

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JULY 2007

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in July 2007 was 63,800 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in July was 2,060 t, 4% lower than that in June 2007 and 1% lower than that in July 2006. Year-to-date mine production for 2007 was 6% higher than that of 2006.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade Zinc for the month of July was 167.11 cents per pound, 2% lower than the June average price but an increase of 2% from the July 2006 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of zinc for June decreased to \$3,545.58 per metric ton, 2% lower than the average price in June but a 6% increase compared with the

average price in July 2006. During July 2007, global LME zinc stocks fell by approximately 6,180 t to 66,230 t.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in July, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was approximately 480 t (529 short tons), with an approximate value of \$1.77 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2007).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2007, Stockpile announces BOA sales for July 2007: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, August 6, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2006	2007		
	January- December	June	July	January- July
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	727,000	66,500	66,200	447,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	699,000	64,100	63,800	427,000
Smelter, refined zinc ²	252,000	22,000	22,000 ^e	150,000
Consumption:				
Refined zinc, reported	419,000	23,500	22,300	176,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	732	61	61	427
Zinc-base scrap ³ (zinc content)	187,000	15,600 ^e	15,600 ^e	109,000 ^e
Copper-base scrap ³ (zinc content)	159,000	13,300 ^e	13,300 ^e	92,800 ^e
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^{3,4} (zinc content)	520	43 ^e	43 ^e	303 ^e
Total ^e	766,000	52,500	51,200	379,000
Apparent consumption, metal ⁵	1,130,000	80,200	NA	487,000 ⁶
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:				
Producer and consumer ⁷	XX	34,000	35,200	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	33,000	3,660	NA ⁸	6,570
Imports for consumption:				
Refined (slab) zinc	851,000	55,900	NA	358,000 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	125,000	8,450	NA	63,000 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	383,000	5,140	NA	242,000 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	14,200	1,300	NA	10,900 ⁶
Exports:				
Refined (slab) zinc	2,530	603	NA	7,060 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	28,800	2,820	NA	16,900 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	825,000	23,100	NA	140,000 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	83,800	9,570	NA	52,100 ⁶
Price:				
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	3,274.42	3,602.85	3,545.58	3,557.14
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	158.89	170.92	167.11	170.58

^eEstimated. 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 June 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		
July	20,500	21,600
August	20,500	21,600
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 ^e	22,000	23,400
January-July	150,000	161,000

^eEstimated.

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	May	June	January-June
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	477,000	33,700	36,700	215,000
Other	159,000	11,700	12,200	73,100
Total	636,000	45,400	48,900	288,000
Brass and bronze	172,000	13,400	13,600	82,000
Zinc-base alloy	238,000	10,700	11,100	75,000
Other uses ²	85,600	7,200	6,510	41,600
Grand total	1,130,000	76,700	80,200	487,000

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 American ¢/lb.	LME ² cash	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2006:			
July	163.73	151.45	3,338.80
August	163.83	151.77	3,346.00
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
January-July	170.58	161.35	3,557.14

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2007					
	2006		June		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	603	\$578	7,060	\$5,420
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	825,000	1,060,000	23,100	32,800	140,000	177,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	83,800	95,800	9,570	9,450	52,100	53,500
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	16,400	33,300	1,560	3,080	10,500	21,100
Oxide (gross weight)	28,800	47,900	2,820	5,100	16,900	32,100
Chloride (gross weight)	1,510	1,930	128	151	1,040	1,280
Sulfate (gross weight)	42,800	22,500	1	3	84	236
Compounds, other (gross weight) ²	1,740	3,750	468	879	2,980	4,820

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)	June		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	851,000	\$2,050,000	55,900	\$180,000	358,000	\$1,180,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	383,000	183,000	5,140	11,700	242,000	112,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	14,200	18,700	1,300	2,360	10,900	17,800
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	30,100	107,000	2,400	11,700	15,100	71,600
Oxide (gross weight)	125,000	243,000	8,450	21,200	63,000	164,000
Chloride (gross weight)	1,260	1,780	62	292	289	1,670
Sulfate (gross weight)	44,400	34,100	1,770	2,080	15,200	16,200
Compounds, other (gross weight) ²	7,980	9,620	540	824	3,930	5,330

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
STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory ²
2006:		
July	994	24,500
August	3,690	20,800
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 ⁴	NA ³	11,300
January-July	6,570	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	
		June	Year to date		June	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	2,850	--	--	2,850	--	--
Canada	2,750	--	31	2,750	--	31
Ireland	17,000	--	94,600	17,000	--	94,600
Mexico	88,100	--	452	88,100	--	452
Peru	273,000	5,140	147,000	273,000	5,140	147,000
Total	383,000	5,140	242,000	383,000	5,140	242,000
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	15,000	--	7,000	47,100	125	8,040
Brazil	8,790	--	1,000	13,000	--	1,000
Canada	535,000	47,200	252,000	535,000	47,200	252,000
China	2,000	--	2,840	57,300	46	8,030
Finland	--	--	--	51	--	374
India	12,200	--	4,150	12,200	--	4,150
Japan	251	--	--	6,200	25	25
Kazakhstan	6,000	--	28,000	6,000	--	28,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	66,800	25	9,140
Mexico	103,000	8,510	47,900	103,000	8,510	47,900
Norway	--	--	--	1,160	--	25
Peru	1,080	--	--	1,360	--	--
Other	21	1	1	1,740	1	1
Total	683,000	55,700	343,000	851,000	55,900	358,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)						
	31,100	1,480	11,000	31,100	1,480	11,000
Grand total	1,100,000	62,300	596,000	1,270,000	62,600	612,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	49,100	4,840	24,800	49,100	4,840	24,800
China	277	2	216	277	2	216
Germany	800	60	563	800	60	563
Italy	24,500	--	5,050	24,500	--	5,050
Japan	1,290	204	685	1,290	204	685
Mexico	31,900	2,650	16,300	31,900	2,650	16,300
Netherlands	7,820	647	10,000	7,820	647	10,000
Spain	1,150	--	979	1,150	--	979
Sweden	7,500	--	3,800	7,500	--	3,800
Other	618	52	602	618	52	602
Total	125,000	8,450	63,000	125,000	8,450	63,000
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	14,200	1,300	10,900	14,200	1,300	10,900
Sheets	2,050	248	632	2,050	248	632
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	30,100	2,400	15,100	30,100	2,400	15,100

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.