

# **Mineral Industry Surveys**

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### **PRECIOUS METALS IN JUNE 2002**

U.S. mines produced 23,000 kilograms (kg) of gold and 111,000 kg of silver in June 2002. Compared with May 2002, production of gold was up 15% in California and down 8% in Nevada; production of silver was down 22% in Nevada.

### Gold

**Domestic.**—Kinross Gold Corp., Echo Bay Mines Ltd., and TVX Gold Inc. proposed a merger of three firms that together would form the top North American gold producer and become one of the world's 10 largest gold producing companies. The new company would produce over 62,000 kg (2 million troy ounces) of gold per year at a total cash cost of less than \$200 per ounce. Boards of Kinross, TVX, and Echo Bay have recommended approval of the merger at their shareholder meetings, which are expected to be held in the third quarter (American Metal Market, 2002b).

About 40,000 gallons of dilute cyanide solution escaped from the containment area at the Denton/Rawhide gold mine located 89 kilometers (km) (55 miles) southeast of Fallon, NV. A weld on a 41-centimeter (16-inch) diameter pipeline failed, spilling process solution from a lined storage pond. The mine—which began production in 1990 and has averaged about 3,100 kg (100,000 ounces) of gold and 31,000 kg (1 million ounces) of silver annually—is slated for closure (American Metal Market, 2002a).

Higher gold prices have stimulated production in Nevada. Newmont Mining Company reopened its Mule Canyon Mine in the State; gold production resumed in April and should continue 6 to 9 months before the ore is mined out. Newmont also is preparing to mine gold at a series of small open pits in the State called the Trenton Canyon Mine. In addition, Newmont is developing major projects, such as the Leeville underground mine, in Nevada. Also in Nevada, AngloGold Ltd. has extended its ore processing from stockpiles at its Jerritt Canyon Mine (Platts Metals Week, 2002b). *International.*—The Swiss National Bank sold 11 metric tons (t) (360,000 ounces) of gold during the last 10 days of May. This brought the central bank's total gold sales to about 524 t (16.8 million ounces) of the 1,300 t (41.8 million ounces) it planned to sell of surplus reserves since the beginning of the program in May 2000 (American Metal Market, 2002c).

In Peru, opposition has arisen to the proposed Tambo Grande gold-copper mine 1,010 km (630 miles) north of Lima. Although 1,850 new jobs would be created by the new mine, many Tambo Grande residents oppose the project, claiming that the mine would force half of the town's population (18,000) from their homes. Another fear among the residents is that blasting and mining would ruin commercial mango and lime agriculture in the vicinity. Production at the mine is targeted at 7,500 t of gold and silver ore per day, with a 10,000 t-per-day copper-zinc flotation plant (American Metal Market, 2002c).

The London Bullion Market Association's gold clearing statistics rose slightly during May. Gold transfers were up about 0.5% in comparison with April, rising to 600,000 kg (19.3 million troy ounces). The number of daily transfers also rose, from 739 to 744. However, the quantity of gold transferred in May 2002 was 33% less than that of May 2001 (Platts Metals Week, 2002a).

AurionGold Ltd. advised its shareholders to reject takeover offers made by Placer Dome Inc. Placer claimed that its offer was fair and should be accepted by AurionGold's shareholders (Mining Journal, 2002).

### Silver

Toronto-based Pan American Silver Corp. began work on a project to increase production at its La Colorado silver mine in Mexico. The expansion will increase the production rate at La Colorado from 200 metric tons per day (t/d) to 800 t/d through the addition of a 600 t/d leach circuit to process oxide ore.

The existing 200 t/d mill processes sulfide ore. Pan American expects annual production to average 99,500 kg of silver at a cash operating cost of less than \$2.70 per ounce over a 13-year mine life. The enlarged La Colorado operation, which is expected to reach full production by September 2003, will increase Pan American's total output to 342 metric tons per year (t/y), although the company has already outlined plans to increase production even further to 622 t/y (Mining Journal, 2002b).

