

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ANTIMONY IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2012

Consumption of primary antimony in the second quarter of 2012 was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be 4% more than that in the first quarter of 2012 and 15% less than that in the second quarter of 2011. During the first 6 months of 2012, imports were 11,500 metric tons (t), a decrease of 5% compared with those in the comparable period of 2011. During the first 6 months of 2012, China was the leading supplier of antimony metal and antimony oxide to the United States.

The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for antimony metal started April at \$5.90 to \$6.50 per pound and increased slightly during the second quarter to finish June at \$6.20 to \$6.45 per pound.

Great Atlantic Resources Corp. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) (formerly Greenlight Resources Inc.) acquired 3,157 hectares known as the Speerville property in Carleton County, western New Brunswick, Canada, that was adjacent to its recently acquired MacDougall Road antimony property. Sampling in 1985 from the Oak Mountain occurrence, which was part of the Speerville property, by the Geological Survey of Canada returned a finding of 1.96% antimony. The company planned to continue geochemical analyses of this region, and had been focusing on properties adjacent to the long-producing Beaver Brook antimony mine in New Brunswick (GreenLight Resources Inc., 2012)

Tri-Star Resources Plc (London, United Kingdom), an antimony exploration and development company, announced that an independent geological assessment of the Goynuk antimony deposit in Turkey indicated mineralization with a potential of approximately 350,000 t averaging 1% to 3% antimony. The Government has granted the firm permission for a processing facility with a capacity of 14,400 metric tons per year. The company reported that it had a non-binding letter of intent from an existing joint-venture partner in the United Arab Emirates to provide up to \$30 million of working capital for the roaster project. A construction permit had been received for the roaster site preparation work (Cammell, 2012).

The Chinese Government announced 5,941 t of export quotas for antimony metal and 20,965 t of export quotas for antimony trioxide in the second half of 2012, compared with 7,128 t for

antimony metal and 33,544 t for antimony trioxide in the first half of 2012 (Metal-Pages, 2012).

Randsburg International Gold Corp. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) announced that it had agreed to acquire a 90% stake in the Pokiok Settlement antimony, gold, and tungsten project in New Brunswick, Canada from an unnamed owner. Under the terms of the memorandum of understanding, Randsburg would have the right to acquire up to a 90% interest in 30 claims comprising 688 hectares. The claims were contiguous to the former Lake George antimony mine, which was in production from 1970 to 1989 and was the leading producer of antimony in North America during its operation (Reuters, 2012).

U.S. Antimony Corp. (USAC) (Thompson Falls, MT) continued to develop its mill in Guanajuato, and smelter in Coahuila, Mexico. USAC's 150-t Puerto Blanco mill and Madero smelter were being supplied by more than seven antimony properties. In addition to the Los Juarez property, which USAC operates, the company has supply agreements with the rest of the properties, with options to buy two of them. Four furnaces were being operated at the Mexican smelter, and three of them were being retrofitted for increased production. They were designed to handle low-grade antimony oxide ore, which predominates in Mexico. The Mexican combination flotation and gravity mill was delivering concentrates to the smelter. The mill recovered the sulfides and some of the oxides not recoverable by flotation methods. A large precrusher was being installed to handle oversize rock from the Los Juarez property (U.S. Antimony Corp., 2012).

### Update

On September 20, 2012, the Platts Metals Week dealer price for antimony was \$5.62 to \$5.95 per pound.

### References Cited

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TABLE 1  
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2011 <sup>P</sup>	2012	
		1st quarter	2d quarter
Imports for consumption:	23,500	6,020	5,470
Ore and concentrate	288	138	83
Metal	5,040	1,250	1,260
Oxide <sup>2</sup>	18,200	4,630	4,130
Exports:	4,250	873	1,150
Ore and concentrate	83	8	62
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap	581	124	259
Antimony oxide <sup>2</sup>	3,590	741	826
Consumption of primary antimony	9,970	2,500	2,590
Price, average, cents per pound <sup>3</sup>	650.30	533.00	602.00
Stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>	1,220	1,190	1,310

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

<sup>2</sup>Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

<sup>3</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week. New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

<sup>4</sup>Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2  
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY  
IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2012	
	1st quarter	2d quarter
Oxide	631	735
Other <sup>2</sup>	563	579
Total	1,190	1,310

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2011 <sup>p</sup>	2012	
		1st quarter	2d quarter
Oxide	9,380	2,320	2,300
Other <sup>2</sup>	595 <sup>r</sup>	180 <sup>r</sup>	297
Total	9,970	2,500	2,590

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes ores and concentrates, metal, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 4  
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF MATERIAL PRODUCED<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2011 <sup>p</sup>	2012	
		1st quarter	2d quarter
Metal <sup>2</sup>	2,710	729	775
Nonmetal <sup>3</sup>	3,660	908 <sup>r</sup>	907
Flame-retardants:			
Plastics	3,010	710 <sup>r</sup>	763
Other <sup>4</sup>	591	155 <sup>r</sup>	147
Total	3,600	865	910
Grand total	9,970	2,500	2,590

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

<sup>3</sup>Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, bearing metals and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

<sup>4</sup>Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.

TABLE 5  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2011	2012				January– June
		1st quarter	April	May	June	
<b>Ore and concentrate:</b>						
China	56	40	18	4	--	62
Italy	223	88	25	11	24	148
Other	9	10	--	--	--	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>221</b>
<b>Metal:</b>						
Belgium	94	--	--	--	--	--
Bolivia	67	15	--	22	--	37
China	3,620	967	357	216	366	1,910
Hong Kong	57	20	--	--	--	20
India	607	180	80	160	15	435
Japan	97	15	--	--	--	15
Mexico	309	40	31	4	--	74
United Kingdom	142	16	--	--	7	23
Other	44	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,040</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>2,510</b>
<b>Oxide:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Belgium	1,750	402	103	84	102	691
Bolivia	1,050	412	295	97	--	804
China	12,900	3,340	793	1,020	995	6,150
France	31	90 <sup>r</sup>	34	46	40	210
Japan	303	134	44	2	2	182
Mexico	1,010	223	115	100	126	564
Taiwan	142	32	--	--	--	32
Thailand	973	--	--	100	--	100
Other	--	--	15	--	17	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,200</b>	<b>4,630</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>8,760</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>1,870</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>11,500</b>
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	47	11	2	--	--	13

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.