

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ANTIMONY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2012

Consumption of primary antimony in the fourth quarter of 2012 was estimated to be 2,550 metric tons (t), the same as in the third quarter of 2012, and slightly lower than that in the fourth quarter of 2011. During 2012, total imports of contained antimony were 22,600 t, a 4% decrease compared with those in 2011. China remained the leading supplier of antimony metal and antimony oxide to the United States.

Antimony prices continued to decrease steadily during the fourth quarter of 2012. The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price range for antimony metal started October at \$5.70 to \$6.00 per pound and declined steadily to \$5.15 to \$5.45 per pound at yearend.

U.S. Antimony Corp. (USAC) (Thompson Falls, MT) announced that it was doubling its antimony production target in 2013 to 1,360 t from 635 t in 2012. USAC planned to increase its Mexican milling and smelting capacity and increase mine output from seven recently prepared mining faces at its Los Juarez Mine in Mexico. The company's antimony production would continue to be supplemented by feeds from other mines in Mexico and smelters in Canada and Europe (U.S. Antimony Corp., 2012).

The Beaver Brook Mine, in central Newfoundland, had been the leading antimony producer in North America, but was shut down in the fourth quarter of 2012 by its parent firm, Hunan Nonferrous Metals Corp. Ltd. (Zhuzhou, Hunan Province, China) owing to ore depletion. Plans were being developed to explore for additional resources. Great Atlantic Resources Corp. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) reached an option agreement with Atlantic Antimony Ltd. to purchase the Rawdon Hills antimony/gold property that was adjacent to the Beaver Brook Mine. Great Atlantic had previously focused its antimony efforts on the West Gore antimony/gold property, which had produced antimony in the 1980s (Great Atlantic Resources Corp., 2012a, b).

First Liberty Power Corp. (FLPC) (Las Vegas, NV) planned to construct a mill to upgrade the ore at its recently acquired Fencemaker antimony project to about 60% antimony, with initial ore extraction expected in early 2013. In August 2012, FLPC had acquired a 40.5% interest in the Fencemaker property, 60 kilometers southwest of Lovelock, NV. Fencemaker began producing antimony in the 1880s, with intermittent production until the 1990s. The property consists of unpatented contiguous mining claims that cover a total of 40 hectares (100 acres) (First Liberty Power Corp., 2012, p. 5–6).

### Update

On March 14, 2013, the Platts Metals Week dealer price for antimony was \$4.70 to \$5.00 per pound.

### Reference Cited

- First Liberty Power Corp., 2012, Form 10-Q—For the quarter period ended October 31, 2012: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 13 p. (Accessed April 17, 2013, at <http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1415305/000152477713000133/form10q.htm>.)
- Great Atlantic Resources Corp., 2012a, Beaver Brook antimony mine announces shutdown due to lack of ore—TSX.v approves GR's un-tested contiguous land package: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Great Atlantic Resources Corp. news release, December 17. (Accessed March 21, 2013, at <http://greatatlanticresources.com/front-page/beaver-brook-antimony-mine-announces-shutdown-due-to-lack-of-ore-tsx-v-approves-grs-un-tested-contiguous-land-package.html/>.)
- Great Atlantic Resources Corp., 2012b, Great Atlantic expands land package at its West Gore antimony mine: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Great Atlantic Resources Corp. news release, November 23 (Accessed March 18, 2013, at <http://greatatlanticresources.com/front-page/great-atlantic-expands-land-package-at-its-west-gore-antimony-mine.html/>.)
- U.S. Antimony Corp., 2012, U.S. Antimony forecasts production for 2013: Thompson Falls, MT, U.S. Antimony Corp. news release, December 17, 1 p. (Accessed March 18, 2013, at [http://www.usantimony.com/USAC\\_news.htm#U.\\_S.\\_ANTIMONY\\_FORECASTS\\_PRODUCTION\\_FOR\\_2013](http://www.usantimony.com/USAC_news.htm#U._S._ANTIMONY_FORECASTS_PRODUCTION_FOR_2013).)