### **Platinum-Group Metals**

The Stillwater Mining Co., Columbus, MT, announced on June 7, 2002, that the issue concerning its estimates of probable ore reserves with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was resolved. The reserve issue arose in connection with the SEC's review of the company's "shelf" registration statement which was filed in December 2001. In March 2002, the SEC informed Stillwater that it believed that the company's ore reserves should be revised to better conform to the commission's interpretation of industry standards. As a result, Stillwater agreed to modify certain parameters used in determining its probable ore reserve estimate. Historically, the company vertically projected its probable ore reserves in certain ore blocks for distances up to 580 meters (m) beyond sample points. These projections were reportedly based on demonstrated ore continuity within the J-M Reef, the company's knowledge of geologic features affecting ore continuity, and reconciliation of prior ore reserves with actual mining results. The revised parameters limit ore reserve projections to 305 m beyond sample points. Based on the revised parameters, total ore reserves for the Stillwater and East Boulder Mines decreased 10% from 862,000 kg of palladium and platinum to 778,000 kg (Stillwater Mining Co., 2002).

Stillwater reported production of 10,300 kg of palladium and platinum in the first 6 months of 2002 compared with 7,680 kg in the first 6 months of 2001. Realized prices per ounce for the first half of 2002 were \$449 for palladium and \$502 for platinum, compared with \$648 and \$535, respectively, for the same period of 2001. Increased production at Stillwater was primarily the result of a 19% increase in mill throughput offset by a 6% decrease in the average combined mill head grade due to fewer high-grade stopes available for the comparable period.

When Argosy Minerals began exploring for lateritic nickel in the Musongati area of the African country of Burundi, it was seeking to increase its share of the global nickel market. Instead, it found what the company's manager of corporate development described as Africa's new platinum province. Argosy began its African exploration in 1998. However, the outbreak of intertribal hostilities in 2000 forced Argosv to put its exploration plans on hold. By April 2002, conditions had improved to the point that Argosy's technical personnel returned to Musongati and restarted work. Musongati offered Argosy the location and geologic setting for what could ultimately become a successful platinum-group-metals (PGM) project. The area reportedly has two distinct types of deposits. One consists of shallow continuous zones of PGM mineralization in an overlaying laterite profile. The second consists of disseminated sulfides hosting PGM in underlaying

complex continuous zones to more than 400 m vertical depth. Another plus for development of the project is the extensive and good-quality geological data that had been collated by the Geological Survey of Burundi along with a substantial core library. The Musongati deposit is 26 km wide and 20 km long with the primary mineralization of cobalt and nickel that also contains PGM. The target resource estimate of 20 million t at 1.42 grams per ton palladium and platinum equates to 28,400 kg of contained palladium and platinum (Australian Platinum Conference, 2002).

In June, the director of projects for Aquarius Platinum Ltd., told delegates at the second annual Australian Platinum Conference that the \$US72 million Marikana Mine was 6 months from commissioning. Marikana, 8 km east of Kroondal, is on the UG2 Reef and reportedly has a resource estimate of 103,000 kg of PGM and averages 4.4 grams per ton. Marikana is expected to produce 1,500 kg in 2003, rising to 2,900 kg by 2005; at full production the mine is expected to produce 4,670 to 4,980 kg of PGM per year.

Miniature fuel cells in a flat-pack configuration are being developed as alternatives to rechargeable batteries in cellular telephones, laptop computers and other small, portable electronic devices. The fuel cells exploit the catalytic (usually platinum-ruthenium catalysts) electrochemical oxidation of organic fuel (usually methanol) in air. Power sources based on state-of-the-art lithium-ion batteries have specific energies of no more than ~150 watt•hour/kilogram (W•h/kg) and must be recharged before using. Power sources based on the present developmental fuel cells are expected to have specific energies between 500 and 1,000 W•h/kg and can be refueled and used immediately. A typical basic flat-pack fuel cell assembly contains a single polymer electrolyte membrane that serves as multiple cells. The cathodes of all the cells are located side by side in the same plane on one side of the membrane, while the anodes of all the cells are similarly located on the other side of the membrane. The preferred anode catalyst is platinumruthenium; the preferred cathode catalyst is platinum (Electronic Design, 2002).

