

**TELLURIUM STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>**  
**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

[All values in metric tons (t) tellurium content unless otherwise noted]

Last modification: October 6, 2010

Year	Production	Shipments	Imports	Exports	Apparent consumption	Unit value (\$/t)	Unit value (98\$/t)	World production
1917	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,610	84,100	NA
1918	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,280	76,920	NA
1919	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,950	69,740	NA
1920	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,620	62,560	NA
1921	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,290	55,380	NA
1922	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,960	48,200	NA
1923	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,410	42,000	NA
1924	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,423	41,600	NA
1925	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,437	41,200	NA
1926	0.416	0.502	NA	NA	0.502	4,450	40,800	NA
1927	0.753	0.455	NA	NA	0.455	4,210	39,300	NA
1928	1.17	0.423	NA	NA	0.423	4,210	40,100	NA
1929	5.18	0.594	NA	NA	0.594	4,560	43,400	NA
1930	6.39	2.14	NA	NA	2.14	3,750	36,800	2.14
1931	W	W	NA	NA	1.43	4,410	47,200	1.43
1932	W	0.711	NA	NA	0.711	4,410	52,600	0.71
1933	W	5.43	NA	NA	5.43	4,410	55,500	5.43
1934	12.3	9.54	NA	NA	9.54	4,410	53,700	14.7
1935	16.8	10.3	NA	NA	10.3	4,410	52,400	24.3
1936	26.3	11.5	NA	NA	11.5	4,410	51,900	42.4
1937	23.3	10.6	NA	NA	10.6	4,410	50,100	42.1
1938	5.02	12.2	NA	NA	12.2	4,410	51,000	26.9
1939	11.4	28.8	NA	NA	28.8	4,410	51,800	12.8
1940	38.8	40.4	NA	NA	40.4	3,860	44,900	40.4
1941	102	109	NA	NA	109	3,860	42,700	107
1942	102	55.8	NA	NA	55.8	3,860	38,600	107
1943	24.6	22.1	NA	0.106	22.1	3,860	36,400	28.5
1944	28.1	13.5	NA	0.131	13.5	3,860	35,700	33.2
1945	15.2	13.2	NA	0.122	13.2	3,860	35,100	15.9
1946	5.26	22.0	NA	NA	22.0	3,860	32,200	12.5
1947	27.4	31.0	NA	NA	31.0	3,860	28,200	31.6
1948	25.8	33.9	NA	NA	33.9	3,860	26,100	31.0
1949	54.8	31.0	NA	NA	31.0	3,860	26,400	60.1
1950	48.7	58.9	NA	NA	58.9	3,860	26,100	53.3
1951	84.9	50.0	NA	NA	50.0	3,860	24,300	88.9
1952	85.8	70.4	NA	NA	70.4	3,860	23,700	88.5
1953	32.0	64.1	NA	NA	64.1	3,860	23,500	34.2
1954	44.0	54.9	NA	NA	54.9	3,860	23,400	48.2
1955	81.6	94.8	NA	NA	94.8	3,860	23,500	87.2
1956	106	116	0.00	NA	116	3,590	21,500	109
1957	114	95.7	1.00	NA	96.7	3,840	22,200	129
1958	55.8	72.1	2.53	NA	74.6	3,680	20,800	79.9
1959	80.3	117	7.21	NA	124	5,060	28,300	116
1960	123	103	6.80	NA	110	7,420	40,800	176
1961	93.0	105	0.00	NA	105	10,200	55,400	170
1962	120	106	0.00	NA	106	13,200	71,000	180
1963	91.2	60.8	1.09	NA	61.9	13,700	72,900	145
1964	65.8	55.3	2.82	NA	58.2	13,300	70,000	126
1965	88.5	66.2	8.22	NA	74.4	13,300	68,600	146
1966	90.3	97.5	8.16	NA	106	13,200	66,400	151
1967	61.2	78.0	41.3	NA	119	13,200	64,600	122

