

Mineral Industry Surveys

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COBALT IN FEBRUARY 2001

U.S. consumption of cobalt in January through February 2001 was approximately the same as that during the first 2 months of 2000, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The cobalt content of U.S. imports of cobalt metal and chemicals was 15% lower in January 2001 than that of imports during December 2000. The cobalt content of U.S. exports of unwrought cobalt and chemicals was 7% lower in January 2001 than that of December 2000. Trade data for February 2001 will be available in a subsequent issue.

Note

With the exception of prices, all data in this report have been rounded to no more than three significant digits. Totals and percentages were calculated by using unrounded data.

Price

Prices for electrolytic cobalt, in dollars per pound, from Platts Metals Week are listed below.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Price range</u>
March 22	13.00-14.00
March 29	13.50-14.00
April 5	12.75-13.75

<u>Month</u>	<u>Average price</u>
March	14.15

TABLE 1
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF COBALT MATERIALS 1/

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	Metal 2/	Oxide and other chemical compounds 3/	Scrap	Total
2000:				
February	272	149	220	641
March	283	158	233	674
April	304	161	226	691
May	299	166	225	689
June	272	157	226	655
July	290	149	216	654
August	280	137	221	638
September	285	147	217	649
October	288	153	224	666
November	306	151	223	680
December	290	144	219	653
January-December 4/	3,460	1,850	2,680	7,980
2001:				
January	288	142 r/	219	649 r/
February	296	145	219	660
January-February	584	287	438	1,310

r/ Revised.

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

2/ Includes metal powder.

3/ Data may include other cobalt materials.

4/ Data based on monthly reports.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF COBALT, BY END USE 1/

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

End use	2000		2001	
	January- February	January- December 2/	February	January- February 3/
Steel	28	137	18	33
Superalloys	579 r/	3,580	291	578
Magnetic alloys	122 r/	752	65	128
Other alloys 4/	W	W	W	W
Cemented carbides 5/	128 r/	771	67	134
Chemical and ceramic uses 6/	423 r/	2,450	195	387
Miscellaneous and unspecified	48 r/	290	24	48
Total	1,330 r/	7,980	660	1,310

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Miscellaneous and unspecified."

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

2/ Data based on monthly reports.

3/ May include revisions to prior months.

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

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

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

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

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	Industry 2/			Total	U.S. Government, metal 5/
	Metal 3/	Oxide and other chemical compounds 4/	Scrap		
2000:					
February	332	207	172	712	12,700
March	381	204	160	745	12,100
April	375	207	150	732	12,100
May	339	209	156	704	12,100
June	335	212	150	697	11,700
July	388	220	155	762	11,700
August	348	190	157	695	11,600
September	372	224	159	755	11,100
October	363	206	171	740	11,100
November	368	207	168	742	10,200
December 6/	362	215	166	743	10,200
2001:					
January	345 r/	199 r/	165	709 r/	10,200
February	343	200	164	707	9,810

r/ Revised.

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

2/ Stocks reported by cobalt processors and consumers.

3/ Includes metal powder.

4/ Data may include other cobalt materials.

5/ Data from Defense National Stockpile Center. Includes material committed for sale pending shipment.

