

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2009

Consumption of primary antimony in the fourth quarter of 2009 was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be 1,640 metric tons (t), compared with 1,730 t in the third quarter of 2009 and 1,560 t in the fourth quarter of 2008. Preliminary figures indicate that antimony imports for consumption totaled 14,200 t in the first 11 months of 2009 compared with 27,000 t for the comparable period of 2008. For the first 11 months of 2009, China was the leading supplier of antimony metal and antimony oxide to the United States.

Antimony prices rose moderately during the fourth quarter of 2009. The antimony price started October at \$2.61 per pound, then by late October had risen to \$2.78 per pound; by late December, it had reached \$2.90 per pound.

Update

The Platts Metals Week dealer price for antimony was \$3.65 per pound on July 19, 2010.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2008	2009				
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Year to date
Production:						
Primary smelter ^f	W	W	W	W	W	W
Secondary	W	W	W	W	W	W
Imports for consumption:	29,000	4,750	4,240	5,340	3,540 ²	17,900
Ore and concentrate	164	29	24	64	37 ²	154
Metal	7,050	732	876	1,590	1,160 ²	4,360
Oxide ³	21,800	3,990	3,350	3,690	2,550 ²	13,600
Exports:	4,330	614	1,040	679	810 ²	3,150
Ore and concentrate	36	--	10	54	121 ²	185
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap	366	185	220	241	282 ²	928
Antimony oxide ³	1,830	429	812	384	408 ²	2,030
Consumption of primary antimony	7,570	1,640 ^r	2,220 ^r	1,730 ^r	1,640	7,230
Price, average, cents per pound ⁴	279.54	199.75	207.17	253.66 ^r	281.63	235.55
Stocks, end of period ⁵	1,620	1,340	1,390	1,400 ^r	1,310	XX

^fRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

²Data for October and November only; December data were not available at time of publication.

³Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

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

⁵Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY
IN THE UNITED STATES

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2009 ¹			
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter ^f	Fourth quarter
Oxide	775	823	821	732
Other ²	568	570	578	582
Total	1,340	1,390	1,400	1,310

^fRevised.

¹Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and respondents who held 42% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 2008.

²Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY^{1,2}

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2008	2009				
		First quarter ^f	Second quarter ^f	Third quarter ^f	Fourth quarter	Year to date
Oxide	6,110	1,130	1,030	1,120	1,220	4,510
Other ³	1,460	511	1,180	611	419	2,730
Total	7,570	1,640	2,220	1,730	1,640	7,230

^fRevised.

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

²Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and respondents who consumed 29% of the total antimony in 2008.

³Includes ores and concentrates, metal, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF MATERIAL PRODUCED¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2008	2009					Year to date
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter		
Metal ²	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Nonmetal ³	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Flame-retardants:							
Plastics	2,300	46 ^r	26 ^r	48 ^r	45	164	
Other ⁴	906	19	16	12 ^r	22	68	
Total	3,200	65 ^r	42 ^r	60 ^r	66	233	
Reported consumption	7,570	489 ^r	485 ^r	519 ^r	435	1,930	
Total consumption ⁵	XX	1,640 ^r	2,220 ^r	1,730 ^r	1,640	7,230	

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Reported consumption." XX Not applicable.

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

²Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

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

⁴Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.

⁵Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and respondents who consumed 29% of the total antimony in 2008.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2008	2009					January- November ²
		First quarter ²	Second quarter ²	Third quarter ²	October	November	
Ore and concentrate:							
Bolivia	88	11	24	24	--	12	71
Other	76	19	--	40	25	--	84
Total	164	29	24	64	25	12	155
Metal:							
China	5,190	439	536	902	263	301	2,440
Mexico	865	114	161	549	113	230	1,170
Peru	433	110	84	18	--	--	212
Other	571	70	96	116	20	24	326
Total	7,050	732	876	1,590	396	554	4,150
Oxide: ³							
Belgium	1,590	166	414	404	153	226	959
China	12,100	2,370	1,840	2,480	816	628	5,650
Mexico	7,640	761	477	336	205	114	1,560
Other	462	696	617	468	272	141	1,730
Total	21,800	3,990	3,350	3,690	1,450	1,110	9,890
Grand total	29,000	4,750	4,240	5,340	1,870	1,680	14,200
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	14	5	--	4	--	2	11

-- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to prior months data.

³Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.