

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Micheal W. George, Gold Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4962, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: mgeorge@usgs.gov

Wanda G. Wooten (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-4980
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: wwooten@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

GOLD IN OCTOBER 2009

U.S. mines produced 17,500 kilograms (kg) of gold in October, a 3% decrease compared with revised September production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily gold production for U.S. mines was 566 kilograms per day (kg/d) in October, compared with 600 kg/d for September, 589 kg/d for year-to-date 2009, and 638 kg/d for full year 2008.

The average Engelhard Industries' gold price was \$1,045.84 per troy ounce for October, a 5% increase compared with the average gold price in September and the first time that an average monthly price was above the \$1,000-per-troy-ounce level. The gold price began the month at \$1,007.11 per troy ounce, then fell to \$1,005.86 per troy ounce, the lowest point of the month on October 2. The price increased to about \$1,050 per troy ounce, where it remained for the rest of the month.

On October 20, Yukon-Nevada Gold Corp. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) announced the recommencement of processing ore and gold production at its Jerritt Canyon mill after it came to an agreement with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection regarding the process and performance of its mercury emissions control system. Official court approval also was received to reopen the Jerritt Canyon Mine. The company planned to process stockpiled material while the mine activities start up (Yukon-Nevada Gold Corp., 2009).

In the first 9 months of 2009, China produced 228,000 kg of gold, up 15% as compared with production for the first 9 months of 2008. Similarly, Russian gold production was 151,000 kg, up 15% during the same period. China remained the leading gold-producing country in 2009, followed by Australia,

United States, and South Africa. Russia was a close fifth because of increased production and decreases in both South African and United States' production (Interfax China Mining & Metals Weekly, 2009; Interfax Russia and CIS Metals and Mining Weekly, 2009).

On October 27, China's Ministry of Land and Resources and 12 other Chinese ministries announced joint notification of new regulations for small and inefficient mines. The new rules target small mines that are inefficient, unsafe, using outdated technologies, hampering the development of larger operations, or in endangered geologic areas. The notice also was an attempt to consolidate some of the mines, especially where there were a large number of small operations in a small geographical area. By March 2010, all of the Provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities must come up with a plan to consolidate mining operations and submit their plans to the Ministry. The new plans were expected to be implemented in early 2011 (Platts Metals Week, 2009).

References Cited

- Interfax China Mining & Metals Weekly, 2009, China's gold output up 14.53 pct in first three quarters: Interfax China Mining & Metals Weekly, v. 8, no. 41, October 31-November 6, p. 10-11.
- Interfax Russia and CIS Metals and Mining Weekly, 2009, Russia boosts gold mine production 14.6% in 9 mths: Interfax Russia and CIS Metals and Mining Weekly, v. 19, no. 43, October 30-November 5, p. 13-14.
- Platts Metals Week, 2009, New rules for China gold mines: Platts Metals Week, v. 80, no. 44, November 2, p. 16.
- Yukon-Nevada Gold Corp., 2009, Yukon-Nevada Gold Corp. resumes gold production at Jerritt Canyon Nevada: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Yukon-Nevada Gold Corp. news release, October 20, 2 p.

TABLE 1
MINE PRODUCTION OF RECOVERABLE GOLD IN THE UNITED
STATES, BY STATE¹

(Kilograms)

	Nevada	Other States ²	Total
2008:^P			
October	16,000	4,610	20,600
November	15,900	4,850	20,700
December	19,100	5,410	24,500
January-December	178,000	55,400	233,000
2009:			
January	13,500	3,900	17,400
February	12,000	4,220	16,200
March	14,000	5,930	19,900
April	12,600	4,860 ^r	17,400 ^r
May	12,400	5,730 ^r	18,100 ^r
June	13,400	5,180 ^r	18,600 ^r
July ^f	12,500	5,000	17,500
August	12,800 ^r	5,650 ^r	18,500
September ^f	13,300	4,680	18,000
October	12,100	5,420	17,500
January-October	129,000	50,600	179,000

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington.