6/ Data based on monthly reports.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF COBALT, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, 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 month 5/	Cobalt content, year to date 5/ 6/
	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/		
2000:								
January	467,000	\$13,400,000	178,000	\$4,240,000	384,000	\$2,490,000	697,000	697,000
February	592,000	17,200,000	109,000	2,700,000	213,000	1,380,000	728,000	1,420,000
March	450,000 7/	12,400,000 7/	206,000	4,960,000	90,100	605,000	622,000	2,050,000
April	571,000	16,500,000	61,500	1,560,000	21,000	128,000	621,000	2,670,000
May	656,000 7/	20,700,000 7/	122,000	3,010,000	18,100	145,000	749,000	3,420,000
June	624,000 7/	18,100,000 7/	136,000	3,610,000	164,000	1,140,000	766,000	4,180,000
July	390,000 7/	11,400,000 7/	121,000	2,990,000	102,000	675,000	505,000	4,690,000
August	476,000 7/	13,800,000 7/	111,000	2,450,000	179,000	1,160,000	603,000	5,290,000
September	892,000	25,800,000	105,000	2,500,000	77,400	459,000	987,000	6,280,000
October	677,000 7/	19,800,000 7/	98,100	2,170,000	168,000	988,000	792,000	7,070,000
November	558,000 7/	15,800,000 7/	125,000	2,920,000	83,500 7/	544,000 7/	670,000	7,740,000
December	689,000	18,600,000	140,000	3,310,000	211,000	1,320,000	847,000	8,590,000
January-December	7,040,000	204,000,000	1,510,000	36,400,000	1,710,000	11,000,000	8,590,000	XX
2001:								
January:								
Belgium	43,900	1,230,000	52,400	1,790,000	--	--	81,600	81,600
Brazil	26,000	642,000	--	--	--	--	26,000	26,000
Canada	88,200	2,570,000	--	--	--	--	88,200	88,200
China	--	--	--	--	3,000	25,500	750	750
Congo (Kinshasa)	30,000	731,000	--	--	--	--	30,000	30,000
Finland	110,000	3,540,000	110,000	1,990,000	76,200	419,000	210,000	210,000
France	250	20,900	2,200	120,000	--	--	1,830	1,830
Germany	8,960	351,000	6,040	121,000	--	--	13,300	13,300
India	--	--	--	--	100	2,270	27	27
Japan	879	52,100	--	--	--	--	879	879
Morocco	20,000	454,000	--	--	--	--	20,000	20,000
Norway	53,100	1,310,000	--	--	--	--	53,100	53,100
Russia	128,000	3,440,000	--	--	--	--	128,000	128,000
South Africa	20,000	471,000	--	--	--	--	20,000	20,000
Switzerland	76	2,110	--	--	--	--	76	76
United Kingdom	--	--	14,300	370,000	1,100	10,200	10,600	10,600
Zambia	33,000	758,000	--	--	--	--	33,000	33,000
Total	563,000	15,600,000	185,000	4,400,000	80,400	457,000	717,000	717,000

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

2/ Unwrought cobalt, excluding alloys; includes cobalt cathode and cobalt metal powder.

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

4/ Customs value.

5/ Estimated from gross weights.

6/ May include revisions to prior months.

7/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, with adjustments by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ADDITIONAL COBALT MATERIALS, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period and country of origin	Unwrought cobalt alloys		Other cobalt: matte, waste and scrap 2/		Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles	
	Quantity	Value 3/	Quantity	Value 3/	Quantity	Value 3/
2000:						
January	11,300	\$349,000	28,200	\$386,000	36,800	\$1,960,000
February	26,900	640,000	52,300 4/	1,500,000 4/	24,100	1,030,000
March	9,010	399,000	87,100 4/	1,710,000 4/	22,500	1,200,000
April	4,010	132,000	148,000 4/	2,390,000 4/	23,600	1,340,000
May	22,900	562,000	57,900 4/	1,260,000 4/	17,900	1,120,000
June	66,300	1,700,000	71,600 4/	1,770,000 4/	19,200	1,430,000
July	5,290	137,000	55,000 4/	1,620,000 4/	29,500	1,160,000
August	2,600	85,700	52,200 4/	1,090,000 4/	16,600	1,030,000
September	12,000	359,000	83,000 4/	1,660,000 4/	17,500	1,390,000
October	7,490	211,000	96,300 4/	2,180,000 4/	43,400	1,440,000
November	14,000	472,000	58,400 4/	1,720,000 4/	21,500 4/	1,210,000 4/
December	6,270	141,000	40,500 4/	986,000 4/	17,100	1,100,000
January-December	188,000	5,190,000	831,000	18,300,000	290,000	15,400,000
2001:						
January:						
Belgium	--	--	834 4/	97,300 4/	285	14,800
Canada	--	--	--	--	1,390	233,000
Finland	--	--	2,100 4/	51,300 4/	--	--
France	--	--	3,580 4/	283,000 4/	5,220	320,000
Germany	--	--	90 4/	4,250 4/	4,570	111,000
Japan	--	--	24,800 4/	1,160,000 4/	3,050	199,000
Luxembourg	--	--	500 4/	21,600 4/	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	89,300	223,000	--	--
Sweden	636	13,300	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	57 4/	13,000 4/	--	--
United Kingdom	1,560	53,200	683 4/	29,200 4/	12,900	690,000
Total	2,200	66,500	122,000	1,880,000	27,500	1,570,000

