

Mineral Industry Surveys

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COBALT IN FEBRUARY 2014

U.S. cobalt consumption during January through February 2014 was unchanged from consumption during the same period in 2013. The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. imports of cobalt metals and chemicals during January through February 2014 was 13% less than that imported during the same period in 2013. The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. exports of unwrought cobalt and chemicals during January through February 2014 was 13% more than that exported during the same period in 2013.

Prices

Prices for cobalt metal, in dollars per pound, in February 2014 are listed below.

Type	Price range	Average price
U.S. spot ¹	13.50–15.30	14.48
LME cash mean ²	13.79–14.38	14.17

Source: Platts Metals Daily, minimum 99.8% cobalt cathode.

²London Metal Exchange, mean of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price, minimum 99.3% cobalt briquettes, cathode, ingot, or rounds (converted from dollars per metric ton and rounded to the nearest cent).

TABLE 1
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF COBALT MATERIALS¹

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	Metal ²	Oxide and other chemical compounds ³	Scrap	Total
2013: ^p				
February	308	179	182	669
March	304	180	182	666
April	304	186	182	672
May	286	183	182	651
June	287	175	182	645
July	295	182	182	659
August	288	183	182	653
September	276	177	182	635
October	277	188	182	647
November	303	179	182	664
December	295	173	182	649
January–February	619 ^r	359	364	1,340 ^r
January–December ⁴	3,530	2,170	2,180	7,880
2014:				
January	312	179	182	673
February	310	179	182	671
January–February	622	358	364	1,340

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Includes metal powder.

³Data may include other cobalt materials.

⁴Based on monthly reports.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF COBALT, BY END USE¹

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

End use	2013 ^p		2014	
	January–February	January–December ^{2,3}	February	January–February
Steel	89	536	45	89
Superalloys	630 ^r	3,600	316	634
Magnetic alloys	43	253	21	42
Other alloys ⁴	W	W	W	W
Cemented carbides ⁵	129 ^r	774	65	129
Chemical and ceramic uses ⁶	374	2,260	187	373
Miscellaneous and unspecified	77 ^r	460	38	77
Total	1,340 ^r	7,880	671	1,340

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Miscellaneous and unspecified."

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

²Data based on monthly reports.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Includes nonferrous alloys, welding materials, and wear-resistant alloys.

⁵Includes diamond tool matrices, cemented and sintered carbides, and cast carbide dies or parts.

⁶Includes catalysts, driers in paints or related usages, feed or nutritive additives, glass decolorizer, ground coat frit, pigments, and other uses.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED STOCKS OF COBALT MATERIALS¹

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	U.S. industry ^{p,2}		Total	U.S. Government, metal ⁶	LME, ³ metal		Total
	Metal and scrap ⁴	Oxide and other chemical compounds ⁵			U.S. warehouse	Non-U.S. warehouse	
2013:							
February	541	170	711	301	44	386	430
March	565	168	733	301	44	407	451
April	556	171	727	301	46	392	438
May	550	167	718	301	46	369	415
June	558	163	720	301	46	418	464
July	553	164	717	301	46	436	482
August	550	164	714	301	46	497	543
September	559	198	757	301	46	488	534
October	555	205	759	301	46	487	533
November	547	221	768	301	41	481	522
December	553	223	776	301	41	519	560
2014:							
January	635	156	791	301	41	517	558
February	645	157	802	301	36	548	584

^pPreliminary.

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

²Stocks reported by cobalt processors and consumers.

³London Metal Exchange.

⁴Includes metal powder.

⁵Data may include other cobalt materials.

⁶Data from Defense Logistics Agency, DLA Strategic Materials; uncommitted material only.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF COBALT, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period and country of origin	Metals ²		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds ³		Total cobalt content for the period ⁵	Cobalt content, year to date ^{5,6}
	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)		
2013:								
February	758	\$18,500	141	\$2,690	163	\$2,310	917	1,730
March	677	17,400	225	4,490	117	923	873	2,610
April	861	22,500	187	4,060	120	1,310	1,030	3,640
May	581	15,300	191	4,000	124	1,300	759	4,400
June	525	14,100	262	5,910	118	1,350	757	5,160
July	887	24,600	224	5,060	147	1,580	1,100	6,250
August	729	20,800	212	4,860	234	2,680	963	7,220
September	680	19,800	197	4,430	91	1,380	858	8,070
October	647	17,700	283	6,630	103	1,230	887	8,960
November	476	13,700	202	4,640	63	773	645	9,610
December	729	19,900	148	3,600	27	380	845	10,500
January–February	1,440	35,800	290	5,950	248	3,110	1,730	XX
January–December	8,230	222,000	2,420	53,600	1,390	16,000	10,500	XX
2014:								
January	708	19,000	183	4,130	83	730	864	864
February:								
Australia	31	746	--	--	--	--	31	109
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Belgium	--	--	12	285	--	--	9	56
Brazil	--	--	--	--	6	60	2	2
Canada	2	143	--	--	--	--	2	22
China	51	1,250	40	872	4	27	81	330
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Finland	57	1,690	46	1,040	54	847	114	148
France	2	118	--	--	--	--	2	6
Germany	(7)	20	--	--	--	--	(7)	2
India	--	--	--	--	16	163	4	6
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(7)
Japan	50	1,360	--	--	--	--	50	178
Korea, Republic of	(7)	2	--	--	--	--	(7)	(7)
Madagascar	63	1,640	--	--	--	--	63	84
Mexico	--	--	--	--	10	55	4	4
Morocco	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Norway	52	1,340	--	--	--	--	52	156
Russia	117	3,190	--	--	--	--	117	150
South Africa	19	522	--	--	--	--	19	53
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	29	211	8	8
United Kingdom	1	30	94	1,940	6	49	70	122
Zambia	20	468	--	--	--	--	20	60
Total	465	12,500	192	4,150	124	1,410	648	1,510
January–February	1,170	31,600	375	8,280	208	2,140	1,510	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Unwrought cobalt, excluding alloys; includes cobalt cathode and cobalt metal powder; may include intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy.