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#### TABLE 1

### MINE PRODUCTION OF RECOVERABLE GOLD AND SILVER IN THE UNITED STATES, BY STATE 1/

(Kilograms)

				Other	
Gold	Alaska	California	Nevada	States 2/	Total
2001:	_				
June	1,240	1,270	22,600	4,720	29,800
July	W	1,070	20,500	5,610	27,200
August	1,370	784	21,600	3,420	27,100
September	W	699	20,700	5,000	26,400
October	W	746	21,100	7,920	29,800
November	W	793	20,800	4,810	26,400
December	W	871	24,100	4,820	29,800
January-December p/	9,190	12,100	257,000	57,300	335,000
2002:					
January	W	954	17,000	4,270	22,200
February	W	797	16,800	3,990	21,600
March	W	1,000	18,600	4,430	24,000
April	- W	893	21,900	4,100	26,900
May	- W	788	19,200	3,870	23,900
June	W	907	17,700	3,690	23,900
January-June	W	5,340	111,000	24,400	141,000
				Other	
Silver	Arizona	Idaho	Nevada	States 3/	Total
2001:	_				
June	W	W	60,400	92,400	153,000
July	- W	W	43,700	87,600	131,000
August	- W	W	49,300	87,500	137,000
September	W	W	48,200	72,400	121,000
October	- W	W	36,500	79,200	116,000
November	- W	W	45,200	74,400	120,000
December	- W	W	54,400	89,100	144,000
January-December p/	W	40,600	555,000	1,010,000	1,600,000
2002:					
January	- W	W	37,300	85,500	123,000
February	- W	W	47,600	78,200	126,000
March	- W	W	48,000	89,600	138,000
April	- W	W	29,800	82,400	112,000
May	- W	W	35,700	87,200	123,000
June	- W	W	27,900	83,100	111,000
January-June	W	W	226,000	506,000	732,000

p/ Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other States."

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

2/ Includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah,

Washington, and State indicated by symbol W.

3/ Includes Alaska, California, Colorado, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and States indicated by symbol W.

#### TABLE 2 SELECTED PRECIOUS METAL PRICES

### (Dollars per troy ounce)

Engelhard Industries: 2001: Low/date High/date Average 2002: April:	257.04 April 2 294.40 September 17 272.22	4.05 November 26 4.87 January 30	419.00 November 7		
Low/date High/date Average 2002: April:	294.40 September 17		419 00 November 7		
High/date Average 2002: April:	294.40 September 17		419 00 November 7		
Average 2002: April:	•	4.97 January 20	.17.001101011001 /	319.00 November 13	
2002: April:	272.22	4.87 January 50	645.00 January 10 and 15	1,100.00 January 26	
April:			533.31	610.61	
Low/date	298.91/16	4.46/16	525.00/1	361.00/30	
High/date	310.88/29	4.72/1 and 3 561.00/18		396.00/1	
Average	303.84	4.60	542.09	372.50	
May:					
Low/date	308.77/2	4.55/2	522.00/2	350.00/31	
High/date	late 328.26/29 5.08/31 551.00/30		551.00/30	385.00/16	
Average	315.28	4.74 536.91		360.00	
June:					
Low/date	317.99/11	4.83/25	544.00/27	320.00/26	
High/date	330.66/4	5.15/4 569.00/20		358.00/4	
Average	323.07	4.92	558.50	339.20	
Year to date:					
Low/date	278.62 January 29	4.26 January 31	454.00 February 1	320.00 June 26	
High/date	330.66 June 4	5.15 June 4	569.00 June 20	439.00 January 3	
Average	302.75	4.63	516.89	373.19	
Handy and Harman:					
2001, Average	271.06	4.39	XX	XX	
2002:					
April	302.68	4.61	XX	XX	
May	314.08	4.74	XX	XX	
June	321.81	4.92	XX	XX	
Average year to date	301.58	4.63	XX	XX	
London Final: 1/					
2001, Average	270.99	4.37	XX	XX	
2002:					
April	302.68	4.57	XX	XX	
May	314.49	4.71	XX	XX	
June	321.18	4.89	XX	XX	
Average year to date	301.57	4.61	XX	XX	

