

Mineral Industry Surveys

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LEAD IN OCTOBER 2007

Domestic mine production of lead, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 35,200 metric tons in October, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Mine production for the first 10 months of 2007 was slightly above that for the same period in 2006. Secondary refinery production of lead was up about 3% compared with that of the previous month.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average North American producer price increased to \$1.63 per pound, about an 8% increase from that of the previous month. The London Metal Exchange cash price in October averaged \$3,719 per metric ton, about a 15% increase from that of the previous month.

C&D Technologies, Inc. (Blue Bell, PA) completed the sale of certain motive power division assets in the United States and Canada to Crown Battery Manufacturing Company (Fremont, OH). In addition, C&D entered into a 5-year agreement to market three of Crown's industrial battery product lines while Crown became the authorized warranty service provider for C&D's existing motive battery customers. C&D further announced that it planned to focus exclusively on the company's standby battery power business (C&D Technologies, Inc., 2007).

North American shipments of replacement lead-acid auto batteries from January through August rose 2.8% to 63.5 million units when compared with those of the same period in 2006 according to a report issued by the Battery Council International (Chicago, IL). Conversely, shipments of original equipment lead-acid auto batteries decreased by 4.59% to 13.8 million units during the same timeframe (Ryan's Notes, 2007).

In China, Yuguang Gold and Lead Group Co. Ltd. (Henan Province, China) postponed a project that would have significantly increased production of primary refined lead and secondary lead. The two-phase expansion plan, originally expected to start in the second half of 2007, was to ultimately have increased production capacities of primary refined lead and secondary lead by 200,000 metric tons per year each (Platts Metals Week, 2007).

Exide Industries Limited (Kolkata, India), India's leading producer of lead-acid batteries, acquired lead smelter Tandon Metals Private Ltd. (American Metal Market, 2007b). Earlier in the month, Exide Industries had announced plans to boost its use of scrap and cut its lead imports by nearly 50% by the end of the first quarter of 2008 (American Metal Market, 2007a).

References Cited

- American Metal Market, 2007a, Exide Industries planning to chop lead imports in half, rely on scrap: American Metal Market, v. 115, no. 42-3, October 24, p. 10.
- American Metal Market, 2007b, India's Exide buys smelter to cut its dependence on imported lead: American Metal Market, v. 115, no. 43-4, November 1, p. 9.
- C&D Technologies, Inc., 2007, C&D Technologies sells assets of motive power division to Crown Battery Manufacturing Company: Blue Bell, PA, C&D Technologies, Inc. news release, October 24, 2 p.
- Platts Metals Week, 2007, Yuguang stalls lead expansion; 2007 output 310,000 mt: Platts Metals Week, v. 78, no. 42, October 15, p. 6.
- Ryan's Notes, 2007, Lead and zinc notes: Ryan's Notes, v. 13, no. 41, October 15, p. 6.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2006		2007		
	Year	January- October	September	October	January- October
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	419,000	359,000	34,600	35,200	361,000
Primary refinery	153,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,150,000	947,000	99,100	102,000	976,000
Estimated	--	9,570	991	1,020	9,760
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^c	8,990	12,500	1,250	1,250	12,500
Total secondary	1,160,000	969,000	101,000	104,000	999,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Secondary smelters and consumers	53,700	48,900	58,700	56,500	56,500
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrate	539	400	177	155	1,410
Refined metal	331,000	286,000	23,000	28,100	219,000
Consumption:					
Reported	1,560,000	1,230,000	128,000	133,000	1,280,000
Undistributed ^c	--	38,000	3,830	4,000	38,500
Total	1,560,000	1,270,000	132,000	137,000	1,320,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	298,000	264,000	38,200	39,700	256,000
Bullion	197	187	26	--	132
Wrought and unwrought lead	68,500	60,000	5,720	6,220	44,500
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	9,520	8,190	56	17	2,610
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	121,000	100,000	11,500	17,200	99,000
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	77.40	75.98	150.65	163.18	116.20

^cEstimated. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Data 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	
2006:				
October	79.95	1,530.60	815.67	1.876500
December	86.31	1,724.38	878.51	1.962855
Year	77.40	1,289.06	651.84	1.977591
2007:				
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
October	163.18	3,718.51	1,818.38	2.044955

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	September 30, 2007	receipts		October 31, 2007
Battery-lead	30,800	109,000	114,000	26,100
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	895 ^r	8,430	8,630	700
Total	31,700	117,000	122,000	26,800
Percent change from preceding month	XX	+12.7	+13.6	-15.3

¹Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes 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 OCTOBER 2007¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	52,500	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	14,000	(2)	(2)
Other ³	35,200	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	102,000	139	303

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

-- Zero.

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

²Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

³Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2006			2007	
	Year	January- October	September	October	January- October
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	65,300	63,900	5,950	6,180	64,900
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	2,620	3,950	367	368	3,470
Cable covering, power and communication and calking lead, building construction	W	7,110	485	503	5,810
Casting metals	29,900	16,200	2,490	2,500	24,900
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	8,560	25,300	648	676	7,830
Solder	7,140	6,770	568	569	5,690
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,400,000	1,070,000	114,000	119,000	1,130,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	24,700	1,490	1,390	1,390	13,900
Total metal products	1,530,000	1,190,000	125,000	131,000	1,260,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	28,500	37,900	2,330	2,330	23,300
Total reported	1,560,000	1,230,000	128,000	133,000	1,280,000
Undistributed ^e	--	38,000	3,830	4,000	38,500
Grand total	1,560,000	1,270,000	132,000	137,000	1,320,000

^eEstimated. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Metal products: Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products." -- Zero.

