

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ANTIMONY IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2014

Imports of antimony products were 5,000 metric tons (t) in the second quarter of 2014, a decrease of 11% from that in the first quarter of 2014, and a decrease of 20% from that in the second quarter of 2013. Imports of antimony products for the first half of 2014 totaled 10,600 t, a 10% decrease from that in the first half of 2013. For the first half of 2014, the leading suppliers of antimony products to the United States were, in descending order, China, Bolivia, Thailand, and Mexico.

The Platts Metals Week New York average monthly dealer price for antimony metal was \$4.30 per pound in April 2014, \$4.25 per pound in May 2014, and \$4.28 per pound in June 2014. The average monthly New York dealer price for antimony metal in the first half of 2014 was \$4.31 per pound, 9% less than that during the same period in 2013.

In June, the Chinese Government cancelled its 2014 mine production quota for antimony. The antimony mining quota, which was 89,000 t in 2013, was first introduced in 2009 and

was intended to limit antimony production to preserve resources. Owing to antimony price declines during the previous several months, it was unclear if the cancellation would lead to an increase in mine production. Some antimony producers in China halted production earlier in 2014 and cited price declines as a contributing factor (Smith, 2014).

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### Reference Cited

Smith, Chloe, 2014, China cancels antimony mining restrictions—Raises rare earths quota: Metal Bulletin, June 10. (Accessed June 10, 2014, via <http://metalbulletin.com/>)

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

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2013 <sup>p</sup>		2014	
	1st quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter
Imports for consumption:				
Ore and concentrate		342	113 <sup>r</sup>	72
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap (gross weight)		6,170	1,850	1,020
Oxide <sup>2</sup>		18,200	3,680	3,910
Total		24,700	5,640	5,000
Exports:				
Ore and concentrate		36	20	14
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap (gross weight)		1,550	317	367
Antimony oxide <sup>2</sup>		2,420	553	370
Total		4,010	890	751
Price, average, cents per pound <sup>3</sup>		462.63	435.00	427.50

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Antimony content was 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.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2013		2014			
	1st quarter-- 4th quarter	1st quarter	April	May	June	January-- June
<b>Ore and concentrate:</b>						
China	89	24	--	--	16	40
Italy	203	60	23	2	27	112
Other	49	29	1	1	2	33
Total	342	113 <sup>r</sup>	24	3	44	185
<b>Metal, alloys, waste and scrap (gross weight):</b>						
China	3,880	1,410	252	46	130	1,840
Hong Kong	448	--	40	--	--	40
India	903	120	39	40	--	199
Japan	115	6	--	68	34	108
Mexico	171	69	--	38	--	107
Netherlands	--	--	--	20	40	60
Peru	304	132	46	87	37	302
United Kingdom	161	27	26	9	9	71
Vietnam	21	40	40	--	--	80
Other	167 <sup>r</sup>	43	--	--	14	57
Total	6,170	1,850	444	308	264	2,860
<b>Oxide:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Belgium	1,450	418	108	90	71	687
Bolivia	2,400	382	149	100	199	830
China	10,300	1,720	763	825	691	4,000
France	424	130	47	76	56	309
Japan	463	160	8	21	63	252
Mexico	959	289	92	149	137	667
Thailand	2,070	564	--	--	216	780
Other	116	18	4	17	31	70
Total	18,200	3,680	1,170	1,280	1,460	7,590
Grand total	24,700	5,640	1,640	1,590	1,770	10,600
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	27	14	7	21	5	47

<sup>r</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>Antimony content was calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.