

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2008

Consumption of primary antimony in the second quarter of 2008 was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be slightly lower than that in the first quarter of 2008 and 13% higher than that in the second quarter of 2007. During the first 5 months of 2008, antimony imports totaled 12,600 metric tons (t) compared with a total of 11,400 t for the comparable period of 2007. During the first 5 months of 2008, China was the leading supplier of antimony metal and antimony oxide to the United States.

Antimony prices remained fairly steady during the second quarter of 2008. The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for antimony metal started the second quarter in the range of \$2.64 to \$2.69 per pound and finished the second quarter at \$2.91 to \$2.96 per pound.

In China, Hsikwangshan Twinkling Star Co., Ltd. (Lengshuijiang City, Hunan Province), the world's leading antimony producer, announced that it planned to shutter its southern smelter owing to the high power consumption and tight supply of raw materials. The firm estimated the production capacity of its southern smelter at about 12,000 metric tons per year (t/yr). To make up for that, the capacity of the northern smelter was raised to 17,000 t/yr (Beijing Antiake Information Development Co., Ltd., 2008).

Reports indicate that there are a number of factors restricting antimony production in China. Rivers in southern China have been dry because of droughts in late winter, impeding the transportation of material. Also, Government authorities implemented measures ahead of the Summer Olympic Games that affected antimony production. Among the Government's initiatives has been a crackdown on pollution levels, which restricted production at some plants (American Metal Market, 2008).

Update

On August 21, 2008, the Platts Metals Week price for antimony was \$2.99 to \$3.05 per pound.

References Cited

- American Metal Market, 2008, Antimony tops \$6,000 mark on Chinese supply worries: American Metal Market, v. 116, no. 16-1, April 21, p. 9.
Beijing Antaika Information Development Co., Ltd., 2008, Hsikwangshan closes an antimony smelter: China Metal Market— Precious & Minor Metals Monthly, no. 97, April, p. 10.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2007 ^p	2008	
		First quarter	Second quarter
Production:			
Primary smelter	--	--	--
Secondary	W	W	W
Imports for consumption:	27,800	6,920 ^r	5,700 ²
Ore and concentrate	226	54 ^r	40 ²
Metal	5,920	1,960 ^r	1,610 ²
Oxide ³	21,700	4,900 ^r	4,050 ²
Exports:	3,900	899 ^r	1,100 ²
Metal, alloys, and scrap (gross weight)	725	226 ^r	196 ²
Oxide ³	3,170	673 ^r	900 ²
Consumption of primary antimony	9,110 ^r	2,590 ^r	2,570
Price: Average cents per pound ⁴	257.25	266.87	283.95
Stocks, end of period ⁵	2,040	2,090	2,100

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

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

²Data for April and May only; June data were not available at time of publication.

³Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

⁴Source: Platts Metals Week. New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

⁵Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY
IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2008 ²	
	First quarter	Second quarter
Oxide	1,610	1,630
Other ³	484	469
Total	2,090	2,100

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

²Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and respondents who held 48% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 2006.

³Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY^{1,2}

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2007 ^p	2008	
		First quarter ^r	Second quarter
Oxide	7,770 ^r	2,200	2,240
Other ³	1,340	395	324
Total	9,110 ^r	2,590	2,570

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Estimated 100% coverage based quarterly respondents and respondents who consumed 72% of the total antimony in 2006.

³Includes ores and concentrates, metal, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF MATERIAL
PRODUCED¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2007 ^P	2008	
		First quarter	Second quarter
Metal ²	W	W	W
Nonmetal ³	W	W	W
Flame-retardants:			
Plastics	457 ^r	44	64
Other ⁴	389 ^r	196	207
Total	846 ^r	240	271
Reported consumption	2,540 ^r	729	703
Total consumption ⁵	9,110 ^r	2,590	2,570

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Reported consumption."

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

²Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

³Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, bearing metals and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

⁴Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.

⁵Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and respondents who consumed 72% of the total antimony in 2006.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2007 ^P	2008				January- May ²
		First quarter	March	April	May	
Ore and concentrate:						
Bolivia	139	34	23	20	--	54
Other	87	20	--	20	--	40
Total	226	54	23	40	--	95
Metal:						
China	3,770	1,560	581	906	279	2,740
Mexico	648	269	126	193	109	571
Peru	419	75	--	40	41	156
Other	1,080	60	18	--	39	100
Total	5,920	1,960	725	1,140	468	3,570
Oxide: ³						
Belgium	1,700	567	146	149	212	927
China	11,600	2,490	651	1,020	1,030	4,540
Mexico	7,970	1,710	531	834	759	3,300
Other	349	136	66	23	23	182
Total	21,700	4,900	1,390	2,020	2,030	8,950
Grand total	27,800	6,920	2,140	3,200	2,490	12,600
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	24	--	--	9	--	9

^PPreliminary. -- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to prior months data.

³Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.