

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GOLD IN OCTOBER 2010

U.S. mines produced 26,900 kilograms (kg) of gold in October, a slight decrease compared with revised September production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily gold production for U.S. mines was 868 kg in October, compared with 916 kilograms per day (kg/d) for September and 612 kg/d for full year 2009. Domestic production for the first 9 months of 2010 was 204,000 kg of gold, up 21% compared with production of the first 9 months of 2009 because of production from a newly opened mine in Nevada. China remained the world's leading gold producer, with production of 248,000 kg of gold in the first 9 months of 2010, 9% higher than gold production in the first 9 months of 2009. Gold production from Russian mines dropped to 130,000 kg in the first 9 months of 2010, slightly less than gold production in the first 9 months of 2009 (Interfax China Metals and Mining Weekly, 2010; Interfax Russia and CIS Metals and Mining Weekly, 2010).

The average Engelhard Industries' gold price was \$1,344.96 per troy ounce for October, a 6% increase compared with the average gold price in September. The gold price began the month at \$1,319.14 per troy ounce, and then fell slightly to \$1,316.38 per troy ounce on October 4, the lowest level of the month, before rising to \$1,376.23 per troy ounce on October 14, the highest level of the year. The price fell and ended the month at \$1,349.69 per troy ounce.

Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp. (Coeur d'Alene, ID) received approval from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for a planned expansion of its Rochester Mine in Nevada. Construction of a new leach pad and related infrastructure was planned for the first quarter of 2011 at a cost of about \$38

million for the life of the project. The expansion was expected to produce 518,000 kg of silver and 7,220 kg of gold during the next 7 years (Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp., 2010).

NovaGold Resources Inc. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) announced plans to sell its Rock Creek gold project and divest its Ambler copper-zinc-gold-silver project, both in Alaska. By selling these projects, the company would focus its resources on construction of its Donlin Creek and Galore Creek joint ventures. The Donlin Creek gold project in western Alaska is a joint venture with Barrick Gold Corp. (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) and has estimated reserves of 1,050 metric tons (t) of gold. The copper-gold-silver Galore Creek project, in British Columbia, Canada, is a joint venture with Teck Resources Ltd. (Vancouver) and reportedly has estimated reserves of 227 t of gold (Kosich, 2010).

References Cited

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- Interfax China Metals and Mining Weekly, 2010, Gold bullion output up 8.8 pct in first nine months of 2010: Interfax China Mining and Metals Weekly, v. 19, no. 39, October 30–November 5, p. 22–23.
- Interfax Russia and CIS Metals and Mining Weekly, 2010, Russia mines 2.2% less gold in 9 mths: Interfax Russia and CIS Metals and Mining Weekly, v. 20, no. 42 (961), October 22–28, p. 36–37.
- Kosich, Dorothy, 2010, NovaGold to sell Rock Creek project, may also divest Ambler: Mineweb news release, October 15, 2 p. (Accessed October 18, 2010, at <http://www.mineweb.co.za/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page34?oid=113029&sn=Detail&pid=110649>.)

TABLE 1
MINE PRODUCTION OF RECOVERABLE GOLD IN THE UNITED
STATES, BY STATE¹

(Kilograms)

	Nevada	Other States ²	Total
2009:			
October	12,800	5,440	18,200
November	12,200	6,200	18,400
December	13,500	5,500	19,000
January-December	161,000	62,500	223,000
2010:			
January	12,900	6,110	19,100
February	12,800	4,430	17,200
March	14,500	5,450 ^r	19,900 ^r
April	15,200	5,760 ^r	21,000 ^r
May	15,500	5,180 ^r	20,600 ^r
June	18,900	5,080 ^r	24,000
July	21,600	6,170 ^r	27,800 ^r
August ^f	21,200	5,570	26,800
September ^f	22,100	5,370	27,500
October	21,700	5,210	26,900
January-October	176,000	54,300	231,000

^rRevised.

