LEAD IN NOVEMBER 2019

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of lead in November was 21,400 metric tons (t). Average daily mine production in November was 713 t, 29% more than that in the previous month and 7% more than that in November 2018. Total secondary refined lead production in November was 97,800 t, slightly less than that in the previous month and 5% more than that in November 2018 (fig. 1; tables 1, 2).

The United States is a significant exporter of lead concentrates. U.S. exports of lead in ores and concentrates for the year through November were 237,000 t, slightly less than that for the same period in 2018. Leading destinations in November were Canada (46%), the Republic of Korea (22%), China (17%), and Thailand (12%) (table 8).

Prices and Stocks

The average London Metal Exchange, Ltd. (LME) cash price for lead in November was 92.2 cents per pound, 7% less than that in the previous month and 5% more than that in November 2018 (table 3). The Platts Metals Week average North American Market price for lead in November 2019 was 101.6 cents per pound, 6% less than that in the previous month and 4% more than that in November 2018. The North American premium to the LME cash price in November 2019 averaged 9.48 cents per pound, slightly more than that in October 2019 and in November 2018 (fig. 2, table 3).

The Platts average U.S. used lead-acid batteries (Midwest) price in November 2019 was 35.5 cents per pound, slightly more than that in October and 14% more than that in November 2018 (table 3). Most secondary lead is recovered from used lead-acid batteries.

Global LME lead stocks at the end of November 2019 were 67,125 t, 4% less than those at the end of October and 14% more than that in November 2018 (table 11).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018¹</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January– December</td>
<td>January– November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine (recoverable)</td>
<td>271,000</td>
<td>247,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary refinery, reported by smelters/refineries</td>
<td>1,140,000</td>
<td>1,040,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumption of refined lead, apparent²³</td>
<td>1,630,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports for consumption:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ore and concentrate</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullion</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwrought</td>
<td>563,000</td>
<td>525,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ore and concentrate</td>
<td>251,000</td>
<td>240,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullion (gross weight)</td>
<td>2,060</td>
<td>2,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwrought (gross weight)</td>
<td>67,200</td>
<td>60,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platts Metals Week North American Market price (cents per pound)</td>
<td>110.89</td>
<td>112.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Estimated.  -- Zero.
²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.
³May include revisions to previously published data.
⁴Smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Mine Lead in concentrate</th>
<th>Mine Recoverable</th>
<th>Secondary refinery$^e$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>20,600</td>
<td>20,100</td>
<td>93,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>24,700</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>96,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–December</td>
<td>280,000</td>
<td>271,000</td>
<td>1,140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>23,500</td>
<td>22,800</td>
<td>96,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>20,300</td>
<td>19,800</td>
<td>96,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>18,600</td>
<td>18,100</td>
<td>98,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>25,200</td>
<td>24,500</td>
<td>96,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>27,400</td>
<td>26,700</td>
<td>92,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>24,400</td>
<td>23,800</td>
<td>95,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>22,700</td>
<td>22,100</td>
<td>96,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>25,400</td>
<td>24,700</td>
<td>97,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>24,700</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>98,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>17,600</td>
<td>17,200</td>
<td>101,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>21,400</td>
<td>97,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–November</td>
<td>252,000</td>
<td>245,000</td>
<td>1,070,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^1$Estimated.

$^1$Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
TABLE 3
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>North American Market</th>
<th>London Metal Exchange cash</th>
<th>Used lead-acid batteries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$/lb</td>
<td>$/lb</td>
<td>$/t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>97.29</td>
<td>87.98</td>
<td>1,939.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>98.29</td>
<td>89.13</td>
<td>1,965.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–December</td>
<td>110.89</td>
<td>101.76</td>
<td>2,243.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>99.70</td>
<td>90.43</td>
<td>1,993.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>102.78</td>
<td>93.51</td>
<td>2,061.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>102.78</td>
<td>93.17</td>
<td>2,054.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>97.80</td>
<td>88.37</td>
<td>1,948.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>91.99</td>
<td>82.40</td>
<td>1,816.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>94.96</td>
<td>85.78</td>
<td>1,891.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>98.54</td>
<td>89.52</td>
<td>1,973.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>101.68</td>
<td>92.66</td>
<td>2,042.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>103.05</td>
<td>93.19</td>
<td>2,070.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>108.33</td>
<td>99.05</td>
<td>2,183.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>101.63</td>
<td>92.15</td>
<td>2,031.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–November</td>
<td>100.29</td>
<td>90.99</td>
<td>2,006.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Platts Metals Week North American Market price. Reflects the LME lead cash price plus the Platts premium for 99.97% lead.

2Platts Metals Week assessment for used lead-acid automotive batteries (50% lead) picked up in U.S. Midwest, suitable for delivery to secondary smelters within 30 days.

Source: Platts Metals Week.
TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN NOVEMBER 2019 ¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Stocks October 31, 2019</th>
<th>Net receipts</th>
<th>Consumption November 30, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Battery-lead</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>74,900</td>
<td>74,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other²</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>5,910</td>
<td>6,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,270</td>
<td>80,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent change from preceding month³</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>-7.1</td>
<td>-7.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in “Total.”  XX Not applicable.

