

The following private zinc producers are reported to be envisioning expansions:

- Compañía Minera Raura, a zinc/lead producer, is planning a 10 percent increase in production to a projected 24,141 fmt in 1991; an open pit is being prepared near underground operations; the site opened in June 199. Concentrator capacity is being increased from 1500 mt/day to 1750 mt/day.

- Compañía Minera Atacocha planned to spend US\$4.5 million to increase mine capacity and to increase concentrator capacity from 6,600 mt/day to 8,000 mt/day. Completion is scheduled for March 1991; the work will permit mining of the zinc vein at lower levels. Production in 1990 was an estimated 22,465 fmt (down 9 percent from 1989); 1991 output of 32,285 fmt has been projected.

- Minas de Arcata (of the Hochschild group) has indicated plans to increase zinc production by 16 percent to a 1991 production level projected at 13,127 fmt. A lead/zinc circuit was installed in November 1989, after the ore body showed a slight decrease in silver content accompanied by an increase in zinc/lead content.

Private miner Compañía Mineral de Madrigal, a lead/zinc/silver producer in Arequipa, shut down in November 1990. Fresh capital would be required to resume operations.

Zinc Refining:

Zinc refining is conducted at Centromin's La Oroya complex and Minero Peru's Cajamarquilla refinery. National refined output in 1990 was an estimated 117,634 mt, down seven percent from 1989 production; 1991 output was projected to be 125,000 mt. (Record production occurred in 1985, at 162,746 mt.)

Projections call for Centromin's La Oroya refined zinc production to increase from an estimated 60,964 mt in 1990 to a projected 65,000 mt in 1991.

An increase in zinc output is planned at Minero Peru's Cajamarquilla refinery from an estimated 56,670 mt in 1990 to a projected 60,000 mt in 1991. This represents production at a little over one half of refinery capacity; in 1990, severe power shortages caused by a combination of drought and sabotage depressed production. Drought conditions ended with the return of rains in autumn 1990, but it is expected that only 70 percent of power requirements will be met in 1991. The refinery consumes about 55 MW of electricity, roughly 10 percent of Lima's total consumption.