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Year	Production	Shipments	Imports	Exports	Apparent consumption	Unit value (\$/t)	Unit value (98\$/t)	World production
1968	54.9	91.2	32.0	NA	123	13,100	61,500	117
1969	106	82.6	50.8	NA	133	12,700	56,500	179
1970	71.7	94.8	29.0	NA	124	13,000	54,600	166
1971	74.4	73.9	13.6	NA	88.0	13,200	53,100	145
1972	117	123	66.3	NA	189	12,900	50,300	180
1973	109	130	35.9	NA	166	13,100	48,100	202
1974	86.8	72.6	74.5	NA	147	19,500	64,500	212
1975	59.3	74.0	44.2	NA	118	22,400	67,900	155
1976	W	84.8	92.3	NA	177	20,800	59,600	100
1977	W	101	77.7	NA	178	39,000	105,000	133
1978	W	104	78.9	NA	182	43,900	110,000	152
1979	W	148	76.1	NA	224	43,300	97,300	147
1980	W	51.3	29.4	NA	81.0	47,900	94,800	110
1981	W	47.2	38.0	NA	85.2	38,400	68,800	105
1982	W	29.4	16.6	NA	46.0	36,600	61,800	100
1983	W	44.8	11.8	NA	56.6	27,100	44,300	86.6
1984	W	71.9	35.4	NA	107	23,400	36,700	100
1985	W	W	30.1	NA	W	22,000	33,300	100
1986	W	W	13.9	NA	W	22,000	32,700	85.4
1987	W	W	26.7	NA	W	44,100	63,300	73.8
1988	W	W	76.9	NA	W	77,200	106,000	69.3
1989	W	W	42.9	72.9	W	75,000	98,600	65.0
1990	W	W	34.0	NA	W	68,300	85,200	67.4
1991	W	W	29.3	NA	W	70,500	84,400	82.9
1992	W	W	48.4	NA	W	77,200	89,700	97.6
1993	W	W	45.0	NA	W	70,500	79,600	88.2
1994	W	W	27.4	NA	W	57,300	63,000	117
1995	W	W	45.8	NA	W	50,700	54,200	175
1996	W	W	73.7	2.2	W	46,300	48,100	122
1997	W	W	63.9	2.4	W	41,900	42,600	109
1998	W	W	88.9	3.0	W	39,700	39,700	123
1999	W	W	38.0	3.1	W	38,000	37,200	116
2000	W	W	52.3	7.4	W	34,400	32,600	110
2001	W	W	28.0	8.0	W	58,100	53,500	109
2002	W	W	28.1	3.4	W	62,800	56,900	89
2003	W	W	48.9	10.2	W	32,900	29,100	95
2004	W	W	62.8	6.2	W	41,800	36,100	NA
2005	W	W	42.1	51.0	W	96,000	80,100	NA
2006	W	W	31.1	3.6	W	89,000	72,000	NA
2007	W	W	43.7	15.1	W	92,000	72,300	NA
2008	W	W	102	50.0	W	211,000	160,000	NA
2009	W	W	84.0	8.1	W	150,000	114,000	NA

NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

<sup>1</sup>Compiled by K.E. Porter (retired), J.D. Jorgenson, and M.W. George.

Data are calculated, estimated, or reported. See notes for more information.

## Tellurium Worksheet Notes

### Data Sources

The sources of data for the tellurium worksheet are the mineral statistics publications of the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey— Mineral Commodity Summaries (MCS) and Minerals Yearbook (MYB) and its predecessor, Mineral Resources of the United States (MR). Metal price data are from Metal Prices in the United States through 1998 (MP98) and the MYB since 1998. The years of publication and corresponding years of data coverage are listed in the References section below.

### Production

Production represents the refinery production of tellurium metal. Tellurium and tellurium dioxide are recovered from copper anode slime and lead refinery skimming. Production data are initially reported in the 1926 MR. Production data for 1931–33 and 1976 to the most recent year are withheld because they are proprietary. Data are from the MCS, MR, and MYB.

