

Mineral Industry Surveys

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PLATINUM-GROUP METALS IN MAY 2017

The Engelhard average May prices for platinum and rhodium decreased by 3% and 7%, respectively, and the price for palladium decreased slightly compared with average April prices (table 1, fig. 1). The average monthly prices for iridium and ruthenium increased by 8% and 15%, respectively, during the same period.

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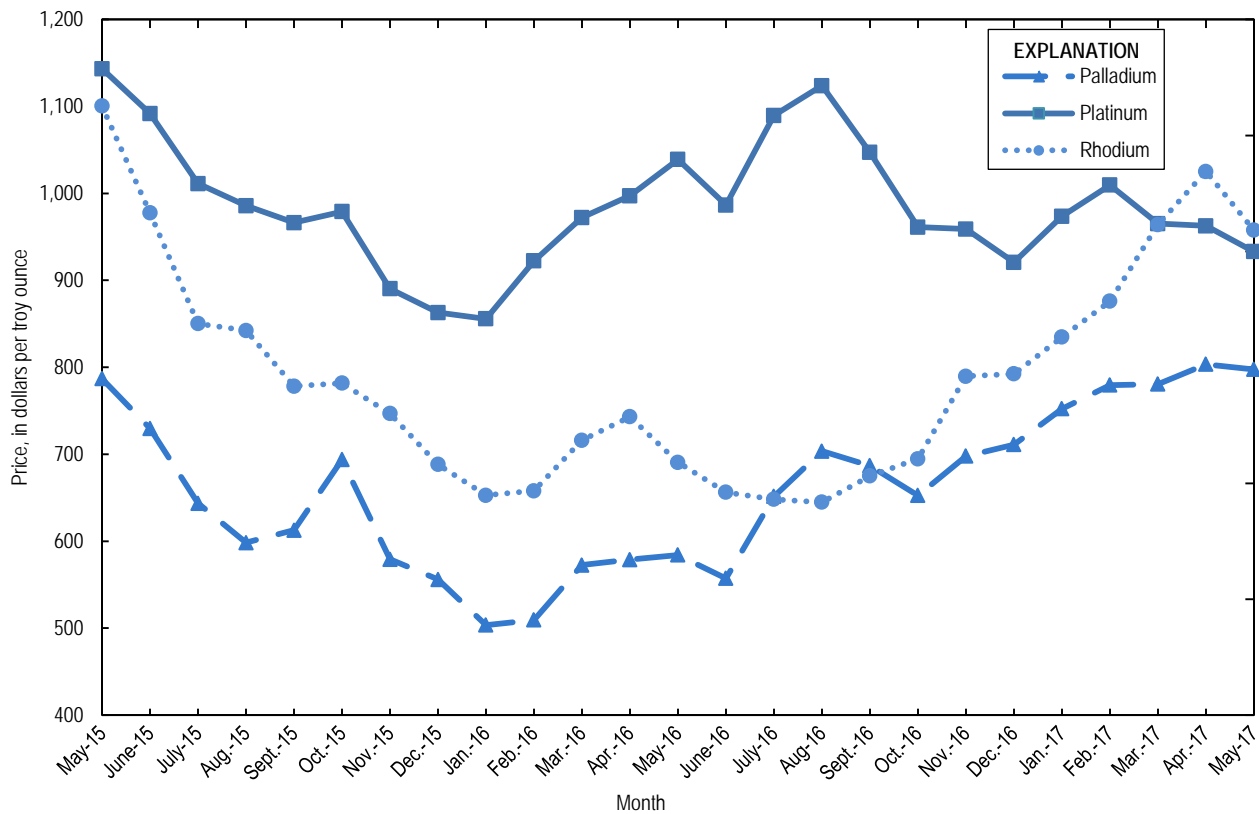


Figure 1. Engelhard monthly palladium, platinum, and rhodium prices for May 2015 through May 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 1
PLATINUM-GROUP METALS PRICES¹

(Dollars per troy ounce)

	Platinum	Palladium	Rhodium	Iridium	Ruthenium
2016:					
Low/date	816.00 Jan. 21	473.00 Jan. 12	625.00 July 29–Aug. ²	525.00 Jan.–May. ²	42.00 Jan.–Dec. ²
High/date	1,184.00 Aug. 10	771.00 Dec. 1	850.00 Dec. 15 and 16	700.00 Nov. ² –Dec. ²	42.00 Jan.–Dec. ²
Average	989.52	617.39	696.84	586.90	42.00
2017:					
April:					
Low/date	942.00/10	783.00/19	1,015.00/27 and 28	850.00 ²	45.00/3
High/date	987.00/18	828.00/28	1,030.00 ²	920.00/28	66.00/27 and 28
Average	962.63	803.53	1,025.26	879.47	57.47
May:					
Low/date	899.00/4	757.00/22	925 May ²	920.00 ²	66.00 ²
High/date	964.00/26	823.00 ²	1,015.00/1 and 2	960.00 ²	66.00 ²
Average	933.00	797.64	957.73	945.91	66.00
January–May:					
Low/date	899.00 May 4	710.00 Jan. 3	765.00 Jan. 3	700.00 Jan. ²	42.00 Jan.–Mar. ²
High/date	1,035.00 Feb. 27	828.00 Apr. 28	1,030.00 Mar. 31 and Apr. ²	960.00 May ²	66.00 Apr. 27 and 28, and May ²
Average	968.85	782.73	931.59	805.19	50.05

¹Quotes from Engelhard.