XX Not applicable. 1/ Silver price reported as "London Spot/US Equiv."

Source: Platts Metals Week.

# TABLE 3 U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD 1/

### (Kilograms of gold content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Ores and concentrates 2/	Doré and precipitates	Refined bullion 3/	Ash and residues	Total 4/	Waste and scrap (gross weight)	Metal powder (gross weight)	Gold compounds (gross weight)
Imports for consumption:		Proprint				(8	(8	(8:000
2001	- 1,260	31,100	161,000	193	194,000	26,400	9,450	1,960
2002:		51,100	101,000	175	19 1,000	20,100	,	1,000
March	- 9	1,980	13,400		15,300	449	1,850	19
April	275	2,430	17,800		20,500	808	355	44
May:		2						
Brazil			1,440		1,440			
Canada			19,100		19,100	120	4	
Chile			450		450			
Colombia		356	151		507		182	
Dominican Republic						586		
Germany							1	4,800 5/
Honduras		637			637		374	
Japan								517 5/
Mexico		60	117		177	161		
Nicaragua		284			284			
Peru		713	2		715			
Other	- 6	45	277		328	155	1	
Total	6	2,100	21,500		23,600	1,020	562	5,320
Year to date	- 291	11,200	74,500		85,900	5,110	6,490	5,490
Exports:		,	,		,	,	,	,
2001	- 361	93,900	395,000		489,000	40,100	11,600	492,000
2002:	_	ŕ	,		ŕ	,	,	,
March	- 117	4,250	15,600		20,000	702 1	r/ 1,310	3,670
April	- 38	8,640	9,920		18,600	1,290	1,690	51,500
May:	_							
Armenia							21	
Belgium						3,420		
Cambodia						49		1,100 5/
Canada		3	53		56	1,010 5	5/ 17	19,300 5/
Dominican Republic	- 44		5		49			9,710 5/
France								298 5/
Hong Kong						1	2	1,810 5/
Ireland								379 5/
Israel			1		1		1	4,300
Japan		1			1		(6/) 5	
Mexico			560		560	1	1,200	
Peru			438		438		101	
Singapore								8,240 5/
Switzerland		5,550	7,150		12,700		226	
United Kingdom			1,920		1,920	1,680	20	5,110 5/
Other			291		291	79		
Total	44	5,550	10,400		16,000	6,230	1,590	50,400
Year to date	256	23,900	65,400		89,500	9,890	7,810	145,000

-- Zero.

 $1/\operatorname{Data}$  are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes gold content of base metal ores, concentrates, and matte imported for refining.

3/ Bullion also moves in both directions between U.S. markets and foreign stocks on deposit in the Federal Reserve Bank. Monetary gold excluded.

4/ "Waste and scrap," "Metal powder," and "Gold compounds" not included in "Total."

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

6/ Less than 1/2 unit.