### Shipments

Shipment data represent sales from producers. Shipment data for 1976–84 are calculated by subtracting imports from calculated apparent consumption. Data were withheld for 1931 and 1985 to the most recent year because they are proprietary. Data are from the MR and MYB.

### Imports

Import data represent the gross weight of tellurium in unwrought metal and waste and scrap for all reported years prior to and including 1974. After 1974, import data include salts and compounds expressed in tellurium content for 1975 and 1985–88. Starting in 1989 the MYB dropped the compounds and salts classes from reported data. Unwrought metal, waste, and scrap classes are listed as “tellurium” under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, and grouped together with boron. However, imports of boron are thought to be very small relative to tellurium. For 1989 to the most recent year, the tellurium content for unwrought and waste and scrap is assumed to be 100 percent. Data are from the MR and the MYB.

### Exports

Export data represent the gross weight of tellurium metal and waste and scrap exported. Export data are not available for most years. Published export data are available for 1943–45, 1989 and 2001 to the most recent year. Data are from the MR and the MYB.

### Apparent Consumption

Large year-to-year changes in apparent consumption estimates may reflect incomplete reporting of data and timing of tellurium shipments, rather than actual changes in apparent consumption. For 1926–30 and 1932–69, apparent consumption data are calculated as the sum of shipments and imports. For 1931, apparent consumption was calculated using data for 1930 and 1932. Apparent consumption data are from the MYB for 1970–84. For 1985 to the most recent year, withheld production and shipments data prevents the calculation of apparent consumption. Data are from the MR and MYB.

### Estimated Unit Value

Unit value is the value in actual U.S. dollars of 1 metric ton (t) of tellurium apparent consumption. Unit values are calculated from the tellurium metal price in the MP98 for 1917–98. Price data are not available for 1918–21 and 1924–25 and unit value data are estimated for these years by linear interpolation. For 1999 to 2004, unit value was estimated using the value of imports. For 2005 to the most recent year, a published price from the Mining Journal for United Kingdom lump and powder 99.95% minimum tellurium was used.

### Unit Value (98\$/t)

The Consumer Price Index conversion factor, with 1998 as the base year, is used to adjust unit value in current U.S. dollars to the unit value in constant 1998 U.S. dollars.

### World Production

World production data relate to refinery output only. Thus, countries that produced tellurium concentrate or other impure mixtures containing tellurium from copper ores, copper concentrates, blister copper, and/or refinery residues, but did not recover or report refined tellurium, are excluded. The world production table in the MR and MYB is not totaled because of exclusion of data from major world producers, notably the former Soviet Union and the United States. In addition to the countries listed in the world production table (Canada, Japan, Peru, and the United States), Australia, Belgium, Chile, Germany, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, and Russia are known to have produced refined tellurium, but output is not reported; available information is inadequate for formulation of reliable estimates of output levels. World production estimates do not include U.S. production data for 1931 and 1976–2003 because the U.S. data are proprietary. After 2003, total world production was not available. Data are from the MR and the MYB.

### References

U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1927–34, Mineral Resources of the United States, 1924–31.  
U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1933–96, Minerals Yearbook, 1932–94.  
U.S. Geological Survey, 1901–27, Mineral Resources of the United States, 1900–23.

U.S. Geological Survey, 1995–present, Minerals Yearbook, v. I. (Available via <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>.)

U.S. Geological Survey, 1997–most recent, Mineral Commodity Summaries 1997–most recent. (Available via <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>.)

U.S. Geological Survey, 1999, Metal Prices in the United States through 1998.

U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1996, Mineral Commodity Summaries, 1996.

**Recommended Citation Format:**

U.S. Geological Survey, [year of last update, e.g., 2005], [Mineral commodity, e.g., Gold] statistics, *in* Kelly, T.D., and Matos, G.R., comps., Historical statistics for mineral and material commodities in the United States: U.S. Geological Survey Data Series 140, accessed [date], at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/2005/140/>.

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