



Mineral Industry Surveys

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COBALT IN JUNE 2018

The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. imports of cobalt metals and chemicals in January through June 2018 was 13% more than that imported during the same period in 2017 (table 2). The amount of cobalt contained in U.S. exports of unwrought cobalt and chemicals in January through June 2018 was 71% more than that exported during the same period in 2017 (table 4).

Prices

In June, the monthly average Platts Metals Week U.S. spot cobalt price was \$41.75 per pound, 5% less than that in May

2018 but 51% higher than that in June 2017. The monthly average London Metal Exchange, Ltd. cash price was \$37.02 per pound, 10% less than that in May 2018 but 42% higher than that in June 2017.

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TABLE 1
REPORTED CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF COBALT MATERIALS[§]

(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	
2017:						
June	731	929	301	193	548	741
July	728	939	301	191	503	694
August	732	966	302	191	553	744
September	731	978	302	183	622	805
October	724	985	302	167	583	750
November	701	977	302	163	562	725
December	705	996	302	160	420	580
January–June	4,390 *	929	301	193	548	741
January–December ⁶	8,710	996	302	160	420	580
2018:						
January	717	1,000	302	159	385	544
February	697	1,010	302	159	360	519
March	746	962	302	141	397	538
April	742	934	302	141	446	587
May	NA	NA	302	139	471	610
June	NA	NA	302	135	501	636
January–June	NA	NA	302	135	501	636

^pPreliminary. NA Not available.

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.

*Correction posted on February 7, 2019.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF COBALT, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

Period and country or locality 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)		
2017:								
June	977	\$50,300	106	\$3,930	316	\$3,750	1,160	6,160
July	756	39,400	141	5,540	175	2,770	917	7,080
August	569	31,300	202	8,180	297	3,660	800	7,880
September	788	45,300	139	5,970	234	2,500	963	8,840
October	875	51,900	104	4,670	187	2,730	1,000	9,850
November	1,090	63,800	250	10,900	187	3,450	1,340	11,200
December	507	28,300	201	9,330	218	3,430	723	11,900
January–June	4,940 ^r	205,000 ^r	1,080	32,000	1,400	15,600	6,160 ^r	XX
January–December	9,530	465,000	2,120	76,600	2,690	34,200	11,900	XX
2018:								
January	1,150	70,900	135	6,220	345	4,790	1,350	1,350
February	902	62,500	176	9,700	271	2,970	1,110	2,470
March	782	47,500	304	17,000	933	6,980	1,280	3,750
April	922	71,600	149	8,700	454	4,900	1,180	4,930
May	731	51,300	172	9,950	225	3,070	933	5,860
June:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	482
Belgium	3	341	21	1,290	--	--	18	294
Brazil	--	--	--	--	104	399	28	135
Canada	102	7,200	--	--	--	--	102	915
China	116	10,900	18	1,370	25	506	139	825
Finland	35	3,030	28	1,660	648	4,100	243	999
France	(7)	15	--	--	--	--	(7)	8
Germany	3	205	--	--	--	--	3	22
Hong Kong	21	2,010	--	--	--	--	21	46
Japan	166	13,200	--	--	--	--	166	1,070
Madagascar	63	6,040	--	--	--	--	63	294
Morocco	10	931	--	--	--	--	10	120
Netherlands	--	--	5	365	--	--	4	4
Norway	217	8,720	--	--	--	--	217	1,130
Russia	21	1,970	--	--	--	--	21	144
South Africa	8	60	--	--	--	--	8	164
Taiwan	--	--	10	422	--	--	7	14
United Kingdom	1	33	40	2,520	49	262	42	281
Other	1	48	--	--	6	132	4	7
Total	767	54,700	122	7,620	832	5,400	1,100	6,960
January–June	5,250	358,000	1,060	59,200	3,060	28,100	6,960	XX

^rRevised. 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 previously published data.

⁷Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ADDITIONAL COBALT MATERIALS, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

Period and country or locality 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)
2017:						
June	31	\$1,300	139	\$1,980	14	\$2,650
July	12	530	153	2,820	6	1,570
August	12	484	102	1,580	24	2,510
September	24	1,140	119	1,750	20	2,680
October	45	2,110	181	2,790	13	2,780
November	27	1,260	103	1,100	20	3,040
December	50	2,270	124	2,060	15	2,750
January–June	247	10,700	766 ^r	11,200 ^r	110 ^r	15,100
January–December	418	18,400	1,550	23,300	208	30,500
2018:						
January	42	2,040	198	3,090	19	3,330
February	63	3,230	161	2,780	22	2,870
March	38	2,070	258	3,650	41	4,760
April	45	2,550	164	3,760	21	2,600
May	85	4,150	207	3,190	51	4,850
June:						
Austria	--	--	--	--	(3)	3
Belgium	1	99	5	215	1	58
Canada	1	100	9	130	3	1,210
China	--	--	4	51	(3)	114
France	1	97	8	320	4	588
Germany	--	--	21	418	1	253
Ireland	(3)	3	57	368	(3)	134
Israel	--	--	--	--	(3)	10
Japan	(3)	14	9	180	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	(3)	12
Mexico	--	--	6	44	(3)	11
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(3)	4
Norway	5	209	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(3)	14
Taiwan	--	--	3	116	(3)	22
Tunisia	(3)	3	13	105	(3)	9
United Kingdom	30	1,950	77	1,910	14	906
Total	38	2,480	212	3,860	24	3,350
January–June	311	16,500	1,200	20,300	178	21,800

^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)		
2017:								
June	398	\$7,530	5	\$139	19	\$281	406	2,640
July	486	9,650	9	313	4	66	494	3,130
August	347	8,490	4	138	19	277	354	3,480
September	368	10,100	13	576	19	20	382	3,870
October	485	13,600	7	235	19	281	494	4,360
November	841	11,200	4	169	20	295	849	5,210
December	507	11,600	11	507	19	330	520	5,730
January–June	2,500	52,500	152	1,150	104	1,240	2,640	XX
January–December	5,540	117,000	200	3,090	205	2,510	5,730	XX
2018:								
January	308	8,990	1	58	19	280	314	314
February	973	11,800	19	353	16	276	991	1,300
March	1,310	17,700	4	190	--	--	1,310	2,610
April	530	16,200	5	290	38	555	543	3,160
May	990	22,000	7	412	21	833	1,000	4,160
June	336	12,000	5	180	1	12	340	4,500
January–June	4,440	88,700	42	1,480	95	1,960	4,500	XX

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)
2017:				
June	104	\$8,610	--	--
July	79	7,860	1	\$5
August	115	9,010	6	30
September	98	9,000	1	5
October	107	8,340	--	--
November	85	10,200	--	--
December	94	10,400	3	7
January-June	608	47,400	242	993
January-December	1,190	102,000	253	1,040
2018:				
January	98	9,690	--	--
February	99	10,100	(3)	4
March	88	10,700	--	--
April	70	6,970	(3)	3
May	69	8,500	--	--
June	109	11,800	2	83
January-June	533	57,800	3	89

-- 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.