

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

William E. Brooks, Silver Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7791, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: wbrooks@usgs.gov

Wanda G. Wooten (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-4980
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: wwooten@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

SILVER IN JUNE 2007

U.S. mines produced 107,000 kilograms (kg) of silver in June, a 3% decrease compared with revised May production of 110,000 kg, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The daily production rate of silver in June was 3,570 kg, and was only slightly higher than the revised May rate of 3,550 kg and 14% more than the 2006 annual daily production rate of 3,120 kg. Silver production in the United States in June increased by about 17% compared with June 2006 production of 91,600 kg.

Englehard Industries' silver price peaked at \$13.79 per troy ounce on June 4 and averaged \$13.16 per troy ounce in June, a minor decrease from the average May price of \$13.20 per troy ounce, and was a 22% increase compared with the average June 2006 price of \$10.83 per troy ounce.

Apex Silver Mines Corporation (Denver, CO) reported that construction activities, initial production, and sales are on schedule for third quarter 2007 from its San Cristobal project in Bolivia. As of the end of May, 2,500,000 metric tons (t) of sulfide ore had been stockpiled and 100,000 t of ore had been crushed and stockpiled ahead of the mill (Apex Silver Mines Corporation, 2007).

Hochschild Mining, PLC (London, United Kingdom) indicated that it had started production at its San Jose mine in southern Argentina. The company expected the mine to produce 1,870 kg of gold and 109,000 kg of silver over the next 12

months. Production was also expected from the company's Pallancata Mine in Peru and the Mina Morisin project in Mexico in the third quarter of 2007 (Reuters, 2007).

One of the world's biggest porphyry copper/silver deposits, Toromocho, at an altitude of 4,700 to 4,900 meters in the Peruvian Andes, has been bought from Peru Copper Inc. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) by the Aluminum Corporation of China (Chalco), (Beijing, China) which is one of China's leading diversified mining and metals companies. Recent ore reserve calculations reportedly indicate 1.375 billion metric tons of ore grading 0.51% copper, 7.06 grams per ton silver and 0.018% molybdenum (Williams, 2007).

References Cited

- Apex Silver Mines Corporation, 2007, Apex Silver mines announces San Cristobal project update: Denver, CO, Apex Silver Mines Corporation press release, June 7. (Accessed July 17, 2007, via <http://www.apexsilver.com>.)
- Reuters, 2007, Hochschild starts Argentina mine production: London, United Kingdom, Reuters, June 26. (Accessed June 26, 2007, via <http://investing.reuters.co.uk>.)
- Williams, Lawrence, 2007, Peruvian mega copper-moly-silver project snapped up by the Chinese: London, United Kingdom, Mineweb, June 11. (Accessed June 18, 2007, via <http://mineweb.co.za>.)

TABLE 1
MINE PRODUCTION OF RECOVERABLE
SILVER IN THE UNITED STATES¹

	Kilograms
2006: ^p	
June	91,600
July	95,800
August	99,400
September	100,000
October	100,000
November	97,700
December	98,300
January-December	<u>1,140,000</u>
2007:	
January	98,800
February	92,100
March	109,000
April	94,900 ^r
May	110,000 ^r
June	107,000
January-June	<u>612,000</u>

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

TABLE 2
SILVER PRICES

(Dollars per troy ounce)

<u>Engelhard Industries:</u>	
<u>2006:</u>	
Low/date	8.85 Jan. 5 and 18
High/date	14.89 May 11
Average	11.61
<u>2007:</u>	
<u>May:</u>	
Low/date	12.85/17
High/date	13.58/7
Average	13.20
<u>June:</u>	
Low/date	12.36/24
High/date	13.79/4
Average	13.16
<u>Year to date:</u>	
Low/date	12.32 Jan. 10
High/date	14.69 Feb. 26
Average	13.37
<u>Handy and Harman:</u>	
2006, Average	11.57
<u>2007:</u>	
May	13.25
June	13.15
Year to date	13.35
<u>London Final:¹</u>	
2006, Average	11.57
<u>2007:</u>	
May	13.15
June	13.14
Year to date	13.33

¹Reported as "London Spot/US Equiv."

