



Lead in January 2026

This workbook includes 11 tables.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This publication is provided by the National Minerals Information Center (NMIC), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Includes data available through July 10, 2026, unless otherwise noted.

NMIC data included in Excel tables of the Minerals Yearbook Chapters and Minerals Industry Surveys are considered preliminary, for informational purposes only.

Comprehensive data releases and list services for NMIC publications are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center>.

Data in these tables may not include granular footnotes.

Unless otherwise noted, totals, United States (U.S.) data, and estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices and unit values; may not add to totals shown. Data may include revisions to previously published data.

FOOTNOTES AND TERMINOLOGY

Year-to-date indicates the sum of all months or quarters for the given year to the given period.

Estimated data contained in a row or column are marked with a superscript "e." Preliminary data contained in a row or column are marked with a superscript "p."

Do, ditto. NA, not available. No., number. W, withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. —, not applicable. <0.5, less than half a unit.

TRADE DATA

Trade data are sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>). "HTS" indicates the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States code.

"Schedule B" indicates the Schedule B of the United States number.

Only the leading trade partners are listed individually in the table. Data for all countries are provided in the data release file at Mineral Industry Surveys Data Release (Provisional) - ScienceBase-Catalog.

Imports refers to "imports for consumption." Import valuation is customs value, free-alongside-ship basis.

Exports refers to "domestic exports." Export valuation is on a free-alongside-ship basis.

CONTACT

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If you are an industry producer or consumer and would like to contribute to NMIC industry surveys, please contact Tiffany Lin, tjlin@usgs.gov

Table 1. Salient lead statistics in the United States.

[Data are in metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified.]

Product	2024 ¹	2025 ¹			2026, January
		January	December	January–December	
U.S. production					
Mine (recoverable)	296,000	22,500	17,800	268,000	20,000
Secondary refinery, reported by smelters/refineries	1,030,000	85,700	89,000	1,060,000	87,900
U.S. consumption					
Refined lead, apparent ^{e, 2}	1,410,000	132,000	124,000	1,550,000	117,000
U.S. imports for consumption					
Ore and concentrate	239	31	8	349	16
Bullion	3	74	0	215	0
Unwrought	410,000	47,100	36,400	510,000	31,600
U.S. exports					
Ore and concentrate	260,000	7,100	10,300	242,000	11,100
Bullion (metric tons, gross weight)	311	0	0	345	25
Unwrought (metric tons, gross weight)	37,000	1,350	1,850	24,200	2,030
U.S. price (cents per pound)					
S&P Global Platts Metals Week North American Market	108.81	102.17	110.01	106.69	113.09

¹May include revisions to previously published data.²Secondary refinery production plus imports for consumption of unwrought lead minus domestic exports of unwrought lead.

Table 2. Mine and secondary refinery production of lead in the United States.

[Data are in metric tons.]

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Period	Mine		Secondary refinery ^e
	Lead in concentrate	Recoverable	
2025			
January	23,100	22,500	86,600
February	22,200	21,700	86,500
March	24,100	23,500	88,700
April	23,000	22,400	91,900
May	23,100	22,500	89,200
June	28,200	27,500	86,300
July	23,500	22,900	88,500
August	25,900	25,200	87,700
September	23,200	22,600	88,600
October	23,900	23,200	89,400
November	16,600	16,200	91,100
December	18,300	17,800	89,000
Year-to-date	275,000	268,000	1,060,000
2026			
January	20,500	20,000	87,900

Table 3. Monthly average lead prices.

[Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.]

Period	North American Market ¹	London Metal Exchange (LME) cash		Used lead-acid batteries ²
	Price (€/lb)	Price (€/lb)	Price (\$/t)	Price (€/lb)
2025				
January	102.17	87.15	1,921.23	31.50
February	103.69	88.67	1,954.74	30.81
March	106.30	92.22	2,033.10	31.00
April	101.87	86.57	1,908.53	29.85
May	105.65	88.80	1,957.64	29.25
June	107.32	89.46	1,972.31	29.00
July	109.07	90.46	1,994.34	30.20
August	106.98	88.21	1,944.63	30.75
September	107.59	88.63	1,953.96	30.00
October	108.78	88.63	1,953.96	30.25
November	110.80	90.77	2,001.20	30.75
December	110.01	88.08	1,941.75	31.80
Year-to-date	106.69	88.97	1,961.45	30.43
2026				
January	113.09	90.61	1,997.54	32.38

¹S&P Global Platts Metals Week North American Market price. Reflects the LME lead cash price plus the Platts premium for 99.99% pure lead.²S&P Global Platts 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.

