

Mineral Industry Surveys

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COBALT IN JUNE 2012

Preliminary data indicate that U.S. cobalt consumption during the first half of 2012 was 16% less than consumption during the same period in 2011. The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. imports of cobalt metals and chemicals during January through June 2012 was 8% more than that imported during the same period in 2011. The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. exports of unwrought cobalt and chemicals during January through June 2012 was slightly less than that exported during the same period in 2011.

Prices

Prices for cobalt metal, in dollars per pound, in June 2012 are listed below.

Type	Price range	Average price
U.S. spot ¹	13.20–15.30	14.19
LME cash mean ²	XX	13.01

XX Not applicable.

¹Source: Platts Metals Week, minimum 99.8% cobalt cathode.

²London Metal Exchange, mean of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price, minimum 99.3% cobalt briquettes, cathode, ingot, or rounds (converted from dollars per metric ton and rounded to the nearest cent).

TABLE 1
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF COBALT MATERIALS^{p, 1}

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	Metal ²	Oxide and other chemical compounds ³	Scrap	Total
2011:				
June	579	184 ^r	191	954 ^r
July	276	178 ^r	174	628 ^r
August	310	181 ^r	167	657 ^r
September	301	179 ^r	180	660 ^r
October	307	185 ^r	160	651 ^r
November	196	175 ^r	250	621 ^r
December	273	179 ^r	164	616 ^r
January–June	2,350 ^r	1,090 ^r	1,110 ^r	4,550 ^r
January–December ⁴	4,010	2,170 ^r	2,200	8,390 ^r
2012:				
January	282	179 ^r	168 ^r	629 ^r
February	287	179 ^r	175	640 ^r
March	258	180 ^r	193	631 ^r
April	281	179 ^r	190 ^r	650 ^r
May	275	181 ^r	190 ^r	646 ^r
June	275	183	190	648
January–June	1,660	1,080	1,110	3,850

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Includes metal powder.

³Data may include other cobalt materials.

⁴Data based on monthly reports.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF COBALT, BY END USE^{p, 1}

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

End use	2011		2012	
	January–June	January–December ^{2, 3}	June	January–June
Steel	268	536	45	268
Superalloys	2,500	4,290	305	1,800
Magnetic alloys	126	252	21	126
Other alloys ⁴	W	W	W	W
Cemented carbides ⁵	394	786	66	392
Chemical and ceramic uses ⁶	1,130 ^r	2,260 ^r	189	1,120
Miscellaneous and unspecified	135	271	23	135
Total	4,550 ^r	8,390 ^r	648	3,850

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Miscellaneous and unspecified."

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

²Data based on monthly reports.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Includes nonferrous alloys, welding materials, and wear-resistant alloys.

⁵Includes diamond tool matrices, cemented and sintered carbides, and cast carbide dies or parts.

⁶Includes catalysts, driers in paints or related usages, feed or nutritive additives, glass decolorizer, ground coat frit, pigments, and other uses.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED STOCKS OF COBALT MATERIALS¹

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	U.S. industry ^{p,2}			U.S. Government, metal ⁶	LME, ³ metal		Total
	Metal and scrap ⁴	Oxide and other chemical compounds ⁵	Total		U.S. warehouse	Non-U.S. warehouse	
2011:							
June	529 ^r	170	699	301	30	219	249
July	550	169 ^r	718	301	35	227	262
August	576	165	741	301	35	262	297
September	554 ^r	171 ^r	725	301	33	264	297
October	526 ^r	165	691	301	30	293	323
November	522 ^r	172 ^r	694	301	40	279	319
December	521	193 ^r	713	301	43	261	304
2012:							
January	523	185 ^r	708 ^r	301	26	285	311
February	499 ^r	180	680	301	20	273	293
March	538	181 ^r	719	301	27	318	345
April	555	182	737	301	22	328	350
May	554	178 ^r	732	301	22	330	352
June	546	175	717	301	21	334	355

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Stocks reported by cobalt processors and consumers.

³London Metal Exchange.

⁴Includes metal powder.

⁵Data may include other cobalt materials.

⁶Data from Defense Logistics Agency, DLA Strategic Materials; uncommitted material only.

