



Mineral Industry Surveys

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BISMUTH IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2013

Bismuth imports for the first quarter of 2013, were 384 metric tons (t), a decrease of 16% from those in the fourth quarter of 2012, and an increase of 19% from those in the first quarter of 2012. In the first quarter of 2013, China, Belgium, Germany, and the Republic of Korea were, in decreasing order, the leading suppliers of bismuth to the United States.

The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price range for bismuth began 2013 at \$8.35 to \$8.50 per pound and rose during March to \$8.80 to \$9.20.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has discontinued its quarterly bismuth survey of bismuth consumption and therefore, quarterly consumption data will no longer be reported. Consumption data for bismuth will continue to be collected on an annual basis and will be reported in the bismuth chapters of the Minerals Yearbook and the Mineral Commodity Summaries.

Update

On June 28, 2013, the Platts Metals Week price range for bismuth was \$8.45 to \$8.65 per pound.

TABLE 1
SALIENT BISMUTH STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons)

	2012					2013
	Year	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter
Exports ²	764	224	218	161	160	299
Imports for consumption	1,700	477	380	387	455	384
Price per pound, dealer, average of period	\$10.10	\$10.67	\$10.65	\$10.04	\$9.12	\$8.61

¹Revised. XX Not applicable.

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

²Comprises bismuth metal and the bismuth content of alloys and waste and scrap.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms)

Country	2012					2013			
	Year	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	January	February	March	1st quarter
Belgium	56,100	56,100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brazil	2,350	--	--	231	2,120	--	761	--	761
Canada	72,000	17,400	31,400	11,500	11,600	16,000	14,900	18,900	49,800
China	36,200	1,840	15,100	19,300	--	5,050	--	--	5,050
Colombia	4,710	--	1,600	1,850	1,250	15	--	--	15
Costa Rica	7,690	3,220	1,500	194	3,050	1,050	152	--	1,210
France	2,610	2,610	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
French Guiana	1,410	--	--	--	1,410	--	--	--	--
Germany	3,270	294	--	1,490	1,480	--	--	76,000	76,000
Hong Kong	32,100	6,800	9,450	6,080	9,790	3,780	1,660	2,900	8,340
India	2,270	2,270	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Israel	1,470	--	--	1,470	--	--	1,340	--	1,340
Jamaica	1,280	1,280	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	159,000	53,800	39,600	29,700	35,600	3,910	2,990	2,710	9,600
Netherlands	1,670	1,670	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore	4,500	350	1,690	1,920	541	2,300	177	292	2,770
Thailand	8,930	634	696	3,120	4,480	--	3,790	7,010	10,800
United Kingdom	13,300	1,940	100	7,090	4,130	--	904	50	954
Vietnam	351,000	73,300	117,000	77,000	83,500	30,900	42,400	58,900	132,000
Other	2,930	772	38	525	1,330	78	--	600	678
Total	764,000	224,000	218,000	161,000	160,000	63,100	69,000	167,000	299,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Kilograms)

Country	2012					2013			
	Year	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	January	February	March	1st quarter
Belgium	505,000	197,000	152,000	101,000	53,700	27,800	36,200	90,700	155,000
Canada	11,400	3,850	2,520	3,330	1,750	2,840	910	748	4,490
China	1,070,000	264,000	217,000	256,000	337,000	75,500	50,200	51,400	177,000
Germany	200	100	--	100	--	300	18,000	--	18,300
Korea, Republic of	45,000	5,010	--	--	40,000	--	9,980	--	9,980
United Kingdom	63,800	6,560	8,620	25,900	22,700	3,680	2,280	2,280	8,230
Other	255	166	--	38	51	11	--	10,700	10,700
Total	1,700,000	477,000	380,000	387,000	455,000	110,000	118,000	156,000	384,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.