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MINERALS YEARBOOK

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Volume I of Three Volumes

METALS AND MINERALS

(EXCEPT FUELS)



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TABLE 1.—Salient statistics of the lead¹ and zinc pigments industry of the United States, 1946-50 (average) and 1951-55

	1946-50 (average)	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Production (shipments) ² of principal pigments:						
White lead (dry and in oil)..... short tons	49,772	35,415	26,664	26,217	25,571	25,575
Red lead..... do	31,843	35,352	30,926	31,333	27,163	29,272
Litharge..... do	150,867	151,753	140,798	151,518	139,677	148,511
Zinc oxide..... do	148,108	117,716	112,210	118,627	110,285	108,511
Lead-free zinc oxide..... short tons	63,513	41,341	37,892	39,712	33,972	32,661
Lithopone..... do	127,269	102,837	61,532	52,439	41,011	42,815
Value of products:						
All lead pigments.....	\$72,471,000	\$89,273,000	\$72,230,000	\$61,303,000	\$61,756,000	\$69,133,000
All zinc pigments.....	57,621,400	74,599,000	63,050,000	66,475,000	50,438,000	58,031,000
Total.....	130,092,400	163,872,000	135,280,000	127,778,000	112,194,000	127,164,000
Value per ton received by producers:						
White lead (dry).....	\$296	\$120	\$103	\$278	\$383	\$492
Red lead.....	313	397	376	312	323	312
Litharge.....	301	383	318	255	301	326
Zinc oxide.....	305	311	307	261	255	278
Lead-free zinc oxide.....	216	320	313	259	253	259
Lithopone.....	106	141	137	132	135	140
Foreign trade:						
Lead pigments:						
Value of exports.....	\$93,500	\$64,000	\$63,000	\$79,000	\$372,000	\$976,000
Value of imports.....	256,600	1,797,000	451,000	16,000	119,000	195,000
Zinc pigments:						
Value of exports.....	4,018,800	6,855,000	4,352,000	1,468,000	1,351,000	1,073,000
Value of imports.....	274,800	930,000	90,000	287,000	515,000	723,000
Export balance.....	4,511,300	5,112,000	4,711,000	1,461,000	1,559,000	1,081,000

¹ Excludes basic lead sulfate, data for which are withheld to avoid disclosure of individual company confidential data.

² Reported as sales before 1946.

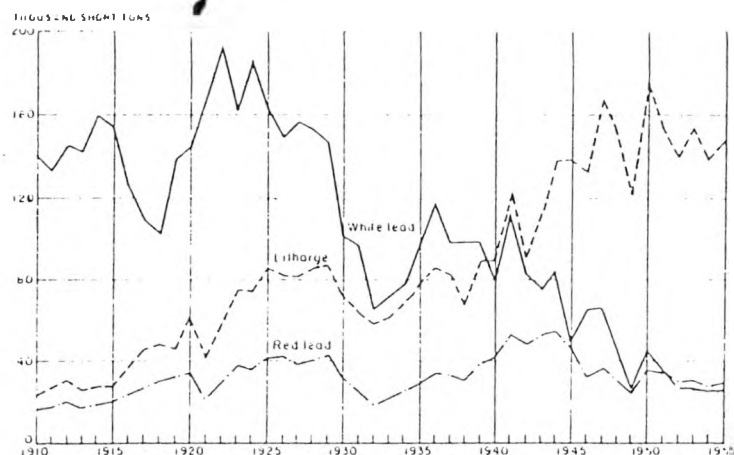


FIGURE 1.—Trends in shipments of lead pigments, 1910-55.

Lead-free zinc oxide shipments increased 20 percent as demand for rubber, paints, ceramics, and textiles increased. Shipments of leaded zinc oxide declined 4 percent. Lithopone shipments declined 3 percent, indicating decreasing use as a pigment.

The distribution of pigments to consumers in 1955 was essentially the same as in previous years. The paint industry, continuing as the principal user of white lead, leaded zinc oxide, and lithopone, received approximately 78, 99, and 71 percent, respectively, of the total shipments of these products. The paint industry was also the leading consumer of red lead, taking 49 percent of that shipped. Paint production consumed 20 percent of the zinc oxide (lead-free) and 4 percent of the litharge shipped. Storage-battery makers were the chief users of litharge and the second-ranking user of red lead, receiving 61 and 41 percent, respectively, of producers' shipments. The rubber industry continued to be the leading consumer of zinc oxide, using 51 percent of total shipments. Manufacture of rubber products also used small quantities of litharge and lithopone. The ceramics industry, ranking fourth in consumption of lead and zinc pigments in 1955, used 16 percent of all litharge shipments, 6 percent of lead-free zinc oxide shipments, 2 percent of red-lead shipments, and 2 percent of white-lead shipments.

Titanium pigments continued to furnish the chief competition to lead and zinc pigments in paintmaking. Production and shipments of titanium pigments, based on the titanium dioxide content, established new records, increasing about 10 and 15 percent, respectively, over the previous highs established in 1951. The use of titanium pigments has about doubled over the past 11 years, displacing lead and zinc pigments, especially white lead and lithopone, in many paint formulations.

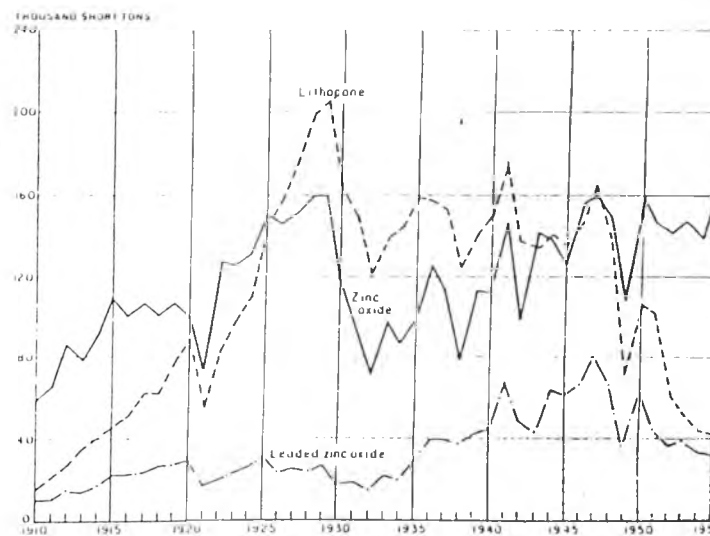


FIGURE 2.—Trends in shipments of zinc pigments, 1910-55.