

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN AUGUST 2007

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in August 2007 was 69,500 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in August was 2,240 t, 10% higher than that in July 2007 and 13% higher than that in August 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 August was 152.67 cents per pound, 9% lower than the July average price and a decrease of 7% from the August 2006 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of zinc for August was \$3,250.58 per metric ton, 8% lower than the average price in July and a 3% decrease compared with the

average price in August 2006. During August 2007, global LME zinc stocks fell by 850 t to 65,375 t.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in August, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was approximately 73 t (81 short tons), with an approximate value of \$171,000 (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2007).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2007, Stockpile announces BOA sales for August 2007: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, September 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2006	2007		
	January- December	July	August	January- August
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	727,000	65,500	72,200	516,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	699,000	63,100	69,500	493,000
Smelter, refined zinc ²	252,000	22,100	22,100	172,000
Consumption:				
Refined zinc, reported	419,000	22,300	22,600	199,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	732	61	61	488
Zinc-base scrap ³ (zinc content)	178,000 ^r	14,800 ^{e,r}	14,800 ^e	119,000 ^e
Copper-base scrap ³ (zinc content)	163,000 ^r	13,600 ^{e,r}	13,600 ^e	109,000 ^e
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^{3,4} (zinc content)	520	43 ^e	43 ^e	346 ^e
Total ^e	761,000 ^r	50,800 ^r	51,100	427,000
Apparent consumption, metal ⁵	1,130,000	70,800	NA	558,000 ⁶
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:				
Producer and consumer ⁷	XX	34,000	32,800	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	33,000	NA ⁸	3,190	9,760
Imports for consumption:				
Refined (slab) zinc	851,000	48,900	NA	407,000 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	125,000	12,400	NA	75,500 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	383,000	6,110	NA	249,000 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	14,200	3,100	NA	14,000 ⁶
Exports:				
Refined (slab) zinc	2,530	123	NA	7,180 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	28,800	3,620	NA	20,500 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	825,000	95,500	NA	236,000 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	83,800	8,130	NA	60,200 ⁶
Price:				
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	3,274.42	3,545.58	3,250.58	3,518.82
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	158.89	167.11	152.67	168.34

^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 July 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		
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	22,100	21,300
August	22,100	21,300
January-August	172,000	180,000

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- July
	January- December	June	July	
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	477,000	36,700	32,800	253,000
Other	159,000	12,200	10,600	79,200
Total	636,000	48,900	43,400	332,000
Brass and bronze	172,000	13,600	11,500	94,300
Zinc-base alloy	238,000	11,100	9,730	80,700
Other uses ²	85,600	6,510	6,170	50,400
Grand total	1,130,000	80,200	70,800	558,000

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	LME ² cash	
	American ¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2006:			
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
August	152.67	147.44	3,250.58
January-August	168.34	159.61	3,518.82

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2006		2007			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	July		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	2,530	\$3,800	123	\$115	7,180	\$5,540
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	825,000	1,060,000	95,500	51,700	236,000	228,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	83,800	95,800	8,130	7,940	60,200	61,400
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	16,400	33,300	1,440	2,470	12,000	23,600
Oxide (gross weight)	28,800	47,900	3,620	6,830	20,500	39,000
Chloride (gross weight)	1,510	1,930	71	91	1,110	1,380
Sulfate (gross weight)	42,800	22,500	37	54	121	290
Compounds, other (gross weight) ²	1,740	3,750	486	899	3,470	5,720

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)	July		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	851,000	\$2,050,000	48,900	\$153,000	407,000	\$1,330,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	383,000	183,000	6,110	13,900	249,000	126,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	14,200	18,700	3,100	3,810	14,000	21,600
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	30,100	107,000	3,520	16,900	18,700	88,500
Oxide (gross weight)	125,000	243,000	12,400	29,700	75,500	194,000
Chloride (gross weight)	1,260	1,780	80	441	370	2,110
Sulfate (gross weight)	44,400	34,100	3,530	3,410	18,800	19,600
Compounds, other (gross weight) ²	7,980	9,620	556	816	4,490	6,150

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
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory ²
2006:		
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	NA ³	11,300 ⁴
August	3,190	8,100 ⁴
January-August	9,760	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	
		July	Year to date		July	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	6,110	153,000	273,000	6,110	153,000
Total	383,000	6,110	249,000	383,000	6,110	249,000
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	15,000	--	7,000	47,100	--	8,040
Brazil	8,790	--	1,000	13,000	--	1,000
Canada	535,000	43,500	295,000	535,000	43,500	295,000
China	2,000	--	2,840	57,300	--	8,030
Finland	--	--	--	51	--	374
India	12,200	43	4,190	12,200	43	4,190
Japan	251	--	--	6,200	--	25
Kazakhstan	6,000	--	28,000	6,000	--	28,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	66,800	--	9,140
Mexico	103,000	5,380	53,300	103,000	5,380	53,300
Norway	--	--	--	1,160	--	25
Peru	1,080	34	34	1,360	34	34
Other	21	--	1	1,740	--	1
Total	683,000	48,900	391,000	851,000	48,900	407,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)						
	31,100	1,120	12,100	31,100	1,120	12,100
Grand total	1,100,000	56,100	652,000	1,270,000	56,100	668,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	49,100	4,050	28,800	49,100	4,050	28,800
China	277	48	263	277	48	263
Germany	800	132	695	800	132	695
Italy	24,500	5,050	10,100	24,500	5,050	10,100
Japan	1,290	13	698	1,290	13	698
Mexico	31,900	2,420	18,700	31,900	2,420	18,700
Netherlands	7,820	679	10,700	7,820	679	10,700
Spain	1,150	--	979	1,150	--	979
Sweden	7,500	--	3,800	7,500	--	3,800
Other	618	58	661	618	58	661
Total	125,000	12,400	75,500	125,000	12,400	75,500
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	14,200	3,100	14,000	14,200	3,100	14,000
Sheets	2,050	361	993	2,050	361	993
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	30,100	3,520	18,700	30,100	3,520	18,700

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.