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

²Includes soft lead, solder, drosses and residues, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap.

³Based on unrounded data; preceding monthly data may have been revised.
### TABLE 5
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN NOVEMBER 2019\(^1\)

(Metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product recovered</th>
<th>Secondary metal content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft and calcium lead</td>
<td>80,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remelt lead</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antimonial lead</td>
<td>16,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other(^2)</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total lead-base</strong></td>
<td>97,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(W\) Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total." -- Zero.

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

\(^2\)Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.
TABLE 6
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF LEAD1
(Metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Production</th>
<th>Imports2,3</th>
<th>Exports2,3</th>
<th>Apparent consumption4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018: November</td>
<td>93,600</td>
<td>46,100</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>126,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>6,360</td>
<td>128,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–December</td>
<td>1,140,000</td>
<td>563,000</td>
<td>67,200</td>
<td>1,630,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019: January</td>
<td>96,100</td>
<td>54,000</td>
<td>9,490</td>
<td>141,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>96,600</td>
<td>37,200</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>132,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>98,700</td>
<td>38,100</td>
<td>1,820</td>
<td>135,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>96,600</td>
<td>55,100</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>151,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>92,600</td>
<td>34,900</td>
<td>1,320</td>
<td>126,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>95,800</td>
<td>41,400</td>
<td>1,860</td>
<td>135,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>96,600</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>1,770</td>
<td>127,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>97,200</td>
<td>58,500</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td>154,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>98,200</td>
<td>45,300</td>
<td>1,290</td>
<td>142,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>101,000</td>
<td>35,500</td>
<td>2,360</td>
<td>134,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>97,800</td>
<td>28,700</td>
<td>1,460</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–November</td>
<td>1,070,000</td>
<td>461,000</td>
<td>24,800</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Preliminary.
2,3Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
4Import and export data are for Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) codes 7801.10.0000, 7801.91.0000, 7801.99.9030, 7801.99.9050.
5Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
6Smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports.
### TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS\(^1\)

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018(^2)</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January– December</td>
<td>January– November</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ores and concentrate (lead content)</td>
<td>251,000</td>
<td>240,000</td>
<td>32,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullion</td>
<td>2,060</td>
<td>2,010</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwrought:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refined lead</td>
<td>49,300</td>
<td>43,600</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refined lead containing antimony as the principal alloying element</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead alloys</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>13,700</td>
<td>2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,850</td>
<td>2,850</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67,200</td>
<td>60,800</td>
<td>2,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrought:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bars, rods, profiles, and wire</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipes and tubes, including fittings</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plates, sheets, strip, foil</td>
<td>3,180</td>
<td>2,910</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,770</td>
<td>1,630</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,960</td>
<td>5,440</td>
<td>810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powders and flakes</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetraethyl lead and tetramethyl lead</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste and scrap:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent lead-acid storage batteries for starting engines (units)</td>
<td>26,800,000</td>
<td>25,000,000</td>
<td>2,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead waste and scrap obtained from lead-acid storage batteries</td>
<td>9,200</td>
<td>9,200</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other lead waste and scrap</td>
<td>40,300</td>
<td>37,300</td>
<td>3,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

--Zero.

\(^1\)Data are rounded to more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

\(^2\)May include revisions to previously published data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
### TABLE 8
**U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD ORES AND CONCENTRATES, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY**

(Metric tons, lead content)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January–December</td>
<td>January–November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>7,310</td>
<td>7,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>51,200</td>
<td>49,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>73,600</td>
<td>69,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>15,100</td>
<td>15,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>7,170</td>
<td>7,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>19,100</td>
<td>18,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea, Republic of</td>
<td>48,700</td>
<td>43,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>19,100</td>
<td>19,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>7,100</td>
<td>7,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>2,520</td>
<td>2,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>251,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>240,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-- Zero.

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

2 May include revisions to previously published data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
### TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF LEAD, BY CLASS¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018³</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>January-November</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January-</td>
<td>January-</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>November</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December</td>
<td>November</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ores and concentrate (lead content)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullion (lead content)</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwrought:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refined lead</td>
<td>448,000</td>
<td>421,000</td>
<td>26,800</td>
<td>22,300</td>
<td>374,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refined lead containing antimony as the principal alloying element (lead content)</td>
<td>45,200</td>
<td>41,700</td>
<td>2,390</td>
<td>2,260</td>
<td>24,700</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead alloys (lead content)</td>
<td>18,600</td>
<td>16,400</td>
<td>2,630</td>
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¹Data are rounded to more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
²Less than ½ unit.
³May include revisions to previously published data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF UNWROUGHT LEAD, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY

(Material tons, lead content)

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<th>Material and country or locality of origin</th>
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<th>2018</th>
<th>January–November</th>
<th>October</th>
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-- Zero.

1 Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
2 May include revisions to previously published data.
3 Includes the lead content (Quantity 2) of Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) codes 7801.91.0000, 7801.99.9030, 7801.99.9050. Excludes bullion.
4 Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
TABLE 11
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (LME) STOCKS OF LEAD, END OF PERIOD

(Metric tons)

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-- Zero.

Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.