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

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

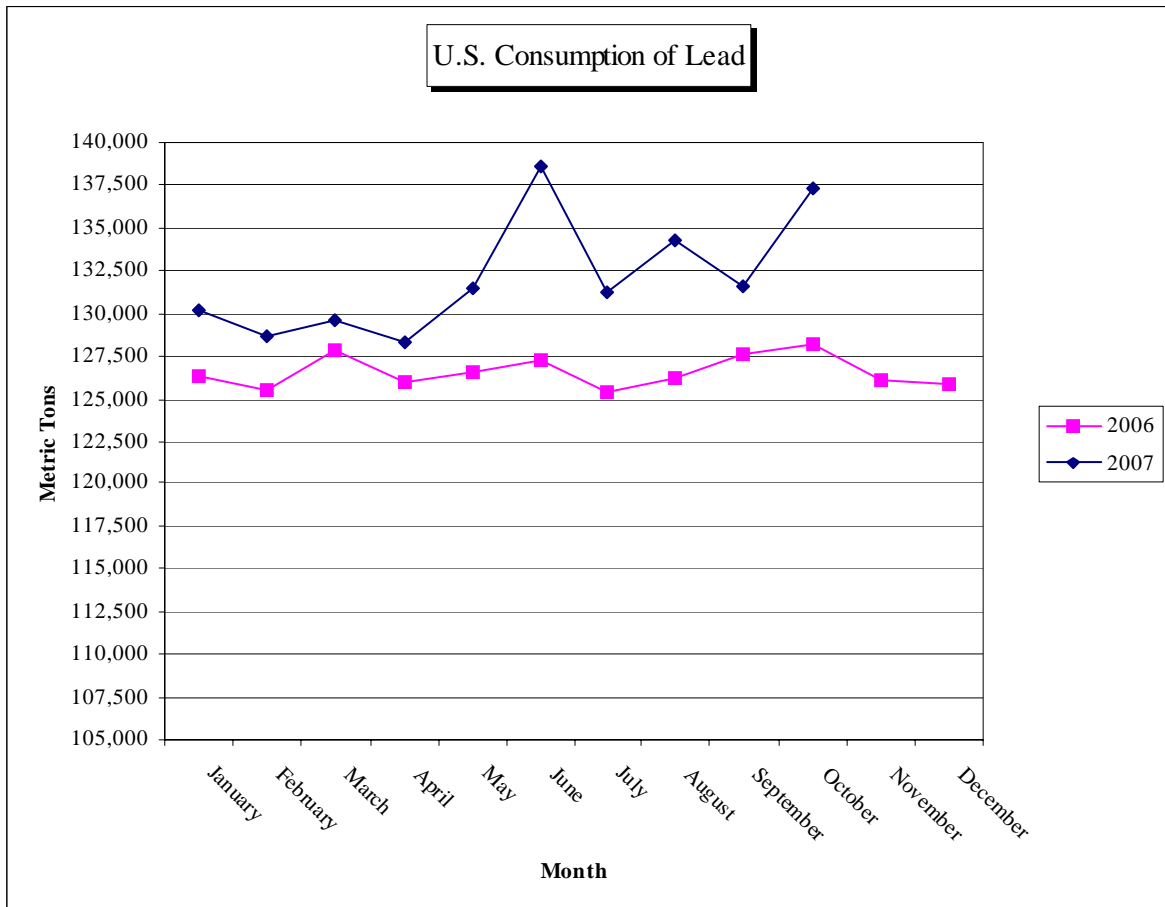


TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks		Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks
	September 30, 2007	October 31, 2007			
Soft lead	37,900		73,500	75,900	35,600
Antimonial lead	11,700		27,100	26,700	12,200
Lead alloys	W		W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W		W	W	W
Total	58,700		131,000	133,000	56,500

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

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

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS¹

(Metric tons)

	2006		2007		
	October	Year	September	October	January-October
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	50,700	298,000	38,200	39,700	256,000
Bullion	10	197	26	--	132
Materials excluding scrap	6,550	68,500	5,720	6,220	44,500
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,310	9,520	56	17	2,610
Total	58,500	376,000	44,000	45,900	304,000
Gross weight: Scrap	11,200	121,000	11,500	17,200	99,000

-- Zero.

¹Data 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 ORIGIN¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2006		2007			2006		2007		
	Year	January-October	September	October	January-October	Year	January-October	September	October	January-October
Base bullion:										
Canada	449	400	--	--	--	449	400	--	--	--
Other	90	--	177	155	1,410	90	--	177	155	1,410
Total	539	400	177	155	1,410	539	400	177	155	1,410
Pigs and bars:										
Australia	9,230	9,230	--	--	--	9,230	9,230	--	--	--
Canada	222,000	186,000	18,200	22,100	176,000	222,000	186,000	18,200	22,100	176,000
Mexico	15,800	13,400	2,810	5,070	27,200	15,800	13,400	2,810	5,070	27,200
Peru	34,600	28,200	1,920	1,000	14,500	34,600	28,200	1,920	1,000	14,500
Other	49,800	49,700	102	21	623	49,800	49,700	102	21	623
Total	331,000	286,000	23,000	28,100	219,000	331,000	286,000	23,000	28,100	219,000
Grand total	332,000	287,000	23,200	28,300	220,000	332,000	287,000	23,200	28,300	220,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.