

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ZINC IN JULY 2019

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in July 2019 was 70,400 metric tons (t) (tables 1, 2). Average daily mine production in July was 2,270 t, 3% lower than that in the previous month and 5% lower than that in July 2018 (fig. 1).

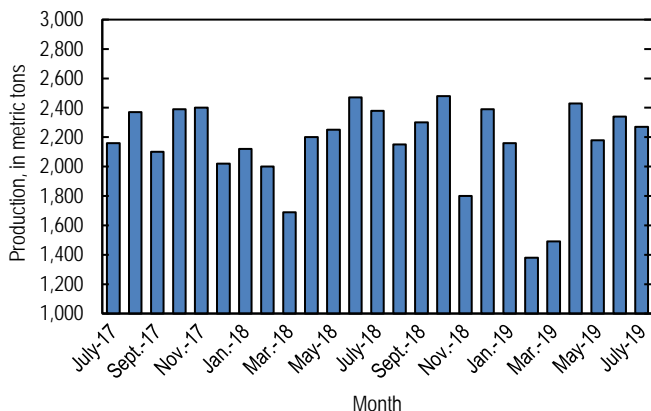


Figure 1. Average daily domestic zinc mine production (recoverable) from July 2017 through July 2019.

## Stocks and Prices

Global London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) stocks of Special High Grade (SHG) zinc were 79,350 t at the end of July 2019, 17% lower than stocks at the end of June and 67% lower than stocks at the end of July 2018 (fig. 2, table 7).

The monthly average Platts Metals Week North American SHG zinc price in July 2019 was \$1.19 per pound, 6% lower than that in the previous month and 8% lower than that in July 2018. The July 2019 average LME cash price for SHG zinc was \$2,440.96 per metric ton (\$1.11 per pound), 6% lower than that in June and 8% lower than that in July 2018 (fig. 3, table 6).

The North American premium to the LME cash price in July 2019 averaged 7.91 cents per pound, slightly less than that in the previous month and 4% less than that in July 2018 (fig. 3, table 6).

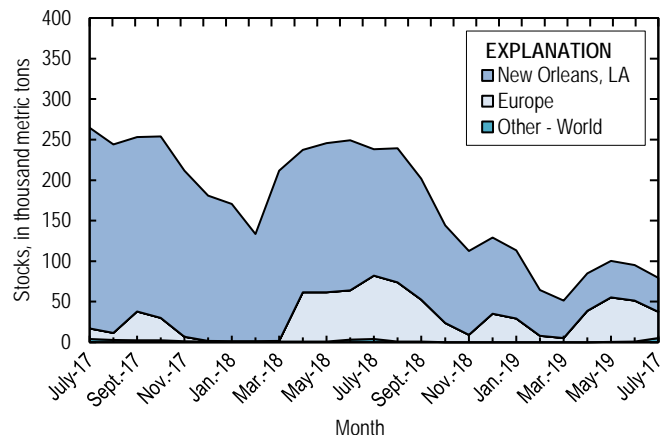


Figure 2. Global LME stocks of Special High Grade zinc, monthend, from July 2017 through July 2019. Source: London Metal Exchange Ltd.

## Industry News

On July 31, Trafigura Group Pte. Ltd., a commodity trading company, acquired a majority share in Nyrstar NV, a leading zinc mining and smelting company based in Belgium. The transaction would allow Nyrstar to restructure its debt and avoid insolvency. Nyrstar owned the East and Middle Tennessee zinc mine complexes and the Clarksville, TN, zinc smelter in the United States (Nyrstar NV, 2019, p. 1; Trafigura Group Pte. Ltd., 2019).

## References Cited

- Nyrstar NV, 2019, Nyrstar—Frequently asked questions: Balen, Belgium, Nyrstar NV, July 7, 15 p. (Accessed October 3, 2019, at <https://www.nyrstar.be/~media/Files/N/Nyrstar-IR/results-reports-and-presentations/english/2019/01072019/faq-7-july-2019.pdf>.)
- Trafigura Group Pte. Ltd., 2019, Nyrstar restructuring completed—Trafigura Group Pte. Ltd. becomes majority owner of Nyrstar’s operating business: Geneva, Switzerland, Trafigura Group Pte. Ltd. news release, July 31, 2 p. (Accessed October 3, 2019, at <https://www.nyrstar.com/~media/Files/N/Nyrstar/press-releases/2019/Trafigura-Nyrstar-acquisition-closing-pr-31-07.pdf>.)

