

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## LEAD IN AUGUST 2008

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of lead in August was 34,200 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in August was 1,100 t, about 9% lower than that in July. Year-to-date mine production through August 2008 was about 3% lower than that of the same period of 2007. Secondary refinery production of lead increased about 10% compared with that of the previous month.

Total imports of lead for consumption through August 2008 were about 26% greater than those in the same period of 2007. The bulk of the increase was in imports of refined metal from Canada and Mexico. Canada (71%), Mexico (19%), and Peru (3%) were the principal sources of imported refined lead. Total

exports of lead, exclusive of scrap, through August 2008 were about 11% lower than those through August 2007.

According to Platts Metals Week, the average North American producer price for lead in August was \$1.09 per pound, essentially unchanged from that of the previous month. The London Metal Exchange cash price in August averaged \$1,923 per metric ton, down slightly from that of the previous month. During August 2008, global LME lead stocks declined by 11,675 t to 80,575 t.

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

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2007		2008		
	Year	January- August	July	August	January- August
<b>Production:</b>					
Mine (recoverable)	434,000	292,000	37,800	34,200	282,000
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,170,000	776,000	89,800	97,400	786,000
Estimated	11,700	7,560	899	2,920	9,810
Recovered from copper-base scrap <sup>e</sup>	15,000	10,000	1,250	1,250	10,000
Total secondary	1,200,000	793,000	92,000	102,000	806,000
Stocks, end of period, consumers and secondary smelters	63,100	54,100	46,100 <sup>r</sup>	52,400	52,400
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>					
Base bullion	1,990	1,080	152	60	1,980
Refined metal	264,000	167,000	26,600	22,900	210,000
<b>Consumption:</b>					
Reported	1,500,000	1,020,000	130,000	128,000	1,050,000
Undistributed <sup>e</sup>	45,100	30,600	3,910	3,840	31,400
Total	1,550,000	1,050,000	134,000	132,000	1,080,000
<b>Exports:</b>					
Ore and concentrate	300,000	178,000	56,700	31,600	142,000
Bullion	170	106	79	49	554
Wrought and unwrought lead	56,400	32,600	7,020	6,760	46,000
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,740	2,530	184	154	1,670
Exports (gross weight), scrap	129,000	70,300	13,500	13,300	121,000
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	123.84	106.02	109.02	108.84	133.28

<sup>e</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>				
August	149.76	3,118.08	1,550.49	2.011026
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
May	143.74	2,234.06	1,136.94	1.964976
June	115.21	1,862.33	947.05	1.966448
July	109.02	1,944.16	977.54	1.988827
August	108.84	1,922.60	1,019.13	1.886514

Source: Platts Metals Week.

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

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	July 31, 2008	receipts		August 31, 2008
Battery-lead	18,700	97,800	94,600	21,900
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other <sup>2</sup>	1,490	7,130	6,700	1,920
Total	20,200	105,000	101,000	23,800
Percent change from preceding month	XX	+6.5	-0.4	+17.9

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 AUGUST 2008<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	48,000	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	8,890	(2)	(2)
Other <sup>3</sup>	40,500	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	97,400	133	228

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-August
	Year	January-August	July	August	
<b>Metal products:</b>					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	75,400	52,800	6,240	6,570	51,200
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	3,190	2,740	323	323	2,620
Cable covering, power and communication and calking lead, building construction	8,020	4,820	670	670	5,620
Casting metals	29,900	19,900	2,640	2,640	21,100
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	29,700	6,510	2,350	2,350	18,800
Solder	7,000	4,550	587	587	4,690
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,300,000	901,000	114,000	112,000	921,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products <sup>2</sup>	16,700	11,100	2,090	1,400	11,700
<b>Total metal products</b>	<b>1,470,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>129,000</b>	<b>126,000</b>	<b>1,040,000</b>
Other oxides and miscellaneous	28,000	18,700	1,270	1,960	15,000
<b>Total reported</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>1,020,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>128,000</b>	<b>1,050,000</b>
Undistributed <sup>c</sup>	45,100	30,700	3,910	3,840	31,400
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,050,000</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>1,080,000</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.

