

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## LEAD IN APRIL 2008

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of lead in April was 33,000 metric tons (t), according to data compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in April was 1,100 t, about 6% lower than that in March. Year-to-date mine production through April 2008 was around 3% higher than that of the same period of 2007. Secondary refinery production of lead decreased slightly compared with that of the previous month.

According to Platts Metals Week, the average North American producer price for lead in April was \$1.46 per pound, slightly lower than that of the previous month. The London Metal Exchange cash price in April averaged \$2,822 per metric ton, down about 6% from that of the previous month.

The International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG) forecast that the global supply of refined lead would exceed demand by 28,000 t in 2008. The group estimated that demand for refined lead in the United States in 2008 was expected to remain at the same level as that of the previous year and decline slightly in Europe. Conversely, strong growth in demand for refined lead was forecast for China, India, and the Republic of Korea in 2008, leading to an overall increase in global consumption of around 4%. On the supply side, ILZSG forecast that global lead mine production was expected to increase by around 8% in 2008. Global production of refined lead was predicted to increase by 4%, owing primarily to production increases in China. The group also had expected that Chinese refined lead exports would decline owing to less favorable tax incentives as well as increased domestic demand (International Lead and Zinc Study Group, 2008).

Exide Technologies (Alpharetta, GA) announced a new supply agreement with Toyota Motor Engineering and

Manufacturing North America. Exide was to begin shipping lead-acid batteries for Toyota's next generations of Corolla and Matrix automobiles that were to be assembled in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. According to the agreement, Exide was expected to provide 244,000 batteries per year, and the batteries were to be manufactured at Exide's Bristol, TN, facility. Exide had been supplying batteries for several other lines of Toyota's North American-produced automobiles and sport utility vehicles (Exide Technologies, 2008).

Teck Cominco Ltd. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) announced that first quarter production of lead in concentrate at its Red Dog zinc-lead mine in Alaska had increased by 9% to 35,500 t when compared with production in the same period in 2007. According to the company, the increase had been attributed to production of significantly higher grade ore during the first quarter. Teck also reported that production of refined lead at its Trail smelter in British Columbia had increased 19% to 25,600 t during same time period (Teck Cominco Ltd., 2008, p. 14-15).

## References Cited

- Exide Technologies, 2008, Exide technologies supplying batteries for next-generation Toyota Corolla and Matrix vehicles: Alpharetta, GA, Exide Technologies news release, March 18, 2 p.
- International Lead and Zinc Study Group, 2008, ILZSG spring 2008 meetings/forecast: Lisbon, Portugal, International Lead and Zinc Study Group news release, April 24, 4 p.
- Teck Cominco Ltd., 2008, Teck Cominco reports first quarter results for 2008: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Teck Cominco Ltd. news release, April 21, 38 p.

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

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2007		2008		
	Year	January- April	March	April	January- April
<b>Production:</b>					
Mine (recoverable)	434,000	140,000 <sup>r</sup>	36,100	33,000	144,000
<b>Secondary refinery:</b>					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,170,000	383,000	99,900	98,800	397,000
Estimated	11,700	3,870	999	988	3,970
Recovered from copper-base scrap <sup>c</sup>	15,000	5,000	1,250	1,250	5,000
Total secondary	1,200,000	392,000	102,000	101,000	406,000
<b>Stocks, end of period:</b>					
Secondary smelters and consumers	63,100	48,500	53,600	50,700	50,700
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>					
Base bullion	1,990	613	176	543	857
Refined metal	264,000	78,600	28,300	27,800	107,000
<b>Consumption:</b>					
Reported	1,500,000	498,000	126,000	132,000	526,000
Undistributed <sup>c</sup>	45,100	15,400	3,790	3,800	15,600
Total	1,550,000	514,000	130,000	135,000	541,000
<b>Exports:</b>					
Ore and concentrate	300,000	42,300	5,500	8,570	32,100
Bullion	170	48	35	167	237
Wrought and unwrought lead	56,400	16,900	4,560	5,160	22,800
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,740	2,410	355	190	992
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	129,000	31,700	19,100	17,100	74,200
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	123.84	91.54	146.60	145.91	147.36

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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>2007:</b>				
April	98.53	1,999.78	1,005.98	1.987886
December	160.63	2,595.28	1,287.31	2.016050
Year	123.84	2,579.02	1,288.41	2.001715
<b>2008:</b>				
January	150.03	2,606.85	1,323.11	1.970238
February	146.88	3,078.82	1,567.15	1.964600
March	146.60	3,007.29	1,502.54	2.001467
April	145.91	2,821.68	1,423.96	1.981568

Source: Platts Metals Week.

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

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	March 31, 2008	receipts		April 30, 2008
Battery-lead	19,700	113,000	96,000	36,400
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other <sup>2</sup>	955	7,630	6,890	1,700
Total	20,600	120,000	103,000	38,100
Percent change from preceding month	XX	+11.1	-6.8	+84.6

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 APRIL 2008<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	52,500	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	10,500	(2)	(2)
Other <sup>3</sup>	35,800	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	98,800	138	275

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	2007		2008		January- April
	January- December	January- April	March	April	
<b>Metal products:</b>					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	75,400	27,200	6,240	6,570	25,400
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	3,190	1,110	323	325	1,320
Cable covering, power and communication and calking lead, building construction	8,020	3,270	626	805	2,680
Casting metals	29,900	6,500	2,640	2,650	10,600
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	29,700	13,300	2,480	2,290	9,340
Solder	7,000	2,600	587	587	2,350
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,300,000	428,000	110,000	115,000	461,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products <sup>2</sup>	16,700	586	1,310	1,400	5,420
<b>Total metal products</b>	<b>1,470,000</b>	<b>483,000</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>518,000</b>
Other oxides and miscellaneous	28,000	15,100	1,960	1,960	7,880
<b>Total reported</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>498,000</b>	<b>126,000</b>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>526,000</b>
Undistributed <sup>c</sup>	45,100	15,400	3,790	3,800	15,600
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>514,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>135,000</b>	<b>541,000</b>

<sup>c</sup>Estimated.

