

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BISMUTH IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2010

Bismuth consumption in the United States for the third quarter of 2010 was estimated to be 293 metric tons (t), slightly less than that in the second quarter of 2010 and 7% lower than that in the third quarter of 2009. Bismuth imports in the third quarter of 2010 were 413 t, 10% more than in the comparable period of 2009. During the first 9 months of 2010, China, Belgium, and the United Kingdom, in descending order, were the leading suppliers of bismuth to the United States.

The New York dealer price range for bismuth, published in Platts Metals Week, started July 2010 at \$7.80 to \$8.40 per pound and generally rose during the third quarter to finish September at \$9.15 to \$9.50 per pound.

Fortune Minerals Ltd. (London, Ontario, Canada) announced that it had successfully demonstrated the production of 99.99% bismuth metal ingot from its 100%-owned NiCO gold-cobalt-bismuth-copper project in the Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan, Canada. High-purity bismuth ingot (99.99%

purity) is the standard product that is typically quoted for sale and traded on global metal markets. In addition to production of the other metals, the NiCO project was projected to produce an average of 1,650 metric tons per year of bismuth as 99% cathode or 99.6% ingot (Fortune Minerals Ltd., 2010).

Update

On December 2, 2010, the Platts Metals Week price range for bismuth was \$9.25 to \$9.70 per pound.

Reference Cited

Fortune Minerals Ltd., 2010, Fortune Minerals announces successful production of 99.99% bismuth ingot: Fortune Minerals Ltd. press release, July 29, 1 p. (Accessed July 30, 2010, at <http://www.fortuneminerals.com/News/Press-Releases/Press-Release-Details/2010/Fortune-Minerals-Announces-Successful-Production-of-9999-Bismuth-Ingot1122437/default.aspx>.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT BISMUTH STATISTICS¹

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

	2009			2010		
	Year	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Consumption ²	1,180,000	298,000	293,000	295,000	295,000	293,000
Exports ³	397,000	90,800	136,000	166,000	183,000	188,000
Imports for consumption	1,250,000	372,000	455,000	454,000	461,000	413,000
Price per pound, dealer, average of period	\$7.84	\$7.08	\$8.53	\$7.94	\$9.17	\$8.49
Stocks, end of period, consumer	134,000	135,000	134,000	134,000	133,000	136,000

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			2010		
	Year	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Chemicals ²	706,000 ^r	176,000	176,000	176,000	176,000	176,000
Bismuth alloys	52,300 ^r	20,700	15,800	18,000	17,800	15,800
Metallurgical additives	422,000 ^r	100,000	100,000	101,000	101,000	100,000
Other	3,250 ^r	728	726	728	728	728
Total	1,180,000	298,000	293,000	295,000	295,000	293,000

^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	Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	July	August	September	January-September
Argentina	220	--	64	11	--	--	--	75
Austria	--	--	--	20,000	--	--	--	20,000
Belgium	56,600	18,300	14,800	--	--	--	--	14,800
Brazil	13,400	6,090	2,410	524	--	--	--	2,940
Canada	32,900	13,800	7,230	15,900	10,500	528	3,610	37,800
China	28,800	18,700	--	10,400	508	834	--	11,800
Colombia	1,230	--	118	205	--	205	--	528
Costa Rica	--	--	2,930	4,340	869	2,510	--	10,600
Czech Republic	99	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dominican Republic	6,550	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
France	121,000	41,500	54,800	66,600	61,400	32,000	--	215,000
Germany	2,420	1,560	36,900	26,400	330	--	330	63,900
Hong Kong	2,410	120	8,250	--	1,010	--	--	9,260
Japan	11,000	2,760	--	--	15	892	2,200	3,110
Mexico	59,300	13,000	30,500	13,700	9,660	7,460	6,630	68,000
Saudi Arabia	27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore	445	--	100	229	392	400	431	1,550
Thailand	8,590	3,270	7,630	3,310	2,430	--	4,690	18,000
United Kingdom	4,710	4,020	--	--	434	--	834	1,270
Vietnam	45,200	11,900	355	21,100	506	27,200	7,100	56,300
Other	1,790	738	235	95	775	908	58	2,070
Total	397,000	136,000	166,000	183,000	88,900	73,000	25,900	537,000

-- 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	Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	July	August	September	January-September
Belgium	450,000	158,000	175,000	201,000	77,300	30,700	27,100	511,000
Canada	5,740	592	9,930	6,450	1,270	217	1,510	19,400
China	554,000	231,000	252,000	247,000	86,200	174,000	--	759,000
Germany	1,600	1,300	370	3,230	--	--	100	3,700
Korea, Republic of	75,100	18,000	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	59,400	20,000	--	--	--	--	40	40
Peru	29,400	--	--	--	--	--	455	455
United Kingdom	62,400	26,300	16,700	3,230	4,050	6,260	4,020	34,200
Other	13,300	4	100	612	126	222	30	1,090
Total	1,250,000	455,000	454,000	461,000	169,000	211,000	33,200	1,330,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.