TABLE 2
GOLD PRICES

(Dollars per troy ounce)

Engelhard Industries:	
2008:	
Low/date	714.36 Oct. 24
High/date	1,013.62 Mar. 17
Average	767.57
2009:	
September:	
Low/date	957.27/1
High/date	1,020.88/17
Average	999.11
October:	
Low/date	1,005.86/2
High/date	1,064.20/23
Average	1,045.84
Year to date:	
Low/date	812.03 Jan. 15
High/date	1,064.20 Oct. 23
Average	944.05
Handy and Harman:	
2008, Average	766.00
2009:	
September	996.76
October	1,043.16
Year to date	942.28
London Final:	
2008, Average	765.79
2009:	
September	996.59
October	1,043.16
Year to date	942.33

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD¹

(Kilograms of gold content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Ores and concentrates ²	Doré and precipitates	Refined bullion ³	Total ⁴	Waste and scrap (gross weight)	Metal powder (gross weight)	Gold compounds (gross weight)
Imports for consumption:							
2008	27,500	85,100	118,000	231,000	36,500	322	102,000
2009:							
August	155	10,800	9,450	20,400	3,380	50	40
September:							
Canada	11 ⁵	--	2,690 ⁵	2,700	453	2 ⁵	--
Chile	--	147	31	178	--	--	--
Colombia	--	2,190 ⁵	1,540	3,730	26	--	--
Costa Rica	--	42 ⁵	6	48	221 ⁵	--	--
Dominican Republic	--	61 ⁵	--	61	1,120 ⁵	--	--
El Salvador	--	2	--	2	371	--	--
Germany	--	--	39 ⁵	39	1	1	1,480 ⁵
Guatemala	--	725 ⁵	--	725	152 ⁵	--	--
Honduras	--	137 ⁵	--	137	548	--	--
Mexico	274 ⁵	8,450 ⁵	2,350 ⁵	11,100	823 ⁵	--	--
Nicaragua	--	123	8 ⁵	131	103	--	--
Panama	--	98	13	111	104 ⁵	2 ⁵	--
Peru	--	969 ⁵	--	969	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	192 ⁵	192	--	(6)	--
United Kingdom	--	134 ⁵	86 ⁵	219	--	--	--
Other	2	472 ⁵	183 ⁵	656	176 ⁵	65 ⁵	2 ⁵
Total	287	13,500	7,140	21,000	4,100	70	1,480
Year to date	40,200	105,000	93,100	239,000	30,500	390	27,400
Exports:							
2008	2,430	106,000	460,000	568,000	886,000	1,200	2,920,000
2009:							
August	226	8,970	25,500	34,700	24,700	39	234,000
September:							
Belgium	--	--	--	--	2,780 ⁵	--	--
Canada	--	52	2 ⁵	54	7,480 ⁵	5 ⁵	23,000 ⁵
China	--	--	--	--	--	--	56,300 ⁵
Dominican Republic	12 ⁵	--	--	12	1	--	19,800 ⁵
Ecuador	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,160 ⁵
Germany	--	--	111 ⁵	111	4,210 ⁵	2 ⁵	219 ⁵
Hong Kong	--	--	43	43	--	1 ⁵	3,030 ⁵
India	--	--	2,000 ⁵	2,000	--	(6)	--
Israel	--	--	1	1	--	--	357 ⁵
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,240 ⁵
Malaysia	--	--	67	67	--	--	8,510 ⁵
Mexico	63 ⁵	--	250 ⁵	313	--	1 ⁵	242 ⁵
Singapore	--	--	29	29	--	--	119,000 ⁵
Switzerland	--	9,590	992	10,600	43 ⁵	--	--
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	1	6,300 ⁵
United Kingdom	6 ⁵	12	20,400 ⁵	20,400	17,300 ⁵	11 ⁵	152 ⁵
Other	74 ⁵	--	73 ⁵	147 ⁵	85 ⁵	8 ⁵	--
Total	143	9,650	23,900	33,700	29,100	29	239,000
Year to date	1,430	76,300	215,000	293,000	508,000	243	1,960,000

-- Zero.

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

²Includes gold content of base metal ores, concentrates, and matte imported for refining.

³Bullion also moves in both directions between U.S. markets and foreign stocks on deposit in the Federal Reserve Bank. Monetary gold excluded.

⁴"Waste and scrap," "Metal powder," and "Gold compounds" not included in "Total."

⁵All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

⁶Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.