

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ANTIMONY IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2007

Consumption of primary antimony in the second quarter of 2007 was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be 2% lower than that in the first quarter of 2007 and 11% lower than that in the second quarter of 2006. During the first 5 months of 2007, China remained the leading supplier to the United States of antimony metal and antimony oxide, with Mexico ranking second for those items.

Antimony prices remained fairly steady during the second quarter of 2007. The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for antimony metal started the second quarter in the range of \$2.57 to \$2.63 per pound and ended the second quarter at \$2.45 to \$2.50 per pound.

China's leading antimony producer, Hsikwangshan Twinkling Star Co. Ltd., announced that its mines and smelters were among several in antimony-rich areas of Hunan Province that were ordered to halt production in June for environmental inspections owing to the discovery of high concentrations of antimony in a local river. Much of the firm's production was in the Lengshuijiang area, which comprises China's main antimony-producing region, estimated to produce 40,000 to 50,000 metric tons (t) of antimony annually. Hsikwangshan has a reported capacity of 24,000 t of antimony per year, although it has operated at around 70% of capacity in recent years because of ore shortages (American Metal Market, 2007a, b).

The minor metals trading house Wogen Plc (London, United Kingdom) took its first-ever stake in a mine as part of a deal to secure an antimony source. Wogen took a small stake in the BeaverBrook antimony mine (Newfoundland, Canada). The mine had been dormant for many years owing to low antimony prices. As part of the deal, Wogen obtained a marketing agreement for production from the mine (American Metal Market, 2007d).

A wholly owned subsidiary of U.S. Antimony Corp. (Thompson Falls, MT), Antimonia de Mexico S.A. de CV, purchased 64 acres near the town of Cadereyta in the State of Queretaro, Mexico, for an antimony flotation mill site. The mill will be used to process antimony and silver mineralization from Antimonia's nearby San Miguel Mine. Permitting for the mine was completed, and permitting for the mill was underway. The next step will be to build a pipeline for the mill's water, which will be purchased from a nearby wastewater treatment facility in Caderayta. The mill equipment at U.S. Antimony's headquarters' site in Thompson Falls will be trucked to Mexico following the hookup of electricity and construction of foundations and buildings for the new mill. The company expected to begin production at the site by the end of 2007 (American Metal Market, 2007c).

### Update

On August 9, 2007, the Platts Metals Week price for antimony was \$2.60 to \$2.70 per pound.

### References Cited

- American Metal Market, 2007a, China's no. 1 antimony producer restarts smelters; mines stay shut: American Metal Market, v. 115, no. 27, July 12, p. 12.
- American Metal Market, 2007b, River pollution spurs government to order antimony production halt: American Metal Market, v. 115, no. 27, July 12, p. 13.
- American Metal Market, 2007c, U.S. Antimony subsidiary acquires 64-acre site for new mill in Mexico: American Metal Market, v. 115, no. 27, July 12, p. 8.
- American Metal Market, 2007d, Wogen takes stake in Canadian antimony mine: American Metal Market, v. 115, no. 27, July 12, p. 7.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2006 <sup>p</sup>	2007	
		First quarter	Second quarter
Production:			
Primary smelter	--	--	--
Secondary	W	W	W
Imports for consumption:	30,400	6,710 <sup>r</sup>	4,660 <sup>2</sup>
Ore and concentrate	153	85 <sup>r</sup>	34 <sup>2</sup>
Metal	7,260	1,380 <sup>r</sup>	1,280 <sup>2</sup>
Oxide <sup>3</sup>	23,000	5,250 <sup>r</sup>	3,350 <sup>2</sup>
Exports:	4,470	878 <sup>r</sup>	653 <sup>2</sup>
Metal, alloys, and scrap (gross weight)	959	171 <sup>r</sup>	92 <sup>2</sup>
Oxide <sup>3</sup>	3,510	707 <sup>r</sup>	561 <sup>2</sup>
Consumption of primary antimony	9,810 <sup>r</sup>	2,330 <sup>r</sup>	2,270
Price: Average cents per pound <sup>4</sup>	238.01	256.28	252.17
Stocks, end of period <sup>5</sup>	1,890	2,030	1,950

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

<sup>2</sup>Data for April and May only; June data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

<sup>4</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week. New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

<sup>5</sup>Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2  
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY  
IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2007 <sup>2</sup>	
	First quarter	Second quarter
Oxide	1,610	1,520
Other <sup>3</sup>	420	430
Total	2,030	1,950

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

<sup>2</sup>Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and respondents who held 47% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 2005.

<sup>3</sup>Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2006 <sup>p</sup>	2007	
		First quarter <sup>r</sup>	Second quarter
Oxide	7,620 <sup>r</sup>	1,740	1,800
Other <sup>3</sup>	2,190	589	474
Total	9,810 <sup>r</sup>	2,330	2,270

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Estimated 100% coverage based quarterly respondents and respondents who consumed 72% of the total antimony in 2005.

<sup>3</sup>Includes ores and concentrates, metal, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 4  
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF MATERIAL  
PRODUCED<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2006 <sup>p</sup>	2007	
		First quarter	Second quarter
Metal <sup>2</sup>	W	W	W
Nonmetal <sup>3</sup>	W	W	W
Flame-retardants:			
Plastics	490	96	203
Other <sup>4</sup>	559	122	26
Total	1,050	218	229
Reported consumption	2,920	710	680
Total consumption <sup>5</sup>	9,810 <sup>r</sup>	2,330 <sup>r</sup>	2,270

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Reported consumption."

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

<sup>3</sup>Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, bearing metals and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

<sup>4</sup>Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.

<sup>5</sup>Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and respondents who consumed 72% of the total antimony in 2005.

TABLE 5  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2006 <sup>p</sup>	2007				January- May <sup>2</sup>
		First quarter	March	April	May	
Ore and concentrate:						
Bolivia	130	41	15	--	19	60
Other	24	44	--	--	15	58
Total	153	85	15	--	34	118
Metal:						
China	5,070	705	130	459	339	1,500
Mexico	800	284	48	79	36	399
Peru	846	127	54	74	19	220
Other	543	265	92	212	58	536
Total	7,260	1,380	324	824	452	2,660
Oxide: <sup>3</sup>						
Belgium	1,680	430	136	193	163	786
China	10,600	2,780	1,070	927	545	4,250
Mexico	8,780	1,930	709	745	745	3,420
Other	1,910	103	40	22	9	133
Total	23,000	5,250	1,960	1,890	1,460	8,600
Grand total	30,400	6,710	2,300	2,710	1,950	11,400
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	47	5	5	11	3	19

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to prior months data.

<sup>3</sup>Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.