



Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Amy C. Tolcin, Zinc Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4940, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: atolcin@usgs.gov

Barbara J. McNair (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7952
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: bmcnair@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ZINC IN DECEMBER 2007

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in December 2007, not including that of Tennessee, was 65,700 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in December was 2,120 t, 18% higher than that in November 2007 and 39% higher than that in December 2006. Year-to-date mine production through December 2007 was 7% higher than that of the same period of 2006.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade Zinc for December was 111.23 cents per pound, 7% lower than the November average price and 47% lower than the December 2006 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of zinc for December was \$2,352.29 per metric ton, 7% lower than the

average price in November and 47% lower than the average price in December 2006. During December 2007, global LME zinc stocks rose by 8,725 t to 88,475 t.

There were no aggregated cash disposals (sales) of zinc in December from the National Defense Stockpile (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2008)

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2008, Stockpile announces BOA sales for December 2007: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, January 7, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2006		2007	
	January- December	November	December	January- December
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	727,000	56,100	67,400	775,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	699,000	53,900 ^r	65,700	742,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e,3}	269,000	23,400	23,400	277,000
Consumption:				
Refined zinc, reported	504,000	21,100	21,500	289,000
Ores ^c (zinc content)	732	61	61	732
Zinc-base scrap ⁴ (zinc content)	178,000	14,800 ^e	14,800 ^e	178,000 ^e
Copper-base scrap ⁴ (zinc content)	163,000	13,600 ^e	13,600 ^e	163,000 ^e
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^{4,5} (zinc content)	733	61 ^e	61 ^e	732 ^e
Total ^e	846,000	49,600	50,000	633,000
Apparent consumption, metal ⁶	1,150,000	78,400	NA	925,000 ⁷
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:				
Producer and consumer ⁸	XX	21,800	21,800	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	33,000	110	--	10,100
Imports for consumption:				
Refined (slab) zinc	851,000	48,100	NA	649,000 ⁷
Oxide (gross weight)	125,000	7,760	NA	111,000 ⁷
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	383,000	12,300	NA	271,000 ⁷
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	14,200	1,510	NA	20,300 ⁷
Exports:				
Refined (slab) zinc	2,530	175	NA	7,910 ⁷
Oxide (gross weight)	28,800	3,040	NA	32,800 ⁷
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	825,000	44,000	NA	781,000 ⁷
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	83,800	7,530	NA	95,700 ⁷
Price:				
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	3,274.42	2,540.66	2,352.26	3,241.54
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	158.89	119.43	111.23	154.40

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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

²Does not include mine production from Tennessee.

³Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

⁴Monthly estimates are based on reported annual data from the prior year.

⁵Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap data have fallen due to a change in assumption on the estimated zinc content of magnesium-base scrap.

⁶Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁷Includes data through October only.

⁸Does not include an estimate for companies that report annually.

TABLE 2
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES^{e, 1, 2}

(Metric tons)

Month	Production	Shipments
2006:		
December	20,900	18,100
January-December	269,000	256,000
2007:		
January	22,200	23,800
February	22,200	23,800
March	22,200	23,800
April	23,500	24,900
May	23,500	24,900
June	23,500	24,900
July	23,400	22,700
August	23,400	22,700
September	23,400	22,700
October	23,400	22,700
November	23,400	22,700
December	23,400	22,700
January-December	277,000	283,000

^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.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2006	2007		January- November
	January- December	October	November	
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	473,000	45,300	35,600	411,000
Other	165,000	17,000	12,200	142,000
Total	638,000	62,200	47,800	554,000
Brass and bronze	182,000	17,700	12,700	155,000
Zinc-base alloy	233,000	15,700	11,300	139,000
Other uses ²	97,900	7,510	6,540	75,900
Grand total	1,150,000	103,000	78,400	925,000

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	LME ² cash	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2006:			
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
September	135.70	130.67	2,880.76
October	139.68	134.91	2,974.25
November	119.43	115.24	2,540.66
December	111.23	106.70	2,352.29
January-December	154.40	147.03	3,241.54