²Occurred multiple days in month(s) listed.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PLATINUM METAL, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms metal content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Platinum grain and nuggets		Platinum sponge		Other unwrought platinum		Platinum, other		Platinum waste and scrap		Platinum coins	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)
2016	418	\$12,600	27,400	\$871,000	4,970	\$161,000	8,610	\$279,000	159,000	\$821,000	924	\$31,900
2017:												
March	467	14,500	1,980	63,100	824	26,500	371	11,800	46,900	113,000	32	1,130
April	473	14,700	3,360	104,000	682	20,700	1,220	37,900	120,000	69,300	23	778
May:												
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	(2)	13	52	729	--	--
Belgium	--	--	573	17,300	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	14	42	927	--	--
Canada	5	156	--	--	--	--	18	589	310	6,530	28	1,070
China	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	405	--	--	--	--
Colombia	--	--	--	--	21	561	--	--	12	152	--	--
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	--	21	557	--	--	--	--
France	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	316	78	2,640	--	--
Germany	--	--	72	2,290	132	5,020	221	6,860	293	12,500	(2)	6
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12	410	--	--
Italy	--	--	132	3,940	--	--	--	--	96	3,120	--	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	23	719	5	77	262	6,870	--	--
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	50	775	--	--
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	23	--	--	120	3,920	--	--
Russia	--	--	117	3,470	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore	--	--	--	--	(2)	2	7	323	219	6,900	--	--
South Africa	--	--	3,890	118,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	(2)	8
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,860	2,400	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	2	39	--	--	75	1,920	--	--	--	--
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	96	2,360	--	--
United Kingdom	--	--	183	5,960	(2)	9	38	1,230	44,500	12,400	--	--
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	289	--	--
Other	(2)	10	--	--	1	250	5	187	34	611	--	--
Total	5	166	4,970	151,000	178	6,590	405	12,500	52,000	63,400	28	1,080
January–May	1,060	32,900	14,400	445,000	2,020	65,100	3,500	111,000	224,000	362,000	310	11,000

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PLATINUM-GROUP METALS, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms metal content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Unwrought palladium		Palladium, other		Iridium ²		Osmium ²		Ruthenium ²		Rhodium ²	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
2016	68,100	\$1,340,000	12,300	\$275,000	1,300	\$23,000	27	\$159	8,410	\$14,500	10,700	\$230,000
2017:												
March	5,110	127,000	1,470	38,000	116	2,810	10	70	1,040	1,880	1,030	30,100
April	5,160	129,000	564	14,500	275	7,640	--	--	1,500	2,370	1,300	40,900
May:												
Belgium	90	2,360	--	--	2	64	--	--	325	651	85	2,740
Canada	66	2,450	234	7,620	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	59
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	58	--	--	--	--
Germany	49	1,430	7	48	9	341	--	--	502	655	19	571
Italy	157	4,070	--	--	3	90	--	--	--	--	33	1,050
Japan	133	1,240	--	--	--	--	--	--	25	49	--	--
Norway	156	4,030	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	545
Russia	1,940	51,100	198	4,930	3	82	--	--	--	--	89	2,820
South Africa	1,880	44,400	--	--	64	1,360	--	--	419	680	562	17,400
Switzerland	--	--	3	93	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	97	2,530	8	288	32	972	--	--	185	418	445	13,600
Other	--	--	(3)	23	1	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	4,570	114,000	451	13,000	114	2,910	10	58	1,460	2,450	1,250	38,700
January–May	24,700	603,000	5,460	140,000	806	19,900	37	239	5,960	10,400	5,460	159,000

-- Zero.

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

²Unwrought and other forms.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF PLATINUM-GROUP METALS, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms metal content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Platinum ²		Platinum waste and scrap		Palladium ²		Iridium, osmium and ruthenium ^{2,3}		Rhodium ²	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
2016	14,000	\$423,000	273,000	\$702,000	17,500	\$272,000	736	\$11,300	794	\$19,600
2017:										
March	1,310	33,100	45,500	44,500	1,700	30,200	38	531	24	581
April	958	27,600	38,500	54,000	2,920	50,300	38	797	23	782
May:										
Australia	11	238	--	--	3	134	4	164	--	--
Belgium	--	--	13	630	--	--	--	--	--	--
Canada	17	476	2	65	147	1,630	--	--	(4)	13
China	10	277	--	--	311	7,140	--	--	29	769
Colombia	--	--	--	--	3	67	--	--	--	--
Costa Rica	19	186	--	--	2	19	--	--	--	--
France	5	183	--	--	29	224	1	29	--	--
Germany	677	20,100	362	5,450	127	1,940	--	--	6	226
Hong Kong	11	246	--	--	86	2,040	8	88	--	--
India	44	1,300	6	191	6	134	4	40	--	--
Ireland	15	438	--	--	19	131	--	--	--	--
Israel	(4)	18	--	--	65	452	--	--	(4)	13
Italy	427	12,800	243	1,460	2	23	--	--	--	--
Japan	4	121	23,200	7,890	29	292	(4)	6	--	--
Korea, Republic of	3	73	(4)	7	38	673	--	--	--	--
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	431	10,800	--	--	--	--
Mexico	20	487	--	--	11	257	--	--	(4)	21
Singapore	112	3,020	--	--	1	25	--	--	30	987
South Africa	--	--	59	3,300	--	--	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	2	39	368	7,520	2,800	37,300	1	40	--	--
Taiwan	13	394	--	--	197	5,210	(4)	5	--	--
Thailand	2	74	--	--	10	281	--	--	(4)	7
United Kingdom	61	1,730	1,310	35,900	7	162	2	14	--	--
Other	2	46	--	--	9	115	4	95	(4)	8
Total	1,460	42,200	25,600	62,400	4,340	69,100	24	481	65	2,040
January–May	6,490	188,000	157,000	302,000	11,700	200,000	148	2,710	199	5,700

-- Zero.

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

²Unwrought and other forms.

³Gross weight.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.