

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BISMUTH IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2015

Bismuth imports to the United States for the third quarter of 2015 were 501 metric tons (t), an increase of 6% from those in the second quarter of 2015 and an increase of 18% from those in the third quarter of 2014. During the third quarter of 2015, China remained the dominant source of U.S. bismuth imports, accounting for 475 t, or 95% of total bismuth imports.

Prices

The New York dealer average price for bismuth published in Platts Metals Week was \$7.43 per pound, a 6% decrease compared with that in the second quarter. The price range began the quarter at \$7.80 to \$8.00 per pound, where it remained until

September. During September, the price range declined to \$5.80 to \$6.20 per pound.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT BISMUTH STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons)

	2014			2015			
	Year	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Exports ²	567	158	145	142	188	110	440
Imports for consumption ²	2,270	423	568	653	471	501	1,620
Price per pound, dealer, average of period	\$11.14	\$11.54	\$12.30	\$9.22	\$7.87	\$7.43	\$8.19

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

²Bismuth metal and articles thereof, including waste and scrap.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY^{1,2}

(Kilograms)

Country	2014			2015					
	Year	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	July	August	September	1st quarter- 3d quarter
Belgium	3,410	--	--	--	3,530	--	--	--	3,530
Brazil	5,560	2,110	2,010	--	1,290	2,280	--	--	3,580
Canada	109,000	9,040	36,800	57,800	52,500	16,200	2,020	908	129,000
Chile	4,010	1,510	--	3,020	15	--	495	--	3,530
China	84,000	39,600	35,300	12,100	33,300	--	8,640	167	54,200
Costa Rica	1,200	--	--	--	405	579	--	--	984
Ecuador	1,760	1,560	200	580	225	--	584	1,350	2,730
France	743	743	--	44	--	--	--	6,340	6,380
Guyana	--	--	--	1,690	--	--	--	--	1,690
Hong Kong	43,600	19,000	6,460	12,200	16,500	7,200	5,400	1,240	42,500
India	605	605	--	--	--	--	--	1,630	1,630
Israel	150	50	--	1,720 [†]	--	--	--	--	1,720
Korea, Republic of	3,540	583	--	--	50	--	454	--	504
Malaysia	9,240	--	625	646	2,840	2,840	--	--	6,320
Mexico	81,600	18,800	23,900	19,800	8,350	15,600	235	414	44,400
Netherlands	8,950	474	343	948	474	352	474	--	2,250
Peru	4,300	--	43	--	55	--	--	--	55
Russia	1,210	--	--	--	--	--	--	61	61
Singapore	2,970	--	951	150	62	3,280	386	--	3,880
Taiwan	1,710	704	504	--	1,580	--	--	--	1,580
Thailand	4,820	233	17	4,320	4,330	770	578	1,420	11,400
United Kingdom	4,700	3,510	821	314	2,020	413	--	--	2,740
Vietnam	188,000	57,200	35,300	26,500	58,900	3,870	12,600	10,400	112,000
Other	2,020 [†]	2,290 [†]	1,750	587 [†]	1,280	88	147	256	2,360
Total	567,000	158,000	145,000	142,000	188,000	53,400	32,000	24,200	440,000

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

²Bismuth metal and articles thereof, including waste and scrap.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY^{1,2}

(Kilograms)

Country	2014			2015					1st quarter- 3d quarter
	Year	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	July	August	September	
Belgium	303,000	62,400	103,000	53,800	39,500	--	--	17,000	110,000
Bolivia	80,200	20,100	39,800	--	--	--	--	--	--
Canada	19,000	3,550	6,280	3,380	1,430	680	75	--	5,570
Chile	40,000	20,000	20,100	--	--	--	--	--	--
China	1,670,000	272,000	386,000	572,000	414,000	31,500	272,000	172,000	1,460,000
Germany	1,980	--	1,080	400	77	--	--	1,310	1,780
Korea, Republic of	35,000	20,000	--	--	1,000	--	--	--	1,000
Malaysia	7,380	2,230	1,800	1,470	--	--	--	--	1,470
Peru	71,600	18,500	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	38,200	4,540	10,000	21,400	14,500	5,730	--	--	41,600
Other	856	255	--	4	368	185	245	328	1,130
Total	2,270,000	423,000	568,000	653,000	471,000	38,100	272,000	190,000	1,620,000

-- Zero.

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

²Bismuth metal and articles thereof, including waste and scrap.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.