

Mineral Industry Surveys

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COBALT IN AUGUST 2010

Preliminary data indicate that U.S. cobalt consumption during January through August 2010 was 4% higher than consumption during the first 8 months of 2009, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. imports of cobalt metals and chemicals was 60% higher during January through July 2010 than that during the same period in 2009. The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. exports of unwrought cobalt and chemicals during January through July 2010 was 13% higher than that exported during the same period in 2009.

London Metal Exchange stocks are included in table 3.

Prices

Prices for cobalt metal, in dollars per pound, in August 2010 are listed below.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Price range</u>	<u>Average price</u>
U.S. spot ¹	18.00-21.50	19.59
LME cash mean ²	XX	17.43

XX Not applicable.

¹Source: Platts Metals Week, minimum 99.8% cobalt cathode.

²London Metal Exchange, mean of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price, minimum 99.3% cobalt briquettes, cathode, ingot, or rounds (converted from dollars per metric ton and rounded to the nearest cent).

TABLE 1
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF COBALT MATERIALS¹

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	Metal ²	Oxide and other chemical compounds ³	Scrap	Total
2009:				
August	251	176	145	573
September	264	177	151	592
October	254	172	156	583
November	245	172	156	574
December	243	168	157	568
January-August	2,070 ^r	1,380 ^r	1,160	4,610 ^r
January-December ⁴	3,070	2,070	1,780	6,930
2010:				
January	270	170	156	597
February	290	170	148	608
March	291	171	159	622
April	284	170	156	610
May	247	176	160	583
June	268	178	159	605
July	250	168	159	577
August	241	171	159	572
January-August ⁴	2,140	1,380	1,260	4,770

^rRevised.

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

²Includes metal powder.

³Data may include other cobalt materials.

⁴Data based on monthly reports.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF COBALT, BY END USE¹

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

End use	2009		2010	
	January- August	January- December ²	August	January- August ³
Steel	333 ^r	499	48	384
Superalloys	2,110	3,180	254	2,230
Magnetic alloys	173 ^r	259	21	170
Other alloys ⁴	W	W	W	W
Cemented carbides ⁵	396 ^r	593	49	396
Chemical and ceramic uses ⁶	1,420 ^r	2,130	176	1,420
Miscellaneous and unspecified	180	270	22	180
Total	4,610 ^r	6,930	572	4,770

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Miscellaneous and unspecified."

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

²Data based on monthly reports.

³May include revisions to prior months.

⁴Includes nonferrous alloys, welding materials, and wear-resistant alloys.

⁵Includes diamond tool matrices, cemented and sintered carbides, and cast carbide dies or parts.

⁶Includes catalysts, driers in paints or related usages, feed or nutritive additives, glass decolorizer, ground coat frit, pigments and other uses.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED STOCKS OF COBALT MATERIALS ¹

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	U.S. Industry ²				U.S. Government, metal ⁶	LME ³ , metal		
	Metal ⁴	Oxide and other chemical compounds ⁵	Scrap	Total		U.S.	Non-U.S.	Total
						warehouse	warehouse	
2009:								
August	298	155	103	556	310	XX	XX	XX
September	279	152	91	522	304	XX	XX	XX
October	266	156	84	506	304	XX	XX	XX
November	262	159	68	489	295	XX	XX	XX
December ⁷	255	161	66	482	293	XX	XX	XX
2010:								
January	261	176	57	494	293	XX	XX	XX
February	270	172	66	507	293	--	--	--
March	313	167	65	545	301	--	--	--
April	313	173	62	548	301	--	38	38
May	306	166	60	532	301	--	113	113
June	296	161	60	516	301	20	132	152
July	282	159	60	501	301	25	163	188
August	284	176	60	519	301	50	162	212

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Stocks reported by cobalt processors and consumers.

³London Metal Exchange.

⁴Includes metal powder.

⁵Data may include other cobalt materials.

⁶Data from Defense Logistics Agency, DLA Strategic Materials (formerly Defense National Stockpile Center); uncommitted material only