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2007					
	2006		November		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	175	\$166	7,910	\$6,250
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	825,000	1,060,000	44,000	119,000	781,000	129,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	83,800	95,800	7,530	7,260	95,700	95,800
Powders, flakes, dust (gross weight) ²	16,400	33,300	1,030	1,790	17,300	33,100
Oxide (gross weight)	28,800	47,900	3,040	4,860	32,800	59,700
Chloride (gross weight)	1,510	1,930	190	449	1,600	2,180
Sulfate (gross weight)	42,800	22,500	7	10	340	567
Compounds, other (gross weight) ³	1,740	3,750	526	898	5,360	8,980

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

²Zinc dust contains at least 85% by weight of metallic zinc.

³Includes 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)	November		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	851,000	\$2,050,000	48,100	\$147,000	649,000	\$2,060,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	383,000	183,000	12,300	23,100	271,000	170,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	14,200	18,700	1,510	2,360	20,300	30,500
Powders, flakes, dust (gross weight) ²	30,100	107,000	2,320	8,940	29,000	133,000
Oxide (gross weight)	125,000	243,000	7,760	19,100	111,000	283,000
Chloride (gross weight)	1,260	1,780	8	89	657	2,990
Sulfate (gross weight)	44,400	34,100	3,550	3,780	22,300	30,400
Compounds, other (gross weight) ³	7,980	9,620	431	801	6,890	10,300

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

²Zinc dust contains at least 85% by weight of metallic zinc.

³Includes zinc sulfide (Schedule 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), chromates of zinc or of lead (Schedule 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:		
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
September	174	7,920 ⁴
October	77	7,840 ⁴
November	110	7,730 ⁴
December	--	7,730 ⁴
January-December	10,100	XX

NA Not available. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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	
		November	Year to date		November	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	2,850	--	--	2,850	--	--
Canada	2,750	2,930	2,960	2,750	--	2,960
Ireland	17,000	--	99,200	17,000	2,930	99,200
Mexico	88,100	--	3,600	88,100	--	3,600
Peru	273,000	9,420	166,000	273,000	9,420	166,000
Total	383,000	12,300	271,000	383,000	12,300	271,000
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	42,500	484,000	535,000	42,500	484,000
China	2,000	--	2,840	57,300	--	8,110
Finland	--	--	--	51	--	374
India	12,200	--	4,190	12,200	--	4,190
Japan	251	--	--	6,200	--	25
Kazakhstan	6,000	--	45,000	6,000	--	45,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	66,800	--	9,470
Mexico	103,000	5,640	83,500	103,000	5,640	83,500
Norway	--	--	--	1,160	--	25
Peru	1,080	--	1,080	1,360	--	1,080
Russia	--	--	4,670	--	--	4,670
Other	21	--	2	1,740	--	2
Total	683,000	48,100	633,000	851,000	48,100	649,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	31,100	1,510	17,600	31,100	1,510	17,600
Grand total	1,100,000	62,000	922,000	1,270,000	62,000	938,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	49,100	3,630	44,200	49,100	3,630	44,200
China	277	19	341	277	19	341
Germany	800	107	1,150	800	107	1,150
Italy	24,500	1	15,600	24,500	1	15,600
Japan	1,290	134	1,100	1,290	134	1,100
Mexico	31,900	2,420	28,900	31,900	2,420	28,900
Netherlands	7,820	1,030	13,600	7,820	1,030	13,600
Spain	1,150	--	979	1,150	--	979
Sweden	7,500	--	3,800	7,500	--	3,800
Other	618	415	1,450	618	415	1,450
Total	125,000	7,760	111,000	125,000	7,760	111,000
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	14,200	1,510	20,300	14,200	1,510	20,300
Plates, sheets, strips, and foil	2,050	240	2,090	2,050	240	2,090
Powders, flakes, dust (gross weight) ²	30,100	2,320	29,000	30,100	2,320	29,000

-- Zero.

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

²Zinc dust contains at least 85% by weight of metallic zinc.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.