

Mineral Industry Surveys

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VANADIUM IN APRIL 2006

Reported domestic consumption of vanadium in April 2006 was about 2% more than that of the previous month, and was about 1% more than that of April 2005, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Consumer stocks of vanadium, in all forms, were 361 metric tons (t) at the beginning of 2006 and 349 t at the end of April.

According to Ryan's Notes (2006b), U.S. ferrovanadium (FeV) prices ranged from \$18.063 to \$18.563 per pound of vanadium content in April, as compared with \$18.778 to \$19.389 in March. European FeV prices ranged from \$36.000 to \$37.875 per kilogram in April, as compared with \$39.333 to \$41.222 in March. Vanadium pentoxide (V_2O_5) prices ranged from \$7.913 to \$8.150 per pound in April, as compared with \$8.517 to \$8.833 in March.

Evrax Group S.A. (Luxembourg) agreed to buy a 73% equity stake in Stratcor Inc. (Danbury, CT) for about \$110 million.

The purchased shares were previously held by Stratcor executives, and the remaining shares will continue to be held by Sojitz Corp. (Japan). Evraz, the largest vanadium slag producer in Russia, lacked any processing facilities to recover V_2O_5 from the slag. This acquisition will allow Evraz access to Stratcor's proprietary Nitrovan ferrovanadium production technology at its Britts, South Africa, facility, and also its vanadium chemical production facilities at Hot Springs, AR. The purchase was expected to be effective on May 1, 2006, if all necessary approvals were met (Ryan's Notes, 2006a).

References Cited

Ryan's Notes, 2006a, Evraz buys major stake in Stratcor: Ryan's Notes, v. 12, no. 16, April 17, p. 2.
Ryan's Notes, 2006b, [untitled]: Ryan's Notes, v. 12, no. 18, May 1, p. 10.

TABLE 1
U.S. CONSUMPTION AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF VANADIUM, BY FORM¹

(Kilograms, contained vanadium)

	2005 ^p		2006			
	Consumption	Stocks	March		April	
			Consumption	Stocks	Consumption	Stocks
Ferrovandium ²	3,430,000	335,000	282,000 ^r	353,000 ^r	294,000	332,000
Vanadium-aluminum alloy	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other ³	260,000	25,700	23,700	25,500 ^r	19,300	17,100
Total	3,690,000	361,000	306,000 ^r	379,000 ^r	313,000	349,000

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

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

²Includes other vanadium-iron-carbon alloys as well as vanadium oxides added directly to steel.

³Includes other vanadium alloys, vanadium metal, vanadium pentoxide, vanadates, chlorides, other specialty chemicals, and items indicated by symbol W.

TABLE 2
U.S. CONSUMPTION OF VANADIUM, BY END USE¹

(Kilograms, contained vanadium)

	2005 ^p	2006		
		March	April	Year to date
Steel:				
Carbon	902,000	81,900 ^r	79,100	304,000
High-strength low-alloy	1,060,000	86,600	86,700	339,000
Stainless and heat-resisting	59,900	5,060 ^r	5,060	20,300
Full alloy	1,000,000	89,400	90,300	357,000
Tool	401,000	19,300	32,600	101,000
Total steel	3,430,000	282,000 ^r	294,000	1,120,000
Superalloys	9,610	352	330	1,670
Miscellaneous and unspecified ²	253,000	23,500	19,100	87,700
Total consumption	3,690,000	306,000	313,000	1,210,000

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Includes cast irons, alloys excluding steel and superalloys, chemical and ceramic uses, and other miscellaneous and unspecified uses.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM-VANADIUM MASTER ALLOY AND
VANADIUM METAL, INCLUDING WASTE AND SCRAP¹

(Kilograms, gross weight)