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SILVER, BY COUNTRY¹

Period and country	Bullion		Doré		Ores and concentrates ²		Ash and residues		Total	
	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2006	4,280,000	\$1,520,000	286,000	\$134,000	--	--	4,800	\$1,110	4,570,000	\$1,660,000
2007:										
March	399,000	172,000	66,000	24,900	--	--	617	130	466,000	197,000
April	347,000	151,000	43,700	19,100	--	--	266	63	391,000	170,000
May:										
Australia	10,200	4,110	--	--	--	--	--	--	10,200	4,110
Canada	81,000 ³	33,800	--	--	--	--	--	--	81,000	33,800
Chile	--	--	2 ³	8	--	--	--	--	2	8
Colombia	--	--	778	325	--	--	--	--	778	325
Honduras	--	--	52	22	--	--	--	--	52	22
Israel	--	--	--	--	231	99	--	--	231	99
Mexico	195,000	83,700	--	--	--	--	--	--	195,000	83,700
Panama	--	--	38 ³	10	--	--	--	--	38	10
Peru	61,000	26,100	44,200	18,100	--	--	--	--	105,000	44,100
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	--	600	141	600	141
Total	347,000	148,000	45,000	18,400	231	99	600	141	393,000	166,000
Year to date	1,810,000	772,000	192,000	61,800	231	99	3,460	775	2,010,000	854,000

4 -- Zero.

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

²Includes silver content of base metal ores and concentrates.

³All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SILVER, BY COUNTRY¹

Period and country	Other unwrought silver (gross weight)		Metal powder (gross weight)		Silver nitrate (gross weight)		Semimanufactured forms ² (gross weight)		Waste and scrap (gross weight)	
	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2006	259,000	\$91,300	30,700	\$5,690	1,260	\$255	194,000	\$71,500	2,510,000	\$275,000
2007:										
March	47,000	9,290	2,680	425	310	71	46,200	14,000	327,000	34,000
April	24,700	10,800	5,160	892	--	--	41,100	14,500	337,000	39,000
May:										
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,660	593
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,420	544	11	332
Canada	2,440 ³	1,090	22 ³	11	--	--	1,270 ³	550	121,000	17,400
China	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30,100	479
Dominican Republic	--	--	2 ³	4	--	--	--	--	30	104
Germany	--	--	641 ³	144	--	--	5,250	2,660	94	1,070
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12	229
India	27	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	20,500	103
Israel	1 ³	2	753 ³	128	--	--	--	--	1	23
Italy	16 ³	17	--	--	--	--	453 ³	50	221	4,120
Jamaica	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	966	10
Japan	--	--	557 ³	98	--	--	--	--	465	13,500
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	69,000	1,240
Mexico	9,350	3,980	29 ³	5	--	--	7,350 ³	150	87,500	4,100
Netherlands	--	--	364 ³	22	--	--	--	--	--	--
Norway	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	132
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	31,800	14,000	2	40
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8,430	283
Poland	609 ³	110	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	525	793
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	--	16,200	6,940	133	9
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	817	5
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	5	5 ³	2 ³	3	16,300	1,660
Other	--	--	5 ³	3	--	--	--	--	187	141
Total	12,400	5,220	2,370	415	5	5	63,800	24,900	358,000	46,300
Year to date	115,000	39,200	15,900	2,640	317	73	155,000	57,200	1,270,000	167,000

-- Zero.

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

²Containing 99.5% or more by weight of silver.