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

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2012					
	2011	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Imports for consumption:	23,500	6,020	5,470	5,710	5,430	22,600
Ore and concentrate	288	138	82	96	63	379
Metal	5,040	1,250	1,260	1,420	1,130	5,060
Oxide <sup>2</sup>	18,200	4,630	4,130	4,190	4,240	17,200
Exports:	4,250	874	1,150	1,370	1,430	4,820
Ore and concentrate	83	9	62	30	6	107
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap	581	124	259	249	215	847
Antimony oxide <sup>2</sup>	3,590	741	826	1,100	1,210	3,870
Consumption of primary antimony	10,200 <sup>r</sup>	2,570 <sup>r</sup>	2,660 <sup>r</sup>	2,550 <sup>r</sup>	2,550	10,300
Price, average, cents per pound <sup>3</sup>	650.30	533.00	602.00	576.02	547.00	564.51
Stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>	1,430 <sup>r</sup>	1,430 <sup>r</sup>	1,590 <sup>r</sup>	1,610 <sup>r</sup>	1,720	1,720

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

<sup>3</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week. New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

<sup>4</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	2012			
	1st quarter <sup>r</sup>	2d quarter <sup>r</sup>	3d quarter <sup>r</sup>	4th quarter
Oxide	820	955	992	1,060
Other <sup>2</sup>	606	636	621	660
Total	1,430	1,590	1,610	1,720

<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>Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

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

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2012					
	2011	1st quarter <sup>f</sup>	2d quarter <sup>f</sup>	3d quarter <sup>f</sup>	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Oxide	7,190	1,760	1,740	1,550	1,500	6,540
Other <sup>2</sup>	3,030	804	914	1,010	1,060	3,780
Total	10,200	2,570	2,660	2,550	2,550	10,300

<sup>f</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</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	2012					
	2011	1st quarter <sup>f</sup>	2d quarter <sup>f</sup>	3d quarter <sup>f</sup>	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Metal <sup>2</sup>	2,980	797	843	778	830	3,250
Nonmetal <sup>3</sup>	3,720	923	922	934	832	3,610
Flame-retardants:						
Plastics	3,090	727	779	757	785	3,050
Other <sup>4</sup>	431	118	111	83	107	419
Total	3,520	845	890	840	892	3,470
Grand total	10,200	2,570	2,660	2,550	2,550	10,300

<sup>f</sup>Revised.

<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.

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

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2012							
	2011	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	October	November	December	January– December
<b>Ore and concentrate:</b>								
China	56	40	22	19	--	19	--	100
Italy	223	88	60	69	12	10	22	261
Other	9	11	--	8	--	--	--	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>379</b>
<b>Metal:</b>								
Bolivia	67	15	22	--	--	--	--	37
China	3,620	967	939	1,110	220	262	262	3,760
Hong Kong	57	20	--	--	47	25	51	143
India	607	180	255	170	40	80	20	745
Japan	97	15	--	5	--	61	--	81
Mexico	309	39	35	54	18	4	--	150
United Kingdom	142	16	7	32	16	9	9	89
Other	138	--	--	51	--	--	1	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,040</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>5,050</b>
<b>Oxide:<sup>2</sup></b>								
Belgium	1,750	402	290	277	131	91	83	1,270
Bolivia	1,050	412	392	480	176	116	60	1,640
China	12,900	3,340	2,810	2,760	1,230	857	733	11,700
France	31	90	120	97	14	4	52	377
Japan	303	134	49	56	41	43	127	450
Mexico	1,010	223	341	215	86	96	74	1,040
Taiwan	142	32	--	--	--	--	--	32
Thailand	973	--	100	149	133	--	--	382
Other	--	--	32	164	17	74	2	289
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,200</b>	<b>4,630</b>	<b>4,130</b>	<b>4,190</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>17,200</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>5,470</b>	<b>5,710</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>22,600</b>
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	47	11	2	13	6	7	--	39

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.