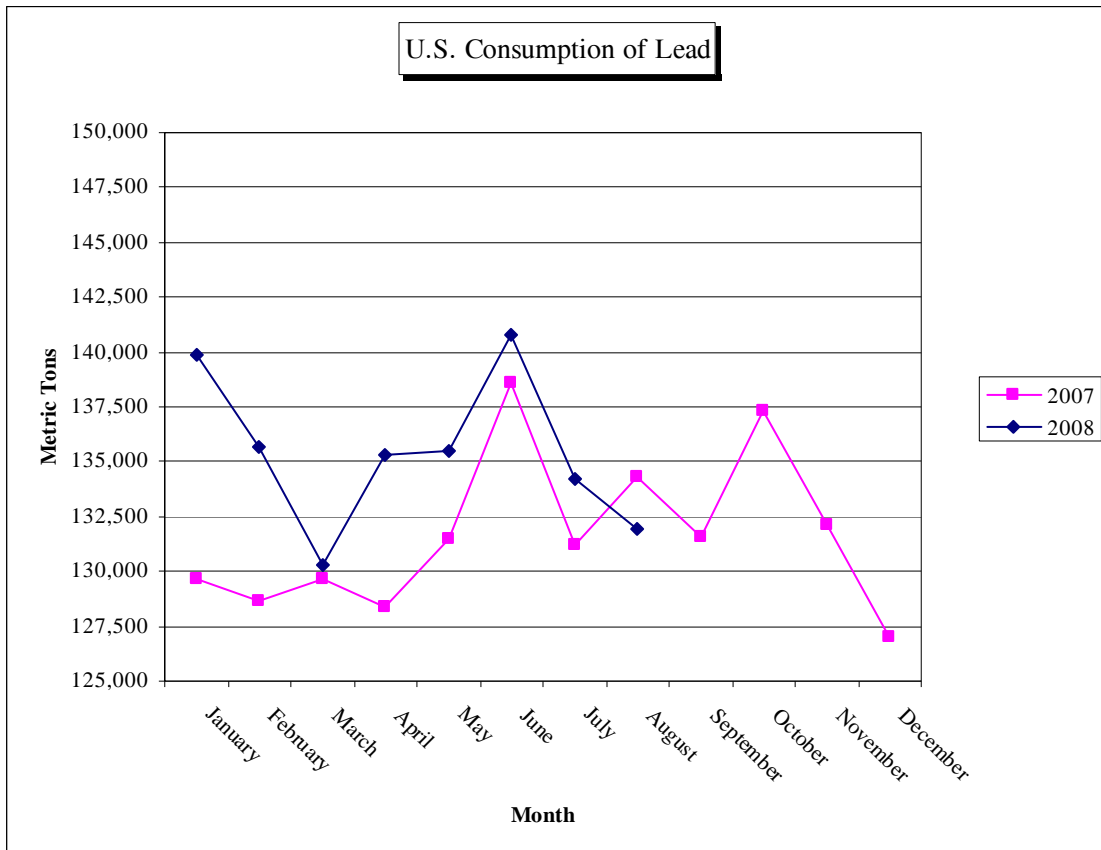


TABLE 6  
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	July 31, 2008	receipts		August 31, 2008
Soft lead	24,600	71,600	68,900	27,300
Antimonial lead	14,500 <sup>r</sup>	25,700	25,100	15,200
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	46,100 <sup>r</sup>	134,000	128,000	52,400

<sup>r</sup>Revised. 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		
	August	Year	July	August	January- August
	Lead content:				
Ore and concentrates	41,500	300,000	56,700	31,600	142,000
Bullion	17	170	79	49	554
Materials excluding scrap	4,520	56,400	7,020	6,760	46,000
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	32	2,740	184	154	1,670
Total	46,100	359,000	64,000	38,500	191,000
Gross weight: Scrap	11,300	129,000	13,500	13,300	121,000

<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- August	July	August	January- August	Year	January- August	July	August	January- August
Ore, matte, etc.:										
Canada	--	--	--	--	41	--	--	--	--	41
Mexico	--	--	138	--	353	--	--	138	--	353
Total	--	--	138	--	394	--	--	138	--	394
Base bullion:										
Colombia	1,860	--	19	--	483	1,860	--	19	--	483
Mexico	--	--	40	60	1,350	--	--	40	60	1,350
Other	127	1,080	92	--	152	127	1,080	92	--	152
Total	1,990	1,080	152	60	1,980	1,990	1,080	152	60	1,980
Pigs and bars:										
Canada	208,000	136,000	16,100	15,600	149,000	208,000	136,000	16,100	15,600	149,000
Mexico	35,600	19,300	5,850	3,840	39,000	35,600	19,300	5,850	3,840	39,000
Peru	16,500	11,600	467	1,020	7,100	16,500	11,600	467	1,020	7,100
Other	3,860	500	4,120	2,430	14,900	3,860	500	4,120	2,430	14,900
Total	264,000	167,000	26,600	22,900	210,000	264,000	167,000	26,600	22,900	210,000
Grand total	266,000	168,000	26,800	23,000	212,000	266,000	168,000	26,800	23,000	212,000

-- 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.