

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 MAY 2007

U.S. mines produced 101,000 kilograms (kg) of silver in May, a 6% increase compared with April production of 95,700 kg, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The daily production rate of silver in May was 3,270 kg, 2% higher than the April rate of 3,190 kg and 4% more than the 2006 annual daily production rate of 3,120 kg. Silver production in the United States in May increased by about 10% compared with May 2006 production of 90,900 kg.

Englehard Industries' silver price peaked at \$13.58 per troy ounce on May 7 and averaged \$13.20 per troy ounce in May, a 4% decrease from the average April price of \$13.78 per troy ounce, and almost the same as the average May 2006 price of \$13.51 per troy ounce.

Apex Silver Mines Ltd. (Denver, CO) reported a preliminary net income of \$112 million for the first quarter 2007 compared to a loss of \$174 million for the first quarter 2006. Construction at the San Cristobal project, southwestern Bolivia, is nearing completion. Crushing, conveying, grinding, and flotation circuits are being tested, and the first sale of concentrates was expected in the third quarter of 2007 (Apex Silver Mines Ltd., 2007).

Esperanza Silver Corporation (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) announced drill results from its joint-venture San Luis

property in central Peru. In one drill hole, SL-064, on the Ayelen vein, an 8-meter interval averaged 21.1 grams per ton (g/t) gold and 628.2 g/t silver. Silver Standard Resources Inc. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) holds 55% interest in the San Luis property, and Esperanza holds 45% interest (Esperanza Silver Corporation, 2007).

Analysts said that exchange traded-funds (ETFs) have the potential to absorb a large part of the above-ground silver supply, making silver ETFs more attractive. Since 1999, silver prices have risen from between \$4.00 and \$6.00 per troy ounce, and since 2006, silver has sold in a broad range from \$9.00 to \$15.00 per troy ounce (Prakash, 2007).

References Cited

- Apex Silver Mines Ltd., 2007, Apex Silver reports on first quarter 2007 results: Denver, CO, Apex Silver Mines Ltd. press release, May 7. (Accessed June 27, 2007, via <http://www.apexsilver.com>.)
- Esperanza Silver Corporation, 2007, Silver Standard and Esperanza extend San Luis' high-grade to depth: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Esperanza Silver Corporation news release, May 14. (Accessed July 17, 2007, via <http://www.esperanzasilver.com>.)
- Prakash, Atul, 2007, Silver to shine on investor's interest, ETFs: Reuters, June 7. (Accessed June 7, 2007, via <http://www.reuters.com>.)

TABLE 1
MINE PRODUCTION OF RECOVERABLE
SILVER IN THE UNITED STATES¹

	Kilograms
2006:^p	
May	90,900
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	95,700
May	101,000
January-May	<u>497,000</u>

^pPreliminary.

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>	
2006:	
Low/date	8.85 Jan. 5 and 18
High/date	14.89 May 11
Average	11.61
2007:	
April:	
Low/date	13.07/2
High/date	14.06/17
Average	13.78
May:	
Low/date	12.85/17
High/date	13.58/7
Average	13.20
Year to date:	
Low/date	12.32 Jan. 10
High/date	14.69 Feb. 26
Average	13.42
<u>Handy and Harman:</u>	
2006, Average	11.57
2007:	
April	13.73
May	13.25
Year to date	13.39
<u>London Final:¹</u>	
2006, Average	11.57
2007:	
April	13.73
May	13.15
Year to date	13.36

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:										
February	334,000	143,000	18,000	8,920	--	--	1,670	373	354,000	153,000
March	399,000	172,000	66,000	24,900	--	--	617	130	466,000	197,000
April:										
Australia	6,420	2,750	--	--	--	--	--	--	6,420	2,750
Canada	72,300	31,800	--	--	--	--	--	--	72,300	31,800
Chile	3,000	1,280	11,000	5,330	--	--	--	--	14,000	6,610
Guatemala	--	--	2,290	1,130	--	--	--	--	2,290	1,130
Honduras	--	--	39	19	--	--	--	--	39	19
Mexico	234,000	101,000	8,880 ³	7,460	--	--	--	--	243,000	109,000
Peru	32,000	13,500	21,600 ³	5,120	--	--	--	--	53,500	18,600
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	--	266	63	266	63
Total	347,000	151,000	43,700	19,100	--	--	266	63	391,000	170,000
Year to date	1,460,000	625,000	147,000	61,800	--	--	2,860	634	1,610,000	687,000

