

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MAGNESIUM IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2013

U.S. magnesium exports in the first half of 2013 were 5% more than exports in the first half of 2012. Mexico (14%), Singapore (11%), Brazil (9%), and Canada (8%), were the principal destinations. Exports of alloys and crude metal increased by 69% and slightly, respectively, but were partially offset by decreased exports of scrap (84%) and semifabricated magnesium materials (8%).

Magnesium imports for consumption in the first half of 2013 were 19% less than imports in the first half of 2012. Israel was the source of 65% of imported magnesium metal, down from 88% in the first half of 2012. Russia (11%), Canada (10%), Brazil (7%) and Kazakhstan (7%) were the other principal sources of magnesium metal imports during the first half of 2013. Scrap accounted for 38% of total magnesium imports, 42% of which came from Canada. Crude metal and alloys accounted for 32% and 28%, respectively, of all magnesium imports during the first half of 2013.

The quoted U.S. magnesium price ranges (table 2) declined by about 4% during the second quarter of 2013, and those in China and Europe declined by about 8% and 9%, respectively. The prices in China and Europe began to decline in mid-May and continued to decline through the end of the quarter. Abundant supplies of magnesium and stagnant global demand were cited as the reasons for the price declines (McBeth, 2013; Yee, 2013b). Magnesium metal exports from China during the first half of the year, however, increased by 21.3% compared

with those of the first half of 2012. Of the 106,000 tons exported during the first half of 2013, 31% was shipped to the Netherlands. Japan (10%) and Canada (8%) were the other leading destinations for Chinese magnesium exports. Exports of magnesium alloys during the first half of the year were 50,200 t, 3.9% lower than those in the first half of 2012 (Yee, 2013a).

The U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, imposed an anti-dumping duty of 339.60% ad valorem on imports of pure magnesium from China by Tianjin Magnesium Metal Co. Ltd. and an affiliate, Tianjin Magnesium International Co. Ltd., between May 1, 2011, and April 30, 2012 (U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, 2013).

References Cited

- McBeth, Karen, 2013, European magnesium prices fall by \$50-75/mt: *Platts Metals Daily*, v. 2, no. 96, May 17, p. 8.
- U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, 2012, Pure magnesium from the People's Republic of China—Preliminary results of 2011-2012 antidumping duty administrative review: *Federal Register*, v. 78, no. 111, June 10, p. 34646–34648. (Accessed August 20, 2013, at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-06-10/pdf/2013-13702.pdf>.)
- Yee, Alvin, 2013a, China June unwrought Mg exports rise 11% on year: *Platts Metals Daily*, v. 2, no. 141, July 23, p. 5-6.
- Yee, Alvin, 2013b, China Mg export trade thin; sub-\$2,700 offers heard: *Platts Metals Daily*, v. 2, no. 119, June 20, p. 6.

TABLE 1
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS OF MAGNESIUM¹

(Metric tons)

	2013					
	2012	January– March	April	May	June	January– June
Imports for consumption:						
Metal	16,200	3,390	1,010	1,260	1,290	6,940
Waste and scrap	20,900	4,040	1,500	1,420	1,280	8,230
Alloys (magnesium content)	12,700	3,610	1,160	783	599	6,150
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (magnesium content)	881	193	70	69	62	394
Total	50,800	11,200	3,730	3,530	3,230	21,700
Exports:						
Metal	7,020	2,020	699	548	676	3,940
Waste and scrap	2,100	155	49	13	32	248
Alloys (gross weight)	7,310	2,190	854	572	793	4,410
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (gross weight)	1,870	594	92	107	120	913
Total	18,300	4,960	1,690	1,240	1,620	9,520

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 2
MAGNESIUM PRICES, SECOND QUARTER 2013

		Beginning of quarter	End of quarter
U.S. spot dealer import	dollars per pound	1.90–1.96	1.83–1.88
U.S. spot Western	do.	2.15–2.25	2.15–2.25
China	dollars per metric ton	2,790–2,840	2,580–2,610
European free market	do.	2,900–3,010	2,650–2,750
do. Ditto.			

Source: Platts Metals Week.