Table 4. Consumption of purchased lead-base scrap in January 2026.

[Data are in metric tons, gross weight]

Item	Stocks, December 31, 2025	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks, January 31, 2026
Battery-lead	W	79,600	79,100	W
Other ¹	W	2,430	2,310	W
Total	5,550	82,100	81,400	6,240
Percent change from preceding month ²	0	-0.4	-1.0	12.2

¹Includes soft lead, solder, drosses and residues, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap.²Based on unrounded data; preceding monthly data may have been revised.

Table 5. Lead, tin, and antimony recovered from lead-base scrap in January 2026.
[Data are in metric tons.]

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	75,500	W	0
Remelt lead	W	0	0
Antimonial lead	12,200	W	W
Other ¹	W	0	0
Total lead-base	87,900	210	W

¹Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

Table 6. U.S. apparent consumption of lead.

[Data are in metric tons.]

Period	Production^e	Imports¹	Exports¹	Apparent consumption²
2025				
January	86,600	47,100	1,350	132,000
February	86,500	28,300	1,540	113,000
March	88,700	70,500	1,970	157,000
April	91,900	27,200	2,010	117,000
May	89,200	46,000	1,780	133,000
June	86,300	52,300	1,680	137,000
July	88,500	38,500	2,000	125,000
August	87,700	36,700	2,620	122,000
September	88,600	46,500	2,540	133,000
October	89,400	42,700	2,360	130,000
November	91,100	38,200	2,540	127,000
December	89,000	36,400	1,850	124,000
Year-to-date	1,060,000	510,000	24,200	1,550,000
2026				
January	87,900	31,600	2,030	117,000

¹Import 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.

²Smelter production plus imports for consumption minus domestic exports.

Table 7. U.S. exports of lead, by class.

[Data are in metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified.]

Class	2024 ¹	2025 ¹			2026, January
		January	December	January–December	
Unwrought					
Refined lead	18,600	154	533	3,140	372
Refined lead containing antimony as the principal alloying element	1,940	86	485	5,550	739
Lead alloys	16,200	1,060	836	15,100	914
Other	239	52	0	442	7
Total	36,900	1,350	1,850	24,200	2,030
Wrought					
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	512	398	13	738	4
Pipes and tubes, including fittings	3	0	0	6	0
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	10,200	640	353	14,200	600
Other	1,210	43	141	1,340	151
Total	11,900	1,080	507	16,300	755
Waste and scrap					
Spent lead-acid storage batteries for starting engines (units)	28,700,000	2,700,000	3,640,000	36,700,000	3,570,000
Lead waste and scrap obtained from lead-acid storage batteries	145	1,740	54	4,310	129
Other lead waste and scrap	47,200	3,080	4,500	58,600	4,670
Other					
Bullion	311	0	0	345	25
Ores and concentrate (lead content)	260,000	7,100	10,300	242,000	11,100
Powders and flakes	204	22	15	199	38
Tetraethyl lead and tetramethyl lead	92	5	41	178	16

¹May include revisions to previously published data.

Table 8. U.S. exports of lead ores and concentrate, by country or locality.

[Data are in metric tons, lead content.]

Country or locality	2024 ¹	2025 ¹			2026, January
		January	December	January–December	
Australia	0	0	0	10,700	0
Belgium	22,400	0	0	6,690	0
Canada	38,500	2,960	2,420	39,800	2,990
China	107,000	0	0	44,400	3,980
Colombia	3	0	0	0	0
Germany	7,580	0	0	7,100	0
India	57	0	0	0	0
Japan	20,300	0	0	23,900	0
Korea, Republic of	33,900	885	7,890	50,200	4,090
Malaysia	0	0	8	3,510	0
Mexico	18,600	0	0	15,700	0
Spain	0	0	0	5,580	0
Switzerland	10,800	3,260	0	34,500	0
Thailand	0	0	0	190	0
Vietnam	12	0	0	0	0
Total	260,000	7,100	10,300	242,000	11,100

¹May include revisions to previously published data.