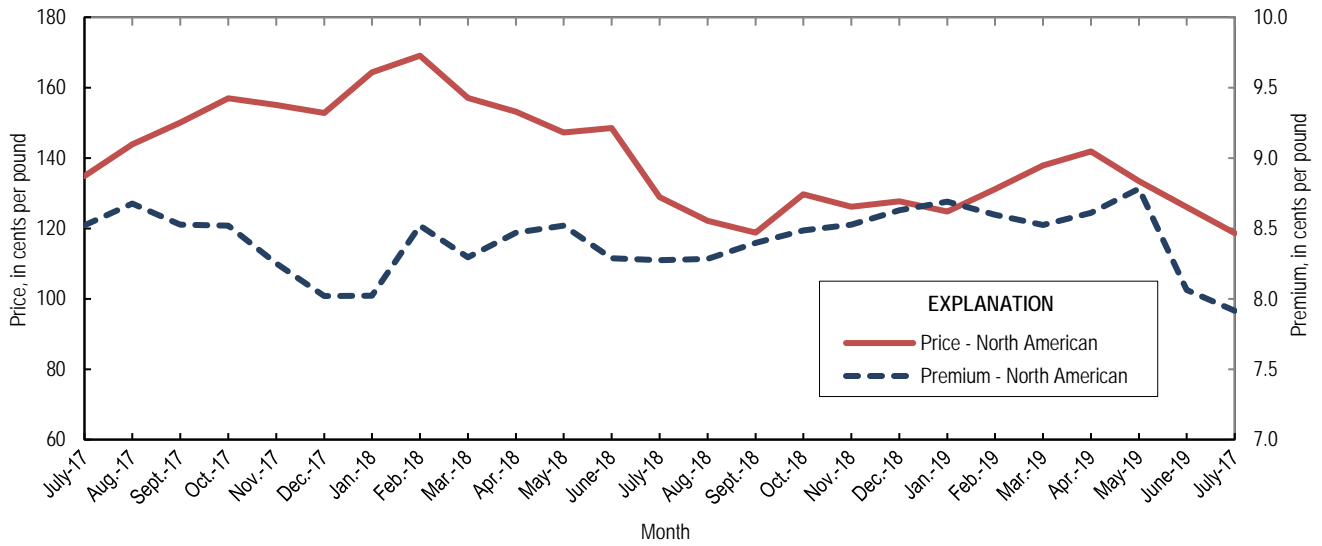


Figure 3. Average monthly North American price and premium for Special High Grade zinc from July 2017 through July 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

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TABLE 1  
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2018	2019		
	January– December <sup>p</sup>	June	July	January– July <sup>2</sup>
<b>Production:</b>				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate <sup>3</sup>	824,000	71,800 <sup>r</sup>	72,500	445,000
Mine, recoverable zinc <sup>3</sup>	799,000	70,300 <sup>r</sup>	70,400	433,000
Smelter, refined zinc <sup>e</sup>	116,000	8,600	8,600	60,000
Consumption of refined zinc, apparent <sup>4</sup>	868,000	75,800	79,800	534,000
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32	--	--	10
Refined zinc	775,000	67,500	71,400	477,000
<b>Exports:</b>				
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	806,000	40,100	207,000	421,000
Refined zinc	23,300	222	218	3,720
<b>Price:<sup>5</sup></b>				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,924.55	2,601.56	2,440.96	2,691.29
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	141.05	126.07	118.64	130.53

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>3</sup>Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.

<sup>4</sup>Smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports.

<sup>5</sup>Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2  
MINE AND SMELTER PRODUCTION OF ZINC  
IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Mine <sup>2</sup>		Smelter <sup>c</sup>
	Zinc content	Recoverable	
2018:			
July	76,400	73,900	9,920
August	68,800	66,500	9,920
September	70,000	68,900	9,920
October	79,600	77,000	11,900
November	55,700	53,900	11,900
December	76,700	74,200	11,900
January–December	824,000	799,000	116,000
2019:			
January	68,900	66,900	8,600
February	39,800	38,600	8,600
March	47,600	46,100	8,600
April	75,300 <sup>r</sup>	73,000 <sup>r</sup>	8,600
May	69,500 <sup>r</sup>	67,500 <sup>r</sup>	8,600
June	71,800 <sup>r</sup>	70,300 <sup>r</sup>	8,600
July	72,500	70,400	8,600
January–July	445,000	433,000	60,000

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes the zinc content in both lead and zinc concentrates.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2018		2019			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	July		January–July <sup>2</sup>	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32	\$23	--	--	10	\$7
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	775,000	2,350,000	71,400	\$190,000	477,000	1,330,000
Zinc alloys	4,390	14,300	72	205	1,390	4,000
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	3,470	13,900	236	858	1,730	6,360
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	5,410	16,400	137	782	1,770	7,420
Ash and residues:						
Hard zinc spelter	19	31	--	--	--	--
Zinc dross and skimmings	4,300	8,200	439	573	2,220	3,550
Other (zinc content)	1,250	823	144	83	1,210	723
Other:						
Powders, flakes, dust	26,600	106,000	2,330	8,880	15,100	57,200
Waste and scrap	12,900	22,000	745	1,900	4,950	10,700
Chemicals:						
Lithopone	272	822	152	594	809	2,780
Zinc oxide	115,000	334,000	8,290	23,900	58,400	166,000
Zinc chloride	208	1,840	22	193	81	800
Zinc sulfate	98,800	106,000	4,990	4,270	40,500	38,400
Zinc sulfide	2,730	10,400	177	442	542	1,860

