

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2017

Imports of antimony products were 6,520 metric tons (t) in the fourth quarter of 2017, a 15% increase from those in the previous quarter and slightly more than those in the fourth quarter of 2016 (table 1). In 2017, 24,800 t of antimony products were imported, a 6% increase from those during the same period of 2016. Antimony oxide accounted for most of antimony imports during 2017, and the leading suppliers to the United States were, in descending order of quantity, China, Thailand, and Belgium (fig. 1, table 2). China accounted for 57% of imports of antimony metal (including alloys, waste and scrap) in the fourth quarter (table 2). Exports of antimony products during the fourth quarter of 2017 were 6% less than those in the preceding quarter (table 1) and 35% more than those in the fourth quarter of 2016. In 2017, exports were about 17% more than those in 2016.

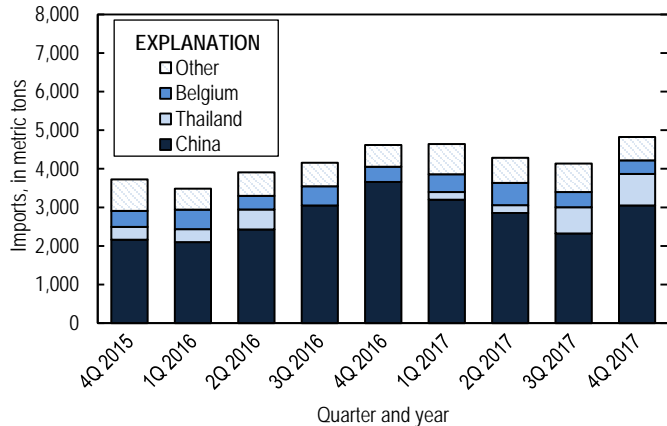


Figure 1. U.S. imports of antimony oxide from the fourth quarter of 2015 through the fourth quarter of 2017. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

The average quarterly Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for antimony metal was \$3.87 in the fourth quarter of 2017, 4% less than that in the previous quarter and 7% less than that in the fourth quarter of 2016 (fig. 2, table 1). Average yearend price for antimony metal in 2017 was \$3.98, 19% more than that at the yearend in 2016.

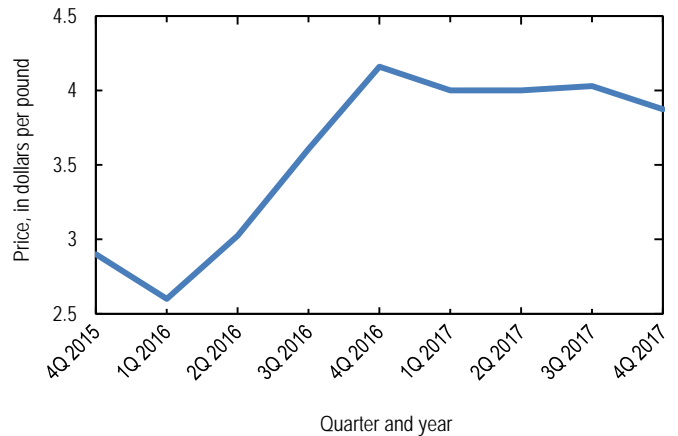


Figure 2. Average quarterly New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% antimony metal from the fourth quarter of 2015 through the fourth quarter of 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

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NOTICE

The U.S. Geological Survey plans to discontinue this quarterly Mineral Industry Surveys report after this issue. The last published report will be Antimony in the Fourth Quarter 2017. Information on this mineral commodity will still be available on an annual basis in the antimony chapters of the Mineral Commodity Summaries and the Minerals Yearbook, Volume I, Metals and Minerals. Prior to the proposed discontinuation date, please direct any comments or concerns to Elizabeth Sangine, Chief, Mineral Commodities Section, escottsangine@usgs.gov.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2017					
	2016	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Imports for consumption:						
Ore and concentrate	119	33	11	12	6	62
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap (gross weight)	7,130	1,640	1,970	1,520	1,700	6,830
Oxide ²	16,200	4,640	4,280	4,130	4,820	17,900
Total	23,400	6,320	6,270	5,660	6,520	24,800
Exports:						
Ore and concentrate (gross weight)	12	7	6	8	24	45
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap (do.)	623	149	113	260	131	653
Oxide ²	1,330	240	449	423	492	1,600
Total	1,960	396	568	691	647	2,300
Price, average, cents per pound ³	334.79	400.00	400.00	403.00	387.33	397.58
Do., do. Ditto.						

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

²Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

³Source: Platts Metals Week. New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

Class and country	2016	2017						January– December
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	October	November	December	
Ore and concentrate:								
Italy	113	30	5	4	--	2	--	41
Other	6	3	6	8	--	4	--	21
Total	119	33	11	12	--	6	--	62
Metal, alloys, waste and scrap (gross weight):								
Bolivia	52	56	22	16	35	--	13	142
China	4,390	670	1,120	834	437	203	331	3,600
India	901	338	285	326	111	148	176	1,380
Korea, Republic of	156	39	75	59	17	20	20	229
Mexico	582	57	69	5	--	--	2	132
United Kingdom	387	132	134	73	52	38	3	432
Vietnam	579	348	147	101	21	--	--	617
Other	84	6	122	103	--	40	28	299
Total	7,130	1,640	1,970	1,520	673	448	573	6,830
Oxide:²								
Belgium	1,750	458	576	392	146	117	93	1,780
Bolivia	904	299	199	299	133	33	116	1,080
China	11,200	3,200	2,860	2,320	896	870	1,280	11,400
France	277	110	84	142	--	16	32	384
Japan	563	227	96	83	64	5	8	483
Mexico	543	111	244	206	64	62	69	756
Thailand	847	199	201	681	415	299	100	1,900
Other	45	40	28	7	--	--	4	79
Total	16,200	4,640	4,280	4,130	1,720	1,400	1,700	17,900
Grand total	23,400	6,320	6,270	5,660	2,390	1,860	2,280	24,800
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	30	8	4	18	1	36	--	67

-- Zero.

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

²Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.