-- Zero.

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

2/ Includes other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy; may include other cobalt-bearing materials from which cobalt is extracted, or from which cobalt-containing chemical compounds are manufactured.

3/ Customs value.

4/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, with adjustments by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF COBALT MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, 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 month 5/	Cobalt content, year to date 5/ 6/
	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/		
2000:								
January	79,000	\$3,180,000	92,400	\$1,070,000	39,300	\$343,000	155,000	155,000
February	93,700	3,650,000	23,600	484,000	35,100	326,000	119,000	274,000
March	71,900	2,440,000	143,000	1,340,000	136,000	430,000	208,000	482,000
April	123,000	5,410,000	143,000 7/	1,060,000 7/	177,000	525,000	269,000	751,000
May	132,000	5,020,000	78,600 7/	577,000 7/	29,500	289,000	195,000	946,000
June	66,000	2,770,000	111,000 7/	837,000 7/	18,000	168,000	150,000	1,100,000
July	152,000	6,580,000	138,000 7/	1,230,000 7/	23,100	219,000	257,000	1,350,000
August	191,000	5,130,000	176,000 7/	1,370,000 7/	18,400	169,000	322,000	1,680,000
September	275,000	8,090,000	201,000 7/	1,780,000 7/	58,500	242,000	434,000	2,110,000
October	65,900	2,430,000	96,900 7/	978,000 7/	46,900	451,000	147,000	2,260,000
November	106,000	4,220,000	62,200 7/	415,000 7/	12,800	146,000	154,000	2,410,000
December	165,000	5,280,000	107,000 7/	646,000 7/	81,200	346,000	261,000	2,670,000
January-December	1,520,000	54,200,000	1,370,000	11,800,000	676,000	3,650,000	2,670,000	XX
2001:								
January	93,500	3,140,000	200,000	1,540,000	26,500	263,000	244,000	244,000

XX Not applicable.

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

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

3/ Cobalt acetates and cobalt chlorides.

4/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

5/ Estimated from gross weights.

6/ Year to date may include revisions to prior months.

7/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, with adjustments by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF WROUGHT COBALT, COBALT ORE, AND CONCENTRATES 1/

(Kilograms, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period	Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles		Cobalt ore and concentrates	
	Quantity	Value 2/	Quantity	Value 2/
2000:				
January	64,300	\$2,220,000	--	--
February	104,000	2,520,000	--	--
March	72,900	3,090,000	--	--
April	116,000	2,790,000	132,000 3/	\$323,000 3/
May	49,900	2,200,000	300,000 3/	189,000 3/
June	65,300	2,940,000	34,800 3/	516,000 3/
July	59,700	2,560,000	47,800 3/	1,410,000 3/
August	147,000	5,550,000	31,100 3/	618,000 3/
September	40,300	2,630,000	--	--
October	127,000	5,910,000	91,400 3/	303,000 3/
November	66,600	3,680,000	3,610 3/	298,000 3/
December	50,200	1,650,000	54,300 3/	66,400 3/
January-December	963,000	37,800,000	695,000	3,730,000
2001:				
January	56,500	1,790,000	42,000 3/	169,000 3/

-- Zero.

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

2/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

3/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, with adjustments by the U.S. Geological Survey.