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country or locality	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2018	2019		2018	2019	
		July	January–July <sup>2</sup>		July	January–July <sup>2</sup>
<b>Ore and concentrate (zinc content):</b>						
Canada	(3)	--	10	(3)	--	10
China	32	--	--	32	--	--
Total	32	--	10	32	--	10
<b>Refined zinc:</b>						
Australia	--	--	--	676	--	--
Belgium	--	--	--	4,340	--	119
Brazil	601	275	2,180	601	275	2,180
Canada	524,000	44,900	315,000	524,000	44,900	315,000
China	22	(3)	14	5,380	354	2,430
India	2,840	--	--	2,840	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	6,810	50	174
Mexico	101,000	13,300	81,200	101,000	13,300	81,200
Namibia	--	--	--	122	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	--	6,040	996	1,370
Peru	46,300	6,070	34,800	46,300	6,070	34,800
Poland	641	--	--	641	--	--
South Africa	5,480	--	--	--	--	--
Spain	20,000	--	1,370	76,100	5,460	40,200
Taiwan	36	12	32	36	12	32
Other	3	--	5	3	--	5
Total	701,000	64,500	434,000	775,000	71,400	477,000
<b>Oxide:</b>						
Australia	127	26	170	127	26	170
Belgium	6	--	29	6	--	29
Brazil	127	--	5	127	--	5
Canada	51,200	3,640	26,200	51,200	3,640	26,200
China	422	15	92	422	15	92
El Salvador	--	20	20	--	20	20
France	16	4	12	16	4	12
Germany	1,150	125	845	1,150	125	845
Greece	120	20	200	120	20	200
Hong Kong	58	--	5	58	--	5
India	119	1	64	119	1	64
Italy	19	8	16	19	8	16
Japan	776	85	636	776	85	636
Korea, Republic of	76	18	51	76	18	51
Mexico	49,800	3,290	22,700	49,800	3,290	22,700
Netherlands	8,400	670	5,470	8,400	670	5,470
Peru	2,540	360	1,470	2,540	360	1,470
Philippines	46	--	--	46	--	--
Russia	--	--	20	--	--	20
United Kingdom	105	5	339	105	5	339
Other	59	1	1	59	1	1
Total	115,000	8,290	58,400	115,000	8,290	58,400

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2018		2019			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	July		January–July <sup>2</sup>	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	806,000	\$1,530,000	207,000	\$348,000	421,000	\$673,000
Unwrought:						
Refined zinc	23,300	58,000	218	676	3,720	9,950
Zinc alloys	21,800	67,200	1,960	5,830	12,900	38,600
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	10,600	30,600	919	2,590	5,860	17,400
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	7,170	29,900	612	2,270	3,800	14,500
Ash and residues:						
Hard zinc spelter	8,300	16,200	650	1,360	5,160	10,400
Other (zinc content)	23,900	43,000	2,230	3,340	14,700	24,400
Other:						
Powders, flakes, dust	13,500	56,600	904	3,440	9,210	33,200
Waste and scrap	40,400	49,800	2,250	2,820	19,700	26,300
Chemicals:						
Lithopone	179	1,280	17	90	99	520
Zinc oxide	60,200	91,800	888	2,420	6,260	16,500
Zinc chloride	281	440	4	7	156	243
Zinc sulfate	1,000	879	107	109	372	524
Zinc sulfide	1,730	15,900	329	1,370	1,290	9,850

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6  
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North	London Metal Exchange	
	American <sup>1</sup>	cash <sup>2</sup>	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2018:			
July	128.85	120.57	2,658.18
August	122.14	113.85	2,510.05
September	118.74	110.35	2,432.71
October	129.65	121.17	2,671.26
November	126.11	117.58	2,592.28
December	127.69	119.06	2,624.87
January–December	141.05	132.66	2,924.55
2019:			
January	124.74	116.05	2,558.49
February	131.17	122.58	2,702.34
March	137.84	129.32	2,850.91
April	141.88	133.26	2,937.96
May	133.37	124.59	2,746.79
June	126.07	118.01	2,601.56
July	118.64	110.72	2,440.96
January–July	130.53	122.07	2,691.29

<sup>1</sup>Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premium.

<sup>2</sup>Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.



TABLE 7  
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (LME) STOCKS OF SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC, END OF PERIOD

(Metric tons)

Period	United States			Europe	Other	Total LME
	Chicago, IL	New Orleans, LA	Total			
2018:						
July	--	155,900	155,900	78,150	4,075	238,125
August	--	165,375	165,375	73,125	675	239,175
September	--	149,350	149,350	51,900	675	201,925
October	--	120,400	120,400	23,525	250	144,175
November	--	103,575	103,575	8,975	25	112,575
December	350	93,625	93,975	35,000	25	129,000
2019:						
January	25	84,000	84,025	29,150	25	113,200
February	--	56,625	56,625	7,900	25	64,550
March	--	45,900	45,900	5,350	25	51,275
April	--	46,475	46,475	38,575	--	85,050
May	--	44,900	44,900	54,900	575	100,375
June	--	43,825	43,825	50,500	800	95,125
July	--	41,925	41,925	32,325	5,100	79,350

-- Zero.

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.