



Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

James F. Carlin, Jr., Bismuth Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: jcarlin@usgs.gov

Raymond I. Eldridge III (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7982
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: reldridge@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

BISMUTH IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2011

Bismuth consumption in the United States for the fourth quarter of 2011 was estimated to be 167 metric tons (t), the same as that in the third quarter of 2011, and 43% less than that in the fourth quarter of 2010. Bismuth imports for 2011 were 1,750 t, an increase of 8% compared with those in 2010.

The New York dealer price range for bismuth, published in Platts Metals Week, started October 2011 at \$12.75 to \$13.00 per pound and decreased somewhat during the fourth quarter to finish December at \$11.50 to \$12.00 per pound. Industry observers reported that an oversupply of bismuth from China led to a decrease in prices. Producers have have tried to sell bismuth

from stocks, but world demand has been weak (Metal Bulletin, 2011).

Update

On April 12, 2012, the Platts Metals Week price for bismuth was \$10.40 to \$11.25 per pound.

Reference Cited

Metal Bulletin, 2011, Bismuth prices have fallen 20% since October on Chinese oversupply: Metal Bulletin, no. 9231, December 19, p. 4.

TABLE 1
SALIENT BISMUTH STATISTICS¹

(Metric Tons)

	2011					
	2010	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Consumption ²	884	166	168	167	167	668
Exports ³	1,040 ^r	304	241	274	215	1,030
Imports for consumption	1,620	467	426	446	410	1,750
Price per pound, dealer, average of period	\$8.76	\$11.39	\$11.39	\$12.34	\$12.41	\$11.47
Stocks, end of period, consumer	134	134	134	140	138	138

^rRevised.

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

²Estimated, based on net imports.

³Comprises bismuth metal and the bismuth content of alloys and waste and scrap.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED BISMUTH METAL CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES, BY USE¹

(Thousand kilograms)

Use	2010		2011				
	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Chemicals ²	132	589	W	W	W	W	W
Bismuth alloys	W	62	W	W	W	W	W
Metallurgical additives	W	231	W	W	W	W	W
Other	54	4	W	W	W	W	W
Total	202	884	166	168	167	167	668

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

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

²Includes industrial and laboratory chemicals, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms)

Country	2010	2011						1st quarter– 4th quarter
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	October	November	December	
Austria	20,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Belgium	14,800	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brazil	10,600	1,740	--	10,500	--	--	--	12,200
Canada	41,400	3,450	5,190	6,620	1,540	2,310	1,550	20,700
China	26,400	2,440	12,800	5,330	--	6,380	976	28,000
France	215,000 [†]	--	35,800	8,220	--	--	--	44,100
Germany	73,500	8,090	--	1,230	--	--	--	9,320
Hong Kong	9,260	--	24	1,470	--	--	--	1,490
Mexico	100,000	35,300	46,900	77,100	30,400	12,000	15,900	219,000
Thailand	21,700	3,960	6,560	6,560	325	--	--	10,900
Vietnam	480,000 [†]	236,000	122,000	154,000	35,500	3,680	341	621,000
Other	24,900	12,600	12,100	2,700	7,540	56,900	39,200	67,600
Total	1,040,000 [†]	304,000	241,000	274,000	75,300	81,300	58,000	1,030,000

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms)

Country	2010	2011						1st quarter– 4th quarter
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	October	November	December	
Belgium	674,000	224,000	134,000	156,000	53,300	58,600	87,400	713,000
Canada	21,300	4,760	1,390	2,570	536	1,830	511	11,600
China	875,000	234,000	271,000	268,000	81,400	73,700	46,200	974,000
Germany	4,090	280	100	420	--	--	24	824
Korea, Republic of	10,000	--	9,990	15,000	862	--	860	26,700
United Kingdom	35,800	4,450	9,490	4,000	2,500	2,270	--	22,700
Other	1,880	--	45	95	60	--	--	200
Total	1,620,000	467,000	426,000	446,000	139,000	136,000	135,000	1,750,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.