	Aluminum-vanadium master alloy		Vanadium metal, including waste and scrap	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Imports for consumption:				
2005	1,010	\$15,500	54,800	\$3,800,000
2006:				
January	--	--	1,240	144,000
February	--	--	3,540	462,000
March:				
Germany	--	--	115	79,300
United Kingdom	--	--	1	2,250
Total	--	--	116	81,600
Year to date	--	--	4,900	687,000
Exports:				
2005	14,100,000	42,000,000	293,000	1,640,000
2006:				
January	4,620,000	5,840,000	33,100	1,650,000
February	668,000	3,420,000	18,000	699,000
March:				
Austria	--	--	3,570	174,000
Brazil	10,300	48,000	--	--
Canada	273,000	908,000	109	3,140
China	11,600	34,000	--	--
France	1,550	20,100	1	14,100
Germany	1,470	19,100	--	--
India	14,200	68,700	--	--
Japan	226,000	1,400,000	13,100	620,000
Malaysia	163	3,150	--	--
Mexico	1,210,000	3,220,000	--	--
Poland	319	2,760	--	--
Saint Helena	270,000	608,000	--	--
South Africa	4,690	23,600	--	--
Thailand	38,500	193,000	--	--
Taiwan	20,700	99,200	--	--
United Kingdom	15,400	77,400	1,190	61,200
Total	2,100,000	6,720,000	18,000	873,000
Year to date	7,390,000	16,000,000	69,100	3,220,000

-- 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. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF FERROVANADIUM, VANADIUM PENTOXIDE (ANHYDRIDE) AND
OTHER OXIDES AND HYDROXIDES OF VANADIUM¹

(Kilograms, contained vanadium)

	Ferrovanadium		Vanadium pentoxide (anhydride) ²		Other oxides and hydroxides of vanadium	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Imports for consumption:						
2005	12,000,000	\$131,000,000	1,410,000	\$52,900,000	213,000	\$6,540,000
2006:						
January	181,000	8,820,000	78,600	3,030,000	6,940	440,000
February	171,000	7,750,000	28,400	1,050,000	--	--
March:						
Austria	--	--	4,170	149,000	--	--
China	--	--	25,500	885,000	--	--
Czech Republic	146,000	6,290,000	--	--	--	--
Japan	--	--	478	25,600	--	--
Russia	--	--	84,800	1,540,000	--	--
South Africa	--	--	160,000	4,290,000	31,700	967,000
Total	146,000	6,290,000	275,000	6,880,000	31,700	967,000
Year to date	497,000	22,900,000	627,000	23,500,000	38,600	1,410,000
Exports:						
2005	500,000	19,100,000	247,000	5,340,000	822,000	14,500,000
2006:						
January	12,400	443,000	38,900	827,000	76,300	1,010,000
February	54,400	1,510,000	855	44,100	89,200	794,000
March:						
Australia	--	--	--	--	450	4,960
Brazil	6,000	340,000	--	--	--	--
Canada	35,500	989,000	--	--	80,300	718,000
Germany	--	--	11,300	231,000	--	--
Italy	--	--	16,200	346,000	--	--
Mexico	11,900	411,000	1,500	55,500	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	18,000	387,000	--	--
Russia	--	--	5,000	101,000	35,500	316,000
Spain	--	--	10,200	198,000	--	--
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	1,630	40,000	--	--
Total	53,300	1,740,000	63,900	1,360,000	116,000	1,040,000
Year to date	120,000	3,690,000	104,000	2,230,000	282,000	2,840,000

-- Zero.

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

²May include catalysts containing vanadium pentoxide.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF VANADIUM-BEARING ASH, SLAG¹

(Kilograms, contained vanadium pentoxide)

	Ash and residues		Ash and residues (not from the manufacture of iron and steel)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2005	4,360,000	\$9,820,000	6,850,000	\$1,100,000
2006:				
January	19,000	252,000	157,000	148,000
February	86,400	930,000	85,100	88,300
March:				
Canada	--	--	107,000	96,400
Mexico	22,700	263,000	--	--
Total	22,700	263,000	107,000	96,400
Year to date	128,000	1,450,000	349,000	333,000

-- Zero.

¹Data 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 MISCELLANEOUS VANADIUM CHEMICALS¹

(Kilograms, contained vanadium)

	Sulfates		Vanadates	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2005	35,000	\$77,000	91,700	\$2,800,000
2006:				
January	--	--	17,600	365,000
February	--	--	15,100	547,000
March:				
Japan	--	--	71	9,630
South Africa	--	--	12,500	375,000
Total	--	--	12,600	384,000
Year to date	--	--	45,300	1,300,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.