

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) 648-7967
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: wwooten@usgs.gov

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

GOLD IN MARCH 2011

U.S. mines produced 17,800 kilograms (kg) of gold in March, an 11% increase compared with revised February production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily gold production for U.S. mines was 574 kg in March, compared with the same level in February, and 626 kilograms per day for the full year of 2010.

The average Engelhard gold price was \$1,427.08 per troy ounce in March, a 4% increase compared with the average gold price in February. The gold price began the month at \$1,423.82 per troy ounce and then fell to \$1,403.53 per troy ounce on March 15, the lowest level of the month. The price rose to \$1,450.11 per troy ounce on March 24, the highest level of the month, before falling to \$1,439.09 per troy ounce the next day. The price rose and ended the month at \$1,442.10 per troy ounce.

NovaGold Resources Inc. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) entered into an agreement to sell its alluvial gold properties comprising 4,650 hectares (11,500 acres) of fee-simple patented mining claims near Nome, AK. Nome Gold Alaska Corp. (Memphis, TN) would pay \$21 million in three installments and provide a letter of credit of \$4 million for an environmental reclamation bond. NovaGold was also soliciting for the balance of properties near Nome, including in-town real estate, sand and gravel holdings, and Big Hurrah and Rock Creek gold properties. The company was selling off properties to focus on advancing Donlin Creek and Galore Creek projects toward production (NovaGold Recourses Inc., 2011).

Barrick Gold Corp. (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) announced that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management issued a record-of-decision approving the supplemental environmental impact statement for the Cortez Hills Mine in Nevada. The mine had been operating under an injunction since April 2010 that allowed mining to continue under restrictions on ore transportation and dewatering. The record-of-decision removed these restrictions and allowed Barrick to resume operations as was originally planned (Barrick Gold Corp., 2011).

Allied Nevada Gold Corp. (Reno, NV) updated the mineral reserves and resources of the Hycroft Mine in Nevada. Measured and indicated mineral resources, including mineral reserves, reportedly totaled 1,540 million metric tons (Mt) of ore

at a grade of 0.34 gram per metric ton (g/t) gold and 12 g/t silver. The contained mineral resources were 502 metric tons (t) of gold and 18,600 t of silver, more than double the December 31, 2010, mineral resource estimates. Allied Nevada also updated the Hycroft mill scoping study for 2015–24; the updates estimated the average annual production to be 17,300 kg of gold and 839,000 kg of silver (Allied Nevada Gold Corp., 2011).

Freegold Ventures Ltd. (Vancouver) released the mineral resource estimates for the Vinasale gold project in southwest Alaska. The inferred resources estimate reportedly was 37.3 Mt of ore at a grade of 1.11 g/t gold, which would be 41,000 kg contained gold (Freegold Ventures Ltd., 2011).

Scorpio Gold Corp. (Vancouver) began applying solution to the leach pads for gold recovery at its 70%-owned Mineral Ridge gold project in Nevada. Golden Phoenix Minerals, Inc. owned 30% of the project, which was expected to start gold production in the second half of 2011. Approximately 280,000 t of ore was previously mined, which will be treated, after which new material will be mined from the Drinkwater pit at Mineral Ridge for the balance of 2011 (Golden Phoenix Minerals, Inc., 2011).

References Cited

- Allied Nevada Gold Corp., 2011, Allied Nevada doubles Hycroft combined mineral reserves and resources to 16.1 million ounces of gold and 598.1 million ounces of silver (26.6 million ounces aueq); updated mill scoping study indicates average annual production of 556,200 ounces of gold and 27.0 million ounces of silver at an annual cost of \$304 per gold ounce and an initial capital cost of \$894 million: Reno, NV, Allied Nevada Gold Corp. press release, March 31, 8 p.
- Barrick Gold Corp., 2011, Barrick receives record of decision on Cortez Hills: Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Barrick Gold Corp. news release, March 16, 1 p.
- Freegold Ventures Ltd., 2011, Freegold announces 43-101 resource estimates for Vinasale project, Alaska: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Freegold Ventures Ltd. press release, March 31, 2 p.
- Golden Phoenix Minerals, Inc., 2011, Golden Phoenix joint venture partner Scorpio Gold has activated leach pad for gold recovery at Mineral Ridge: Sparks, NV, Golden Phoenix Minerals, Inc. press release, March 1, 2 p.
- NovaGold Resources Inc., 2011, NovaGold sells placer gold claims: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, NovaGold Resources Inc. news release, March 14, 2 p.