<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.

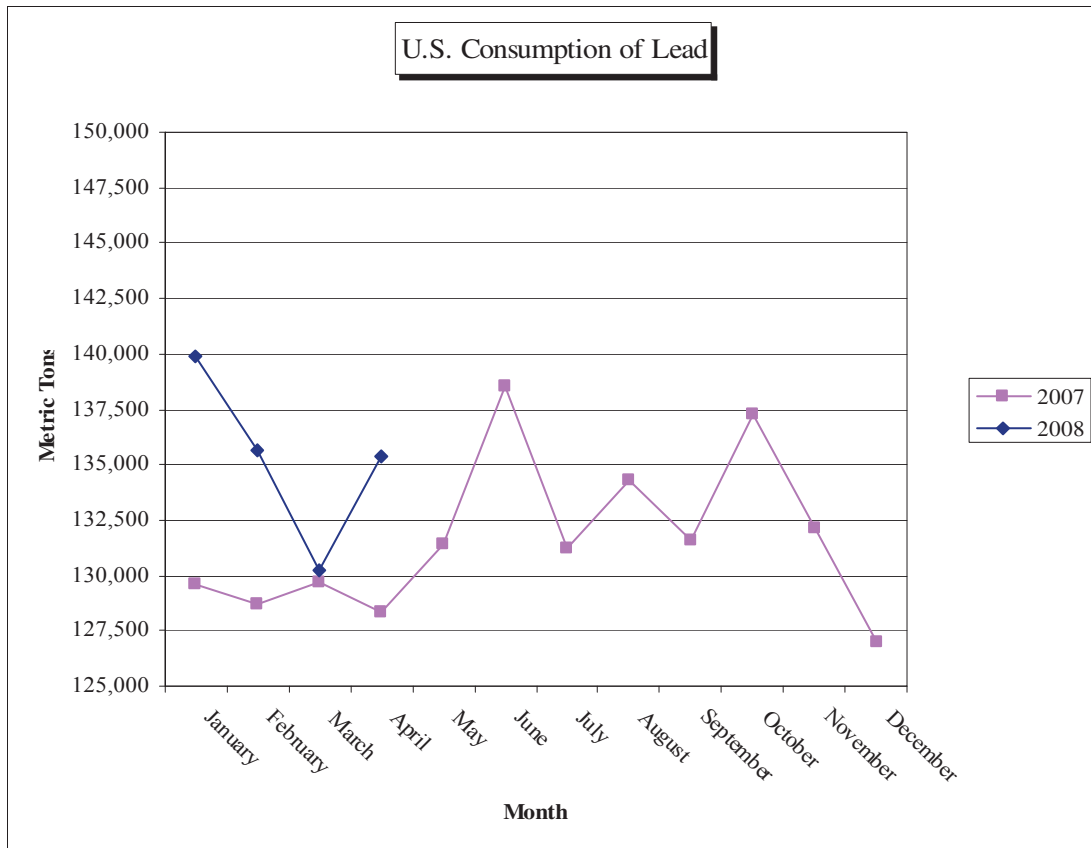


TABLE 6  
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks		Consumption	Stocks
	March 31, 2008	Net receipts		April 30, 2008
Soft lead	26,700	71,500	71,700	26,500
Antimonial lead	16,200	27,000	27,300	15,900
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	53,600	129,000	132,000	50,700

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)

	2007		2008		
	April	Year	March	April	January- April
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	8,910	300,000	5,500	8,570	32,100
Bullion	14	170	35	167	237
Materials excluding scrap	5,220	56,400	4,560	5,160	22,800
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	146	2,740	355	190	992
Total	14,300	359,000	10,400	14,100	56,100
Gross weight: Scrap	8,370	129,000	19,100	17,100	74,200

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to 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				
	2007		2008			2007		2008		
	Year	January- April	March	April	January- April	Year	January- April	March	April	January- April
Ore, matte, etc.:										
Canada	--	--	--	--	41	--	--	--	--	41
Mexico	--	--	--	199	206	--	--	--	199	206
Total	--	--	--	199	247	--	--	--	199	247
Base bullion:										
Colombia	1,860	--	39	44	200	1,860	--	39	44	200
Mexico	--	--	137	499	636	--	--	137	499	636
Other	127	613	--	--	20	127	613	--	--	20
Total	1,990	613	176	543	857	1,990	613	176	543	857
Pigs and bars:										
Canada	208,000	65,500	21,700	18,100	80,600	208,000	65,500	21,700	18,100	80,600
Mexico	35,600	--	4,950	5,800	17,400	35,600	--	4,950	5,800	17,400
Peru	16,500	5,080	494	1,980	4,620	16,500	5,080	494	1,980	4,620
Other	3,860	7,950	1,170	1,890	3,950	3,860	7,950	1,170	1,890	3,950
Total	264,000	78,600	28,300	27,800	107,000	264,000	78,600	28,300	27,800	107,000
Grand total	266,000	79,200	28,400	28,500	108,000	266,000	79,200	28,400	28,500	108,000

-- 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.