

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## BISMUTH IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2012

Bismuth consumption in the United States for the first quarter of 2012 was estimated to be 165 metric tons (t), about the same as that in the fourth quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of 2011. Bismuth imports were 477 t in the first quarter of 2012, compared with 410 t in the fourth quarter of 2011, and 467 t in the first quarter of 2011. In descending order, China, Belgium, the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Korea were the leading suppliers of bismuth to the United States in the first quarter of 2012.

The New York dealer price range for bismuth, published in Platts Metals Week, started January 2012 at \$11.50 to \$12.00 per pound and gradually decreased during the second quarter to finish March at \$10.40 to \$11.00 per pound.

Adex Mining Inc. (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) planned to bring its Mount Pleasant, New Brunswick, Canada, tin-tungsten-molybdenum-bismuth mine back into production as soon as

possible. The mine was last mined from 1983 to 1985. Mount Pleasant is a polymetallic deposit with tungsten and molybdenum as the principal products. The company cited better-than-expected results from its 2011 drilling program at its North Zone and Saddle Zone. Adex started metallurgical feasibility testing, which was expected to be completed in the third quarter 2012. Mining at the Fire Zone could start in early 2015 (Adex Mining Inc., 2012).

### Reference Cited

Adex Mining Inc., 2012, Adex updates development strategy for Mount Pleasant mine: Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Adex Mining Inc. press release, February 16, 3 p. (Accessed October 10, 2012, at [http://www.adexmining.com/fileupload/pdf/2012-02-16 Adex Updates Development Strategy for Mount Pleasant Mine.pdf](http://www.adexmining.com/fileupload/pdf/2012-02-16%20Adex%20Updates%20Development%20Strategy%20for%20Mount%20Pleasant%20Mine.pdf).)

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

(Metric tons)

	2011					2012
	Year	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter
Consumption <sup>2</sup>	668	166	168	167	167	165
Exports <sup>3</sup>	1,030	304	241	274	215	224
Imports for consumption	1,750	467	426	446	410	477
Price per pound, dealer, average of period	\$11.47	\$11.39	\$11.39	\$12.34	\$12.41	\$10.67
Stocks, end of period, consumer	138	134	134	140	138	138

<sup>1</sup>Revised.

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

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

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

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

(Metric tons)

Use	2011					2012
	Year	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter
Chemicals <sup>2</sup>	W	W	W	W	W	W
Bismuth alloys	54	13	14	14	13	18
Metallurgical additives	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	4	1	1	1	1	1
Total	668	166	168	167	167	165

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>

(Kilograms)

Country	2011					2012			
	Year	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	January	February	March	1st quarter
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	56,100	56,100
Brazil	12,200	1,740	--	10,500	--	--	--	--	--
Canada	20,700	3,450	5,190	6,620	5,400	6,590	4,600	6,240	17,400
China	28,000	2,440	12,800	5,330	7,360	--	1,790	46	1,840
France	44,100	--	35,800	8,220	--	2,610	--	--	2,610
Germany	9,320	8,090	--	1,230	--	294	--	--	294
Hong Kong	1,490	--	24	1,470	--	--	2,330	4,470	6,800
Mexico	219,000	35,300	46,900	78,100 <sup>†</sup>	58,300	1,360	15,900	36,500	53,800
Thailand	10,900	3,960	6,560	37 <sup>†</sup>	325	--	--	634	634
Vietnam	621,000	236,000	122,000	154,000	109,000	12,300	36,700	24,400	73,300
Other	67,600	12,600	12,100	8,230 <sup>†</sup>	34,600	3,870	3,110	4,520	11,500
Total	1,030,000	304,000	241,000	274,000	215,000	27,000	64,400	133,000	224,000

<sup>†</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data 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 COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Kilograms)

Country	2011					2012			
	Year	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	January	February	March	1st quarter
Belgium	713,000	224,000	134,000	156,000	199,000	56,000	47,400	94,100	197,000
Canada	11,600	4,760	1,390	2,570	2,880	953	2,210	686	3,850
China	974,000	234,000	271,000	268,000	201,000	147,000	61,000	55,800	264,000
Germany	824	280	100	420	24	100	--	--	100
Korea, Republic of	26,700	--	9,990	15,000	1,720	--	--	5,010	5,010
United Kingdom	22,700	4,450	9,490	4,000	4,770	265	--	6,300	6,560
Other	200	--	45	95	60	--	38	128	166
Total	1,750,000	467,000	426,000	446,000	410,000	205,000	111,000	162,000	477,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.