

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2011

Consumption of primary antimony in the third quarter of 2011 was estimated to be 11% more than that in the second quarter of 2011 and 79% more than in that in the third quarter of 2010. During the first 8 months of 2011, antimony imports totaled 15,300 metric tons (t), a decrease of 9% compared with that in the comparable period of 2010. During the first 8 months of 2011, China was the leading supplier of antimony metal and antimony oxide to the United States.

Antimony prices increased steadily during the third quarter of 2011. The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for antimony metal started July at \$5.80 to \$6.40 per pound and increased gradually through the third quarter to finish September at \$6.50 to \$6.70 per pound.

Portage Minerals Inc. (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) signed a nonbinding letter of intent with Tri-Star Resources Plc (London, United Kingdom) in which Tri-Star would fund \$12.5 million in exploration and development expenditures related to the Bald Hill antimony project in New Brunswick, Canada, to earn a 50.1% interest in the project. Portage considered the Bald Hill antimony project to be a significant new discovery in the region hosting major antimony deposits similar to the past-producing Lake George Mine in New Brunswick, as well as the current Beaver Brook Mine in Newfoundland (Portage Minerals Inc., 2011).

Trade reports indicated China's increasing dependence on imported antimony concentrates. China's imports of antimony concentrates increased by 59% in the first 8 months of 2011 compared with those of 2010. Important suppliers to China included Australia, Burma, Canada, Russia, Tajikistan, and Thailand (Metal-Pages, 2011).

Ancoa NL (Perth, Western Australia, Australia), formerly known as Court Resources Pty. Ltd. (Perth), reached an agreement with Straits Resources Ltd. (West Perth, Western Australia, Australia) to acquire the Hillgrove antimony-gold mine, New South Wales, Australia, in which Straits will receive \$21 million in cash and \$21 million in Ancoa shares. The Hillgrove Mine was inactive, but Ancoa planned to have the

mine back in production by September 2012. Straits had acquired the mine in 2005, but produced material for less than a year before putting the project on a care-and-maintenance status in 2009 because of technical problems with the new processing plant. Ancoa planned to produce two different concentrates, and ultimately produce 4,500 metric tons per year of antimony and 778 kilograms per year of gold (Smith, 2011).

U.S. Antimony Corp. (USAC) (Thompson Falls, MT) announced that its antimony flotation mill at San Luis de la Paz in Mexico was in the final phase of testing before coming onstream in September. The 150-metric-ton-per-day mill was designed to produce a high-grade concentrate from the Los Juarez antimony-silver-gold property in Mexico's "silver belt" as well as from ore from other properties. USAC's proprietary metallurgical capability to extract precious metals from antimony deposits would allow it to recover precious metals from its Los Juarez property (The Street.com, 2011).

Update

On February 2, 2012, the Platts Metals Week dealer price for antimony was \$5.20 to \$5.70 per pound.

References Cited

- Metal-Pages, 2011, China's January–August 2011 antimony concentrate imports up 59.1%: Metal-Pages, October 10. (Accessed December 23, 2011, via <http://www.metal-pages.com/>.)
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- The Street.com, 2011, U.S. Antimony reports 121% revenue growth and net profits for 2010: The Street.com, March 28 (Accessed December 21, 2011, at <http://www.thestreet.com/story/11061344/1/us-antimony-reports-121-revenue-growth-and-net-profits-for-2010.html>.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2011				
	2010	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	First– third quarter
Production:					
Primary smelter	W	W	W	W	W
Secondary	W	W	W	W	W
Imports for consumption:	26,200	5,980	6,130 ^r	3,230 ²	15,300 ²
Ore and concentrate	181 ^r	25	97 ^r	57 ²	179 ²
Metal	5,360	1,790	1,560 ^r	570 ²	3,920 ²
Oxide ³	20,600	4,170	4,470 ^r	2,600 ²	11,200 ²
Exports:	2,710	1,240	1,090 ^r	753 ²	3,080 ²
Ore and concentrate	169	53	16	9 ²	78 ²
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap	427	132	100 ^r	171 ²	403 ²
Antimony oxide ³	2,120	1,050	970 ^r	573 ²	2,600 ²
Consumption of primary antimony	8,910 ^r	3,570 ^r	3,060 ^r	3,400	10,000
Price, average, cents per pound ⁴	401.19	641.66	702.42	631.83	658.64
Stocks, end of period ⁵	1,560 ^r	1,540 ^r	1,560 ^r	1,570	1,570

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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

²September 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	2011		
	First quarter ^r	Second quarter ^r	Third quarter
Oxide	1,000	992	1,010
Other ³	535	564	559
Total	1,540	1,560	1,570

^rRevised.

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

²Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and respondents that held 64% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 2010.

³Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

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

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2011				
	2010 ^r	First quarter ^r	Second quarter ^r	Third quarter	First– third quarter
Oxide	6,890	2,520	2,280	2,200	7,010
Other ³	2,020	1,050	772	1,200	3,020
Total	8,910	3,570	3,060	3,400	10,000

^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 64% of the total antimony in 2010.

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

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

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2011				
	2010	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	First– third quarter
Metal ²	W	W	W	W	W
Nonmetal ³	W	W	W	W	W
Flame-retardants:					
Plastics	2,610 ^r	85 ^r	69	24	178
Other ⁴	576 ^r	150 ^r	148	172	470
Total	3,180 ^r	235 ^r	217	196	648
Reported consumption	8,910 ^r	840 ^r	726 ^r	765	2,330
Total consumption	XX	3,570 ^{r,5}	3,060 ^{r,5}	3,400 ⁵	10,000 ⁵

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "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 64% of the total antimony in 2010.

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

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2010	2011					
		First quarter	Second quarter	June	July	August	January–August ²
Ore and concentrate:							
China	20	--	--	--	20	--	20
Italy	112	25	61	12	12	24	122
Other	49 ^r	--	36	17	--	1	37
Total	181 ^r	25	97	29	32	25	179
Metal:							
Australia	194	--	--	--	--	--	--
Belgium	--	38	36	--	20	--	94
Bolivia	18	30	22	--	--	--	52
China	4,530	1,360	1,160	375	242	143	2,900
India	43	122	140	40	--	100	362
Japan	56	30	29	29	5	--	64
Mexico	363	100	125	4	--	54	279
United Kingdom	50	105	14	12	--	7	126
Vietnam	79	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	21 ^r	3 ^r	37	17	--	--	40
Total	5,360	1,790	1,560	476	267	303	3,920
Oxide:³							
Belgium	1,860	473	484	150	159	97	1,210
Bolivia	597	199	216	100	116	167	698
China	15,800	3,130	2,730	1,080	767	989	7,610
France	130	--	--	--	--	--	--
Japan	302	73	70	5	61	56	260
Mexico	1,610	257	269	73	68	97	691
Netherlands	111	--	--	--	--	--	--
Taiwan	196	39	32	8	8	16	95
Thailand	--	--	674	--	--	--	674
Other	21	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	20,600	4,170	4,470	1,420	1,180	1,420	11,200
Grand total	26,200	5,980	6,130	1,920	1,480	1,750	15,300
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	36	30	14	2	--	1	45

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.