

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2008

Consumption of primary antimony in the fourth quarter of 2008 was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be 17% lower than that in the third quarter of 2008 and 25% lower than that in the fourth quarter of 2007. Imports of antimony products in the first 11 months of 2008 were 5% higher than those in the comparable period of 2007.

Antimony prices declined during the fourth quarter of 2008. The antimony price was \$3.05 per pound at the beginning of October and declined steadily during the quarter to end December at \$1.93 per pound. The average price of antimony in the fourth quarter of 2008 was \$2.69 per pound, compared with \$2.98 per pound in the third quarter of 2008, and \$2.64 in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Silverado Gold Mines Ltd. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada), an exploration-stage enterprise, announced continuing promising results at its Nolan Creek gold-antimony prospect in

Alaska. Silverado's drilling program's goal is to increase probable reserves on the Workman's Bench part of the property. Currently, the company has found 42,000 metric tons (t) of ore grading 28% antimony or almost 12,000 t of antimony metal content (Silverado Gold Mines, Ltd., 2009).

Update

On April 20, 2009, the Platts Metals Week price for antimony was \$1.90 per pound.

Reference Cited

Silverado Gold Mines Ltd., 2009, Silverado's Nolan property in early breakup: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Silverado Gold Mines Ltd. press release, April 22, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2007	2008				Total
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
Production:						
Primary smelter	--	--	--	--	--	--
Secondary	W	W	W	W	W	W
Imports for consumption:	27,800	6,920	7,710	7,650 ^r	4,760 ²	27,000 ³
Ore and concentrate	226	54	42	25 ^r	43 ²	163 ³
Metal	5,920	1,960	2,180	1,320 ^r	1,150 ²	6,600 ³
Oxide ⁴	21,700	4,900	5,490	6,300 ^r	3,580 ²	20,300 ³
Exports:	3,900	899	1,480	1,650 ^r	583 ²	4,610 ³
Metal, alloys, and scrap (gross weight)	725	226	290	444 ^r	219 ²	1,180 ³
Oxide ⁴	3,170	673	1,190	1,210 ^r	364 ²	3,440 ³
Consumption of primary antimony	9,590 ^r	2,370 ^r	2,160 ^r	1,890 ^r	1,560	7,980
Price: Average cents per pound ⁵	257.25	266.87	283.95	298.10	269.23	279.54
Stocks, end of period ⁶	1,900	1,860 ^r	1,840 ^r	1,840 ^r	951	XX

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Data for October and November only; December data were not available at time of publication.

³Data for January - November only; December data were not available at time of publication.

⁴Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

⁵Source: Platts Metals Week. New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

⁶Producer 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	Third quarter ^r	Fourth quarter
Oxide	1,460	1,450	1,440	549
Other ³	403 ^r	390 ^r	398	402
Total	1,860 ^r	1,840 ^r	1,840	951

^rRevised.

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 52% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 2007.

³Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

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

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2007	2008				Total
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter ^r	Fourth quarter	
Oxide	8,160	2,290	2,080	1,810	1,490	7,670
Other ³	1,430 ^r	80 ^r	79 ^r	81	69	309
Total	9,590 ^r	2,370 ^r	2,160 ^r	1,890	1,560	7,980

^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 2007.

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	2008				Total
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
Metal ²	2,620	W	W	W	W	W
Nonmetal ³	3,500	W	W	W	W	W
Flame-retardants:						
Plastics	2,710	44	64	41	41	190
Other ⁴	870	196	143	125	20	485
Total	3,580	240	207	166	62	675
Reported consumption	9,590	729	642	581 ^r	441	2,390
Total consumption ⁵	XX	2,370 ^r	2,160 ^r	1,890 ^r	1,560	7,980

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Reported consumption." XX Not applicable.

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

²Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, bearing metals and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

³Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.

⁴Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

⁵Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and respondents who consumed 72% of the total antimony in 2007.

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

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2007	2008					
		January - June	September	Third quarter ²	October	November	January - November ²
Ore and concentrate:							
Bolivia	139	54	--	11	11	11	87
China	55	40	14	14	--	20	74
Other	32 ^r	2	--	--	--	--	2
Total	226	96	14	25	11	31	163
Metal:							
China	3,770	3,110	121	873	381	501	4,860
Mexico	648	587	10	67	8	161	823
Peru	419	249	36	111	18	36	414
Other	1,080	196	115	269	38	--	503
Total	5,920	4,140	282	1,320	446	698	6,600
Oxide: ³							
Belgium	1,700	1,090	92	338	58	70	1,550
China	11,600	5,080	934	3,630	888	1,390	11,000
Mexico	7,970	4,000	515	2,190	688	418	7,290
Other	349	228	35	142	13	49	432
Total	21,700	10,400	1,580	6,300	1,650	1,930	20,300
Grand total	27,800	14,600	1,870	7,640	2,100	2,660	27,000
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	24	9	--	5	--	--	14

^rRevised. -- 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.