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

(Kilograms)

	Nevada	Other States ²	Total
2010: ^p			
March ^f	14,200	5,410	19,600
April ^f	12,000	5,770	17,800
May	12,700	5,200 ^r	17,900
June	15,500 ^r	5,120	20,700 ^r
July ^f	14,900	6,120	21,000
August ^f	15,100	5,530	20,600
September ^f	16,000	5,350	21,300
October ^f	13,300	4,880	18,200
November ^f	13,500	5,460	18,900
December	11,600	5,710 ^r	17,300 ^r
January-December ^f	164,000	65,000	229,000
2011:			
January ^f	13,400	5,740	19,100
February ^f	11,500	4,590	16,100
March	12,400	5,410	17,800
January-March	37,300	15,700	53,000

^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:	
2010:	
Low/date	1,060.45 Feb. 5
High/date	1,424.07 Nov. 9
Average	1,227.51
2011:	
February:	
Low/date	1,330.91/3
High/date	1,414.55/24
Average	1,374.11
March:	
Low/date	1,403.53/15
High/date	1,450.11/24
Average	1,427.08
Year to date:	
Low/date	1,321.89 Jan. 28
High/date	1,450.11 Mar. 24
Average	1,389.52
Handy and Harman:	
2010, Average	1,224.74
2011:	
February	1,371.13
March	1,424.01
Year to date	1,386.96
London Final:	
2010, Average	1,224.66
2011:	
February	1,372.73
March	1,424.01
Year to date	1,386.27

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:							
2010:							
December	35,900	12,800	37,700	86,300	3,550	315	3
Year	257,000	148,000	199,000	604,000	46,100	652	43,500
2011:							
January	34,000	12,200	11,300	57,600	3,480	28	7,590
February:							
Canada	37 ⁵	26 ⁵	5,840	5,900	11,500 ⁵	2	--
Chile	--	91 ⁵	325	417	--	--	--
Colombia	--	3,110	809	3,920	--	--	--
Dominican Republic	--	18	--	18	678 ⁵	--	--
Guyana	--	301	125	426	--	--	--
Honduras	--	266	--	266	293 ⁵	--	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	(6)	4,540 ⁵
Mexico	30,100 ⁵	8,040 ⁵	3,750 ⁵	41,900	701 ⁵	4 ⁵	--
Netherlands Antilles	--	1,200	52	1,250	39 ⁵	--	--
Nicaragua	--	163	--	163	214 ⁵	3 ⁵	--
Peru	--	2,350 ⁵	--	2,350	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	1,190	1,190	--	1 ⁵	--
United Kingdom	--	--	632 ⁵	632	25 ⁵	1	--
Other	--	93 ⁵	748 ⁵	840	1,130 ⁵	75 ⁵	6 ⁵
Total	30,200	15,700	13,500	59,300	14,600	86	4,550
Year to date	64,200	27,900	24,800	117,000	18,000	114	12,100
Exports:							
2010:							
December	246	5,200	23,100	28,500	25,700	25	375,000
Year	3,470	84,400	295,000	383,000	660,000	2,330	4,270,000
2011:							
January	832	4,840	33,000	38,600	40,800	57	334,000
February:							
Australia	--	--	3,130 ⁵	3,130	--	--	--
Canada	--	--	191	191	3,720 ⁵	7 ⁵	72,800 ⁵
China	275	--	--	275	--	(6)	274 ⁵
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(6)	22,400 ⁵
Germany	77 ⁵	--	--	77	39,400 ⁵	--	2,100 ⁵
Hong Kong	--	--	13,200	13,200	7 ⁵	2 ⁵	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	589 ⁵
Mexico	326 ⁵	--	215 ⁵	541	--	1	13,100 ⁵
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	18,500 ⁵
Singapore	--	--	5	5	--	--	137,000 ⁵
South Africa	--	--	11,900	11,900	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	5,270	1,190	6,460	1,940	--	--
Taiwan	--	--	(6)	(6)	--	--	9,800 ⁵
Thailand	--	--	4,500	4,500	--	--	--
Turkey	--	--	1,990	1,990	--	--	--
United Arab Emirates	--	--	748	748	130	--	--
United Kingdom	3 ⁵	2 ⁵	3,630	3,640	24,900 ⁵	2 ⁵	1,140 ⁵
Other	41 ⁵	--	62 ⁵	103	38 ⁵	3 ⁵	1,200 ⁵
Total	722	5,280	40,800	46,800	70,100	15	279,000
Year to date	1,560	10,100	73,700	85,400	111,000	71	613,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3—Continued.
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD¹

-- 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.