³All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF SILVER¹

Period and country	Bullion		Doré		Ores and concentrates ²		Total	
	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2006	1,500,000	\$586,000	85,400	\$33,600	3,150	\$4,040	1,580,000	\$624,000
2007:								
March	38,300	17,100	5,020	2,160	2,730	1,620 [†]	46,000	20,900
April	5,220	2,380	5,980	2,620	888	152	12,100	5,150
May:								
Brazil	61 [‡]	12	--	--	--	--	61	12
Canada	387 [‡]	99	--	--	--	--	387	99
Colombia	--	--	--	--	6 [‡]	5	6	5
Dominican Republic	95 [‡]	17	--	--	136	65	231	82
Germany	4,390	2,200	--	--	930	405	5,320	2,610
Netherlands	31	14	--	--	--	--	31	14
Norway	--	--	313 [‡]	93	--	--	313	93
Singapore	--	--	284	105	--	--	284	105
Spain	--	--	128	45	--	--	128	45
Switzerland	--	--	2,960	1,280	--	--	2,960	1,280
Total	4,960	2,340	3,680	1,530	1,070	152	9,720	4,340
Year to date	77,200	34,200	28,700	12,400	6,710	3,130	113,000	49,700

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

²Includes silver content of base metal ores and concentrates.

³All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF SILVER¹

Period and country	Other unwrought silver (gross weight)		Metal powder (gross weight)		Silver nitrate (gross weight)		Semimanufactured forms ² (gross weight)		Waste and scrap (gross weight)	
	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2006	85,600	\$30,800	1,460,000	\$255,000	62,300	\$6,450	526,000	\$91,200	4,890,000	\$1,140,000
2007:										
March	14,600	4,110	153,000	26,700	5,860	283	61,400	10,600	494,000	181,000
April	7,700	2,900	116,000	19,800	3,580	344	49,300	9,080	476,000	178,000
May:										
Belgium	--	--	1,670 ³	286	--	--	--	--	8,910	10,000
Canada	1,280 ³	581	4,580 ³	779	4,820 ³	273	8,680 ³	1,510	22,900	22,100
China	26	13	4,290 ³	735	30	11	142 ³	30	13,700	12,400
Costa Rica	134 ³	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,440 ³	244	--	--
France	97 ³	20	5,640 ³	958	--	--	1,240 ³	221	--	--
Germany	--	--	21,200 ³	3,840	2 ³	3	6,290 ³	1,190	13,500	29,200
Hong Kong	678	278	10,600 ³	1,810	--	--	1,230 ³	210	135	675
India	1,400 ³	237	--	--	--	--	46 ³	11	--	--
Italy	11 ³	3	--	--	--	--	469 ³	81	78,200	31,200
Jamaica	--	--	504 ³	86	--	--	--	--	--	--
Japan	35 ³	19	22,600 ³	3,960	--	--	345 ³	59	811	11,700
Korea, Republic of	23 ³	13	22,600 ³	3,850	--	--	221 ³	37	2,400	5,530
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	645 ³	110	6	30
Mexico	270 ³	70	2,300 ³	391	36 ³	17	8,300 ³	1,470	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	2,560 ³	435	--	--	--	--	127	636
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	11 ³	3	450	2,250
Singapore	--	--	468 ³	80	--	--	702 ³	117	--	--
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	25 ³	4	135	675
Spain	117	54	5	3	--	--	157 ³	27	--	--
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	468	2,340
Switzerland	49 ³	11	136 ³	23	--	--	286 ³	52	883	14,300
Taiwan	--	--	31,700 ³	7,300	--	--	1,590 ³	289	--	--
Thailand	495	108	3,700 ³	629	--	--	420 ³	75	--	--
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	--	--	314 ³	53	--	--
United Kingdom	--	--	7,820 ³	1,340	--	--	972 ³	176	4,890	44,800
Uruguay	2,180	923	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	59	296
Other	184 ³	81	12 ³	9	--	--	558 ³	97	111	45
Total	6,980	2,430	142,000	26,500	4,890	304	34,100	6,060	148,000	188,000
Year to date	39,900	13,900	734,000	128,000	29,800	3,520	222,000	39,400	2,000,000	810,000

-- Zero.

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

²Containing 99.5% or more by weight of silver.

³All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.