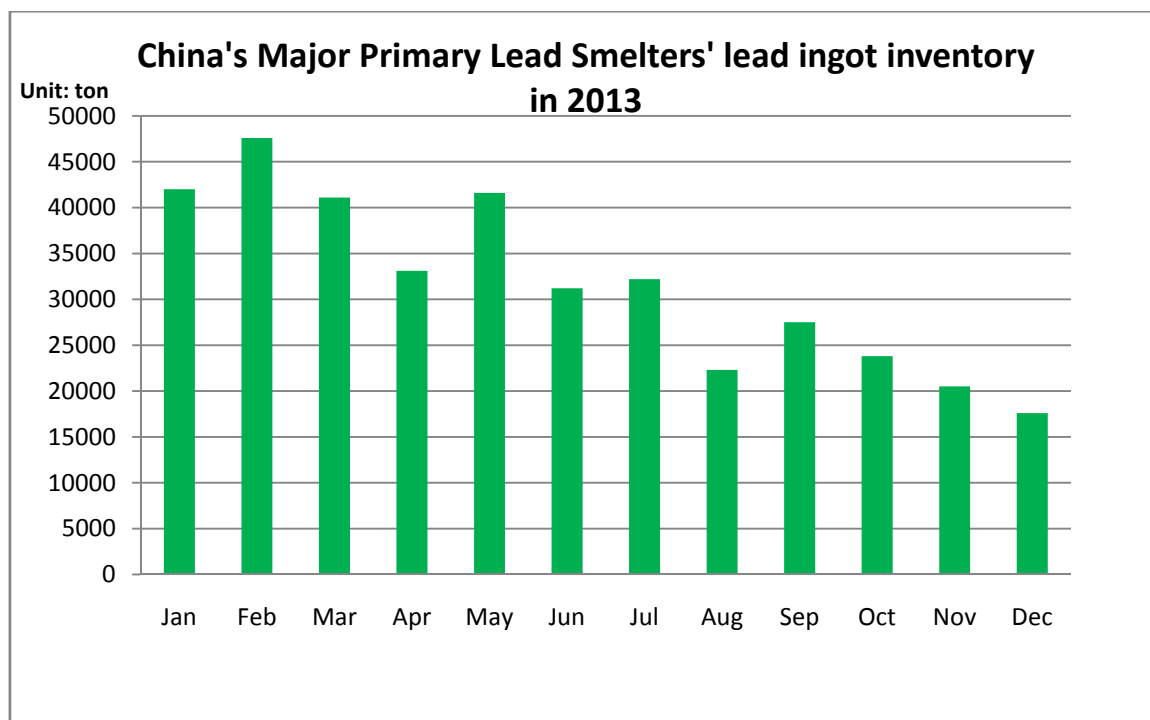


AM Statistics: China's primary lead smelters' lead ingot inventory in 2013

BEIJING (Asian Metal) 25 Feb 14 - The statistics published by Asian Metal about lead ingot stocks in fifty-two lead smelters in China showed that the lead ingot inventory held by the smelters with the total annual capacity of 4.70 million tons declined greatly in the second half of 2013.

The following chart presents the lead ingot inventory in Chinese major primary lead smelters at the end of each month of 2013.



The lead ingot prices declined gradually from RMB14,800/t (USD2,426/t) to about RMB13,800/t (USD2,262/t) in the first half of 2013, some lead smelters were reluctant to sell the metal on the high purchasing cost of lead concentrate. Therefore, the lead ingot inventory held by the lead smelters kept at above 30,000t before July 2013.

However, some lead smelters reduced production on tightness of lead concentrate supply in the second half of 2013, leading to the decline of lead ingot output and stocks in China. Additionally, lead ingot prices bounced up greatly from RMB13,800/t (USD2,262/t) to RMB14,800/t (USD2,426/t) in August, so most lead ingot producers became more active in selling the metal, leading to the great decline of lead ingot inventory in August 2013. The lead ingot prices lingered steadily in the narrow range of RMB13,800-14,200/t (USD2,262-2,328/t) from September to December in 2013 and the lead ingot market outlook was unpromising, so suppliers showed low intention of holding back from selling the metal. The lead ingot inventory was 17,600t at the end of December 2013, down by about 58.1% compared with the volume at the end of January 2013.