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

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period and country of origin	Metals ²		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds ³		Total cobalt content for the period ⁵	Cobalt content, year to date ^{5,6}
	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)		
2011:								
June	715	\$27,800	207	\$4,860	144	\$2,030	918	5,550
July	305	12,200	281	5,430	247	2,890	586	6,140
August	804	28,600	118	3,030	143	1,600	932	7,070
September	637	22,000	222	5,980	131	1,270	835	7,900
October	773	27,900	288	6,100	161	1,370	1,030	8,930
November	577	18,700	235	4,750	124	1,330	784	9,710
December	632	19,900	294	5,610	105	1,220	878	10,600
January–June	4,290	167,000	1,150	30,300	1,280	15,600	5,550	XX
January–December	8,020	296,000	2,590	61,200	2,190	25,300	10,600	XX
2012:								
January	636	20,100	175	3,260	90	662	785	785
February	812	25,500	201	4,470	186	2,670	1,040	1,820
March	740	24,600	325	7,240	149	1,750	1,020	2,840
April	1,010	31,200	353	7,610	187	2,040	1,320	4,160
May	839	25,700	118	2,490	172	2,130	987	5,150
June:								
Australia	20	568	--	--	--	--	20	444
Austria	3	203	--	--	--	--	3	8
Belgium	2	86	57	1,430	--	--	43	237
Brazil	20	606	--	--	5	60	22	288
Canada	24	805	88	1,090	--	--	87	711
China	131	4,200	39	893	--	--	159	1,020
Congo (Kinshasa)	21	597	--	--	--	--	21	61
Finland	18	653	32	805	137	1,980	99	706
France	1	33	--	--	--	--	1	9
Germany	(7)	9	--	--	--	--	(7)	1
India	--	--	--	--	20	200	5	103
Japan	91	2,850	--	--	--	--	91	281
Korea, Republic of	10	312	--	--	--	--	10	27
Morocco	20	605	--	--	--	--	20	80
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Norway	46	1,440	--	--	--	--	46	504
Peru	--	--	--	--	2	50	1	4
Philippines	--	--	18	379	--	--	13	13
Russia	60	1,850	--	--	--	--	60	539
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	226
Sweden	(7)	11	--	--	--	--	(7)	7
Taiwan	2	40	--	--	--	--	2	8
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
United Kingdom	1	25	35	822	16	160	30	137
Zambia	111	3,570	--	--	--	--	111	552
Total	579	18,500	269	5,420	180	2,450	843	5,990
January–June	4,610	146,000	1,440	30,500	964	11,700	5,990	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Unwrought cobalt, excluding alloys; includes cobalt cathode and cobalt metal powder; may include intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy.

³Includes cobalt acetates, cobalt carbonates, cobalt chlorides, and cobalt sulfates.

⁴Customs value.

⁵Estimated from gross weights.

⁶May include revisions to previously published data.

⁷Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ADDITIONAL COBALT MATERIALS, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period and country of origin	Unwrought cobalt alloys		Cobalt waste and scrap		Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles	
	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)
2011:						
June	68	\$2,570	43	\$891	20	\$1,950
July	50	1,670	53	938	24	2,230
August	77	2,880	55	996	16	2,400
September	94	3,500	40	519	25	2,530
October	67	2,390	71	1,240	26	2,510
November	63	2,110	47	817	19	2,420
December	81	2,560	44	669	18	2,070
January–June	323	12,200	420	6,900	119	12,900
January–December	754	27,300	730	12,100	247	27,000
2012:						
January	82	2,680	67	1,080	36	1,900
February	73	2,500	54	1,110	22	2,200
March	59	1,950	124	2,310	21	2,610
April	81	2,770	41	733	22	2,670
May	59	1,870	86	1,060	19	2,610
June:						
Austria	--	--	2	30	--	--
Belgium	8	261	--	--	1	52
Canada	55	1,710	3	25	6	975
China	--	--	--	--	(3)	110
Finland	(3)	16	--	--	--	--
France	(3)	13	10	104	2	197
Germany	2	154	--	--	7	615
Ireland	--	--	16	180	--	--
Israel	--	--	--	--	(3)	16
Italy	--	--	--	--	(3)	30
Japan	--	--	1	18	1	188
Korea, Republic of	--	--	4	50	--	--
Mexico	--	--	(3)	7	--	--
Spain	--	--	1	14	--	--
Sweden	--	--	--	--	(3)	2
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(3)	8
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	(3)	16
United Kingdom	26	1,070	(3)	5	9	614
Total	91	3,230	38	433	27	2,820
January–June	445	15,000	410	6,730	147	14,800

-- Zero.

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

²Customs value.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF COBALT MATERIALS¹

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period	Unwrought cobalt, powders, matte, waste and scrap ²		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds ³		Total cobalt content for the period ⁵	Cobalt content, year to date ^{5,6}
	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)		
2011:								
June	204	\$8,070	18	\$55	27	\$312	223	1,790
July	282	9,380	47	120	65	736	332	2,120
August	194	7,440	(7)	20	33	368	202	2,320
September	246	7,550	6	199	14	160	253	2,570
October	225	8,300	71	229	38	413	285	2,860
November	249	6,860	55	246	38	555	298	3,160
December	220	7,460	21	63	2	25	236	3,390
January–June	1,640	49,300	132	1,820	213	2,330	1,790	XX
January–December	3,060	96,300	332	2,700	403	4,590	3,390	XX
2012:								
January	234	7,450	35	183	19	182	264	264
February	238	8,380	3	81	23	225	246	510
March	325	10,800	16	347	1	22	337	847
April	258	8,400	33	159	1	10	281	1,130
May	353	10,700	70	323	20	1,750	408	1,540
June	229	8,210	18	65	3	32	243	1,780
January–June	1,640	53,900	175	1,160	67	2,220	1,780	XX

XX Not applicable.

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

²May include other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy and unwrought cobalt alloys.

³Cobalt acetates and cobalt chlorides.

⁴Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

⁵Estimated from gross weights.

⁶May include revisions to previously published data.

⁷Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF WROUGHT COBALT, COBALT ORE,
AND CONCENTRATES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period	Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles		Cobalt ore and concentrates	
	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)
2011:				
June	98	\$5,960	3	\$119
July	128	7,340	40	163
August	98	6,260	2	4
September	111	6,670	--	--
October	117	7,370	38	42
November	99	5,920	--	--
December	123	7,780	--	--
January–June	684	40,500	627	1,360
January–December	1,360	81,800	707	1,570
2012:				
January	118	7,190	(3)	4
February	125	8,450	5	68
March	127	7,850	20	83
April	141	8,330	2	48
May	132	8,800	3	58
June	110	7,250	(3)	16
January–June	754	47,900	31	276

-- Zero.

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

²Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.