

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BISMUTH IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2012

Bismuth consumption in the United States for the third quarter of 2012 was estimated to be 159 metric tons (t), the same as that in the second quarter of 2012 and 5% less than that in the third quarter of 2011. Bismuth imports in the first 9 months of 2012 were 1,240 t, a decrease of 7% from those in the comparable period of 2011.

The New York dealer price range for bismuth, published in Platts Metals Week, started July at \$10.00 to \$10.60 per pound

and decreased steadily during the third quarter to finish September at \$9.00 to \$9.75 per pound.

Update

On December 13, 2012, the Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for bismuth was \$8.40 to \$8.90 per pound.

TABLE 1
SALIENT BISMUTH STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons)

	2011			2012			
	Year	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Consumption ²	668	167	167	168	159	159	486
Exports ³	1,030	274	215	224	218	161	604
Imports for consumption	1,750	446	410	477	380	387	1,240
Price per pound, dealer, average of period	\$11.47	\$12.34	\$12.41	\$10.67	\$10.65	\$10.04	\$10.45
Stocks, end of period, consumer	138	140	138	135	135	134	134

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

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

(Metric tons)

Use	2011			2012			
	Year	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Chemicals ²	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Bismuth alloys	54	14	13	18	16	16	50
Metallurgical additives	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	4	1	1	1	1	1	3
Total	668	167	167	168	159	159	486

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

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 OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms)

Country	2011			2012					
	Year	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	July	August	September	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Belgium	--	--	--	56,100	--	--	--	--	56,100
Brazil	12,200	10,500	--	--	--	--	--	231	231
Canada	20,700	6,620	5,400	17,400	31,400	3,320	3,660	4,530	60,300
China	28,000	5,330	7,360	1,840	15,100	7,880	--	11,400	36,200
France	44,100	8,220	--	2,610	--	--	--	--	2,610
Germany	9,320	1,230	--	294	--	1,490	--	--	1,790
Hong Kong	1,490	1,470	--	6,800	9,450	1,280	2,860	1,940	22,300
Mexico	219,000	78,100	58,300	53,800	39,600	23,600	3,760	2,350	123,000
Thailand	10,900	37	325	634	696	--	289	2,840	4,450
Vietnam	621,000	154,000	109,000	73,300	117,000	8,370	31,600	36,900	268,000
Other	67,600	8,230	34,600	11,500	4,930	9,610	1,550	1,890	29,500
Total	1,030,000	274,000	215,000	224,000	218,000	55,600	43,800	62,100	604,000

-- 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	2011			2012					
	Year	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	July	August	September	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Belgium	713,000	156,000	199,000	197,000	152,000	2,700	61,300	37,300	451,000
Canada	11,600	2,570	2,880	3,850	2,520	721	1,470	1,140	9,700
China	974,000	268,000	201,000	264,000	217,000	34,000	99,200	123,000	737,000
Germany	824	420	24	100	--	100	--	--	200
Korea, Republic of	26,700	15,000	1,720	5,010	--	--	--	--	5,010
United Kingdom	22,700	4,000	4,770	6,560	8,620	23,500	2,400	--	41,100
Other	200	95	60	166	--	18	--	20	204
Total	1,750,000	446,000	410,000	477,000	380,000	61,100	164,000	161,000	1,240,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.