³Includes cobalt acetates, cobalt carbonates, cobalt chlorides, and cobalt sulfates.

⁴Customs value.

⁵Estimated from gross weights.

⁶May include revisions to previously published data.

⁷Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ADDITIONAL COBALT MATERIALS, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period and country of origin	Unwrought cobalt alloys		Cobalt waste and scrap		Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles	
	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)
2013:						
February	80	\$2,300	58	\$709	15	\$1,910
March	50	1,470	45	635	17	1,960
April	89	2,890	52	1,230	26	2,470
May	87	3,260	65	985	15	1,680
June	59	1,830	63	840	21	2,000
July	37	1,310	50	637	26	2,580
August	128	4,000	58	1,170	16	2,320
September	112	3,270	64	1,040	43	3,020
October	87	2,900	63	821	20	2,690
November	93	2,790	33	335	20	2,190
December	59	1,630	104	1,940	21	2,420
January–February	167	4,950	101	1,270	30	3,470
January–December	967	30,300	698	10,900	254	26,800
2014:						
January	86	2,640	69	1,040	20	1,990
February:						
Austria	(3)	11	--	--	(3)	10
Belgium	9	261	--	--	1	29
Canada	49	1,420	--	--	3	927
China	5	143	--	--	(3)	19
Denmark	--	--	--	--	(3)	5
France	(3)	3	--	--	5	320
Germany	(3)	24	--	--	7	698
Ireland	--	--	19	133	--	--
Japan	--	--	9	108	(3)	54
Liechtenstein	(3)	2	--	--	--	--
Mexico	--	--	(3)	2	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	12	191	--	--
New Zealand	--	--	1	16	--	--
Norway	--	--	3	125	--	--
Singapore	--	--	1	14	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(3)	16
United Kingdom	--	--	9	134	9	233
Total	63	1,870	54	723	24	2,310
January–February	149	4,510	123	1,770	44	4,300

-- Zero.

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

²Customs value.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF COBALT MATERIALS¹

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period	Unwrought cobalt, powders, matte, waste and scrap ²		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds ³		Total cobalt content for the period ⁵	Cobalt content, year to date ^{5,6}
	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousands)		
2013:								
February	252	\$6,850	6	\$81	20	\$164	261	560
March	319	9,270	48	875	23	189	360	919
April	281	8,050	3	88	19	162	288	1,210
May	343	9,570	3	92	24	225	351	1,560
June	264	7,090	52	713	2	34	302	1,860
July	265	7,110	20	520	1	13	279	2,140
August	346	7,770	53	118	39	359	393	2,530
September	250	7,060	35	83	39	332	285	2,820
October	283	7,710	16	324	38	334	303	3,120
November	314	9,880	110	649	19	173	399	3,520
December	305	8,440	31	600	20	169	332	3,850
January–February	528	15,100	38	188	20	164	560	XX
January–December	3,500	97,000	409	4,250	243	2,150	3,850	XX
2014:								
January	245	7,200	(7)	13	58	486	260	260
February	359	10,500	15	251	21	105	375	635
January–February	605	17,700	15	264	79	590	635	XX

XX Not applicable.

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

²May include other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy and unwrought cobalt alloys.

³Cobalt acetates and cobalt chlorides.

⁴Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

⁵Estimated from gross weights.

⁶May include revisions to previously published data.

⁷Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF WROUGHT COBALT, COBALT ORE,
AND CONCENTRATES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period	Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles		Cobalt ore and concentrates	
	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)
2013:				
February	206	\$9,230	--	--
March	236	11,900	63	\$95
April	155	8,080	--	--
May	229	10,900	85	121
June	197	10,100	(3)	4
July	174	9,160	--	--
August	260	11,900	--	--
September	119	7,300	--	--
October	158	8,790	157	355
November	154	9,080	--	--
December	153	8,950	150	330
January–February	358	17,600	1	30
January–December	2,190	114,000	456	935
2014:				
January	109	6,630	(3)	26
February	152	9,370	1	5
January–February	261	16,000	1	31

-- Zero.

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

²Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.