# TABLE 4 U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF SILVER 1/

#### (Kilograms of silver content, unless otherwise specified)

						Other			Semimanu-	
			Ores			unwrought	Metal	Silver	factured	Waste
			and	Ash and		silver	powder	nitrate	form 3/	and scrap
Period and country	Bullion	Doré	concentrates 2/	residues	Total	(gross weight)				
2001	2,940,000	151,000	7,550	38,000	3,130,000	249,000	24,200	26,000	153,000	1,110,000
2002:										
March	326,000			7,760	326,000	17,500	2,460		18,400	34,500
April	417,000		182	5,640	422,000	10,400	249	23	22,800	45,700
May:										
Australia										247
Austria									110 4	
Brazil									11,000	2
Canada	164,000 4/		295	1,620	166,000	935	104		1,010 4	25,500
Chile	9,000				9,000					1
China										524
Colombia	420	309			729					
Dominican Republic										165
France		(5/)			(5/)	13			199 4	
Germany							351	9 4	/ 729 4/	/ 110
Hong Kong	20,000				20,000					
India									350	
Italy	9	32			41	(5/) 4	/		441 4	35,100
Japan							35		322 4	
Korea, Republic of									1,910	
Malaysia										5,980
Mexico	165,000			1,200	166,000	17,000			148	2,240
Panama	97				97					45
Peru	25,100				25,100		182			
Philippines										67
Portugal										7,830
South Africa										18,600
United Kingdom				6,500	6,500				1 4	41,200
Other				204	204				94	
Total	383,000	341	295		393,000	18,000	672	9	16,200	138,000
Year to date	1,810,000	1,080	2,670	32,200	1,840,000	70,200	3,560	32	97,300	264,000

r/ Revised. -- Zero.

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

2/ Includes silver content of base metal ores and concentrates.

3/ Containing 99.5% or more by weight of silver.

4 All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification. 5/ Less than 1/2 unit.

# TABLE 5U.S. EXPORTS OF SILVER 1/

#### (Kilograms of silver content, unless otherwise specified)

			Ores		Other unwrought silver	Metal powder	Silver nitrate	Semimanu- factured form 3/	Waste and scrap
Period and country	Bullion	Doré	concentrates 2/	Total	(gross weight)	(gross weight)	(gross weight)	(gross weight)	(gross weight)
2001	707,000	18,200	239,000	963,000	48,800	187,000	143,000	203,000	1,810,000
2002:	- ///	10,200	200,000	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	10,000	107,000	115,000	200,000	1,010,000
March	- 75,900	1,590	583	78,100	5,330	17,400	4,570	19,500	225,000
April	- 56,900	2,100	17,900	76,900	5,460 1		7,520	18,000	187,000
May:			- ,,				.,		
Armenia					31			147	
Belgium						72		172	18,500
Canada	- 1,140			1,140	20	1,160	5,760	4,140	52,900
Chile								76	
China							3 4		24,100
Costa Rica									163
Dominican Republic					14			85	
France					26	1,300		575 4	/
Germany					111	581		636	8,840
Guatemala									127
Hong Kong					56 4	2,200		643	64
India					18 4			41	3,180
Italy					17 4	ŀ/		216	42,200
Japan			87 4/	87		2,250		4,040	306
Korea, Republic of						1,270	104	1,100	
Mexico	- 45		17,900 4/	17,900		609	297	997	
Netherlands					8 4		4 4	/ 708	
Philippines								108	
Saudi Arabia									15,800
Singapore	- 19			19		161		168	
South Africa							23		204
Spain								2,020	
Sweden	-				3	16		40	12,100
Switzerland		1,980		1,980		36		72	
Taiwan						4,790		581	
Thailand								105	
United Kingdom	18,900			18,900		3,620		166	33,100
Venezuela									67
Other	- 29			29	33		62	236 4	
Total	20,100	1,980	18,000	40,000	339	18,200	6,190	17,100	212,000
Year to date	409,000	8,860	71,500	489,000	21,200	76,000	27,900	75,600	1,040,000

r/ Revised. -- Zero.

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

2/ Includes silver content of base metal ores and concentrates.

3/ Semimanufactured (including silver plated with gold or platinum) forms of silver.

