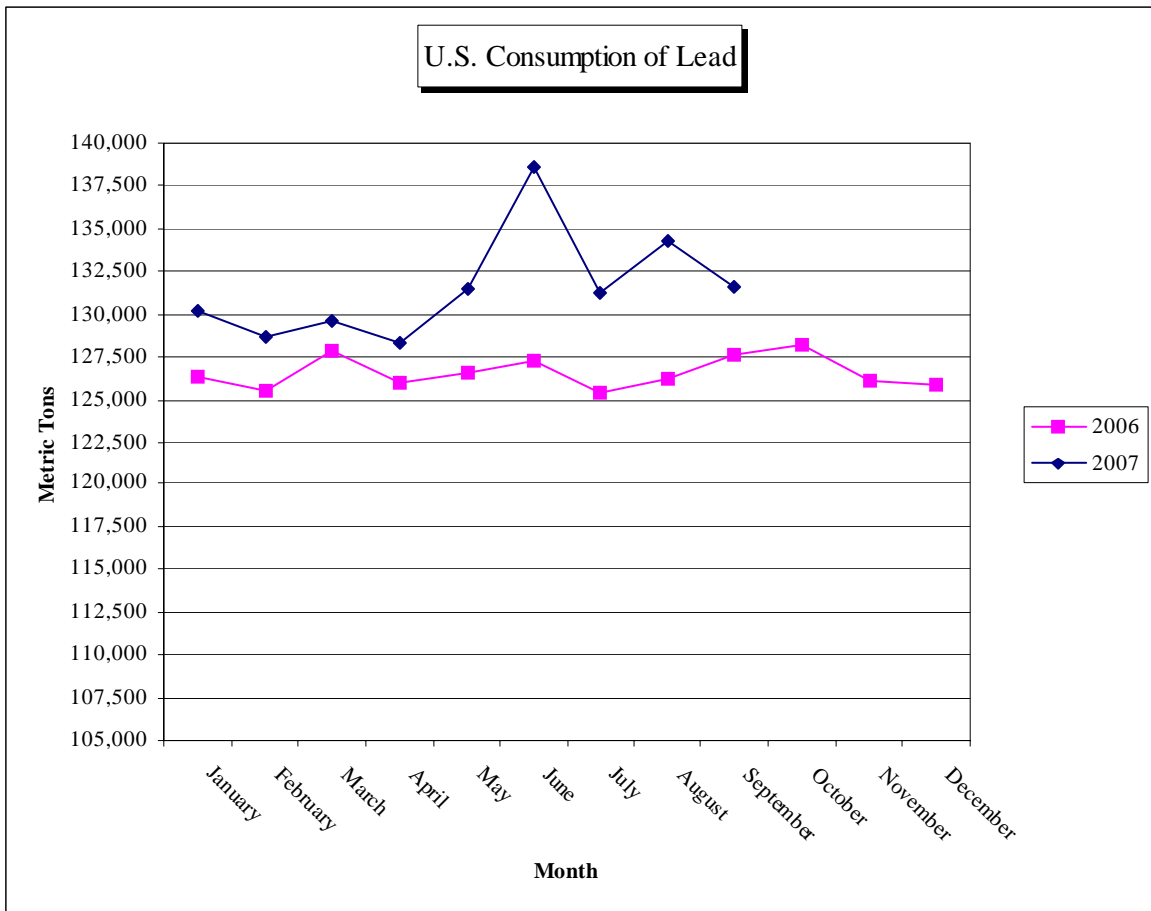


TABLE 6  
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks		Consumption	Stocks September 30, 2007
	August 31, 2007	Net receipts		
Soft lead	37,400	73,700	73,200	37,900
Antimonial lead	9,970	27,400	25,600	11,700
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	54,100	132,000	128,000	58,700

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2006		2007		
	September	Year	August	January-	
				September	September
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	67,300	298,000	41,500	38,200	217,000
Bullion	2	197	17	26	132
Materials excluding scrap	3,860	68,500	4,520	5,720	38,300
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,730	9,520	32	56	2,590
Total	72,900	376,000	46,100	44,000	258,000
Gross weight: Scrap	13,400	121,000	11,300	11,500	81,800

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS OF LEAD BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2006		2007			2006		2007		
	Year	January- September	August	September	September	Year	January- September	August	September	September
Base bullion:										
Canada	449	400	--	--	--	449	400	--	--	--
Other	90	--	276	177	1,260	90	--	276	177	1,260
Total	539	400	276	177	1,260	539	400	276	177	1,260
Pigs and bars:										
Australia	9,230	9,230	--	--	--	9,230	9,230	--	--	--
Canada	222,000	161,000	16,100	18,200	154,000	222,000	161,000	16,100	18,200	154,000
Mexico	15,800	12,200	2,000	2,810	22,100	15,800	12,200	2,000	2,810	22,100
Peru	34,600	26,300	3,240	1,920	13,500	34,600	26,300	3,240	1,920	13,500
Other	49,800	45,900	100	102	602	49,800	45,900	100	102	602
Total	331,000	255,000	21,400	23,000	190,000	331,000	255,000	21,400	23,000	190,000
Grand total	332,000	255,000	21,700	23,200	192,000	332,000	255,000	21,700	23,200	192,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.