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

²Includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington.

TABLE 2
GOLD PRICES

(Dollars per troy ounce)

Engelhard Industries:	
2009:	
Low/date	812.03 Jan. 15
High/date	1,215.21 Dec. 2
Average	973.73
2010:	
September:	
Low/date	1,243.26/3
High/date	1,310.37/29
Average	1,274.84
October:	
Low/date	1,316.38/4
High/date	1,376.23/14
Average	1,344.96
Year to date:	
Low/date	1,060.45 Feb. 5
High/date	1,376.23 Oct.14
Average	1,196.76
Handy and Harman:	
2009, Average	972.37
2010:	
September	1,272.02
October	1,342.02
Year to date	1,194.98
London Final:	
2009, Average	972.35
2010:	
September	1,270.98
October	1,342.02
Year to date	1,194.27

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD¹

(Kilograms of gold content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Ores and concentrates ²	Doré and precipitates	Refined bullion ³	Total ⁴	Waste and scrap (gross weight)	Metal powder (gross weight)	Gold compounds (gross weight)
Imports for consumption:							
2009	46,600	146,000	127,000	320,000	43,400	476	64,300
2010:							
August	6,380	11,500	10,300	28,100	3,290	42	424
September:							
Brazil	--	--	644	644	1 ⁵	--	--
Canada	5 ⁵	18	5,140 ⁵	5,160	516 ⁵	--	--
Chile	--	79 ⁵	375	454	--	--	--
Colombia	--	1,960	1,570 ⁵	3,530	7 ⁵	--	--
Dominican Republic	--	13 ⁵	--	13	869 ⁵	--	--
Guatemala	--	277	--	277	117 ⁵	--	--
Guyana	--	338	128	466	--	--	--
Honduras	--	--	417 ⁵	417	415 ⁵	--	--
Mexico	29,600 ⁵	8,270 ⁵	3,330 ⁵	41,200	564 ⁵	--	--
Peru	--	1,030 ⁵	7	1,030	--	--	--
United Kingdom	--	--	303 ⁵	303	10 ⁵	--	--
Other	2	287 ⁵	429 ⁵	817	1,160 ⁵	60 ⁵	394 ⁵
Total	29,600	12,300	12,300	54,400	3,650	60	394
Year to date	173,000	111,000	122,000	406,000	35,000	284	36,400
Exports:							
2009	2,160	97,400	281,000	381,000	728,000	328	2,680,000
2010:							
August	334	5,540	43,300	49,200	41,900	49	308,000
September:							
Australia	--	--	3,230	3,230	--	--	--
Canada	--	--	327 ⁵	327	6,300 ⁵	47 ⁵	69,000 ⁵
China	190	--	--	190	--	--	144,000 ⁵
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	28,200 ⁵
Germany	45	--	--	45	20,800 ⁵	(6)	1,350 ⁵
Hong Kong	4 ⁵	--	3,010 ⁵	3,020	--	2 ⁵	454 ⁵
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	1 ⁵	2,650 ⁵
Malaysia	--	--	21 ⁵	21	--	--	21,400 ⁵
Mexico	24	--	302 ⁵	326	--	(6)	124,000 ⁵
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	9,180 ⁵
Singapore	(6)	--	26	26	--	--	111,000 ⁵
South Africa	--	--	1,610	1,610	--	(6)	645 ⁵
Switzerland	--	5,340	616 ⁵	5,950	2,560 ⁵	--	--
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	7	25,700 ⁵
United Kingdom	--	--	13,500 ⁵	13,500	13,800 ⁵	40 ⁵	352 ⁵
Other	36 ⁵	4	606	646	115 ⁵	1 ⁵	4,440 ⁵
Total	299	5,340	23,200	28,900	43,600	98	543,000
Year to date	2,470	63,000	234,000	299,000	527,000	2,180	3,070,000

-- Zero.

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

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

³Bullion 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."

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

⁶Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.