

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SILVER IN APRIL 2009

U.S. mines produced 104,000 kilograms (kg) of silver in April 2009, a 3% decrease compared with March 2009 production and a 3% increase compared with that of April 2008, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The daily production rate in April was 3,470 kg.

The average Englehard Industries' silver price for April 2009 was \$12.49 per troy ounce, a 5% decrease compared with that of March 2009 and 29% lower than that of April 2008. The monthly price peaked at \$13.02 per troy ounce on April 27.

Hecla Mining Co. (Coeur d'Alene, ID) announced record silver production of 89 metric tons (t) for the first quarter of 2009 compared with 39 t of silver produced in the first quarter of 2008. The increased production was primarily due to Hecla's consolidation of 100% ownership of the Greens Creek Mine, AK, and increased production at the Greens Creek Mine, and the Lucky Friday Mine, ID (Hecla Mining Co., 2009).

U.S. Silver Corp. (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) announced that the Galena Mine, ID, produced 20 t of silver during the first quarter of 2009. As a result of exploration and development at Galena, reserves were reported to have increased to 650 t (U.S. Silver Corp., 2009).

The Silver Institute (Washington, DC) announced successful completion of laboratory tests of its silver ion-based antimicrobial spinal implant technology that is designed to reduce surgical site infections. The tests showed that the silver-imbbed implant was 99.999% effective against bacterial growth (Silver Institute, The, 2009).

American Med Tech, Inc. (Waterford, VA) offered a home hand-washing protection kit for swine flu based on the germ-killing power of silver. The nanosilver-based hygiene product was used in hospitals and is reportedly safe for children and older people (Medical News Today, 2009).

References Cited

- Hecla Mining Co., 2009, Hecla reports first quarter profit and reduced cash costs, silver production increases 128%, cash costs below \$5 per ounce silver: Coeur d'Alene, ID, Hecla Mining Co. news release, April 28, 10 p.
- Medical News Today, 2009, Nano-silver swine flu protection: East Sussex, United Kingdom, Medical News Today news release, April 28, 2 p.
- Silver Institute, The, 2009, Silver news, spinal implant imbedded with silver can prevent infections: Washington, DC, The Silver Institute news release, April 15, 1 p.
- U.S. Silver Corp., 2009, U.S. Silver reports Q1 production, NI 43-101 technical report, option grant: Toronto, Ontario, Canada, U.S. Silver Corp. news release, April 9, 2 p.

TABLE 1
MINE PRODUCTION OF RECOVERABLE SILVER
IN THE UNITED STATES¹

	Kilograms
2008: ^p	
April	101,000
May	96,700
June	109,000
July	108,000
August	102,000
September	104,000
October	105,000
November	100,000
December	109,000
January-December	1,230,000
2009:	
January	102,000 ^r
February	92,100 ^r
March	107,000 ^r
April	104,000
January-April	405,000

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

TABLE 2
SILVER PRICES

(Dollars per troy ounce)

Engelhard Industries:	
2008:	
Low/date	8.95 Nov. 20
High/date	20.80 Mar. 13
Average	14.87
2009:	
February:	
Low/date	12.40/3
High/date	14.49/20
Average	13.38
March:	
Low/date	12.52/18
High/date	13.78/23
Average	13.14
April:	
Low/date	12.00/17
High/date	13.02/27
Average	12.49
Year to date:	
Low/date	10.38 Jan. 15
High/date	14.49 Feb. 20
Average	12.59
Handy and Harman:	
2008, Average	14.81
2009:	
February	13.33
March	13.11
April:	12.49
Year to date	12.58
London Final:¹	
2008, Average	13.39
2009:	
February	13.31
March	13.12
April:	12.48
Year to date	12.55

¹Reported as "London Spot/US Equiv."

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SILVER, BY COUNTRY¹

Period and country	Bullion		Doré		Ores and concentrates ²		Ash and residues		Total	
	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2008	3,860,000	\$1,850,000	574,000	\$717,000	32	\$31	4,850	\$1,290	4,440,000	\$2,570,000
2009:										
January	353,000	124,000	51,300	33,900	--	--	210	66	405,000	158,000
February	87,800	34,100	50,300	40,000	87	9	56	16	138,000	74,200
March:										
Bolivia	--	--	24,300	10,300	--	--	--	--	24,300	10,300
Canada	84,500	35,800	--	--	--	--	--	--	84,500	35,800
Chile	17,500	7,570	1,490	440	--	--	--	--	19,000	8,010
Colombia	--	--	76	28	--	--	--	--	76	28
Costa Rica	--	--	14	6	--	--	--	--	14	6
Dominican Republic	--	--	1,190	378	--	--	--	--	1,190	378
Italy	83	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	83	11
Mexico	126	53	84,200	58,800	--	--	--	--	84,300	58,800
Panama	--	--	68	24	--	--	--	--	68	24
Peru	59,300	25,500	2,850	3,190	--	--	--	--	62,200	28,700
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	--	57	16	57	16
Total	162,000	69,000	114,000	73,200	--	--	57	16	276,000	142,000
Year to date	603,000	227,000	216,000	147,000	87	9	323	98	819,000	374,000

-- Zero.

