

Mineral Industry Surveys

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COBALT IN JULY 2016

U.S. cobalt consumption during January through July 2016 was slightly more than consumption during the same period in 2015. The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. imports of cobalt metals and chemicals in January through July 2016 was 8% less than revised imports during the same period in 2015. The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. exports of unwrought cobalt and chemicals in January through July 2016 was slightly more than revised exports during the same period in 2015.

Prices

In July, the monthly average U.S. spot cobalt price increased from that of June. The monthly average LME cash mean price increased for the third consecutive month. The following listed prices are for cobalt metal in July, in dollars per pound.

Type	Price range	Average price
U.S. spot ¹	10.85–12.50	11.54
LME cash mean ²	10.93–11.88	11.38

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

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

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TABLE 1
REPORTED CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF COBALT MATERIALS¹

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	Consumption, U.S. industry ^{p, 2}	Stocks, end of period				
		U.S. industry ^{p, 2}	U.S. Government ^{3, 4}	LME ^{3, 5}		Total
				U.S. warehouse	Non-U.S. warehouse	
2015:						
July	714	1,070	301	23	423	446
August	696	1,070	301	110	418	528
September	684	1,060	301	110	448	558
October	711	1,060	301	110	448	558
November	712	1,030	301	125	441	566
December	701	1,050	301	165	465	630
January–July	4,950 ^r	1,070 ^r	301	23	423	446
January–December ⁶	8,450	1,050	301	165	465	630
Year ⁷	8,780	1,080	301	165	465	630
2016:						
January	720	1,060	301	169	450	619
February	713	1,050	301	169	445	614
March	705	1,070	301	193	458	651
April	718	1,050	301	197	457	654
May	734	1,050	301	186	451	637
June	712	1,030	301	190	455	645
July	708	1,020	301	190	454	644
January–July	5,010	1,020	301	190	454	644

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Data for cobalt metal, metal powder, oxide and other chemical compounds, and scrap reported by U.S. cobalt processors and consumers. Includes estimates.

³Cobalt metal.

⁴Data from Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

⁵London Metal Exchange.

⁶U.S. industry data based on monthly reports.

⁷U.S. industry data include annual reports.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF COBALT, BY COUNTRY¹

Period and country of origin	Metals ²		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds ³		Total cobalt content for the period ⁵ (metric tons)	Cobalt content, year to date ^{5, 6} (metric tons)
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ⁴ (thousands)		
2015:								
July	845	\$24,900	110	\$2,590	107	\$1,110	958	7,150
August	843	25,000	144	3,440	182	1,750	1,000	8,160
September	661	19,900	154	3,620	111	982	804	8,960
October	623	17,900	149	3,340	284	1,930	811	9,770
November	650	17,500	110	2,500	259	1,400	799	10,600
December	714	17,900	112	2,410	142	1,550	841	11,400
January–July	5,800 ⁷	169,000	1,080	24,900	1,650	18,700	7,150	XX
January–December	9,290	267,000	1,750	40,200	2,630	26,300	11,400	XX
2016:								
January	612	14,200	100	1,980	104	1,340	720	720
February	1,050	23,100	171	3,010	106	1,160	1,210	1,930
March	720	17,500	173	3,260	170	1,860	903	2,830
April	701	18,400	190	3,680	194	1,790	899	3,730
May	643	15,500	145	2,790	347	3,390	857	4,590
June	920	22,100	147	2,750	221	2,270	1,100	5,690
July:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	290
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Belgium	3	116	47	1,030	37	216	47	258
Brazil	14	278	--	--	1	18	15	29
Canada	92	2,250	9	270	--	--	98	751
China	32	916	(7)	5	37	546	46	418
Finland	34	858	11	208	117	1,060	78	579
France	3	136	--	--	--	--	3	23
Germany	16	852	--	--	--	--	16	58
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Ireland	(7)	3	--	--	--	--	(7)	(7)
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(7)
Japan	206	4,620	--	--	--	--	206	972
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Kuwait	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Macao	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Madagascar	42	942	--	--	--	--	42	627
Morocco	20	452	--	--	--	--	20	182
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	18	19	5	10
New Caledonia	8	64	--	--	--	--	8	18
Norway	215	5,590	--	--	--	--	215	1,170
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Russia	55	1,140	--	--	--	--	55	436
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Slovakia	--	--	--	--	27	96	7	13
South Africa	18	286	--	--	--	--	18	134
Taiwan	--	--	(7)	4	--	--	(7)	2
United Kingdom	9	389	39	786	4	35	38	293
Zambia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	280
Total	767	18,900	106	2,310	241	1,990	918	6,600
January–July	5,410	130,000	1,030	19,800	1,380	13,800	6,600	XX

¹Revised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Unwrought cobalt, excluding alloys; includes cobalt cathode and cobalt metal powder; may include intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy.