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

# TABLE 6 U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PLATINUM-GROUP METALS 1/

#### (Kilograms of metal content)

	Platinum		Other		Platinum							
	grain and	Platinum	unwrought	Platinum,	waste and	Platinum	Unwrought	Palladium,		Unwrought	Unwrought	
Period and country	nuggets	sponge	platinum	other	scrap	coins	palladium	other	Iridium 2/	osmium	ruthenium	Rhodium 3/
2001	2,480	68,700	3,660	5,330	3,960	53	146,000	13,600	3,110	77	8,170	12,400
2002:												
March	85	5,280	143	289 r/	614 r/	12	6,740	841	224	3	943	524
April	187	9,720	331	595	13,200	2	12,300	1,140	113		1,810	959
May:												
Argentina					11							
Bahamas, The					3							
Belgium		875					837					249 4
Brazil					192							
Canada	3			34	101		194					
Chile								30				
China			13				150					
Colombia			21		3		3					
Ecuador									(5/)			
France		62		1				5				
Germany	. 52	225	12	113	125		16	161	5		220	14 4
Greece					7							
Guadeloupe					5							
Hong Kong				(5/)								
Israel			70									
Italy		78					44	73				(5/)
Japan					40		206	211 4/				
Korea, Republic of					12							
Mexico					13							
Netherlands				1								
Norway		22					47	94				
Peru	2											
Russia		309						66				314
South Africa	126	3,170		32			2,070	301	107		532	506
Sweden							139					
Switzerland		93	83	23			274	25				
United Kingdom	. 8	1,200	4	69	348		350	1	131		18	58
Total	191	6,040	203	273	860		4,330	968	243		769	1,140
Year to date	574	31,300	1,370	1,900	17,600	14	34,000	3,910	1,030	3	5,420	3,780

r/Revised. -- Zero.

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

2/ Unwrought and other forms of iridium.

3/ Unwrought and other forms of rhodium.

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

5/ Less than 1/2 unit.

# TABLE 7 U.S. EXPORTS OF PLATINUM-GROUP METALS 1/

### (Kilograms of metal content, unless otherwise specified)

			Platinum waste and	Iridium, osmium and	DI 1. 0/
Period and country	Palladium 2/	Platinum 2/	scrap	ruthenium 2/ 3/	Rhodium 2/
2001	37,000	29,300	12,900	1,370	982
2002:	_	2.240		100	•
March	2,840	2,240	513	128	28
April	10,200	2,510	491	78	17
May:					
Argentina		(4/)			(4/) 5
Australia	10	407		3	
Austria		4			
Bahamas, The		2 5/			
Belgium	38 5/	1			
Bermuda		1			
Canada	479	242	168		
China		5		(4/) 5/	7 5
Colombia		1			(4/) 5
Costa Rica		1			
Denmark	2	2 5/			
Finland	4	2			
France	31 5/	10 5/			
Germany	242_5/	588		11	(4/) 5
Guatemala					(4/) 5
Hong Kong	5	1			1 5
Ireland		21 5/		80	
Italy	<u>4 5/</u>				
Japan		452	342	12	26
Korea, Republic of	220 5/	432	542	12	20
Lebanon	2 2 5/				
Malaysia	2 3/	21 5/			
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Mexico	21	4		(4/) 5/	(4/) 5
Netherlands		3			
New Zealand	9 5/	14 5/			
Norway	4	5 5/			
Philippines	6 5/				
Poland	2 5/				
Saudi Arabia		1			
Singapore		2			(4/) 5
Slovakia	2 5/				
South Africa		3			
Suriname		1			
Sweden		3 5/			
Switzerland	71 5/	1,210			
Taiwan	324 5/	2			
Thailand	5 5/	7 5/			
Turkey	(4/)				(4/) 5
United Kingdom	200 5/	635	316	97	2 5
Total	1,770	3,660	826	202	36
Year to date	20,800	12,200	3,050	626	113

-- Zero.

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

2/ Unwrought and other forms.

3/ Gross weight.

4/ Less than 1/2 unit.

 $5\!/$  All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.