-- 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:										
February	41,800	18,600	4,600	806	7	2	33,700	14,600	313,000	34,000
March	47,000	9,290	2,680 ^r	425 ^r	310	71	46,200	14,000	327,000	34,000
April:										
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	375
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,490	2,350	31	493
Canada	5,030 ³	2,240	279 ³	38	--	--	1,290	571	49,000	7,640
China	--	--	6 ³	4	--	--	--	--	20,600	293
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,230	57
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9,520	462
Dominican Republic	--	--	2 ³	4	--	--	--	--	55 ³	182
Ecuador	--	--	--	--	--	--	305	134	--	--
Germany	32 ³	6	2,850 ³	492	--	--	21 ³	5	617	8,910
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13	235
Israel	--	--	282 ³	48	--	--	--	--	13,600	97
Italy	1 ³	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	239	4,450
Japan	--	--	642 ³	117	--	--	--	--	38,700	5,050
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	74,400	673
Mexico	18,700	8,270	176 ³	30	--	--	7,300 ³	167	64,000	3,940
New Zealand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35	650
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	110	37
Peru	320	136	--	--	--	--	26,700	11,300	--	--
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23,900	641
Poland	552 ³	99	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35	647
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4,370	787
United Kingdom	--	--	745 ³	127	--	--	--	--	36,400 ³	3,290
Other	22 ³	4	183 ³	32	--	--	4 ³	2	5	44
Total	24,700	10,800	5,160	892	--	--	41,100	14,500	337,000	39,000
Year to date	115,000	39,200	15,900	2,640	317	73	155,000	57,200	1,270,000	167,000

^rRevised. -- 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:								
February	10,000	4,650	4,370	1,940	1,050	458	15,400	7,050
March	38,300	17,100	5,020	2,160 ^r	2,730	1,630 ^r	46,000	20,900
April:								
Australia	472 ³	85	--	--	375 ³	68	847	153
Belgium	--	--	--	--	8 ³	3	8	3
Canada	203 ³	54	24 ³	6	11 ³	3	237	63
Germany	4,440 ³	2,210	--	--	--	--	4,440	2,210
Ireland	--	--	--	--	130 ³	23	130	23
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	20	8	20	8
Mexico	65 ³	12	--	--	--	--	65	12
Morocco	47 ³	14	--	--	--	--	47	14
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	344 ³	48	344	48
Switzerland	--	--	5,960	2,610	--	--	5,960	2,610
Total	5,220	2,380	5,980	2,620	888	152	12,100	5,150
Year to date	72,300	31,800	25,000	10,900	5,630	2,650	103,000	45,400

^rRevised. -- 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:										
February	5,870	2,410	165,000	28,100	11,000	1,650	37,900	6,810	467,000	136,000
March	14,600	4,110	153,000	26,700	5,860	283 ^r	61,400	10,600	494,000	181,000
April:										
Belgium	--	--	1,100 ³	187	--	--	3,120 ³	1,040	85,800	15,600
Canada	2,770 ³	1,240	4,290 ³	729	2,800 ³	133	5,840 ³	999	124,000	19,400
China	2 ³	5	4,420 ³	751	--	--	165 ³	34	72,000	9,370
Dominican Republic	70 ³	22	--	--	--	--	154 ³	26	--	--
France	476 ³	104	6,870 ³	1,170	--	--	1,230 ³	226	--	--
Germany	--	--	19,000 ³	3,230	69 ³	13	1,030 ³	175	66,900	31,300
Hong Kong	580 ³	245	4,400 ³	747	--	--	2,630 ³	447	1,470	197
India	749 ³	143	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	--	150 ³	26	--	--
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	125 ³	21	55,400	12,200
Japan	--	--	22,200 ³	3,780	--	--	152 ³	26	725	8,910
Korea, Republic of	20 ³	4	18,100 ³	3,080	40 ³	4	73 ³	12	13,900	2,150
Lebanon	--	--	317 ³	54	--	--	--	--	--	--
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	206 ³	35	468	106
Mexico	80 ³	24	19	8	534 ³	168	30,300 ³	5,290	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	400 ³	78	--	--	--	--	--	--
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11,500	1,500
Singapore	--	--	2,320 ³	399	--	--	722 ³	127	--	--
Sweden	--	--	--	--	44	4	--	--	12,600	1,640
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	--	254 ³	47	1,900	30,800
Taiwan	--	--	23,300 ³	3,960	38 ³	7	76 ³	13	1,060	221
Thailand	718 ³	112	1,300 ³	221	--	--	1,260 ³	214	--	--
United Kingdom	16 ³	4	8,290 ³	1,460	16	8	1,620 ³	284	25,000	44,200
Uruguay	2,180	983	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,620	341
Other	40 ³	9	20 ³	5	39 ³	8	190 ³	32	111	30
Total	7,700	2,900	116,000	19,800	3,580	344	49,300	9,080	476,000	178,000
Year to date	32,900	11,400	592,000	102,000	24,900	3,210	188,000	33,300	1,850,000	622,000

^rRevised. -- 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.