

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2013

The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price range for antimony metal started January 2013 at \$5.00 to \$5.40 per pound and decreased throughout the first quarter to \$4.70 to \$5.00 per pound at the end of March.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has discontinued its quarterly survey of antimony consumption. Therefore, quarterly consumption data will no longer be reported. Consumption data for antimony will continue to be collected on an annual basis and will be reported in the antimony chapter of the Minerals Yearbook and the Mineral Commodity Summaries.

U.S. Antimony Corp. (USAC) (Thompson Falls, MT) reported first quarter sales of 185 metric tons (t) of antimony, a 19% increase compared with sales in the first quarter 2012. However, the company reported a loss in revenue because of the lower price of antimony and increased expenses from the startup of the silver-antimony-gold Los Juarez property in Queretaro, Mexico, and expansion of existing mining, milling, and smelting operations in Mexico. In March, the mill feed assay from the Minas Grande open pit at the Los Juarez property averaged 1.13% antimony, 2.8 grams per metric ton (g/t) gold, and 227 g/t silver. The Los Juarez property contains other zones of mineralization that were undergoing evaluation. Installation was underway of a mill that was expected to be operational by the end of 2013. The mill will include a 75-metric-ton-per-day (t/d) gravity circuit to treat oxide ores and a 500-t/d flotation mill for the stibnite (Sb₂S₃) ore. USAC also announced that it had doubled the capacity of the Estacion Madero smelter in Coahuila, Mexico, which was running at full capacity. Capacity of the Puerto Blanco antimony flotation mill in Guanajuato, Mexico, increased to 225 t/d from 150 t/d. The company's 2013 production goals were 1,400 t of contained antimony, 3,100 kilograms (kg)* of silver, and 7.8 kg* of gold. In 2012, USAC sold 636 t of contained antimony, 630 kg* of silver, and 3.2 kg* of gold (U.S. Antimony Corp., 2013a, b, c, d).

Midas Gold Corp. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) announced the final results from the company's 2012 drilling program at the Scout Prospect on its Golden Meadows property in Idaho. Drilling outlined significant antimony and gold mineralization over a strike length of 825 meters (m) to a depth of up to 200 m, and a thickness ranging between 8 m and 70 m (Midas Gold Corp., 2013).

Update

On June 20, 2013, the Platts Metals Week dealer price for antimony was \$4.70 to \$4.80 per pound.

Reference Cited

- Midas Gold Corp., 2013, Midas Gold reports final results from its 2012 drilling on the Scout Prospect, Golden Meadows project: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Midas Gold Corp. news release, January 17, 5 p. (Accessed May 29, 2013, at http://www.midasgoldcorp.com/i/pdf/nr/2013-02-MAX-Exploration_Results-Scout_FINAL.pdf.)
- U.S. Antimony Corp., 2013a, U.S. Antimony announces financial results for Q1 2013: Thompson Falls, MT, U.S. Antimony Corp. news release, May 10. (Accessed May 29, 2013, at http://www.usantimony.com/USAC_news.htm.)
- U.S. Antimony Corp., 2013b, U.S. Antimony increases mill capacity by 50 percent: Thompson Falls, MT, U.S. Antimony Corp. news release, April 30. (Accessed May 29, 2013, at http://www.usantimony.com/USAC_news.htm.)
- U.S. Antimony Corp., 2013c, U.S. Antimony reports excellent assays: Thompson Falls, MT, U.S. Antimony Corp. news release, March 11. (Accessed June 27, 2013, at http://www.usantimony.com/USAC_news.htm.)
- U.S. Antimony Corp., 2013d, U.S. Antimony reports 2012 financials: Thompson Falls, MT, U.S. Antimony Corp. news release, March 18. (Accessed May 29, 2013, at http://www.usantimony.com/2013_newsroom_2013.htm.)

*Corrections posted on December 13, 2013.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2012 ^p		2013
	1st quarter–4th quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter
Imports for consumption:			
Ore and concentrate	380 ^r	63	105
Metal	5,050 ^r	1,120 ^r	1,250
Oxide ²	17,200	4,240	4,220
Total	22,600	5,430	5,570
Exports:			
Ore and concentrate	106 ^r	6	14
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap	847	215	484
Antimony oxide ²	3,870	1,210	849
Total	4,820	1,430	1,350
Price, average, cents per pound ³	564.51	547.00	533.00

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

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

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2012		2013			
	1st quarter–4th quarter	4th quarter	January	February	March	January–March
Ore and concentrate:						
China	100	19	--	50	--	50
Italy	261	44	13	12	--	25
Other	19	--	--	30	1	31
Total	380 ^r	63	13	92	1	105
Metal:						
China	3,760	744	370	147	207	724
Hong Kong	144	123	--	38	77	115
India	745	140	165	45	54	264
Japan	81	61	--	--	7	7
Mexico	149	21 ^r	--	37	6	43
United Kingdom	88	33	5	9	20	34
Other	88	1	--	1	59	60
Total	5,050	1,120 ^r	540	277	429	1,250
Oxide:²						
Belgium	1,270	305	106	120	172	398
Bolivia	1,640	352	212	102	197	511
China	11,700	2,820	1,270	967	502	2,740
France	378 ^r	71 ^r	17	32	16	65
Japan	450	211	133	94	88	315
Mexico	1,040	256	36	67	84	187
Thailand	382	133	--	--	--	--
Other	319 ^r	93	--	--	--	--
Total	17,200	4,240	1,780	1,380	1,060	4,220
Grand total	22,600	5,430	2,330	1,750	1,490	5,570
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	39	13	8	--	--	8

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.