⁴Includes cobalt acetates, cobalt carbonates, cobalt chlorides, and cobalt sulfates.

⁵Customs value.

⁶Estimated from gross weights.

⁷May include revisions to previously published data.

⁸Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ADDITIONAL COBALT MATERIALS, BY COUNTRY¹

Period and country of origin	Unwrought cobalt alloys		Cobalt waste and scrap		Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousands)
2015:						
July	37	\$1,360	80	\$1,190	22	\$2,180
August	102	3,490	82	1,410	13	1,380
September	108	3,920	66	873	24	1,850
October	95	2,960	53	903	11	1,390
November	95	2,980	58	1,020	20	2,040
December	236	5,990	59	940	24	1,450
January–July	613	20,300	494	6,950	120	13,700 ^r
January–December	1,250	39,700	812	12,100	211	21,800
2016:						
January	82	2,600	43	698	10	1,590
February	109	3,460	58	793	13	1,550
March	91	2,750	82	1,150	11	1,440
April	67	2,080	43	619	9	1,540
May	75	2,860	64	896	7	1,310
June	78	2,090	77	1,090	15	2,150
July:						
Australia	5	98	--	--	--	--
Austria	(3)	3	--	--	2	83
Belgium	16	426	8	299	1	27
Canada	18	407	--	--	2	644
China	(3)	19	--	--	(3)	125
France	--	--	2	20	--	--
Germany	--	--	10	153	(3)	194
India	--	--	--	--	(3)	14
Ireland	--	--	32	516	1	78
Japan	(3)	3	16	131	1	130
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	10	--	--
Mexico	--	--	(3)	5	(3)	22
Singapore	--	--	2	32	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(3)	9
Taiwan	--	--	3	64	--	--
United Kingdom	31	1,410	1	6	(3)	36
Total	70	2,360	74	1,230	6	1,360
January–July	574	18,200	440	6,490	71	10,900

^rRevised. -- 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 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF COBALT MATERIALS¹

Period	Unwrought cobalt, powders, matte, waste and scrap ²		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds ³		Total cobalt content for the period ⁵ (metric tons)	Cobalt content, year to date ^{5, 6} (metric tons)
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ⁴ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ⁴ (thousands)		
2015:								
July	295	\$6,810	32	\$584	6	\$30	319	\$2,370
August	295	5,870	8	334	--	--	300	2,670
September	262	5,480	1	28	29	182	269	2,940
October	224	5,190	15	354	26	189	241	3,180
November	315	5,830	1	57	4	16	317	3,500
December	322	7,020	--	--	19	150	327	3,830
January–July	2,230 ^r	57,600 ^r	167	1,910	103	862	2,370 ^r	XX
January–December	3,640	87,000	192	2,690	180	1,400	3,830	XX
2016:								
January	305	5,930	7	118	10	43	312	312
February	336	6,600	4	45	33	107	347	659
March	289	6,850	72	236	19	132	345	1,000
April	399	7,530	2	51	29	130	408	1,410
May	317	7,170	4	39	75	371	337	1,750
June	303	6,100	10	214	68	356	327	2,080
July	311	5,570	--	--	--	--	311	2,390
January–July	2,260	45,800	99	703	234	1,140	2,390	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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 previously published data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF WROUGHT COBALT, COBALT ORE,
AND CONCENTRATES¹

Period	Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles		Cobalt ore and concentrates	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousands)
2015:				
July	170	\$9,540	3	\$18
August	176	9,840	--	--
September	166	9,080	--	--
October	144	8,880	--	--
November	122	7,460	1	11
December	143	7,730	--	--
January–July	1,130	65,400 ^r	4	24
January–December	1,890	108,000	6	35
2016:				
January	117	6,880	--	--
February	128	7,360	--	--
March	163	9,110	--	--
April	140	8,190	--	--
May	109	8,370	--	--
June	137	9,970	--	--
July	106	7,830	(3)	4
January–July	901	57,700	(3)	4

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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.