Table 9. U.S. imports for consumption of lead, by class.

[Data are in metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified.]

Class	2024 ¹	2025 ¹			2026, January
		January	December	January–December	
Unwrought					
Refined lead	342,000	39,200	27,500	414,000	16,000
Refined lead containing antimony as the principal alloying element (lead content)	26,000	2,710	2,400	30,500	2,420
Lead alloys (lead content)	26,400	3,710	4,080	39,700	5,250
Other (lead content)	16,200	1,430	2,390	25,900	7,900
Total	410,000	47,100	36,400	510,000	31,600
Wrought					
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	938	44	135	640	92
Pipes and tubes, including fittings	45	6	2	33	0
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	1,970	152	92	1,950	142
Other	2,290	176	258	2,220	176
Total	5,250	377	487	4,840	409
Waste and scrap					
Spent lead-acid storage batteries for starting engines (units)	1,220,000	66,700	6,320	261,000	5,550
Lead waste and scrap obtained from lead-acid storage batteries (lead content)	2,360	180	171	2,160	82
Other lead waste and scrap (lead content)	4,530	260	13	978	4
Other					
Bullion (lead content)	3	74	0	215	0
Ores and concentrate (lead content)	239	31	8	349	16
Powders and flakes	117	19	40	446	101
Tetraethyl lead and tetramethyl lead	99	20	14	100	7

¹May include revisions to previously published data.

Table 10. U.S. imports for consumption of unwrought lead, by country or locality.

[Includes refined lead (Quantity 1) of Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) code 7801.10.0000 and the lead content (Quantity 2) of HTS codes 7801.91.0000, 7801.99.9030, 7801.99.9050. Excludes bullion. Data are in metric tons, lead content.]

Country or locality of origin	2024 ¹	2025 ¹			2026, January
		January	December	January–December	
Australia	60,100	525	5,570	69,600	0
Brazil	3,900	0	0	437	0
Canada	146,000	16,100	15,800	181,000	15,800
China	619	27	0	28	0
Colombia	301	276	379	1,640	0
Cote d'Ivoire	0	0	0	1,560	0
Ecuador	4,990	350	350	2,350	275
Germany	0	0	106	138	76
Ghana	14,500	766	0	9,830	0
Hungary	0	0	3	3	3
India	337	467	0	550	0
Italy	2	0	0	0	0
Kazakhstan	7,000	6,000	0	11,000	0
Korea, Republic of	49,300	13,100	2,090	63,200	1,010
Mexico	81,100	8,870	11,200	144,000	13,800
Nigeria	34,300	146	0	3,040	0
Panama	0	0	0	99	0
Peru	202	25	99	322	0
Russia	0	0	0	16	0
South Africa	71	0	0	3,530	0
Spain	17	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	298	0	0	0	0
Thailand	0	20	0	20	0
Turkey	19	0	0	12	0
United Kingdom	7,300	345	839	17,800	618
Venezuela	0	0	0	175	0
Total	410,000	47,100	36,400	510,000	31,600

¹May include revisions to previously published data.

Table 11. London Metal Exchange (LME) stocks of lead, end of period.
[Data are in metric tons. Source: London Metal Exchange, Ltd.]

Period	Asia	Europe	Total
2025			
January	218,575	2,050	220,625
February	210,675	1,975	212,650
March	229,950	1,975	231,925
April	262,750	1,475	264,225
May	282,825	1,325	284,150
June	268,750	1,325	270,075
July	274,000	1,325	275,325
August	258,225	1,325	259,550
September	226,875	1,325	228,200
October	215,550	1,250	216,800
November	259,675	1,200	260,875
December	238,150	1,175	239,325
2026			
January	203,525	550	204,075