

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BISMUTH IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2012

Bismuth consumption in the United States for the second quarter of 2012 was estimated to be 159 metric tons (t), 5% less than that in the first quarter of 2012 and 5% less than that in the second quarter of 2011. Bismuth imports in the first half of 2012 were 857 t, 4% less than those in the comparable period of 2011. In the first half of 2012, China and Belgium, in descending order, were the leading suppliers of bismuth to the United States.

The New York dealer price range for bismuth, published in Platts Metals Week, started April 2012 at \$10.50 to \$11.25 per pound and decreased slightly during the second quarter to finish June at \$10.00 to \$10.60 per pound.

Update

On September 27, 2012, the Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for bismuth was \$9.00 to \$9.75 per pound.

TABLE 1
SALIENT BISMUTH STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons)

	2011				2012		
	Year	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
Consumption ²	668	168	167	167	168 ^r	159	327
Exports ³	1,030	241	274	215	224	218	443
Imports for consumption	1,750	426	446	410	477	380	857
Price per pound, dealer, average of period	\$11.47	\$11.39	\$12.34	\$12.41	\$10.67	\$10.65	\$10.66
Stocks, end of period, consumer	138	134	140	138	135 ^r	135	135

^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
(Metric tons)

Use	2011				2012		
	Year	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
Chemicals ²	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Bismuth alloys	54	14	14	13	18	16	34
Metallurgical additives	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	668	168	167	167	168 ^r	159	327

^rRevised. 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	2011				2012				
	Year	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	April	May	June	1st quarter– 2d quarter
Belgium	--	--	--	--	56,100	--	--	--	56,100
Brazil	12,200	--	10,500	--	--	--	--	--	--
Canada	20,700	5,190	6,620	5,400	17,400	8,510	9,650	13,200	48,800
China	28,000	12,800	5,330	7,360	1,840	5,520	9,580	--	16,900
France	44,100	35,800	8,220	--	2,610	--	--	--	2,610
Germany	9,320	--	1,230	--	294	--	--	--	294
Hong Kong	1,490	24	1,470	--	6,800	4,200	2,270	2,980	16,300
Mexico	219,000	46,900	78,100	58,300	53,800	7,060	29,600	2,950	93,400
Thailand	10,900	6,560	37	325	634	16	680	--	1,330
Vietnam	621,000	122,000	154,000	109,000	73,300	19,600	22,400	75,300	2,040
Other	67,600	12,100	8,230	34,600	11,500	1,650	1,620	1,660	205,000
Total	1,030,000	241,000	274,000	215,000	224,000	46,600	75,800	96,100	443,000

-- 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	2011				2012				1st quarter– 2d quarter
	Year	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	April	May	June	
Belgium	713,000	134,000	156,000	199,000	197,000	34,000	59,200	59,300	350,000
Canada	11,600	1,390	2,570	2,880	3,850	--	1,930	585	6,370
China	974,000	271,000	268,000	201,000	264,000	67,800	70,200	78,500	481,000
Germany	824	100	420	24	100	--	--	--	100
Korea, Republic of	26,700	9,990	15,000	1,720	5,010	--	--	--	5,010
United Kingdom	22,700	9,490	4,000	4,770	6,560	100	4,400	4,120	15,200
Other	200	45	95	60	166	--	--	--	166
Total	1,750,000	426,000	446,000	410,000	477,000	102,000	136,000	142,000	857,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.