

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MOLYBDENUM IN JANUARY 2014

Domestic production of molybdenum (Mo) in concentrate in January 2014 was 11% more than the output of the previous month and was 5% less than that of January 2013. Producer stocks of molybdenum in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were about 6,600 metric tons (t) at yearend 2013 and about 7,000 t at the end of January.

According to Ryan's Notes, the January 2014 monthly average price range for U.S. ferromolybdenum (FeMo) was \$11.294 to \$11.483 per pound of molybdenum content, compared with \$11.100 to \$11.300 per pound in December 2013. European FeMo monthly averages ranged from \$25.017 to \$25.367 per kilogram of molybdenum content in January compared with \$24.672 to \$25.056 per kilogram in December 2013. In January, worldwide molybdenum oxide (MoO₃) prices ranged from \$9.922 to \$10.067 per pound compared with \$9.683 to \$9.783 per pound in December 2013.

Taseko Mines Ltd. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) announced that molybdenum production at its Gibraltar Mine in British Columbia was 680 t in 2013, 10% more than that in

2012. Taseko completed the rampup of the second concentrator at the Gibraltar facility. The company also reported significant recovery improvements in its new molybdenum separation facility during the fourth quarter of 2013. Gibraltar is a joint venture owned by Taseko (75%) and Cariboo Copper Corp. (25%) (Taseko Mines Ltd., 2014).

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Reference Cited

Taseko Mines Ltd., 2014, Taseko announces 35% increase in annual copper production: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Taseko Mines Ltd. news release, January 8. (Accessed August 12, 2014, at <http://www.tasekomines.com/releases/ID618636>.)

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Period	Production	Shipments ^{2,3}
2013:		
January	5,290	5,010
February	4,880	5,060
March	5,730	5,420
April	5,340	5,270
May	4,880	5,040
June	5,090	5,130
July	4,960	5,090
August	4,940	4,930
September	5,230	5,090
October	5,070	5,420
November	4,800	4,570
December	4,560	4,850 ^r
January–December	60,800	60,900
2014, January	5,050	4,960

^rRevised.

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

²As reported by producers.

³Shipments include sales to domestic customers, sales for export, and transfers to other company plants.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS¹

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molyb- denum ²	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
2013						
December:						
Steel:						
Carbon	W	W	--	--	W	W
High-strength low-alloy	W	7,670	--	--	--	7,670
Stainless and heat-resisting	182,000	51,600	--	(3)	W	234,000
Full alloy	244,000	221,000 ^r	--	--	W	465,000 ^r
Tool	W	W	--	--	--	W
Total	427,000	280,000^r	--	--	--	706,000^r
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	W	W	--	--	W	W
Superalloys	W	W	--	(3)	62,500 ^r	62,500 ^r
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	W	W
Other alloys	146	W	--	--	--	146
Mill products made from metal powder ⁴	--	--	--	--	W	W
Cemented carbides and related products ⁵	--	--	--	--	W	W
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	(3)	--	--	--
Catalysts	77,300	--	(3)	--	W	77,300
Other chemicals	--	--	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	10,800	10,800
Other	193,000 ^r	43,600 ^r	(3)	(3)	341,000 ^r	578,000 ^r
Grand total	697,000^r	323,000^r	--	--	415,000^r	1,430,000^r
Stocks, December 31, 2013	421,000 ^r	282,000 ^r	2,890	(6)	(6)	1,600,000 ^r
2014						
January:						
Steel:						
Carbon	W	W	--	--	W	W
High-strength low-alloy	W	7,400	--	--	--	7,400
Stainless and heat-resisting	178,000	52,100	--	(3)	W	230,000
Full alloy	251,000	248,000	--	--	W	499,000
Tool	W	W	--	--	--	W
Total	429,000	307,000	--	--	--	736,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	W	W	--	--	W	W
Superalloys	W	W	--	(3)	70,300	70,300
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	W	W
Other alloys	153	W	--	--	--	153
Mill products made from metal powder ⁴	--	--	--	--	W	W
Cemented carbides and related products ⁵	--	--	--	--	W	W
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	(3)	--	--	--
Catalysts	77,300	--	(3)	--	W	77,300
Other chemicals	--	--	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	10,800	10,800
Other	215,000	45,100	(3)	(3)	380,000	640,000
Grand total	721,000	353,000	--	--	462,000	1,540,000
Stocks, December 31, 2013	453,000	282,000	2,890	(6)	(6)	1,630,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS¹

¹Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Miscellaneous and unspecified uses: Other" category. -- Zero.

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

²Includes calcium molybdate.

³Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other, Miscellaneous and unspecified uses: Other" category.

⁴Includes ingot, wire, rod, and sheet.

⁵Includes construction, mining, oil and gas, metalworking machinery.

⁶Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES
(including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	2013			2014 January
	January– December	January	December	
Argentina	--	--	--	5,110
Australia	214,000	--	--	--
Austria	31,800	11,200	--	--
Belgium	3,770,000	--	415,000	268,000
Brazil	690,000	--	48,000	48,000
Canada	2,070,000	153,000	165,000	184,000
China	1,520,000	111,000	200,000	91,300
Germany	172,000	12,100	--	--
India	1,310,000	233,000	116,000	67,700
Japan	4,900,000	272,000	447,000	375,000
Korea, Republic of	898,000	43,000	35,500	253,000
Mexico	9,160,000	921,000	824,000	605,000
Netherlands	21,100,000	1,360,000	1,320,000	840,000
Peru	24,700	18,000	--	--
Philippines	2,180	--	--	--
Singapore	1,370	--	--	--
South Africa	194,000	37,000	--	--
Taiwan	24,900	--	--	--
Thailand	46,700	--	2,440	--
United Kingdom	2,380,000	470,000	466,000	1,060,000
Venezuela	210	--	--	--
Vietnam	57,100	7,050	8,010	721
Total	48,600,000	3,650,000	4,050,000	3,800,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	2013			2014 January
	January– December	January	December	
Argentina	382	--	382	--
Canada	635,000	86,800	9,330	63,800
Chile	1,480	--	1,480	--
Colombia	238	--	--	134
Denmark	513	--	--	--
Israel	168	--	--	--
Mexico	156,000	--	16,700	12,600
Netherlands	48,600	13,300	--	--
Panama	13,200	--	--	--
Peru	6,550	6,000	--	--
Total	862,000	106,000	27,900	76,600

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS¹

(Kilograms, unless otherwise specified)

Material	January–December 2013			January 2014		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value ² (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value ² (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	6,870,000	4,160,000	\$47,100	749,000	455,000	\$5,090
Ore and concentrates other	18,100,000	8,890,000	250,000	1,540,000	783,000	22,300
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	283,000	NA	5,390	20,000	NA	339
Molybdates of ammonium	1,080,000	611,000	17,000	63,400	35,800	923
Molybdates (all others)	3,770	1,550	190	--	--	--
Molybdenum orange	274,000	NA	2,430	30,600	NA	247
Ferromolybdenum	6,120,000	4,090,000	108,000	337,000	225,000	5,470
Molybdenum powders	448,000	433,000	16,000	53,300	52,000	1,740
Molybdenum unwrought	762,000	747,000	22,100	68,300	67,800	1,720
Molybdenum waste and scrap	739,000	690,000	21,900	48,200	44,100	1,390
Molybdenum wire	22,700	NA	3,490	1,610	NA	196
Molybdenum other	298,000	NA	20,800	29,900	NA	1,900
Total	35,000,000	XX	514,000	2,940,000	XX	41,300

NA Not available. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Customs value.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.