

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BISMUTH IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2010

Bismuth consumption in the United States for the first quarter of 2010 was estimated to be 295 metric tons (t), compared with 293 t in the fourth quarter of 2009 and 292 t in the first quarter of 2009. Preliminary imports for 2009 were 1,250 t compared to 1,930 t in 2008. Preliminary data indicate that China, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, and Mexico, in descending order, were the leading suppliers of bismuth to the United States in 2009.

The New York dealer price for bismuth, as published in Platts Metals Week, started January 2010 at \$7.35 to \$8.00 per pound and finished at \$7.80 to \$8.10 per pound at the end of March 2010.

Update

On July 8, 2010, the Platts Metals Week price for bismuth was \$7.80 to \$8.40 per pound.

TABLE 1
SALIENT BISMUTH STATISTICS¹

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

	2009					2010
	Year ^p	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Consumption ²	1,180,000 ^r	292,000 ^r	302,000 ^r	298,000 ^r	293,000 ^r	295,000
Exports ³	397,000	110,000	60,200	90,800	136,000	166,000
Imports for consumption	1,250,000	186,000	238,000	372,000	455,000	454,000
Price per pound, dealer, average of period	\$7.84	\$8.31	\$7.43	\$7.08	\$8.53	\$7.94
Stocks, end of period, consumer	XX	145,000 ^r	143,000 ^r	135,000 ^r	134,000 ^r	134,000

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

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

²Estimated, based on net imports.

³Comprises bismuth metal and the bismuth content of alloys and waste and scrap.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED BISMUTH METAL CONSUMED
IN THE UNITED STATES, BY USE¹

(Kilograms)

Use	2009 ^r					2010
	Year ^p	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Chemicals ²	704,000	176,000	176,000	176,000	176,000	176,000
Bismuth alloys	61,800	12,700	12,500	20,700	15,800	18,000
Metallurgical additives	415,000	102,000	113,000	100,000	100,000	101,000
Other	2,910	728	728	728	726	728
Total	1,180,000	292,000	302,000	298,000	293,000	295,000

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Includes industrial and laboratory chemicals, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms)

Country	2009				2010			
	Year	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	January	February	March	January-March
Argentina	220	21	177	--	--	--	64	64
Belgium	56,600	8,340	19,300	18,300	14,800	--	--	14,800
Brazil	13,400	--	--	6,090	2,410	--	--	2,410
Canada	32,900	5,330	9,940	13,800	1,220	4,880	1,140	7,230
China	28,800	8,250	286	18,700	--	--	--	--
Colombia	1,230	--	--	--	--	118	--	118
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	--	2,870	52	2,930
Czech Republic	99	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dominican Republic	6,550	762	5,120	--	--	--	--	--
France	121,000	8,950	35,700	41,500	--	32,300	22,500	54,800
Germany	2,420	--	695	1,560	11,800	--	25,100	36,900
Hong Kong	2,410	--	681	120	--	--	8,250	8,250
Japan	11,000	1,600	6,650	2,760	--	--	--	--
Mexico	59,300	12,900	7,540	13,000	5,800	5,390	19,300	30,500
Saudi Arabia	27	27	--	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore	445	150	195	--	100	--	--	100
Thailand	8,590	1,110	1,100	3,270	5,650	1,560	419	7,630
United Kingdom	4,710	685	--	4,020	--	--	--	--
Vietnam	45,200	11,500	3,120	11,900	355	--	--	355
Other	1,790	614	243	738	--	121	114	235
Total	397,000	60,200	90,800	136,000	42,100	47,200	77,000	166,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms)

Country	2009				2010			
	Year	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	January	February	March	January-March
Belgium	450,000	141,000	101,000	158,000	48,700	44,100	82,200	175,000
Canada	5,740	995	1,900	592	2,050	--	7,890	9,930
China	554,000	63,900	163,000	231,000	78,200	78,300	95,700	252,000
Germany	1,600	250	1	1,300	260	--	110	370
Korea, Republic of	75,100	--	57,100	18,000	--	--	--	--
Mexico	59,400	--	39,400	20,000	--	--	--	--
Peru	29,400	23,100	6,280	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	62,400	9,020	4,250	26,300	10,000	6,650	4	16,700
Other	13,300	5	--	4	--	100	--	100
Total	1,250,000	238,000	372,000	455,000	139,000	129,000	186,000	454,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.