



Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JANUARY 2008

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in January 2008 was 72,400 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in January was 2,340 t, 4% higher than that in December 2007 and 18% higher than that in January 2007.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade Zinc for January was 110.49 cents per pound, 0.7% lower than the December average price and 40% lower than the January 2007 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of zinc for January was \$2,339.81 per metric ton, 0.5% lower than the average price in December and 38% lower than the average price in January

2007. During January 2008, global LME zinc stocks rose by 22,875 t to 111,350 t.

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

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2008, Stockpile announces BOA sales for January 2008: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, February 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2007		2008	
	January- December	December	January	Year-to- date
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	803,000 ^r	71,400 ^r	74,400	74,400
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	769,000 ^r	69,600 ^r	72,400	72,400
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	278,000 ^r	23,700 ^r	23,700	23,700
Consumption:				
Apparent, refined zinc ⁴	1,050,000	82,800	NA	NA
Reported:				
Refined zinc	484,000 ^r	17,400 ^r	19,400	19,400
Ores ^e (zinc content)	732	61	61	61
Zinc-base scrap ^{e, 5} (zinc content)	178,000	14,800	14,800	14,800
Copper-base scrap ⁵ (zinc content)	148,000 ^r	12,400 ^{r, e}	12,400 ^e	12,400
Aluminum- and magnesium-base scrap ⁶ (zinc content)	603 ^r	50 ^{r, e}	50 ^e	50
Total ^e	811,000 ^r	44,700 ^r	46,700	46,700
Stocks of refined zinc, end of period:				
Producer and consumer ⁶	XX	34,900 ^r	36,600	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	10,100 ^r	--	12	12
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc ⁷	703,000	59,600	NA	NA
Oxide (gross weight)	117,000	6,350	NA	NA
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	271,000	--	NA	NA
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	21,800	1,470	NA	NA
Exports:				
Refined zinc	8,070	159	NA	NA
Oxide (gross weight)	34,900	2,070	NA	NA
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	816,000	35,200	NA	NA
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	102,000 ^r	6,590	NA	NA
Price:⁸				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	3,240.00	2,350.00 ^r	2,340.00	2,340.00
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	154.40	111.23	110.49	110.49

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

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

²Partially estimated.

³Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

⁴Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁵Monthly estimates are based on reported annual data from the prior year.

⁶Does not include an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁷Revised to include casting-grade zinc (HTS 7901.12.1000).

⁸Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2007		Year-to-date
	November ^f	December	
Galvanizing:			
Sheet and strip	33,300	35,100	438,000
Other	12,600	14,000	163,000
Total	45,900	49,100	601,000
Brass and bronze	13,000	14,000	174,000
Zinc-base alloy	11,700	12,900	189,000
Other uses ²	6,600	6,880	84,500
Grand total	77,200	82,800	1,050,000

^fRevised.

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 3
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory ²
2007:		
January	473 ^f	14,800
February	590	14,200
March	374 ^f	13,900
April	516	13,300
May	957	12,400
June	3,660	8,720
July	NA ³	11,300 ⁴
August	3,190 ^f	8,100 ⁴
September	174	7,920 ⁴
October	77	7,850 ^{r,4}
November	111 ^f	7,730 ⁴
December	--	7,730 ⁴
January-December	10,100	XX
2008, January	12	7,720 ⁴

^fRevised. 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 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2007					
	2006		December		Year to date	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	383,000	\$183,000	--	--	271,000	\$170,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc ²	895,000 ^r	2,180,000 ^r	59,600	\$161,000	758,000	2,400,000
Zinc alloys	14,100	44,000	781	1,990	9,900	35,000
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	3,170	9,590	325	832	2,250	8,900
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	2,050	8,250	62	365	2,160	
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	31,100	46,300	1,040	1,260	18,600	32,300
Powders, flakes, dust	30,100	107,000	2,240	7,930	31,300	141,000
Waste and scrap	14,200	18,700	1,470	1,980	21,800	32,500
Chemicals:						
Oxide	125,000	243,000	6,350	15,700	117,000	299,000
Chloride	1,260	1,780	27	121	685	3,110
Sulfate	44,400	34,100	3,570	3,880	31,900	34,300
Compounds, other ³	7,980	9,620	428	661	7,320	11,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Revised to include casting-grade zinc (HTS 7901.12.1000).

³Includes 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 5
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2006	2007		2006	2007	
		December	Year to date		December	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	2,850	--	--	2,850	--	--
Canada	2,750	--	2,960	2,750	--	2,960
Ireland	17,000	--	99,200	17,000	--	99,200
Mexico	88,100	--	3,600	88,100	--	3,600
Peru	273,000	--	166,000	273,000	--	166,000
Total	383,000	--	271,000	383,000	--	271,000
Refined (slab) zinc²:						
Australia	15,000	--	7,000	47,100	--	8,040
Brazil	8,790	--	1,000	13,000	--	1,000
Canada	563,000 ^r	45,400	563,000	563,000 ^r	45,400	563,000
China	2,020 ^r	--	2,850	57,400 ^r	--	8,120
Finland	--	--	--	51	--	374
India	12,200	--	4,190	12,200	--	4,190
Japan	251	--	--	6,200	--	25
Kazakhstan	6,000	4,490	49,500	6,000	4,490	49,500
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	66,800	--	9,470
Mexico	118,000 ^r	9,710	109,000	119,000 ^r	9,710	109,000
Norway	--	--	--	1,160	--	25
Peru	1,080	--	1,080	1,360	--	1,080
Russia	--	--	4,670	--	--	4,670
United Kingdom	(3)	--	(3)	1,240	--	(3)
Other	43	2	16	521 ^r	2	16
Total	727,000 ^r	59,600	742,000	895,000 ^r	59,600	758,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)						
	31,100	1,040	18,600	31,100	1,040	18,600
Grand total	1,100,000	55,100	977,000	1,270,000	55,100	993,000
Oxide:						
Canada	49,100	3,300	47,500	49,100	3,300	47,500
China	277	1	341	277	1	341
Germany	800	(3)	1,150	800	(3)	1,150
Italy	24,500	--	15,600	24,500	--	15,600
Japan	1,290	89	1,190	1,290	89	1,190
Mexico	31,900	2,210	31,100	31,900	2,210	31,100
Netherlands	7,820	738	14,300	7,820	738	14,300
Spain	1,150	--	979	1,150	--	979
Sweden	7,500	--	3,800	7,500	--	3,800
Other	618	12	1,460	618	12	1,460
Total	125,000	6,350	117,000	125,000	6,350	117,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Revised to include casting-grade zinc (HTS 7901.12.1000).

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2006		2007			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	December		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	825,000	\$1,060,000	35,200	\$40,100	816,000	\$1,170,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	2,530	3,800	159	163	8,070	6,420
Zinc alloys	19,900	47,300	728	2,360	22,500	58,900
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	11,200	19,700	1,320	2,180	26,700	39,400
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,780	16,000	305	1,340	4,310	
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	4,480	7,320	2,600	1,240	14,200	13,200
Powders, flakes, dust	16,400	33,300	2,080	3,540	19,400	36,600
Waste and scrap	83,800	95,800	6,590	7,200	102,000	103,000
Chemicals:						
Oxide	28,800	47,900	2,070	4,480	34,900	64,200
Chloride	1,510	1,930	105	142	1,700	2,320
Sulfate	42,800	22,500	58	142	398	708
Compounds, other ²	1,740	3,750	469	772	5,830	9,750

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 7
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North	London Metal Exchange	
	American ¹	cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
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
2008, January	110.49	106.13	2,339.81

¹Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premiums or discounts, depending on market conditions.

²Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.