

Mineral Industry Surveys

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LEAD IN DECEMBER 2007

Domestic mine production of lead, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 29,600 metric tons in December, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Secondary refinery production of lead was down about 9% compared with that of the previous month.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average North American producer price in December was \$1.61 per pound, down slightly from that of the previous month. The London Metal Exchange cash price in December averaged \$2,595 per metric ton, about a 22% decrease from that of the previous month.

Exide Technologies (Alpharetta, GA) announced plans to increase production capacity at its transportation manufacturing facility in Gujarat, India. The company planned to invest in equipment upgrades, line expansions, infrastructure, and utilities at the plant. The project was expected to be completed by June 2008 and was to increase production capacity from 600,000 to 1 million lead-acid batteries per year. This move was part of Exide's overall strategy focused on taking advantage of growth opportunities in India and China (Exide Technologies, 2007).

In Portugal, Lundin Mining Corporation (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) announced that production had restarted at the Aljustrel Mine. The mine had been on care-and-maintenance

status for the previous 14 years. Lundin was expecting the mine to ultimately produce 17,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of contained lead when it reached full production in the first quarter of 2009 (Lundin Mining Corporation, 2007).

In Qinghai Province, China, West Mining Co., Ltd. (Shanghai) and Yuguang Gold and Lead Technology Co., Ltd. (Beijing) announced that they would collaborate on the construction of a new lead smelting plant. Upon completion, the new smelter was expected to have enough capacity to produce 100,000 t/yr of refined lead. Construction of the plant was estimated to take at least 18 months and cost \$13.5 million (Beijing Antaike Information Development Co., Ltd., 2007).

References Cited

- Beijing Antaike Information Development Co., Ltd., 2007, Two listed companies to join hands in launching a 100,000tpy crude lead smelter: China Metal Market—Lead, Zinc & Tin Monthly, no. 132, December, p. 6.
- Exide Technologies, 2007, Exide Technologies announces capacity expansion at Tudor India location: Alpharetta, GA, Exide Technologies news release, December 13, 2 p.
- Lundin Mining Corporation, 2007, Lundin mining commences production at the Aljustrel mine: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Lundin Mining Corporation news release, December 18, 2 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2006		2007		
	Year	January- December	November	December	January- December
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	419,000	453,000	31,500	29,600 ^e	427,000 ^e
Primary refinery	153,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,150,000	1,140,000	101,000	92,500	1,170,000
Estimated	--	11,500	1,020	925	11,700
Recovered from copper-base scrap ^e	8,990	13,800	1,250	1,250	15,000
Total secondary	1,160,000	1,160,000	104,000	94,600	1,200,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Secondary smelters and consumers	53,700	50,900	59,100	63,000	63,000
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrate	539	539	256	316	1,990
Refined metal	331,000	331,000 ^f	23,100	22,800	264,000
Consumption:					
Reported	1,560,000	1,460,000	128,000	128,000	1,540,000
Undistributed ^e	--	45,300	3,850	3,830	46,200
Total	1,560,000	1,510,000	132,000	132,000	1,590,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	298,000	298,000	24,500	18,900	300,000
Bullion	197	197	16	23	170
Wrought and unwrought lead	68,500	68,500	5,800	6,030	56,400
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	9,520	9,520	62	68	2,740
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	121,000	121,000	15,000	14,800	129,000
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	77.40	77.40	163.42	160.63	123.84

^eEstimated. ^fRevised. 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:				
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
November	163.42	3,327.01	1,606.69	2.070720
December	160.63	2,595.28	1,287.31	2.016050

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks		Consumption	Stocks
	November 30, 2007	Net receipts		December 31, 2007
Battery-lead	24,300	97,400	97,200	24,500
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other ²	529	8,180	7,820	895
Total	24,800	106,000	105,000	25,300
Percent change from preceding month	XX	-9.2	-11.1	+2.1

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

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

²Includes 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 DECEMBER 2007¹

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	47,300	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	11,400	(2)	(2)
Other ³	33,700	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	92,500	138	296

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-December	November	December	January-December
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	65,300	69,100	5,120	5,010	75,100
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	2,620	3,110	399	365	4,240
Cable covering, power and communication and cabling lead, building construction	W	7,490	626	685	7,120
Casting metals	29,900	19,500	2,490	2,490	29,900
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	8,560	30,100	619	434	8,890
Solder	7,140	8,060	568	570	6,830
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,400,000	1,280,000	115,000	114,000	1,360,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products ²	24,700	1,770	1,390	1,390	16,600
Total metal products	1,530,000	1,420,000	126,000	125,000	1,510,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	28,500	45,300	2,330	2,330	28,000
Total reported	1,560,000	1,460,000	128,000	128,000	1,540,000
Undistributed ^c	--	45,300	3,850	3,830	46,200
Grand total	1,560,000	1,510,000	132,000	132,000	1,590,000

^aEstimated. 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.