⁷Data based on monthly reports.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF COBALT BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period and country of origin	Metals ²		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds ³		Total cobalt content for the period ⁵	Cobalt content, year to date ^{5, 6}
	Quantity	Value ⁴	Quantity	Value ⁴	Quantity	Value ⁴		
		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)		
2009:								
July	473	\$15,100	153	\$3,840	120	\$1,370	622	4,230
August	491	17,900	135	3,600	191	2,160	648	4,880
September	544	20,800	92	2,460	174	2,160	671	5,550
October	592	18,200	139	3,030	237	3,590	782	6,330
November	371	13,800	167	4,660	215	2,640	563	6,890
December	610	23,000	118	3,860	269	3,280	785	7,680
January-July	3,270	104,000	811	19,900	1,040	13,500	4,230	XX
January-December	5,870	198,000	1,460	37,500	2,130	27,300	7,680	XX
2010:								
January	661	26,100	174	5,050	332	3,220	882	882
February	1,050	39,500	97	2,610	394	3,610	1,240	2,130
March	606	27,500	168	4,640	513	5,640	902	3,030
April	836	32,300	159	4,650	304	2,250	1,040	4,070
May	726	31,800	260	7,790	273	3,490	1,000	5,070
June	504	23,100	155	4,900	172	2,130	668	5,740
July:								
Australia	65	2,470	--	--	--	--	65	430
Belgium	15	455	25	942	--	--	33	317
Brazil	16	615	--	--	--	--	16	113
Canada	8	437	35	575	--	--	33	323
China	286	12,100	37	991	1	23	313	1,660
Congo (Kinshasa)	100	3,620	--	--	--	--	100	321
Finland	--	--	13	415	54	850	28	578
France	4	246	--	--	--	--	4	27
India	--	--	--	--	18	165	5	124
Japan	17	741	--	--	--	--	17	187
Morocco	30	1,160	--	--	--	--	30	125
Norway	140	5,790	--	--	--	--	140	656
Russia	125	4,620	--	--	--	--	125	1,080
South Africa	9	455	--	--	--	--	9	193
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	133
United Kingdom	--	--	18	511	14	172	16	218
Zambia	80	3,020	--	--	--	--	80	216
Other	1	72	--	--	20	195	7	55
Total	896	35,900	128	3,430	107	1,410	1,020	6,760
January-July	5,280	216,000	1,140	33,100	2,090	21,700	6,760	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Unwrought cobalt, excluding alloys; includes cobalt cathode and cobalt metal powder; may include intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy.

³Includes cobalt acetates, cobalt carbonates, cobalt chlorides, and cobalt sulfates.

⁴Customs value.

⁵Estimated from gross weights.

⁶May include revisions to prior months.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ADDITIONAL COBALT MATERIALS BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period and country of origin	Unwrought cobalt alloys		Cobalt waste and scrap		Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles	
	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)
2009:						
July	(3)	\$41	102	\$1,310	7	\$899
August	29	789	29	360	7	1,050
September	(3)	10	32	506	19	1,040
October	1	41	46	694	7	1,090
November	(3)	16	55	633	5	818
December	1	126	81	1,320	6	873
January-July	356	9,290	406	5,610	110	10,800
January-December	387	10,300	650	9,120	154	15,700
2010:						
January	1	41	96	1,470	5	771
February	23	1,130	85	1,340	10	815
March	2	128	95	1,900	47	2,800
April	20	860	46	642	12	1,180
May	1	79	79	1,080	7	1,040
June	(3)	22	83	1,340	16	1,470
July:						
Belgium	--	--	--	--	(3)	32
Canada	--	--	3	48	1	162
China	1	68	--	--	1	169
France	(3)	15	--	--	1	160
Germany	--	--	--	--	3	272
Ireland	--	--	23	378	--	--
Italy	--	--	1	15	--	--
Japan	--	--	22	353	1	184
Mexico	--	--	(3)	6	--	--
Taiwan	--	--	3	48	(3)	4
United Kingdom	21	842	10	165	9	652
Total	22	925	62	1,010	17	1,640
January-July	69	3,190	545	8,780	115	9,700

-- Zero.

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

²Customs value.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF COBALT MATERIALS¹

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period	Unwrought cobalt, powders, matte, waste and scrap ²		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds ³		Total cobalt content for the period ⁵	Cobalt content, year to date ^{5, 6}
	Quantity	Value ⁴	Quantity	Value ⁴	Quantity	Value ⁴		
		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)		
2009:								
July	118	\$4,080	24	\$746	14	\$381	139	1,440
August	195	6,500	19	622	58	1,410	222	1,660
September	135	5,220	6	90	319	2,120	216	1,880
October	182	6,930	6	158	69	2,640	203	2,080
November	171	5,500	26	676	18	170	194	2,280
December	144	5,420	8	373	57	576	163	2,440
January-July	1,290	47,700	161	3,630	138	1,450	1,440	XX
January-December	2,120	77,300	225	5,550	659	8,370	2,440	XX
2010:								
January	183	6,030	75	253	31	1,340	244	244
February	211	6,990	12	444	43	825	230	474
March	210	7,490	58	562	34	380	260	734
April	216	6,340	87	296	39	535	287	1,020
May	173	6,040	11	349	61	609	196	1,220
June	190	6,120	3	113	37	399	202	1,420
July	198	7,440	6	164	30	326	209	1,630
January-July	1,380	46,500	252	2,180	275	4,410	1,630	XX

XX Not applicable.

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

²May include other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy and unwrought cobalt alloys.

³Cobalt acetates and cobalt chlorides.

⁴Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

⁵Estimated from gross weights.

⁶May include revisions to prior months.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF WROUGHT COBALT, COBALT ORE,
AND CONCENTRATES¹

(Metric tons, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period	Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles		Cobalt ore and concentrates	
	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)	Quantity	Value ² (thousands)
2009:				
July	134	\$8,370	1,240	\$1,520
August	136	6,760	177	623
September	97	6,280	22	871
October	116	6,780	48	448
November	114	6,050	128	724
December	118	6,540	25	1,080
January-July	759	46,100	1,490	2,610
January-December	1,340	78,500	1,900	6,360
2010:				
January	141	7,440	269	2,050
February	142	7,080	890	1,900
March	147	8,090	22	263
April	162	9,490	(3)	8
May	135	8,310	20	914
June	174	9,800	135	378
July	106	6,510	226	503
January-July	1,010	56,700	1,560	6,010

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

²Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.