



International Lead and Zinc Study Group

PRESS RELEASE

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The International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG) released preliminary data for world lead and zinc supply and demand during the first four months of 2023. A brief summary is listed in the tables below. **Full details are available in the June 2023 edition of the Group's 44 page 'Lead and Zinc Statistics' Bulletin.**

World Refined Lead Supply and Usage 2018 - 2023											
000 tonnes	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Jan - Apr		2023			
						2022	2023	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Mine Production	4,571	4,678	4,474	4,548	4,434	1,366	1,397	339.6	308.5	370.9	377.8
Metal Production	12,301	12,342	11,961	12,379	12,171	4,012	4,099	982.5	988.5	1,075.4	1,052.6
Metal Usage	12,348	12,299	11,778	12,313	12,315	4,134	4,145	995.0	980.9	1,086.4	1,082.3

Source: ILZSG

- Provisional data reported to the ILZSG indicate that world refined lead metal demand exceeded supply by 46kt during the first four months of 2023. Over the same period total reported stock levels decreased by 8kt.
- Global lead mine production rose by 2.3%. This was primarily a consequence of increases in Kazakhstan, South Africa and Türkiye that were partially balanced by a reduction in the United States.
- A 2.2% rise in global lead metal production was mainly the result of higher output in China, India and the Republic of Korea. In Bulgaria and Italy, however, output fell sharply.
- Refined lead metal usage grew by a modest 0.3%, as rises in China, India, Mexico and the United Kingdom were largely offset by decreases in the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Türkiye.
- Chinese imports of lead contained in lead concentrates rose by 44% to 217kt. Net exports of refined lead metal totalled 50kt, an increase of 17.9% compared to the same period of 2022.

World Refined Zinc Supply and Usage 2018 - 2023											
000 tonnes	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Jan - Apr		2023			
						2022	2023	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Mine Production	12,723	12,799	12,252	12,801	12,482	4,003	4,024	986.1	947.0	1,021.4	1,069.4
Metal Production	13,142	13,546	13,780	13,873	13,342	4,505	4,557	1,083.1	1,101.9	1,203.5	1,168.6
Metal Usage	13,722	13,788	13,286	14,060	13,506	4,349	4,420	1,076.2	1,048.7	1,138.5	1,156.1

Source: ILZSG

- According to preliminary data recently compiled by the ILZSG, the global market for refined zinc metal was in surplus by 138kt over the first four months of 2023 with total reported inventories increasing by 58kt.
- World zinc mine production rose by a marginal 0.5%, influenced by increases in Brazil, China, India, Kazakhstan and Türkiye that were largely balanced by reductions in Burkina Faso, Canada and Peru. In Europe, rises in Ireland and Portugal were partially offset by reductions in Spain and Sweden, resulting in an overall increase of 1.9% in European output.
- A significant rise in Chinese refined metal production was the main driver behind an overall increase globally of 1.2%. However, production declined in Europe, Canada and Japan.
- Increases in the usage of refined zinc metal in China, India and the United States were partially offset by reductions in Europe, Brazil, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan (China), Thailand and Türkiye, resulting in an overall global rise of 1.6%.
- Chinese imports of zinc contained in zinc concentrates grew by 20.8% to 737kt. Net imports of refined zinc metal totalled 32kt, an increase of 24.9% compared to the first four months of 2022.

Further details about the International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG) together with a full list of publications are available on the Group's website at www.ilzsg.org