

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MOLYBDENUM IN JUNE 2001

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate in June 2001 was about 5% more than that of the previous month and was 19% more than that of May 2000, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Producer stocks of molybdenum in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 9,450 metric tons at the beginning of 2001, and 7,870 metric tons at the end of June.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production and shipments of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption, by end use, and stocks, of molybdenum material in May and June 2001; also included are trade data for May.

The Platts Metals Week U.S. May average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$5.633 per kilogram (\$2.555 per pound), and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$7.000 per kilogram (\$3.175 per pound). The USGS estimated June average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.54 per kilogram (\$2.06 per pound). The Ryan's Notes worldwide oxide, 4-week average price for June, was \$2.500 per pound. The U.S. ferromolybdenum, 4-week average price for June, was \$3.163 per pound.

For the week of September 3, 2001, the Platts Metals Week average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$5.291 per kilogram (\$2.400 per pound), and that for ferromolybdenum was \$6.945 per kilogram (\$3.150 per pound). The USGS estimated price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.19 per kilogram (\$1.90 per pound).

The Friday, September 7, Ryan's Notes price for worldwide oxide was \$2.35/2.45 per pound. U.S. ferromolybdenum price was \$3.10/3.25 per pound.

Update

Anti-dumping duties of 3.6-26.3% were imposed on European Commission (EC) imports of Chinese ferromolybdenum (FeMo).

The provisional antidumping duties imposed by the EC on imports of Chinese FeMo were close to those suggested by trade sources in late July (Ryan's Notes, 2001).

The 10-month long investigation by the EC, which consulted both European converters and consumers of the material, stated in its ruling on August 8 that Chinese producers had dumped material on the European market and eroded European market share with aggressive price cutting. Antidumping duties of 26.3% were assessed for all but four Chinese FeMo producers (Platts Metals Week, 2001).

Slumping prices and a climb in imports, notably from China, have forced another Japanese noble alloys producer to ponder a withdrawal from the business which, in this case, will probably mean the end of nearly 4 decades of operations. The company the market has claimed this time is Awamura Metal Industry, a subsidiary of trader Mitsui & Company, which is currently producing FeMo and ferrovanadium at a plant in Uji, near Kyoto (Metal Bulletin, 2001).

References Cited

- Metal Bulletin, 2001, World and Metal News: Metal Bulletin, no. 8599, August 13, p. 8.
Platts Metals Week, 2001, Ferroalloys: Platts Metals Week, v. 72, no. 35, August 27, p. 2.
Ryan's Notes, 2001, Ferroalloys: Ryan's Notes, v. 7, no. 33, August 14, p. 1.

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	2000	2001		Year to date 2/
	January-December p/	May	June	
Production	40,900 r/	3,280	3,440	19,600
Shipments: 3/				
Domestic	15,800 r/	1,150	1,580	10,500
Export	19,700	2,390	1,760	9,470

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ Includes molybdic oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	2000	2001		Year to date 2/
	January-December p/	May	June	
Gross production	42,900	3,900	2,840	21,800
Internal consumption 3/	23,200	2,280	1,980	13,200
Gross shipments	34,600	3,260	2,010	18,400