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

²Includes silver content of base metal ores and concentrates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SILVER, BY COUNTRY¹

Period and country	Other unwrought silver (gross weight)		Metal powder (gross weight)		Silver nitrate (gross weight)		Semimanufactured forms ² (gross weight)		Waste and scrap (gross weight)	
	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2008	245,000	\$88,000	61,000	\$8,870	10,700	\$4,280	418,000	\$134,000	5,190,000	\$681,000
2009:										
January	23,900	9,080	1,920	285	420	120	38,100	9,830	341,000	20,600
February	24,600	8,840	2,630	353	15	5	42,400	12,400	475,000	27,100
March:										
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17,200	346
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	3	2	30
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	40
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	4
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	14
Canada	2,000	904	88	14	--	--	(3)	4	50,200	8,140
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	83
China	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	54	1,820
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,180	276
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	228	369
France	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16,300	229
Germany	--	--	1,060	175	--	--	--	--	89,100	5,030
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22	300
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	4
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	322
Italy	20	14	--	--	--	--	--	--	66	1,750
Jamaica	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	5
Japan	--	--	2	3	--	--	--	--	8,150	186
Korea, Republic of	331	75	--	--	--	--	352	80	--	--
Malaysia	--	--	24	4	--	--	--	--	1	15
Mexico	6	3	261	19	--	--	20,700	6,190	110,000	1,700
Netherlands	2,910	524	24	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	82
Peru	277	262	--	--	--	--	11,800	5,010	--	--
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,230	248
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	227	259
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	55	1,850
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	130	10
United Kingdom	152	26	32	5	--	--	--	--	3,970	63
Total	5,700	1,810	1,490	225	--	--	32,900	11,300	304,000	23,200
Year to date	54,300	19,700	6,030	863	435	125	113,000	33,600	1,120,000	70,900

-- Zero.

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

²Containing 99.5% or more by weight of silver.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF SILVER¹

Period and country	Bullion		Dore		Ores and concentrates ²		Total	
	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2008	413,000	\$203,000	94,800	\$36,200	130,000	\$50,300	638,000	\$289,000
2009:								
January	5,580	5,260	6,750	2,820	15,300	4,570	27,600	12,600
February	1,550	727	10,500	4,280	9,890	3,980	21,900	8,990
March:								
Australia	87	41	--	--	--	--	87	41
Canada	1,010	412	9	3	--	--	1,020	415
Finland	330	118	--	--	--	--	330	118
Germany	1,380	700	--	--	--	--	1,380	700
Italy	--	--	--	--	20	10	20	10
Japan	6	3	--	--	--	--	6	3
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	3,510	1,600	3,510	1,600
Mexico	6	3	--	--	--	--	6	3
Singapore	--	--	7	3	--	--	7	3
Spain	--	--	308	74	--	--	308	74
Sweden	--	--	--	--	3,730	1,770	3,730	1,770
Switzerland	--	--	1,430	616	--	--	1,430	616
United Kingdom	34	18	9,690	4,150	38	21	9,760	4,190
Vietnam	25	6	--	--	--	--	25	6
Total	2,880	1,300	11,400	4,850	7,300	3,390	21,600	9,540
Year to date	10,000	7,290	28,700	11,900	32,500	11,900	71,200	31,200

-- Zero.

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

²Includes silver content of base metal ores and concentrates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF SILVER¹

Period and country	Other unwrought silver (gross weight)		Metal powder (gross weight)		Silver nitrate (gross weight)		Semimanufactured forms ² (gross weight)		Waste and scrap (gross weight)	
	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2008	47,700	\$15,700	890,000	\$473,000	34,900	\$3,260	720,000	\$199,000	2,570,000	\$4,290,000
2009:										
January	2,000	544	51,200	21,200	935	138	88,200	36,700	244,000	253,000
February	3,310	1,200	51,100	22,000	1,950	151	36,200	16,200	145,000	312,000
March:										
Australia	--	--	--	--	200	26	35	18	--	--
Belgium	--	--	175	90	--	--	--	--	54,500	6,420
Canada	2,470	517	93	28	4,760	267	38,500	17,200	8,800	22,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	13	6	--	--
China	188	93	1,820	850	30	12	119	63	3,920	4,920
Costa Rica	16	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cote d'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	116	2,660
Czech Republic	--	--	117	25	--	--	221	108	16	7
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	9	--	--
Dominican Republic	91	34	--	--	--	--	16	8	--	--
France	--	--	3,380	1,550	37	3	143	74	--	--
Germany	118	26	539	265	1	3	88	46	57,600	14,500
Hong Kong	941	362	7,500	4,050	--	--	254	123	278	551
India	297	61	--	--	36	3	80	34	191	731
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	19	9	--	--
Israel	41	6	92	43	--	--	26	14	--	--
Italy	--	--	9	4	--	--	10	5	67,500	21,100
Japan	--	--	2,200	1,130	--	--	586	299	166	1,760
Korea, Republic of	--	--	5,610	2,690	--	--	--	--	306	1,030
Liechtenstein	--	--	--	--	--	--	27	13	--	--
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	44	6	3	5	10	50
Mexico	86	26	64	31	495	151	2,540	1,300	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	685	320	--	--	10	7	--	--
New Zealand	23	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	57	46
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	105	1,650
Singapore	--	--	156	75	--	--	170	88	--	--

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 6--Continued
U.S. EXPORTS OF SILVER¹

Period and country	Other unwrought silver (gross weight)		Metal powder (gross weight)		Silver nitrate (gross weight)		Semimanufactured forms ² (gross weight)		Waste and scrap (gross weight)	
	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2009, March--Continued:										
South Africa	5	\$3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Spain	--	--	5	\$3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sweden	--	--	73	34	--	--	31	\$19	2,400	\$2,390
Switzerland	16	4	--	--	--	--	97	50	7,410	228,000
Taiwan	--	--	2,250	3,340	--	--	42	21	90	34
Thailand	334	63	494	226	--	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	52	26	8,260	4,300	--	--	493	237	768	8,090
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	--	50	25	--	--
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	45
Total	4,680	1,230	35,500	19,100	5,610	\$471	43,600	19,800	204,000	316,000
Year to date	9,990	2,980	138,000	62,200	8,490	760	168,000	72,700	593,000	880,000

-- Zero.

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

²Containing 99.5% or more by weight of silver.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.