

Mineral Industry Surveys

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COBALT IN OCTOBER 2014

U.S. cobalt consumption during January through October 2014 was slightly higher than consumption during the same period in 2013. The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. imports of cobalt metals and chemicals during January through October 2014 was 10% more 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 October 2014 was 21% more than that exported during the same period in 2013.

Prices

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

Type	Price range	Average price
U.S. spot ¹	13.80–15.20	14.44
LME cash mean ²	13.83–14.74	14.22

¹Source: Platts Metals Daily, minimum 99.8% cobalt cathode.

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

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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				
October	270	179	180	629
November	289	170	180	638
December	286	164	180	629
January–October ^f	2,880	1,720	1,800	6,400
January–December ⁴	3,450	2,060	2,160	7,670
2014:				
January	302	170	180	652
February	298	170	180	648
March	319	170	180	668
April	284	169	180	633
May	294	168	180	642
June	293	173	180	646
July	295	177	180	652
August	296	173	180	648
September	296	178	180	654
October	274	189	178	641
January–October	2,950	1,740	1,800	6,480

^pPreliminary. ^fRevised.

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–October	January–December ^{2,3}	October	January–October
Steel	447	536	45	447
Superalloys	2,950 ^f	3,540	280	3,010
Magnetic alloys	247 ^f	296	24	246
Other alloys ⁴	W	W	W	W
Cemented carbides ⁵	588 ^f	705	60	600
Chemical and ceramic uses ⁶	1,800 ^f	2,150	195	1,810
Miscellaneous and unspecified	369 ^f	443	37	369
Total	6,400 ^f	7,670	641	6,480

^pPreliminary. ^fRevised. 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}			U.S. Government, metal ⁶	LME, ³ metal		Total
	Metal and scrap ⁴	Oxide and other chemical compounds ⁵	Total		U.S. warehouse	Non-U.S. warehouse	
2013:							
October	525	209	735	301	46	487	533
November	516	226	741	301	41	481	522
December ⁷	561	228	789	301	41	519	560
2014:							
January	638	161	798	301	41	517	558
February	651	162	813	301	36	548	584
March	635	160	795	301	36	530	566
April	634	160	794	301	34	514	548
May	629	161	790	301	22	517	539
June	617	160	777	301	20	527	547
July	616	160	776	301 ^e	19	523	542
August	604	160	764	301 ^e	19	497	516
September	576	160	736	301	19	484	503
October	571	258	830	301 ^e	9	482	491

^eEstimated. ^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.

⁷U.S. data industry based on monthly reports.

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:								
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–October	7,030	188,000	2,070	45,400	1,300	14,900	8,960	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	465	12,500	192	4,150	124	1,410	648	1,510
March	1,250	34,800	259	6,010	224	2,280	1,510	3,020
April	857	26,400	258	6,330	298	3,020	1,140	4,160
May	894	27,100	255	6,280	220	1,920	1,150	5,300
June	698	21,100	251	5,650	102	1,020	911	6,210
July	577	17,100	179	4,070	94	1,050	735	6,950
August	858	25,900	191	4,900	133	1,150	1,030	7,980
September	767	24,000	233	5,650	197	2,880	1,010	8,990
October:								
Australia	78	2,320	--	--	--	--	78	822
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Belgium	--	--	42	1,140	--	--	30	405
Brazil	--	--	--	--	5	63	1	110
Canada	7	386	--	--	--	--	7	103
China	52	1,560	11	255	49	777	79	1,550
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	13	515	--	--	9	125
Finland	54	2,060	29	777	71	707	96	928
France	1	44	1	23	--	--	1	25
Germany	3	145	--	--	--	--	3	29
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	32
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(7)
Italy	1	36	--	--	--	--	1	6
Japan	126	3,680	--	--	--	--	126	1,030
Korea, Republic of	(7)	2	--	--	--	--	(7)	1
Madagascar	105	3,340	--	--	--	--	105	504
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Morocco	10	309	--	--	--	--	10	97
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Norway	115	3,640	--	--	--	--	115	1,630
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Russia	69	2,110	--	--	--	--	69	792
South Africa	19	593	--	--	--	--	19	311
Spain	1	25	--	--	--	--	1	1
Sweden	7	337	--	--	--	--	7	15
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	36
United Kingdom	1	20	81	1,960	8	57	61	709
Zambia	33	944	--	--	--	--	33	554
Total	681	21,500	176	4,670	132	1,600	853	9,840
January–October	7,750	230,000	2,180	51,800	1,610	17,100	9,840	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:						
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–October	815	25,900	561	8,630	213	22,200
January–December	967	30,300	698	10,900	254	26,800
2014:						
January	86	2,640	69	1,040	20	1,990
February	63	1,870	54	723	24	2,310
March	54	1,730	151	2,320	19	2,040
April	73	2,640	95	1,340	15	2,140
May	88	2,710	123	2,290	12	1,940
June	51	1,630	61	734	17	1,540
July	55	1,750	111	1,910	13	1,820
August	85	3,420	82	1,210	50	2,160
September	48	1,610	92	1,440	9	1,440
October:						
Australia	7	289	--	--	--	--
Austria	--	--	--	--	(3)	20
Belgium	10	331	(3)	11	(3)	11
Canada	50	1,580	1	19	1	396
China	--	--	(3)	2	4	437
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	(3)	16
Finland	(3)	18	--	--	--	--
France	1	45	14	295	2	105
Germany	14	342	10	158	1	296
Indonesia	--	--	9	159	--	--
Ireland	--	--	27	306	--	--
Israel	--	--	(3)	2	--	--
Japan	--	--	1	7	1	55
Korea, Republic of	--	--	4	50	--	--
Mexico	--	--	(3)	4	--	--
Singapore	--	--	11	144	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(3)	19
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	(3)	6
United Kingdom	2	113	16	267	4	306
Total	83	2,720	94	1,420	12	1,670
January–October	687	22,700	932	14,400	192	19,000

-- 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:								
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–October	2,880	78,700	268	3,000	204	1,810	3,120	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
March	345	9,570	72	1,070	43	349	407	1,040
April	399	10,800	62	851	20	180	448	1,490
May	505	9,600	27	538	--	--	524	2,010
June	379	9,360	51	529	1	9	415	2,430
July	309	7,930	4	149	10	1,970	314	2,740
August	310	8,590	207	1,390	(7)	34	459	3,200
September	305	8,160	35	137	--	--	330	3,530
October	235	5,610	28	320	1	14	255	3,790
January–October	3,390	87,300	500	5,250	154	3,140	3,790	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:				
October	158	\$8,790	157	\$355
November	154	9,080	--	--
December	153	8,950	150	330
January–October	1,890	95,800	306	605
January–December	2,190	114,000	456	935
2014:				
January	109	6,630	(3)	26
February	152	9,370	1	5
March	184	9,860	(3)	4
April	150	9,020	281	365
May	126	8,060	(3)	4
June	160	9,190	165	688
July	170	9,740	6	61
August	164	9,700	--	--
September	143	8,540	103	136
October	143	9,100	1	7
January–October	1,500	89,200	557	1,300

-- 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.