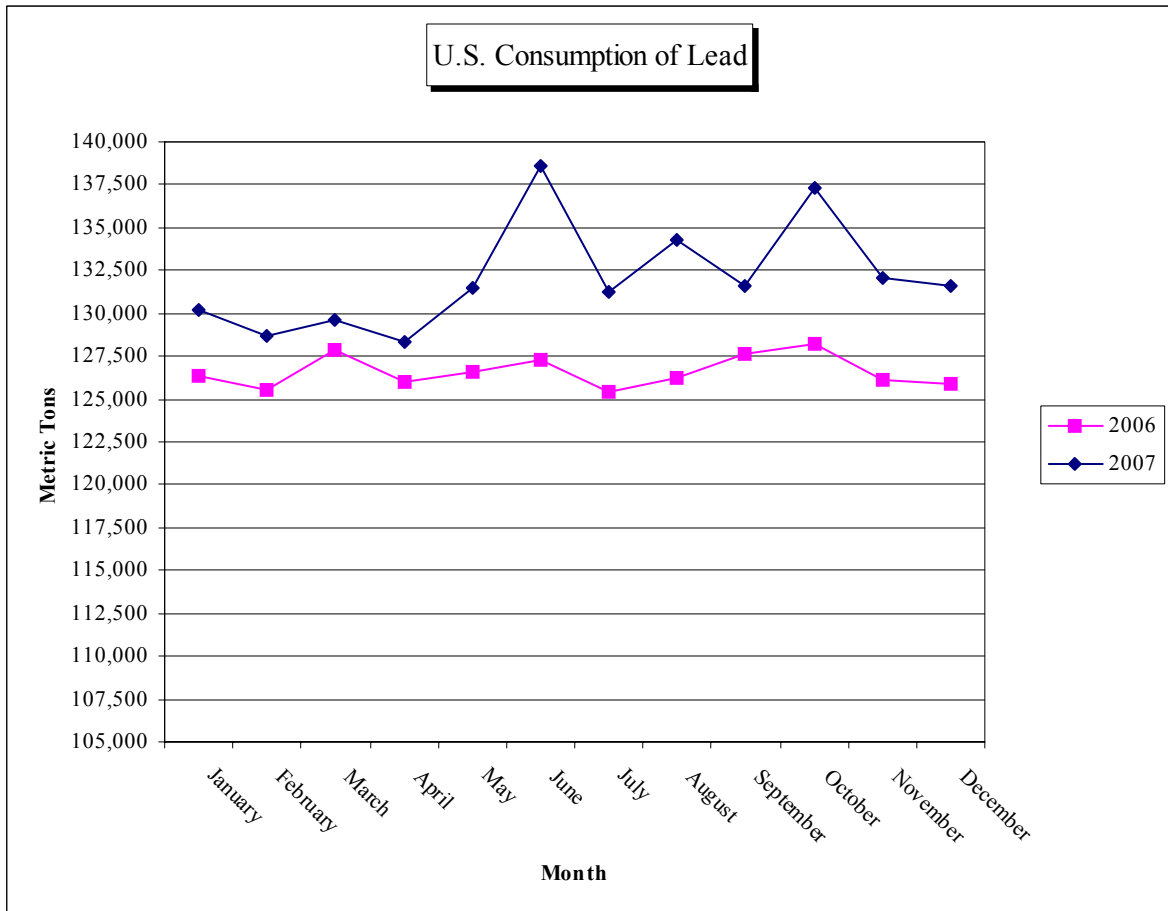


TABLE 6
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD¹

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks		Consumption	Stocks
	November 30, 2007	Net receipts		December 31, 2007
Soft lead	36,600	73,700	73,800	36,500
Antimonial lead	13,300	26,500	24,800	15,100
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	59,100	132,000	128,000	63,000

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		November	December	January-
	December	Year			December
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	10,800	298,000	24,500	18,900	300,000
Bullion	--	197	16	23	170
Materials excluding scrap	2,370	68,500	5,800	6,030	56,400
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	834	9,520	62	68	2,740
Total	14,000	376,000	30,300	25,000	359,000
Gross weight: Scrap	9,770	121,000	15,000	14,800	129,000

-- 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			
	2007				2007			
	2006	November	December	January- December	2006	November	December	January- December
Base bullion:								
Canada	449	--	--	--	449	--	--	--
Other	90	256	316	1,990	90	256	316	1,990
Total	539	256	316	1,990	539	256	316	1,990
Pigs and bars:								
Australia	9,230	--	--	--	9,230	--	--	--
Canada	222,000	14,900	17,300	208,000	222,000	14,900	17,300	208,000
Mexico	15,800	3,870	4,560	35,600	15,800	3,870	4,560	35,600
Peru	34,600	1,430	623	16,500	34,600	1,430	623	16,500
Other	49,800	2,940	300	3,860	49,800	2,940	300	3,860
Total	331,000	23,100	22,800	264,000	331,000	23,100	22,800	264,000
Grand total	332,000	23,400	23,100	266,000	332,000	23,400	23,100	266,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.