



# Lead & Zinc Markets in Surplus

The International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG) has released preliminary data for world lead and zinc supply and demand during the first seven months of 2012. Provisional information reported to the ILZSG indicates that the global market for refined lead metal was in surplus by 49kt during the first seven months of 2012. Over the same period total reported stock levels decreased by 32kt. Global production of refined zinc metal exceeded usage by 135kt over the period January to July 2012 with total reported inventory levels rising by 118kt.



MAIN RESULTS OF REFINED LEAD METAL	MAIN RESULTS OF REFINED ZINC METAL
<p>A rise in global lead mine production of 21.8% was primarily a consequence of a reported 41.3% rise in Chinese output. Production also increased in Mexico, Peru, the Russian Federation and Sweden.</p>	<p>World zinc mine production increased by 10.5%. This was principally due to a sharp 30.4% reported increase in Chinese output. Elsewhere rises in Bolivia, Mexico, the Russian Federation and Sweden were partially offset by reductions in Australia, Canada and the United States.</p>
<p>Higher refined lead metal output in Belgium, India, the Republic of Korea, Mexico and the United Kingdom was largely offset by reductions in Australia and the United States resulting in a limited overall global increase of 1%.</p>	<p>Lower refined zinc metal output in Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China and South Africa more than balanced increases in Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands and Uzbekistan resulting in an overall reduction in global output of 1.4%.</p>
<p>Overall global demand for refined lead metal rose by 2.5% mainly driven by rises in China, Japan and Turkey. European usage rose by 0.8% but in the United States, decreased by 2.4%.</p>	<p>A small increase in global refined zinc metal usage of 0.5% was mainly influenced by higher demand in India, the Republic of Korea and Turkey. Usage in Europe declined by 3.7% and was marginally higher than during the first seven months of 2011 in both China and the United States.</p>