

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GOLD IN MAY 2013

Production of gold by U.S. mines was 18,000 kilograms (kg) in May, a 5% increase compared with April production and a 5% decrease compared with that of May 2012 (table 1). Year-to-date production was 4% lower than that in the first 5 months of 2012. Based on unrounded data, the average daily gold production for U.S. mines was 582 kg in May 2013, compared with 570 kg in April 2013, 609 kg in May 2012, and 639 kg for all of 2012.

The average Engelhard gold price was \$1,419.04 per troy ounce for May 2013 (table 2), a \$74.31 per troy ounce decrease compared with the average gold price in April 2013 and \$172.59 per troy ounce less than the average gold price in May 2012. The gold price, which began May at \$1,457.87 per troy ounce, fluctuated significantly during the first days of the month, reaching a monthly high of \$1,472.40 (May 2 and 3), decreasing to \$1,447.36 (May 7), and increasing to \$1,471.15 (May 8). The price then began a sustained downward trend to the year-to-date low of \$1,357.70 per troy ounce (May 20) before resuming its volatility and ranging over several cycles to highs of \$1,411.54 (May 22) and \$1,416.55 (May 30), and lows of \$1,379.49 (May 29) and \$1,397.52 (May 31). May was the eighth consecutive month that the average gold price decreased. In September 2012, the average monthly price was \$1,750.86 per troy ounce, which was 23% greater than that in May 2013.

With lower gold prices, some domestic mine owners reduced production plans. Atna Resources Ltd. (Golden, CO) first announced that it was deferring the rampup of underground operations at its Pinson Mine near Winnemucca, NV, and would maintain production from developed reserves. The company had announced earlier in the year that the underground operations of the mine were to be expanded and the mine was expected to produce more than 2,000 kg of gold in 2013. On June 26, however, Atna announced that the Pinson Mine was being placed on care-and-maintenance status owing to declining gold prices, but that it would work to develop a revised operating plan (Atna Resources Ltd., 2013a; b; c). Allied Nevada Gold Corp. (Reno, NV) announced that it was considering scaling back development plans. The company had planned to construct a 130,000-metric-tons-per-day (t/d) mill at its Hycroft Mine by 2015, but was now considering building a 75,000-t/d mill while

retaining the option to expand to 130,000 t/d in the future (Allied Nevada Gold Corp., 2013).

On May 14, an underground tunnel collapse at Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.'s (Phoenix, AZ) Grasberg Mine in Indonesia trapped 38 workers in a training area away from the main operation, killing 28. The company temporarily suspended mining and processing operations to conduct investigations of the facilities in coordination with the Indonesia's Department of Energy and Mineral Resources (DEMIR). Open-pit mining and concentrating activities resumed on June 21. The underground operations were expected to ramp up pending further inspections and approvals from the DEMIR. Through June 21, the company estimated production losses from the shutdown to be about 52,200 metric tons (t) of copper and 3,580 kg of gold. Continued closure of the underground operations was expected to reduce mine production by 454 t/d of copper and 31 kilograms per day of gold (Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc., 2013; Kapoor and Taylor, 2013).

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

(Kilograms)

	Alaska	Nevada	Other States ²	Total
2012: ^P				
May	2,210	14,100	2,560	18,900
June	2,260	15,600	2,450	20,300
July	2,940	14,200	2,590	19,700
August	2,490	14,200	2,820	19,500
September	2,530	14,500	2,560	19,600
October	2,450	15,500	2,410	20,300
November	2,460	15,500	2,330	20,300
December	2,530	15,700	2,420	20,700
January–December	27,700	175,000	30,500	234,000
2013:				
January	2,170	13,700	2,450	18,400
February	2,280	12,600	2,290	17,100
March	2,510	13,600	2,390	18,500
April	2,810	11,900 ^r	2,410	17,100 ^r
May	2,690	13,100	2,250	18,000
January–May	12,500	64,900	11,800	89,200

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

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

TABLE 2
GOLD PRICES

(Dollars per troy ounce)

	Price	Date
Engelhard:		
2012:		
Low	1,543.27	May 30
High	1,795.45	Oct. 4
Average	1,671.56	XX
2013:		
April:		
Low	1,383.00	Apr. 16
High	1,600.26	Apr. 1
Average	1,493.35	XX
May:		
Low	1,357.70	May 20
High	1,472.40	May 2, 3
Average	1,419.04	XX
Year to date:		
Low	1,357.70	May 20
High	1,697.28	Jan. 2
Average	1,560.39	XX
Handy and Harman:		
2012, Average	1,668.00	XX
2013:		
April	1,490.22	XX
May	1,415.91	XX
Year to date	1,555.93	XX
London Final:		
2012, Average	1,668.98	XX
2013:		
April	1,485.08	XX
May	1,413.50	XX
Year to date	1,558.08	XX

XX Not applicable.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD¹

(Kilograms, 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:							
2012	5,370	218,000	108,000	332,000	116,000	319	13,400
2013:							
April	63	20,500	6,480	27,100	6,050	85	4,310
May:							
Bolivia	--	641	391	1,030	21	--	--
Canada	2	9	8,400	8,410	665	--	--
Chile	--	182	4	186	72	--	--
Colombia	--	4,140	80	4,220	--	--	--
Costa Rica	--	14	1	16	145	--	--
Dominican Republic	--	76	14	90	283	--	--
Ecuador	--	948	150	1,100	6	--	--
Germany	--	37	--	37	9	41	427
Guatemala	--	670	--	670	118	--	--
Guyana	--	653	--	653	10	--	--
Honduras	--	147	111	258	227	--	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	--	253
Mexico	--	6,390	1,460	7,850	77	9	--
Nicaragua	--	253	9	262	101	--	--
Peru	--	4,880	--	4,880	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	6	132	139	--	6	--
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	951	--	12
Venezuela	--	220	--	220	--	--	--
Other	--	152	237 ⁵	390	560	5	107
Total	2	19,400	11,000	30,400	3,250	61	799
January–May	80	92,100	38,600	131,000	244,000	3,730	5,440
Exports:							
2012	11,800	311,000	371,000	693,000	266,000	302	2,820,000
2013:							
April	396	14,100	62,100	76,600	8,450	31	109,000
May:							
Belgium	--	--	--	--	500	--	--
Canada	--	44	1,140	1,190	2,150	--	29,200
China	360	--	1,000	1,360	--	1	1,140
Dominican Republic	54	--	--	54	--	--	8,620
Germany	--	--	4	4	11	--	149
Hong Kong	--	--	19,600	19,600	--	4	--
India	--	1,930	--	1,930	1	4	600
Japan	--	--	500	500	35	1	144
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	8,330
Malaysia	--	--	42	42	--	--	26,900
Mexico	--	--	132	132	139	--	39,300
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	11,200
Singapore	--	--	23	23	--	--	13,900
Switzerland	--	12,600	10,400	23,100	28	--	--
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	--	8,670
Thailand	--	--	5,000	5,000	--	--	339
Turkey	--	--	183	183	--	--	--
United Arab Emirates	--	2,030	17	2,050	--	--	--
United Kingdom	--	2	5	7	512	15	546
Other	46	--	30	76	3	1	93
Total	460	16,600	38,100	55,200	3,380	26	149,000
January–May	2,120	91,000	250,000	343,000	102,000	111	689,000

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(Kilograms, gold content unless otherwise specified)

-- 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.