

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GOLD IN DECEMBER 2015

Production of gold by U.S. mines was about 19,100 kilograms (kg) in December, a slight increase compared with November production and a 4% increase compared with that of December 2014 (table 1). The 2015 preliminary domestic annual gold production was 214,000 kg, slightly more than in 2014. Based on unrounded data, the average daily gold production for U.S. mines was 615 kg in December 2015, 620 kg in November 2015, and 586 kg for the full year of 2015.

daily gold price started December at \$1,071.47 per troy ounce, fluctuated between a low of 1,057.44 per troy ounce (December 3) and a high of \$1,086.49 per troy ounce (December 9), and ended the month at \$1,063.95 per troy ounce. The trends in monthly gold prices (high, low, and average) from December 2013 through December 2015 are shown in fig. 1. In 2015, the annual average price was \$1,163.33 per troy ounce, a decline of \$106.12 per troy ounce (8%) compared with the average 2014 price.

**Prices**

The average Engelhard gold price was \$1,071.16 per troy ounce for December 2015, a \$19.26 per troy ounce decrease compared with the average gold price in November (table 2), an \$87.28 per troy ounce decrease compared with the average gold price in December 2014, and a \$134.13 per troy ounce decrease compared with the average gold price in December 2013. The

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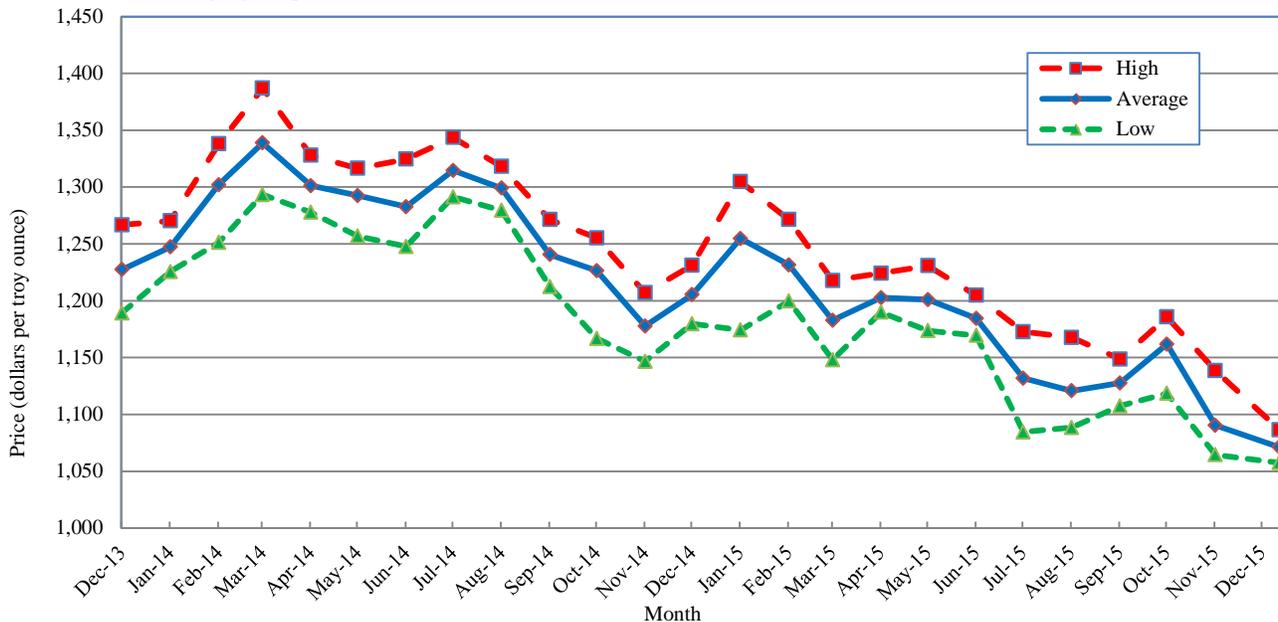


Figure 1. Engelhard monthly gold prices for December 2013 through December 2015. Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 1  
MINE PRODUCTION OF RECOVERABLE GOLD IN THE UNITED  
STATES, BY STATE<sup>1</sup>

(Kilograms)

