

SALIENT U. S. LEAD STATISTICS FOR 1957

Compared With Years 1955 and 1956

Preliminary Report of Lead Production in U. S. in 1957, By U.S.B.M.

The Arizona Department of Mineral Resources has compiled three tables and a chart giving salient statistics of lead production, imports, exports and consumption, for the year 1957, and comparable figures for the years 1955 and 1956.

The data given in Table III are graphically illustrated in the accompanying Chart No. 1, which shows that during the six years from 1952 to 1957, the United States received unneeded imports of lead amounting to 984,000 tons, or an average of 164,000 tons per year. In other words, the available supplies of lead, which consisted of U. S. mine production, plus scrap, plus imports, plus the changes in stocks, were 984,000 tons over the consumptive demand. As the government stockpiles took a great deal of lead during this six-year period, it is natural to assume that such disposal left room for the importation of enormous tonnages of lead for the domestic market.

MINE PRODUCTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1957

(Preliminary Report)

From U.S.B.M. Mineral Market Report No. 2729

"Production of recoverable lead from domestic mines decreased to 333,500 tons in 1957 from 352,800 tons in 1956, according to preliminary figures compiled by the Bureau of Mines, United States Department of the Interior. Output during the first 4 months of 1957 was maintained at a higher average monthly rate than the average for 1956, but average output during the remaining months was considerably lower owing to declines in lead and zinc prices beginning in May which caused many of the mines to shut down or curtail production rates.

Under the stabilizing influence of Government acquisitions for the National stockpiles, the New York price of lead had held at 16.00 cents a pound from January 13, 1956 through May 8, 1957. The Government continued to purchase domestically produced lead for the strategic stockpile on a monthly basis throughout 1957, but after the end of April it greatly restricted the quantity of foreign lead to be acquired for the supplemental stockpile under the barter program. On May 9, the price of lead declined to 15.50 cents a pound, and subsequent decreases of 1/2 cent on May 16, 1 cent on June 11, and 1/2 cent each on October 14 and December 2 reduced the price to 13.00 cents. The zinc price, which also influences lead production, dropped from 13.50 cents to 10.00 cents a pound (Prime Western grade), East St. Louis, during the period from May 6 to July 1, and remained at the 10-cent level through December. Thus the prices of both metals were at the lowest levels since March 1954.

On September 27, the Emergency Lead and Zinc Committee, representing a large segment of the domestic lead and zinc industry, petitioned the Tariff Commission for relief under the "escape clause" provisions of the Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1951. The Commission immediately began an investigation of conditions in the industry with a view of submitting its recommendations to the President at an early date.

Compared with 1956, the most severe declines in lead output among the larger lead producing States in 1957 were 47 percent in Oklahoma, 44 percent in Kansas, 29 percent in Montana, and 11 percent in Utah. There were increases of 1 percent in Missouri and 9 percent in Idaho, the country's largest and second largest lead producers, and increases were also recorded in Arizona, Colorado, Virginia, and Washington."

ARIZONA'S PART IN U. S. LEAD INDUSTRY IN 1957

From U.S.B.M.'s Area Report No. D-67

"Events during the year that affected the lead-zinc industry of the State included the suspension of operations in June at the San Xavier mine by McFarland & Hullinger (formerly owned by Eagle Picher Co.), closing of the Head Center mine (operated by the Athletic Mining Co.) in July, and shutdown of the American Smelting and Refining Co. Trench Unit operation in October. The State's principal producer, Iron King mine, operated by Shattuck Denn Mining Corp., was active throughout the year."

Arizona Department of Mineral Resources

June, 1958

TABLE I

SALIENT U. S. LEAD STATISTICS FOR 1955, 1956 AND 1957

ARIZONA, UNITED STATES, AND WORLD MINE PRODUCTION OF RECOVERABLE LEAD

Source: U.S.B.M. & A.B.M.S.

