

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## BISMUTH IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2011

Bismuth consumption in the United States for the first quarter of 2011 was estimated to be 163 metric tons (t), 19% lower than that in the fourth quarter of 2010, and 20% lower than that in the first quarter of 2010. In descending order, China, Belgium, Canada, and the United Kingdom were the leading suppliers of bismuth to the United States in the first quarter of 2011.

The New York dealer price range for bismuth, published in Platts Metals Week, started January 2011 at \$9.10 to \$9.60 per

pound and increased steadily through the first quarter to finish March at \$10.80 to \$11.05 per pound.

### Update

On October 13, 2011, the Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for bismuth was \$12.75 to \$13.00 per pound.

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

	2010					2011
	Year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Consumption <sup>2</sup>	884	204 <sup>r</sup>	204 <sup>r</sup>	202 <sup>r</sup>	202 <sup>r</sup>	163
Exports <sup>3</sup>	704 <sup>4</sup>	166	183	188	167 <sup>r,4</sup>	304
Imports for consumption	1,620	454	461	413	294	467
Price per pound, dealer, average of period	\$8.76	\$7.94	\$9.17	\$8.49	\$9.45	\$9.73
Stocks, end of period, consumer	134	134	133	136	133	134

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Estimated, based on net imports.

<sup>3</sup>Comprises bismuth metal and the bismuth content of alloys and waste and scrap.

<sup>4</sup>Source: U.S. Census Bureau data as adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 2  
ESTIMATED BISMUTH METAL CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES, BY USE<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Use	2010					2011
	Year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Chemicals <sup>2</sup>	589	132 <sup>r</sup>	132 <sup>r</sup>	132 <sup>r</sup>	132 <sup>r</sup>	98
Bismuth alloys	62	W	W	W	W	W
Metallurgical additives	231	W	W	W	W	W
Other	4	56 <sup>r</sup>	56 <sup>r</sup>	56 <sup>r</sup>	54 <sup>r</sup>	55
Total	884	204 <sup>r</sup>	204 <sup>r</sup>	202 <sup>r</sup>	202 <sup>r</sup>	163

<sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes industrial and laboratory chemicals, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	2010					2011			
	Year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	January	February	March	First quarter
Argentina	(2)	(2)	(2)	--	(2)	--	--	(2)	(2)
Austria	20	--	20	--	--	--	--	--	--
Belgium	15	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brazil	11	2	1	--	8	--	2	--	2
Canada	41	7	16	15	4	(2)	1	2	4
China	26	--	10	1	15	(2)	2	--	2
Colombia	1	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	--	--	--	--
Costa Rica	13	3	4	3	2	(2)	2	1	4
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	3
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(2)	(2)	--	1
France	286 <sup>r,3</sup>	55	67	93	72 <sup>r,3</sup>	--	--	--	--
Germany	74	37	26	1	10	8	--	--	8
Hong Kong	9	8	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Japan	4	--	--	3	1	--	1	--	1
Mexico	100	31	14	24	32	7	12	16	35
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(2)	(2)
Singapore	2	(2)	(2)	1	1	2	(2)	1	3
Thailand	22	8	4	7	4	3	1	(2)	4
United Kingdom	1	--	--	1	(2)	1	(2)	--	1
Vietnam	75 <sup>r,3</sup>	(2)	21	35	19 <sup>r,3</sup>	81	80	75	236
Other	4	(2)	(2)	2	2	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Total	700 <sup>r,3</sup>	166	183	188	167 <sup>r,3</sup>	108	100	96	304

<sup>1</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>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>3</sup>Source: U.S. Census Bureau data adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	2010					2011			
	Year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	January	February	March	First quarter
Belgium	674	175	201	135	164	47	61	116	224
Canada	21	10	6	3	2	(2)	2	2	5
China	875	252	247	260	116	63	87	84	234
Germany	4	(2)	3	(2)	(2)	(2)	--	--	(2)
Korea, Republic of	10	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	36	16	3	14	2	4	(2)	1	4
Other	1	(2)	1	1	(2)	--	--	--	--
Total	1,620	454	461	413	294	114	150	203	467

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.