

## ZINC - FAQ

### What is zinc?

Zinc comprises an estimated 0.004% of the Earth's crust, and it ranks 25th in order of material abundance in the Earth.

Zinc occurs naturally in the earth, in the air and in the foods you eat. It is the second most common trace metal, after iron, naturally found in the body. Zinc is also a necessary element for proper growth and development of humans, animals, and plants.

### What is zinc used for?

After aluminum and copper, zinc is the third most used nonferrous metal.

About three-fourths of zinc is consumed as metal, mainly as a coating to protect iron and steel from corrosion (galvanized metal), as alloying metal to make bronze and brass, as zinc-based die casting alloy, and as rolled zinc. The remaining one-fourth is consumed as zinc compounds mainly by the rubber, chemical, paint, and agricultural industries.

Zinc can store six times as much energy per pound as other battery systems, increasing the range of electric vehicles.

### Where is it found?

Ores containing zinc are widespread geologically and geographically. Zinc is mined in more than 50 countries with Australia, Canada, China, Peru and the U.S.A. being the leading producers. The abundance of zinc in the earth's crust is approximately 132 ppm.

Usually zinc ores are found in association with those of other metals like lead, copper, gold, and silver as well as other metals. Rarely is the ore, as mined, rich enough to be used directly by smelters; it needs to be concentrated.

Zinc is recyclable. Over one-third of the zinc consumed in North America is recycled from old cars, bridges and buildings, and other sources. Over 80% of the zinc available for recycling is currently recycled.

### How is it mined?

Most zinc mines are underground but some new mines are of the open pit type. Underground mining accounts for 80% of zinc mines. Eight percent open pit, with the remainder being a combination of underground mining and open pit mining.

Interest in non-sulphide zinc deposits has increased in recent years. Deposits of this type tend to be fairly high grade. Zinc metal or high-grade zinc oxide can be produced on-site.

### What is the outlook for zinc?

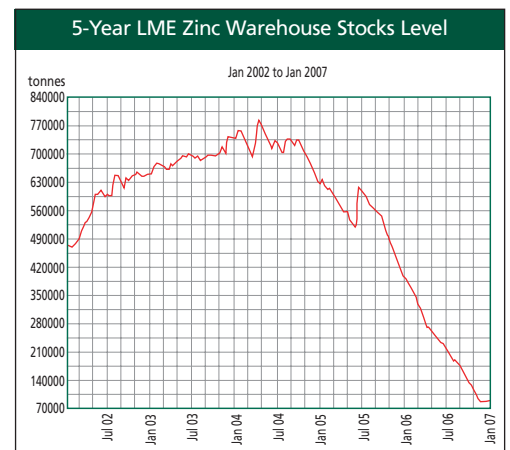
The International Lead and Zinc Study Group continues to project a significant global zinc deficit. China consumes more than 25% of the world's zinc each year and experienced a 13% growth for 2005 in zinc consumption. China has switched from being a significant exporter of zinc to becoming a net importer of zinc.

***The global deficit in zinc supplies continued to increase throughout 2006.***

#### References:

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Zinc and copper are alloyed to create brass, one of zinc's principal applications.

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