

Mineral Industry Surveys

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FLUORSPAR IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2014

Reported fluorspar consumption in the first quarter was 126,000 metric tons (t), a 20% increase compared with that of the previous quarter and a 14% increase compared with that of the first quarter of 2013. Stocks totaled 295,000 t at the end of the first quarter, a decrease of about 5% compared with those at the end of the previous quarter. Fluorspar imports in the

first quarter were 110,000 t, an 18% decrease compared with those of the previous quarter. Hydrofluoric acid imports in the first quarter were 32,900 t, a 33% increase compared with those of the previous quarter, but comparable to imports of the first through third quarters.

TABLE 1
SALIENT FLUORSPAR STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2013				1st quarter– 4th quarter	2014 1st quarter
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		
<u>Fluorspar:</u>						
Imports for consumption	172,000	147,000	190,000	134,000	643,000	110,000
Exports	5,360	3,460	3,480	3,660	16,000	2,880
End of the period stocks, consumer	264,000	256,000	287,000	313,000	313,000	295,000
Reported consumption	111,000	107,000	118,000	105,000	441,000	126,000
<u>Other compounds, imports for consumption:</u>						
Aluminum fluoride	11,700	13,500	10,800	7,450	43,400	11,900
Cryolite	1,960	3,240	9,970	3,780	18,900	4,160
Hydrofluoric acid	31,700	30,600	31,700	24,700	119,000	32,900

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

TABLE 2
CONSUMPTION OF FLUORSPAR BY END USE AND ASSAY RANGE¹
(DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN IN THE UNITED STATES)

(Metric tons)

	Hydrofluoric acid and other uses ²	Metallurgical	Total	Stocks, end of period ³
2013:				
1st quarter:				
More than 97% calcium fluoride	99,200	2,990	102,000	248,000
Not more than 97% calcium fluoride	--	8,320	8,320	16,000
Total	99,200	11,300	111,000	264,000
2d quarter:				
More than 97% calcium fluoride	96,400	2,990	99,400	237,000
Not more than 97% calcium fluoride	--	7,890	7,890	18,900
Total	96,400	10,900	107,000	256,000
3d quarter:				
More than 97% calcium fluoride	107,000	2,990	110,000	269,000
Not more than 97% calcium fluoride	--	7,990	7,990	18,700
Total	107,000	11,000	118,000	287,000
4th quarter:				
More than 97% calcium fluoride	94,100	2,990	97,100	293,000
Not more than 97% calcium fluoride	--	8,020	8,020	19,800
Total	94,100	11,000	105,000	313,000
1st quarter-4th quarter	397,000	44,200	441,000	313,000
2014:				
1st quarter:				
More than 97% calcium fluoride	115,000	2,990	118,000	274,000
Not more than 97% calcium fluoride	--	7,740	7,740	21,300
Total	115,000	10,700	126,000	295,000

-- Zero.

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

²May include cement, enamel, glass and fiberglass, steel castings, hydrofluoric acid, and welding rod coatings.

³Stocks include some distributor stocks and consumer stocks for hydrofluoric acid.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FLUORSPAR, BY COUNTRY AND VALUE^{1,2}

	2013										2014	
	1st quarter		2d quarter		3d quarter		4th quarter		1st quarter–4th quarter		1st quarter	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)										
Containing more than 97% calcium fluoride:												
China	8,870	\$4,640	22	\$28	37,400	\$14,400	24,400	\$8,940	70,600	\$28,000	497	\$339
Germany	--	--	--	--	26	16	--	--	26	16	--	--
Mexico	121,000	22,500	76,900	16,700	96,300	18,700	57,600	13,200	352,000	71,100	52,100	11,600
Mongolia	12,000	5,220	13,000	5,960	13,200	5,090	--	--	38,200	16,300	--	--
South Africa	6,870	3,100	10,600	4,420	13,100	4,130	20,700	7,280	51,300	18,900	11,300	3,670
United Kingdom	2	8	22	8	249	132	2	8	275	156	2	9
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	649	630
Total	149,000	35,400	101,000	27,100	160,000	42,500	103,000	29,400	512,000	134,000	64,500	16,300
Containing not more than 97% calcium fluoride:												
China	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	126	11
Mexico	20,700	2,060	45,600	4,690	29,000	2,790	30,700	2,960	126,000	12,500	43,300	4,200
Mongolia	2,640	251	432	47	432	40	734	82	4,230	420	2,080	235
Total	23,400	2,310	46,100	4,740	29,500	2,830	31,500	3,040	130,000	12,900	45,500	4,450
Grand total	172,000	37,700	147,000	31,900	190,000	45,300	134,000	32,400	643,000	147,000	110,000	20,700

-- Zero.

¹Imports for consumption include imports of immediate entry and warehouse withdrawals.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF HYDROFLUORIC ACID¹

	2013										2014	
	1st quarter		2d quarter		3d quarter		4th quarter		1st quarter–4th quarter		1st quarter	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ² (thousands)										
Canada	2,010	\$5,940	2,620	\$7,510	2,680	\$7,230	2,110	\$5,720	9,430	\$26,400	1,220	\$3,850
China	1,340	1,770	1,290	1,740	1,190	1,550	1,510	1,810	5,320	6,880	1,440	1,680
Germany	74	196	146	380	250	629	212	531	682	1,740	252	622
Japan	283	678	332	730	350	680	332	715	1,300	2,800	350	671
Mexico	27,800	43,500	26,100	40,900	27,200	42,400	20,400	33,100	102,000	160,000	29,500	47,000
Spain	57	145	38	113	38	113	38	114	171	485	38	109
Other	64	212	58	177	23	57	61	117	206	563	60	116
Total	31,700	52,500	30,600	51,600	31,700	52,700	24,700	42,100	119,000	199,000	32,900	54,100

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

²Cost, insurance, and freight at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
END OF QUARTER FLUORSPAR PRICES

(Dollars per metric ton)

	2013				2014
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter
Acidspars:					
Chinese, dry basis, cost, insurance, and freight, Gulf port, filtercake	480–530	480–530	480–530	480–530	410–450
Chinese, free on board (f.o.b.) China, wet filtercake	400–415	350–370	290–320	310–330	320–350
Mexican, f.o.b. Tampico, filtercake	400–450	350	350	350	350
Mexican, f.o.b. Tampico, arsenic <5 parts per million	540–550	450	540–550	540–550	540–550
South African, f.o.b. Durban, filtercake	380–450	380–450	380–450	380–450	340–370
Metspar, Mexican, f.o.b. Tampico	230–270	230–270	230–270	230–270	230–270

Source: Industrial Minerals magazine (London).