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ Includes molybdic oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molybdenum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molybdenum scrap	Other	Total
2001, May:						
Steel:						
Carbon	15,400	36,900	--	--	1,810	54,000
High-strength low-alloy	W	9,550	--	--	15,900	25,400
Stainless and heat-resisting	157,000	20,200	--	--	8,520	186,000
Full alloy	70,000	160,000	--	--	2,330	232,000
Tool	108,000	35,100	--	--	1,450	144,000
Total	350,000	261,000	--	--	30,000	642,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	1,980	26,000	--	--	763 r/	28,800
Superalloys	107,000	W	--	(3/)	106,000 r/	213,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	81	8	--	--	6,210	6,300
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	269,000	269,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	1	1
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	W	--	--	W
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	--	77,300
Other	--	--	--	--	893	893
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	14,300	14,300
Other	80,600	6,140	78,300	--	14,900	180,000
Grand total	617,000	293,000	78,300	--	441,000	1,430,000
Stocks, May 31, 2001	469,000	164,000	3,540	15,400	882,000	1,530,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3--Continued
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molybdenum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molybdenum scrap	Other	Total
2001, June:						
Steel:						
Carbon	16,300	38,200	--	--	1,810	56,400
High-strength low-alloy	76,100	8,550	--	--	15,900	100,000
Stainless and heat-resisting	165,000	16,500	--	--	8,520	190,000
Full alloy	57,300	143,000	--	--	2,330	203,000
Tool	96,900	W	--	--	1,450	98,400
Total	412,000	207,000	--	--	30,000	649,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	2,320	25,200	--	--	763	28,300
Superalloys	79,300	W	--	(3/)	87,400	167,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	W	3,250	--	--	6,210	9,460
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	172,000	172,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	5	5
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	W	--	--	W
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	--	77,300
Other	--	--	--	--	947	947
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	15,100	15,100
Other	65	31,400	76,900	--	14,900	123,000
Grand total	571,000	267,000	76,900	--	327,000	1,240,000
Stocks, June 30, 2001	460,000	185,000	3,230	22,200	881,000	1,550,000

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other" of the "Miscellaneous and unspecified uses" category. -- Zero

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

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Included in "Other" of the "Superalloys" category.

4/ Includes ingot, wire, rod, and sheet.

5/ Includes construction, mining, oil and gas, metal working machinery.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES
(including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	2000		2001	
	January-December	April	May	Year to date
Australia	31,400	3,000	4,750	115,000
Belgium	5,120,000	332,000	199,000	996,000
Brazil	31,300	1,440	5,160	10,700
Canada	1,420,000	76,100	67,900	327,000
Chile	35,000	--	8,300	8,300
China	795,000	--	47,600	201,000
Germany	672,000	--	39,300	417,000
India	687	79,300	34,400	181,000
Italy	89,800	--	10,400	27,700
Japan	3,100,000	118,000	119,000	782,000
Korea, Republic of	16,100	1,510	2,100	9,310
Mexico	61,800	2,300	--	128,000
Netherlands	8,780,000	1,300,000	1,850,000	7,120,000
Spain	57,500	12,900	11,500	28,900
Sweden	454,000	--	11,700	23,700
United Kingdom	2,910,000	502,000	285,000	3,100,000
Other	42,600	544	1,500	7,390
Total	23,600,000	2,430,000	2,700,000	13,500,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	2000	2001		Year to date
	January December	April	May	
Australia	1,140	--	599	599
Canada	553,000	44,800	72,700	213,000
China	--	--	5,670	11,500
Germany	196	21,800	21,800	87,300
Japan	57,000	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	2,990	--	--	876
Mexico	128,000	2,490	6,660	25,400
Total	742,000	69,100	107,000	339,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Kilograms, unless otherwise specified)

Material	January-December 2000 p/			May 2001		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	6,900,000	4,340,000	\$25,800	763,000	486,000	\$2,710
Ore and concentrates other	3,440,000	1,780,000	9,660	NA	NA	NA
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	1,210,000	NA	7,400	104,000	NA	508
Molybdates of ammonium	2,270,000	1,310,000	12,200	243,000	142,000	1,480
Molybdates (all others)	332,000	236,000	1,170	23,500	10,000	83
Molybdenum orange	1,620,000	NA	7,320	96,400	NA	446
Ferromolybdenum	8,310,000	5,310,000	35,600	483,000	311,000	1,860
Molybdenum powders	137,000	125,000	3,770	15,400 2/	19,600 2/	399 2/
Molybdenum unwrought	15,900	16,100	328	10,000	9,980	109
Molybdenum waste and scrap	475,000	466,000	5,670	91,900	79,600	807
Molybdenum wire	16,700	NA	894	2,250	NA	94
Molybdenum other	7,420	NA	1,600	463	NA	143
Total	24,700,000	13,600,000	111,000	1,830,000	1,060,000	8,650

NA Not available.

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

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.