

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2010

Consumption of primary antimony in the third quarter of 2010 was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be 13% higher than that in the second quarter of 2010 and 15% higher than that in the third quarter of 2009. During the first 8 months of 2010, antimony imports totaled 16,900 metric tons (t), an increase of 32% compared with that in the comparable period of 2009. During the first 8 months of 2010, China was the leading supplier of antimony metal and antimony oxide to the United States.

Antimony prices rose steadily during the third quarter of 2010. The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for antimony metal started July at \$3.70 to \$3.80 per pound and increased throughout August and September to finish September at \$4.75 to \$4.85 per pound.

Planet Resources Recovery, Inc. (Houston, TX) announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, Raptor Ventures, LLC, Inc., commenced operations at its Sorpresa antimony mine in Bolivia

on September 15 (Planet Resources Recovery, Inc., 2010; Schier, 2010).

Update

On December 16, 2010, the Platts Metals Week dealer price for antimony was \$5.35 to \$5.70 per pound.

References Cited

- Planet Resources Recovery, Inc., 2010, Planet's Raptor Ventures, LLC commences operations at Sorpresa antimony mine in Bolivia : Houston, TX, Planet Resources Recovery, Inc. press release, September 27, 1 p. (Accessed December 27, 2010, at <http://app.quotemedia.com/quotetools/newsStoryPopup.go?storyId=34300916&topic=PRRY&symbology=null&cp=null&webmasterId=100930>.)
- Schier, Thorsten, 2010, U.S. Antimony eyes Bolivia offtake pact: American Metal Market, v. 118, no. 39-4, September 30, p. 10.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2009 ^b	2010			
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Year to date
Production:					
Primary smelter	W	W	W	W	W
Secondary	W	W	W	W	W
Imports for consumption:	20,200	5,720	7,390 ^r	3,800 ²	16,900
Ore and concentrate	167	24	57	36 ²	117
Metal	4,750	966	1,740 ^r	733 ²	3,440
Oxide ³	15,200	4,730	5,590 ^r	3,020 ²	13,300
Exports:	2,260	521	675 ^r	374 ²	1,570
Ore and concentrate	170	31	35 ^r	17 ²	83
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap	385	68	83 ^r	72 ²	223
Antimony oxide ³	1,710	422	557 ^r	285 ²	1,260
Consumption of primary antimony	7,230	1,970	1,680 ^r	1,900	5,550
Price, average, cents per pound ⁴	235.55	294.03	384.67	427.63	368.78
Stocks, end of period ⁵	1,480	1,500	1,550 ^r	1,220	XX

^bPreliminary. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

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

²Data for July and August only; September 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^{1,2}

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2010		
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Oxide	937	992 ^r	669
Other ³	564	557	552
Total	1,500	1,550 ^r	1,220

^rRevised.

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

²Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents that consumed 42% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of the 2008.

³Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

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

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2009 ^P	2010			
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Year to date
Oxide	4,510	1,420	1,160 ^r	1,450	4,030
Other ³	2,730	552	525	449	1,530
Total	7,230	1,970	1,680 ^r	1,900	5,550

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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 PRODUCED^{1,2}

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2009 ^P	2010			
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Year to date
Metal ²	W	W	W	W	W
Nonmetal ³	W	W	W	W	W
Flame-retardants:					
Plastics	164	104	46 ^r	97	247
Other ⁴	69	25	21 ^r	20	66
Total	233	129	67 ^r	117	313
Reported consumption	1,930	600	485 ^r	551	1,640
Total consumption ⁵	7,230	1,970	1,680 ^r	1,900	5,550

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Reported consumption."

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	2009	2010					
		First quarter ²	Second quarter ²	June	July	August	January-August ²
Ore and concentrate:							
Bolivia	83	24	24	--	--	--	48
Other	84	--	33	--	19	17	69
Total	167	24	57	--	19	17	117
Metal:							
Australia	95	77	--	--	118	--	195
Bolivia	58	18	--	--	--	--	18
China	3,040	672	1,550	529	142	449	2,820
Mexico	1,170	192	119	59	2	3	316
Peru	212	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vietnam	119	--	40	--	--	--	40
Other	54	7	31	--	13	6	57
Total	4,750	966	1,740	588	275	458	3,440
Oxide:³							
Belgium	1,540	576	480	148	149	117	1,320
Bolivia	1,610	166	114	87	33	33	346
China	9,310	3,250	4,270	1,280	1,450	953	9,920
France	378	129	--	--	--	--	129
Japan	151	94	71	50	50	10	225
Mexico	2,020	339	608	266	102	82	1,130
Netherlands	128	111	--	--	--	--	111
Taiwan	95	46	39	8	32	16	133
Other	1	17	5	5	--	--	22
Total	15,200	4,730	5,590	1,850	1,810	1,210	13,300
Grand total	20,100	5,720	7,390	2,440	2,110	1,690	16,900
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	11	9	4	1	7	--	20

-- 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.