



MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240



Walter J. Hickel, Secretary

John F. O'Leary, Director

For information call H. J. Schroeder
Telephone: 703-557-1541

Lead Industry, Monthly

LEAD INDUSTRY IN DECEMBER 1968

A large increase in primary smelter output more than offset declines in secondary plant production and metal imports, with the total new supply approximately balancing a reduced consumption, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Consumption of lead was 112,100 tons, a small decline, but 2 percent above the average monthly quantity. The preliminary total of 1,319,000 tons for the year represents a significant recovery from the 1967 slump and was only slightly below the 1966 record high.

Smelter output at primary plants reached the very high level of 55,100 tons with much of the increase attributable to start-up production at the new smelter of the Missouri Lead Operating Co. Production at secondary plants was 42,300 tons, a decline from the high quantities of recent months and the smallest since July. Mine production remained unchanged at 38,000 tons. General imports of metal declined to 20,400 tons with delivery curtailed after December 20 due to the East Coast dock strike.

Metal stocks remained at a very low operating level with 15,200 tons reported at primary plants and 83,400 tons at consumer and secondary plants.

Prepared February 28, 1969, in Mineral Resource Evaluation.