

GOLD

(Data in metric tons¹ of gold content unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: In 2017, domestic gold mine production was estimated to be about 245 tons, 10% more than that in 2016, and the value was estimated to be about \$9.9 billion. Gold was produced at more than 40 lode mines, at several large placer mines in Alaska, and numerous smaller placer mines (mostly in Alaska and in the Western States). About 6% of domestic gold was recovered as a byproduct of processing domestic base-metal ores, chiefly copper ores. The top 26 operations yielded more than 99% of the mined gold produced in the United States. Commercial-grade gold was produced at about 15 refineries. A few dozen companies, out of several thousand companies and artisans, dominated the fabrication of gold into commercial products. U.S. jewelry manufacturing was heavily concentrated in the New York, NY, and Providence, RI, areas, with lesser concentrations in California, Florida, and Texas. Estimated domestic uses (excluding gold bullion bar) were jewelry, 38%; electrical and electronics, 34%; official coins, 22%; and other, 6%.

Salient Statistics—United States:	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017^e
Production:					
Mine	230	210	214	222	245
Refinery:					
Primary	223	253	248	248	250
Secondary (new and old scrap)	210	135	124	123	120
Imports for consumption ²	315	308	265	374	240
Exports ²	686	492	478	393	480
Consumption, reported	160	152	165	171	170
Stocks, yearend, Treasury ³	8,140	8,140	8,140	8,140	8,140
Price, dollars per troy ounce ⁴	1,415	1,269	1,163	1,252	1,260
Employment, mine and mill, number ⁵	12,500	12,000	11,900	11,900	12,000
Net import reliance ⁶ as a percentage of apparent consumption	E	E	E	E	E

Recycling: In 2017, an estimated 120 tons of new and old scrap was recycled, about 70% of reported industrial consumption. The domestic supply of gold from recycling decreased slightly compared with 2016.

Import Sources (2013–16):² Canada, 23%; Mexico, 23%; Colombia, 12%; Peru, 11%; and other, 31%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12–31–17
Precious metal ore and concentrates	2616.10.0000	0.8¢/kg on lead content.
Precious metal ore and concentrates	2616.90.0000	1.7¢/kg on lead content.
Gold bullion	7108.12.1010	Free.
Gold dore	7108.12.1020	Free.

Depletion Allowance: 15% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).

Government Stockpile: The U.S. Department of the Treasury maintains stocks of gold (see salient statistics above), and the U.S. Department of Defense administers a Governmentwide secondary precious-metals recovery program.

Events, Trends, and Issues: The estimated gold price in 2017 was slightly more than the price in 2016 and was 25% lower than the record-high annual price in 2012. The Engelhard daily price of gold in 2017 fluctuated through several cycles. The gold price began the year at the lowest level of the year and trended upward through the end of May before decreasing in June and part of July. The price then increased to the year-to-date high (and projected annual high) of \$1,351.44 per troy ounce on September 8, because of geopolitical tension in North Korea which spurred investors to purchase more gold. The price trended downward for the rest of September and into early October but was relatively flat for rest of October and November.

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The 10% increase in domestic mine production in 2017 was attributed to increases in production from the Cortez Mine in Nevada and the Cresson Mine in Colorado, owing to increased average ore grades and ore placement and recoveries, respectively, and to the recent startup of two new mines. The Haile Mine in South Carolina opened in January 2017 and was the first gold mine east of the Mississippi River since 1999. The Long Canyon Mine in Nevada started up in late 2016. In 2017, worldwide gold production was estimated to have increased slightly from that in 2016. New mine production in Australia and Canada more than offset decreased gold mine production in China owing to increased environmental regulations.

In the first 9 months of 2017, domestic consumption of gold used in the production of coins and bars decreased by more than 50%; however, gold consumption for jewelry increased slightly owing to improved economic conditions. Globally, gold consumption by the jewelry industry increased slightly and for gold coins and bars increased by 13% compared with that in the first 9 months of 2016 because of increased consumption of these items in China and Turkey. However, investments in gold-based exchange-traded funds (ETFs) were significantly lower in the United States and the world during the same period.

World Mine Production and Reserves: Reserves for Australia, Canada, Ghana, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russia, and Uzbekistan were revised based on Government or industry reports.

	Mine production		Reserves ⁷
	2016	2017 ^e	
United States	222	245	3,000
Australia	290	300	⁸ 9,800
Brazil	85	85	2,400
Canada	165	180	2,200
China	453	440	2,000
Ghana	79	80	1,000
Indonesia	80	80	2,500
Kazakhstan	69	70	1,000
Mexico	111	110	1,400
Papua New Guinea	62	60	1,300
Peru	153	155	2,300
Russia	253	255	5,500
South Africa	145	145	6,000
Uzbekistan	102	100	1,800
Other countries	840	845	12,000
World total (rounded)	3,110	3,150	54,000

World Resources: An assessment of U.S. gold resources indicated 33,000 tons of gold in identified (15,000 tons) and undiscovered (18,000 tons) resources.⁹ Nearly one-quarter of the gold in undiscovered resources was estimated to be contained in porphyry copper deposits. The gold resources in the United States, however, are only a small portion of global gold resources.

Substitutes: Base metals clad with gold alloys are widely used in electrical and electronic products, and in jewelry to economize on gold; many of these products are continually redesigned to maintain high-utility standards with lower gold content. Generally, palladium, platinum, and silver may substitute for gold.

^eEstimated. E Net exporter.

¹One metric ton (1,000 kilograms) = 32,150.7 troy ounces.

²Refined bullion, dore, ores, concentrates, and precipitates. Excludes: Waste and scrap, official monetary gold, gold in fabricated items, gold in coins, and net bullion flow (in tons) to market from foreign stocks at the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

³Includes gold in Exchange Stabilization Fund. Stocks were valued at the official price of \$42.22 per troy ounce.

⁴Engelhard's average gold price quotation for the year. In 2017, the price was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey based on data from January through October.

⁵Data from Mine Safety and Health Administration.

⁶Defined as imports – exports.

⁷See [Appendix C](#) for resource and reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.

⁸For Australia, Joint Ore Reserves Committee-compliant reserves were about 3,800 tons.

⁹U.S. Geological Survey National Mineral Resource Assessment Team, 2000, 1998 assessment of undiscovered deposits of gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc in the United States: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1178, 21 p.