	Alaska	Nevada	Other States <sup>2</sup>	Total
2014: <sup>p</sup>				
December	2,500	13,200	2,640	18,400
January–December	31,400	151,000	27,800	210,000
2015:				
January	2,170	12,600	2,070	16,800
February	1,930	11,500	1,940	15,400
March	2,140	12,000	2,040	16,200
April	2,410	11,300	1,810	15,500
May	2,650	11,800	1,790	16,200
June	2,440	13,300	1,970	17,700
July	2,560	14,900	2,210	19,700
August	2,510	15,100 <sup>r</sup>	2,250	19,900 <sup>r</sup>
September	2,590	15,100	2,290	20,000
October	2,450	14,600	1,990	19,000
November	2,400	14,300 <sup>r</sup>	1,930	18,600 <sup>r</sup>
December	2,450	14,900	1,710	19,100
January–December <sup>p</sup>	28,700	161,000	24,000	214,000

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

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

TABLE 2  
GOLD PRICES

(Dollars per troy ounce)

	Price	Date
<u>Engelhard:</u>		
2014:		
Low	1,146.59	Nov. 5
High	1,387.00	Mar. 14
Average	1,269.45	XX
2015:		
November:		
Low	1,064.46	Nov. 30
High	1,138.58	Nov. 2
Average	1,090.42	XX
December:		
Low	1,057.44	Dec. 3
High	1,086.49	Dec. 9
Average	1,071.16	XX
Year to date:		
Low/date	1,057.44	Dec. 3
High/date	1,304.66	Jan. 21
Average	1,163.33	XX
<u>Handy and Harman:</u>		
2014, Average	1,265.62	XX
2015:		
November	1,086.44	XX
December	1,068.31	XX
Year to Date	1,160.04	XX
<u>London Final:</u>		
2014, Average	1,266.40	XX
2015:		
November	1,085.70	XX
December	1,068.25	XX
Year to Date	1,160.12	XX

XX Not applicable.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD<sup>1</sup>

(Kilograms, gold content unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Ores and concentrates <sup>2</sup>	Doré and precipitates	Refined bullion <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>4</sup>	Waste and scrap (gross weight)	Metal powder (gross weight)	Gold compounds (gross weight)
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>							
2014	510	186,000	122,000	308,000	56,800	596	1,810
<b>2015:</b>							
November	30	11,900	5,020	16,900	1,640	6	5,230
<b>December:</b>							
Bolivia	--	970	--	970	6	--	--
Brazil	--	13	1,090	1,100	--	--	--
Canada	(5)	101	4,900	5,000	509	--	--
Cayman Islands	--	256	--	256	1	--	--
Colombia	--	3,830	18	3,850	7	--	--
Curacao	--	362	--	362	--	--	--
Dominican Republic	--	42	--	42	161	--	--
Ecuador	--	887	8	895	--	--	--
Guatemala	--	294	--	294	66	--	--
Guyana	--	709	--	709	--	--	--
Honduras	--	23	158	181	189	--	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	--	9,730
Mexico	--	5,490	1,740	7,230	1,620	--	--
Nicaragua	--	948	--	948	16	--	--
Peru	--	1,150	--	1,150	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	875	875	--	--	--
Other	--	333	95	430	478	4	70
Total	(5)	15,400	8,880	24,300	3,050	4	9,800
January–December	443	175,000	89,800	265,000	73,600	372	57,300
<b>Exports:</b>							
2014	4,340	117,000	379,000	500,000	146,000	1,170	12,800
<b>2015:</b>							
November	112	8,250	13,200	21,600	42,200	25	906
<b>December:</b>							
Canada	--	(5)	45	45	4,770	--	176
China	506	--	2,040	2,550	--	--	39
Germany	--	--	20	20	1,550	--	--
Hong Kong	--	--	13,400	13,400	22	1	1
India	--	3,220	2,460	5,670	22	--	--
Italy	--	--	(5)	(5)	8,900	--	--
Mexico	--	--	296	296	--	--	51
Singapore	--	--	444	444	--	--	438
Switzerland	--	6,680	1,990	8,670	9,590	--	--
Taiwan	--	--	1,000	1,000	--	--	78
Thailand	--	--	999	999	--	27	1
United Arab Emirates	--	792	12	804	--	--	--
United Kingdom	--	--	3,820	3,820	17,600	(5)	2
Other	--	--	155	155	88	2	367
Total	506	10,700	26,700	37,900	42,600	30	1,150
January–December	5,270	121,000	352,000	478,000	410,000	502	12,800

-- Zero.

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup>"Waste and scrap," "Metal powder," and "Gold compounds" are not included in "Total."

<sup>5</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.