Unit: Short Tons

	Year 1955	Year 1956	Preliminary 1957
Producers' Stocks Beginning of Period ---	201,850	150,822	159,249
U.S. Mine Production Recoverable Lead ---	338,025	352,826	333,493
Secondary Lead Recovered From Old & New Scrap---	502,051	506,755	490,000
Imported Lead in Ore & Matte -----	177,479	196,452	197,834
Imported Lead in Pigs, Bars & Bullion ----	264,149	262,654	324,363
Imported Lead in Reclaimed Scrap, etc.---	20,580	20,738	9,265
TOTAL SUPPLY	1,504,134	1,490,247	1,514,204
Producers' Stocks at End of Period -----	150,822	159,249	207,912
Exported Lead in Ore, Matte & Base Bullion	1,334	1,055	841
Exported Lead in Pigs and Bars -----	403	4,628	4,339
Exported Lead in Scrap -----	2,983	2,136	885
SUB-TOTAL	155,542	167,068	213,977
NET APPARENT CONSUMPTION -----	1,348,592	1,323,179	1,300,227
REPORTED CONSUMPTION -----	1,212,644	1,209,717	1,119,700
UNACCOUNTED FOR (Stockpiles, etc.) -----	135,948	113,462	180,527
Production of Refined Primary Lead:			
From Domestic Ores & Base Bullion -----	321,132	349,188) 533,000
From Foreign Ores & Base Bullion -----	158,025	193,084	
ARIZONA MINE PRODUCTION -----	9,817	11,999	12,500
WORLD MINE PRODUCTION -----	2,370,000	2,420,000	N.A.
U. S. MINE PRODUCTION AS % OF REPORTED CONSUMPTION-	27.95%	29.17%	29.78%
U. S. MINE PRODUCTION & SECONDARY LEAD AS % OF REPORTED CONSUMPTION-	69.47%	71.06%	73.55%
AVG. PRICE OF LEAD - N.Y. (E. & M.J.)----	15.138¢	16.013¢	14.658¢

Arizona Department of Mineral Resources

June, 1958

TABLE II

U. S. LEAD CONSUMPTION

YEARS 1955, 1956 AND 1957

Source: U. S. B. M.		Unit: Short Tons	
	1955	1956	1957
	Totals	Final	Preliminary
	Totals	Totals	Totals
Metal Products:			
Ammunition -----	46,816	44,438	42,488
Bearing metals -----	34,567	28,321	25,902
Brass and bronze -----	24,043	27,063	23,700
Cable covering -----	121,165	134,339	108,192
Calking lead -----	59,406	64,970	61,927
Casting metals -----	15,141	12,932	11,462
Collapsible tubes -----	11,136	10,945	9,170
Foil -----	5,185	4,593	4,839
Pipes, traps and bends -----	29,757	28,028	23,484
Sheet lead -----	30,466	30,249	26,284
Solder -----	88,749	75,290	69,284
Storage battery grids, posts, etc. ----	195,787	191,568	176,533
Storage battery oxides -----	184,246	179,203	177,399
Terne metal -----	2,382	1,709	1,643
Type metal -----	26,507	26,709	26,070
Total -----	875,353	860,357	788,377
Pigments:			
White lead -----	18,549	16,951	15,701
Red lead and litharge -----	87,503	79,199	78,127
Pigment colors -----	15,000	13,866	12,449
Other 1/ -----	10,383	10,354	5,938
Total -----	131,435	120,370	112,215
Chemicals:			
Tetraethyl lead -----	165,133	191,990	177,001
Miscellaneous chemicals -----	5,492	3,146	2,952
Total -----	170,625	195,136	179,953
Miscellaneous Uses:			
Annealing -----	6,059	5,899	4,488
Galvanizing -----	2,313	1,658	1,111
Lead plating -----	848	916	340
Weights and ballast -----	7,673	7,250	5,907
Total -----	16,893	15,723	11,846
Other uses unclassified -----	18,338	18,131	15,355
Total reported -----	1,212,644	2/ 1,209,717	2/ 1,107,748
Estimated unreported consumption -----	---	---	12,000
Grand Total -----	1,212,644	2/ 1,209,717	2/ 1,119,700
Daily average 3/ -----	3,322	3,305	3,068

1/ Includes lead content of leaded zinc oxide production. 2/ Includes lead content of scrap used directly in fabricated products. 3/ Based on number of days in month without adjustment for Sundays or holidays.

TABLE III

LEAD

The Domestic Situation 1952-1957

Compiled by Arizona Department of Mineral Resources from U. S. B. M. Reports

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
U. S. Mine Production	390,000	343,000	325,000	338,000	353,000	334,000
Scrap	471,000	487,000	481,000	502,000	507,000	490,000
Imports	616,000	548,000	438,000	442,000	460,000	517,000
Metals Stocks Increase	26,000 *	47,000 *	5,000 *	51,000 **	8,000 *	50,000 *
Available supply	1,451,000	1,331,000	1,239,000	1,333,000	1,312,000	1,291,000
Consumption	1,131,000	1,202,000	1,095,000	1,213,000	1,210,000	1,122,000
Surplus or Deficit	320,000	129,000	144,000	120,000	102,000	169,000

Net Unneeded Imports for the six years = 984,000 tons = 164,000 tons per year.

* Denotes increase in stocks.

** Denotes decrease in stocks

June, 1958

CHART NO. 1

GRAPH SHOWING DOMESTIC LEAD SUPPLIES AND UNNEEDED IMPORTS

