

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ANTIMONY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2011

Consumption of primary antimony in the fourth quarter of 2011 was estimated to be slightly less than that in the third quarter of 2011. During the first 11 months of 2011, China was the leading supplier of antimony metal and antimony oxide to the United States.

The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price range for antimony metal started October at \$6.70 to \$7.20 per pound and decreased throughout November and December to finish the year at \$5.50 to \$5.90 per pound.

The Government of China announced a slight reduction in export quotas for antimony in 2012 to 59,400 metric tons (t) from 60,000 t in 2011 (Platts Metals Week, 2012).

GeoProMining Ltd. (Moscow, Russia) was the second-leading antimony producer in the world, excluding China, just behind U.S. Antimony Corp. (Thompson Falls, MT). GeoProMining announced that antimony-in-concentrates

production from its operations in Yakutia (Russia) totaled 2,640 t during the first half of 2011, an increase of 74% compared with production in the first half of 2010. Much of this concentrate was shipped to Chinese smelters (Mining Journal, 2011).

### Update

On February 16, 2012, the Platts Metals Week dealer price range for antimony was \$5.20 to \$5.70 per pound.

### References Cited

- Mining Journal, 2011, Minor metals—Winter blues: Mining Journal, December 9, p. 11.  
Platts Metals Week, 2012, China holds 2012 indium quota steady: Platts Metals Week, v. 83, no. 1, January 2, p. 13.

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

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2011					
	2010	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First- fourth quarter
Production:						
Primary smelter	W	W	W	W	W	W
Secondary	W	W	W	W	W	W
Imports for consumption:	26,200	5,980	6,130	5,910 <sup>r</sup>	3,480 <sup>2</sup>	21,500 <sup>2</sup>
Ore and concentrate	181	25	97	71 <sup>r</sup>	57 <sup>2</sup>	250 <sup>2</sup>
Metal	5,360	1,790	1,560	979 <sup>r</sup>	453 <sup>2</sup>	4,780 <sup>2</sup>
Oxide <sup>3</sup>	20,600	4,170	4,470	4,860 <sup>r</sup>	2,970 <sup>2</sup>	16,500 <sup>2</sup>
Exports:	2,710	1,240	1,090	1,020 <sup>r</sup>	649 <sup>2</sup>	4,000 <sup>2</sup>
Ore and concentrate	169	53	16	9	5 <sup>2</sup>	83 <sup>2</sup>
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap	427	132	100	205 <sup>r</sup>	71 <sup>2</sup>	508 <sup>2</sup>
Antimony oxide <sup>3</sup>	2,120	1,050	970	810 <sup>r</sup>	571 <sup>2</sup>	3,410 <sup>2</sup>
Consumption of primary antimony	8,910	3,570	3,060	3,400	3,350	13,400
Price, average, cents per pound <sup>4</sup>	401.19	641.66	702.42	631.83	625.14	650.26
Stocks, end of period <sup>5</sup>	1,560	1,540	1,560	1,570	1,250	1,250

<sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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

<sup>2</sup>December 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>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2011			
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
Oxide	1,000	992	1,010	691
Other <sup>3</sup>	535	564	559	561
Total	1,540	1,560	1,570	1,250

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

<sup>2</sup>Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and annual respondents that held 64% of the total stock of antimony at the end of 2010.

<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	2011					
	2010	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First-fourth quarter
Oxide	6,890	2,520	2,280	2,200	2,200	9,210
Other <sup>3</sup>	2,020	1,050	772	1,200	1,150	4,170
Total	8,910	3,570	3,060	3,400	3,350	13,400

<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 annual respondents who consumed 64% of the total antimony in 2010.

<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	2011					
	2010	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First-fourth quarter
Metal <sup>2</sup>	W	W	W	W	W	W
Nonmetal <sup>3</sup>	W	W	W	W	W	W
Flame-retardants:						
Plastics	2,610	85	69	24	45	223
Other <sup>4</sup>	576	150	148	172	151	621
Total	3,180	235	217	196	196	844
Reported consumption	8,910	840	726	765	752	3,080
Total consumption	XX	3,570 <sup>5</sup>	3,060 <sup>5</sup>	3,400 <sup>5</sup>	3,350 <sup>5</sup>	13,400 <sup>5</sup>

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

<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 annual respondents who consumed 64% of the total antimony in 2010.

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

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2010	2011						
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	September	October	November	January–November <sup>2</sup>
<b>Ore and concentrate:</b>								
China	20	--	36 <sup>†</sup>	20	--	--	--	56
Italy	112	25	61	48	12	39	12	185
Other	49	--	--	3	2	--	6	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Metal:</b>								
Australia	194	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Belgium	--	38	36	20	--	--	--	94
Bolivia	18	30	22	--	--	--	--	52
China	4,530	1,360	1,160	652	266	135	141	3,440
India	43	122	140	185	85	20	90	557
Japan	56	30	29	35	30	--	--	94
Mexico	363	100	125	61	7	6	5	297
United Kingdom	50	105	14	7	--	16	--	142
Vietnam	79	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	21	3	37	20	20	--	40	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,360</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>4,780</b>
<b>Oxide:<sup>3</sup></b>								
Belgium	1,860	473	484	428	173	115	135	1,640
Bolivia	597	199	216	317	34	100	222	1,050
China	15,800	3,130	2,730	3,700	1,940	1,040	842	11,400
France	130	--	--	--	--	--	15	15
Japan	302	73	70	134	17	7	7	290
Mexico	1,610	257	269	252	87	47	119	945
Netherlands	111	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Taiwan	196	39	32	32	8	16	8	126
Thailand	--	--	674	--	--	166	133	973
Other	21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,600</b>	<b>4,170</b>	<b>4,470</b>	<b>4,860</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>16,500</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>26,200</b>	<b>5,980</b>	<b>6,130</b>	<b>5,910</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>21,500</b>
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	36	30	14	1	--	3	--	48

<sup>†</sup>Revised. -- 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 previously published data.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.