

Mineral Industry Surveys

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COBALT IN APRIL 2015

U.S. cobalt consumption from January through April 2015 was 6% more than consumption during the same period in 2014. The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. imports of cobalt metals and chemicals from January through April 2015 was 5% more than that imported during the same period in 2014. The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. exports of unwrought cobalt and chemicals from January through April 2015 was 6% less than that exported during the same period in 2014.

Prices

April 2015 prices for cobalt metal, in dollars per pound, are listed below. Monthly average cobalt prices were higher than those in March.

Type	Price range	Average price
U.S. spot ¹	13.00–14.50	13.78
LME cash mean ²	12.00–13.65	13.01

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

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

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TABLE 1
 REPORTED CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF COBALT MATERIALS¹

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	Consumption, U.S. industry ^{b,2}	U.S. industry ^{b,2}	U.S. Government ^{4,5}	Stocks, end of period		Total
				LME ^{3,4}		
				U.S. warehouse	Non-U.S. warehouse	
2014:						
April	687	841	301	34	514	548
May	680	844	301	22	517	539
June	684	824	301	20	527	547
July	689	831	301 ^e	19	523	542
August	679	818	301 ^e	19	497	516
September	691	781	301	19	484	503
October	675	871	301 ^e	9	482	491
November	676	890	301 ^e	9	480	489
December	710	955	301	9	480	489
January–April	2,740 ^r	841 ^r	301	34	514	548
January–December ⁶	8,230	955	301	9	480	489
2015:						
January	747	913	301	9	471	480
February	714	903	301	8	470	478
March	726	927	301	8	463	471
April	711	931	301	8	457	465
January–April	2,900	931	301	8	457	465

^eEstimated. ^bPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Data for cobalt metal, metal powder, oxide and other chemical compounds, and scrap reported by U.S. cobalt processors and consumers. Includes estimates.

³London Metal Exchange.

⁴Cobalt metal.

⁵Data from Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

⁶U.S. industry data based on monthly reports.

TABLE 2
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)		
2014:								
April	857	\$26,400	258	\$6,330	298	\$3,020	1,140	4,160
May	894	27,100	255	6,280	220	1,920	1,150	5,300
June	698	21,100	251	5,650	102	1,020	911	6,210
July	577	17,100	179	4,070	94	1,050	735	6,950
August	858	25,900	191	4,900	133	1,150	1,030	7,980
September	767	24,000	233	5,650	197	2,880	1,010	8,990
October	681	21,500	176	4,670	132	1,600	853	9,840
November	764	24,200	96	2,270	61	804	853	10,700
December	505	16,000	147	3,620	164	1,600	660	11,400
January–April	3,280	92,800	892	20,600	730	7,440	4,160	XX
January–December	9,020	270,000	2,420	57,700	1,830	19,500	11,400	XX
2015:								
January	1,070	27,800	106	2,570	196	2,400	1,220	1,220
February	574	18,000	145	3,560	353	4,080	801	2,020
March	1,140	34,500	203	4,740	243	3,010	1,370	3,390
April:								
Australia	78	2,020	--	--	--	--	78	307
Belgium	--	--	22	544	--	--	16	126
Brazil	52	1,350	--	--	5	59	54	137
Canada	37	1,960	--	--	--	--	37	153
China	139	4,070	26	603	37	502	171	861
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(7)
Finland	89	2,750	21	519	83	820	132	480
France	4	179	--	--	--	--	4	14
Germany	17	1,010	--	--	1	5	17	36
India	--	--	--	--	23	170	6	17
Ireland	(7)	10	--	--	--	--	(7)	(7)
Italy	1	48	--	--	--	--	1	2
Japan	75	2,230	--	--	--	--	75	264
Korea, Republic of	(7)	9	20	272	--	--	14	15
Madagascar	84	2,490	--	--	--	--	84	273
Morocco	72	1,860	--	--	--	--	72	152
New Caledonia	6	109	--	--	--	--	6	6
Norway	52	1,380	--	--	--	--	52	666
Peru	--	--	--	--	57	108	15	16
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	253
South Africa	52	1,400	--	--	--	--	52	290
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Uganda	26	674	--	--	--	--	26	26
United Kingdom	(7)	23	38	877	9	150	31	160
Zambia	20	498	--	--	--	--	20	90
Total	804	24,100	127	2,820	215	1,810	964	4,350
January–April	3,590	104,000	581	13,700	1,010	11,300	4,350	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 3
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)
2014:						
April	73	\$2,640	95	\$1,340	15	\$2,140
May	88	2,710	123	2,290	12	1,940
June	51	1,630	61	734	17	1,540
July	55	1,750	111	1,910	13	1,820
August	85	3,420	82	1,210	50	2,160
September	48	1,610	92	1,440	9	1,440
October	83	2,720	94	1,420	12	1,670
November	123	3,980	107	1,480	15	1,200
December	233	6,710	92	1,300	17	2,230
January–April	276	8,880	368	5,420	78	8,470
January–December	1,040	33,400	1,130	17,200	224	22,500
2015:						
January	35	1,180	62	1,000	21	1,980
February	97	3,030	45	553	9	1,340
March	117	4,150	120	1,790	21	2,170
April:						
Australia	2	64	--	--	--	--
Austria	(3)	8	--	--	(3)	22
Belgium	7	216	--	--	--	--
Canada	94	2,530	2	37	3	627
China	--	--	--	--	(3)	81
Finland	(3)	15	--	--	--	--
France	(3)	12	--	--	7	458
Germany	(3)	27	--	--	2	355
India	--	--	--	--	1	271
Ireland	(3)	7	39	276	--	--
Japan	--	--	15	193	--	--
Mexico	--	--	1	9	--	--
Norway	8	153	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(3)	5
Taiwan	--	--	2	28	--	--
United Kingdom	21	846	1	16	10	423
Total	132	3,880	60	558	23	2,240
January–April	381	12,200	287	3,910	74	7,730

-- 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 4
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)		
2014:								
April	399	\$10,800	62	\$851	20	\$180	448	1,490
May	505	9,600	27	538	--	--	524	2,010
June	379	9,360	51	529	1	9	415	2,430
July	309	7,930	4	149	10	1,970	314	2,740
August	310	8,590	207	1,390	(7)	34	459	3,200
September	305	8,160	35	137	--	--	330	3,530
October	235	5,610	28	320	1	14	255	3,790
November	297	6,680	29	344	24	221	323	4,110
December	385	8,330	7	127	6	58	392	4,500
January–April	1,350	38,100	149	2,190	142	1,120	1,490	XX
January–December	4,070	102,000	536	5,720	184	3,420	4,500	XX
2015:								
January	315	7,300	--	--	20	180	319	319
February	337	8,710	32	560	20	170	365	685
March	332	9,450	97	592	(7)	3	403	1,090
April	308	8,640	1	44	38	322	318	1,400
January–April	1,290	34,100	130	1,200	78	674	1,400	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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 5
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)
2014:				
April	150	\$9,020	281	\$365
May	126	8,060	(3)	4
June	160	9,190	165	688
July	170	9,740	6	61
August	164	9,700	--	--
September	143	8,540	103	136
October	143	9,100	1	7
November	135	7,540	17	90
December	156	9,140	140	228
January–April	594	34,900	282	400
January–December	1,790	106,000	714	1,610
2015:				
January	154	8,960	--	--
February	202	11,100	--	--
March	152	9,450	--	--
April	155	9,130	--	--
January–April	664	38,600	--	--

-- 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.