

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2012

Consumption of primary antimony in the third quarter of 2012 was estimated to be 3% less than that in the second quarter of 2012 and 26% less than that in the third quarter of 2011. During the first 9 months of 2012, imports totaled 17,200 metric tons (t), a decrease of 5% compared with imports in the comparable period of 2011. During the first 9 months of 2012, China was the leading supplier of antimony metal and antimony oxide to the United States.

Antimony prices decreased steadily during the third quarter of 2012. The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price range for antimony metal started July at \$6.20 to \$6.45 per pound and decreased steadily to finish September at \$5.62 to \$5.95 per pound.

U.S. Antimony Corp. (USAC) (Thompson Falls, MT) accelerated the exploration and development plan at its Los Juarez antimony-silver-gold property in Mexico, and increased its milling and smelting capacity. Based on mapping and sampling, the Los Juarez deposit has jasperoid zones containing antimony-silver-gold over a strike length of 3,000 meters (m) and a width between 100 and 500 m. USAC has begun to explore and develop several zones to determine ore grades. USAC planned to ship a 500-metric-ton-per-day (t/d) ball mill and flotation cells from Montana to Mexico to increase USAC's total milling capacity from 150 t/d to 650 t/d. In addition, a large jaw crusher, a larger cone crusher, and additional gravity separation equipment were installed to increase capacity. At the Mexican smelter, all four furnaces have been retrofitted to smelt ore feed from seven antimony mines. Two of the mines were under option to USAC to purchase. Subject to permitting, four additional furnaces will be added. Plans were underway to reduce energy costs by 70% by replacing propane burners with natural gas burners (U.S. Antimony Corp., 2012).

Midas Gold Corp. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) announced assay results from three exploration holes drilled at the Scout prospect at its Golden Meadows Project in the Stibnite-Yellow Pine District, ID, and drilling of more targets was planned for later in 2012 and into 2013. Drill results indicated antimony grades in the range of 0.14% to 2.96%. The Scout prospect was first discovered in the 1940s, after the U.S.

Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines outlined a large gold and antimony biogeochemical anomaly (Midas Gold Corp., 2012.)

Great Atlantic Resource Corp. (Vancouver) acquired the Lansdowne antimony gold property, in Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada, which comprised 354 claims covering more than 5,670 hectares. The company also signed a letter of intent with Elk Exploration Ltd. to acquire the West Gore antimony gold mine and planned to complete a National Instrument 43-101-compliant report on the property. The mine is 45 kilometers northeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and comprises claims totaling 480 acres (Great Atlantic Resource Corp., 2012a, b).

Tri-Star Resources Plc (London, United Kingdom), an integrated antimony exploration and development company, entered into an agreement to provide technical collaboration and advice to RDP Singapore, Ltd. on its Burma antimony projects, which include exploration rights surrounding two existing producing deposits. Tri-Star planned to complete geologic and metallurgical assessments within 1 year (Tri-Star Resources Plc, 2012).

Update

On December 13, 2012, the Platts Metals Week dealer price for antimony was \$5.15 to \$5.45 per pound.

References Cited

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TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2012				
	2011 ^P	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Imports for consumption:	23,500	6,020	5,470	5,710	17,200
Ore and concentrate	288	138	82 ^r	96	316
Metal	5,040	1,250	1,260	1,420	3,930
Oxide ²	18,200	4,630	4,130	4,190	13,000
Exports:	4,250	874 ^r	1,150	1,370	3,400
Ore and concentrate	83	9 ^r	62	30	101
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap	581	124	259	249	632
Antimony oxide ²	3,590	741	826	1,100	2,660
Consumption of primary antimony	9,970	2,500	2,590	2,510	7,600
Price, average, cents per pound ³	650.30	533.00	602.00	576.02	570.34
Stocks, end of period ⁴	1,220	1,190	1,310	1,290	1,290

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

²Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

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

⁴Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY
IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2012		
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter
Oxide	631	735	714
Other ²	563	579	571
Total	1,190	1,310	1,290

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

²Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2012				
	2011 ^P	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Oxide	9,380	2,320	2,300	2,140	6,750
Other ²	595	180	297	374	851
Total	9,970	2,500	2,590	2,510	7,600

^PPreliminary.

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

²Includes ores and concentrates, metal, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF MATERIAL PRODUCED¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2011 ^P	2012			
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Metal ²	2,710	729	775	710	2,210
Nonmetal ³	3,660	908	907	919	2,730
Flame-retardants:					
Plastics	3,010	710	763	761	2,230
Other ⁴	591	155	147	121	423
Total	3,600	865	910	882	2,660
Grand total	9,970	2,500	2,590	2,510	7,600

^PPreliminary.

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

²Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

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

⁴Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2011	2012					
		1st quarter	2d quarter	July	August	September	January– September
Ore and concentrate:							
China	56	40	22	19	--	--	81
Italy	223	88	60	46	--	22	217
Other	9	11 ^r	--	8	--	--	19
Total	288	138	82 ^r	74	--	22	316
Metal:							
Bolivia	67	15	22	--	--	--	37
China	3,620	967	939	451	385	272	3,010
Hong Kong	57	20	--	--	--	--	20
India	607	180	255	--	110	60	605
Japan	97	15	--	--	--	5	20
Mexico	309	39 ^r	35	--	36	19	129
United Kingdom	142	16	7	14	9	9	55
Other	138 ^r	--	--	--	51	--	51
Total	5,040	1,250	1,260	465	590	365	3,930
Oxide: ²							
Belgium	1,750	402	290	136	60	80	968
Bolivia	1,050	412	392	184	78	219	1,290
China	12,900	3,340	2,810	1,210	521	1,030	8,900
France	31	90	120	37	39	21	307
Japan	303	134	49	46	3	7	238
Mexico	1,010	223	341	64	79	72	779
Taiwan	142	32	--	--	--	--	32
Thailand	973	--	100	--	--	149	249
Other	--	--	32	97	64	2	195
Total	18,200	4,630	4,130	1,770	845	1,580	13,000
Grand total	23,500	6,020	5,470	2,310	1,440	1,970	17,200
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	47	11	2	10	3	--	26

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.