

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MAGNESIUM IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2014

U.S. magnesium exports in the first half of 2014 were 11% less than exports in the first half of 2013. Mexico (37%), Brazil (21%), Canada (17%), and Singapore (15%) were the principal destinations. Exports of alloys, metal, and semifabricated products decreased by 7%, 16%, and 39%, respectively, while exports of waste and scrap more than doubled. Magnesium imports for consumption in the first half of 2014 were 25% more than imports in the first half of 2013. Israel was the source of 76% of imported magnesium metal. Scrap accounted for 39% of the total second quarter 2014 imports, 36% of which came from Canada, and 19% came from Mexico.

Update

The Platts Metals Week quoted U.S. magnesium price ranges (table 2) were unchanged during the second quarter of 2014. U.S. dealer spot prices for imported magnesium increased slightly and those in China were unchanged, but those in Europe declined by 3%. Price declines for magnesium exported from China were attributed to stagnant demand in export markets

which continued throughout the summer, and abundant supplies in China (Yee, 2014).

Spartan Light Metal Products Inc. (St. Louis, MO) started construction of an expansion to its aluminum and magnesium die casting plant in Mexico, MO. Spartan produces die cast parts for automobiles. The expansion was expected to be completed in September 2015 (Susan, 2014).

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References Cited

- Susan, Amy, 2014, Auto supplier breaks ground on facility expansion in Mexico: Mexico, MO, Missouri Department of Economic Development news release, August 22, 2 p. (Accessed August 25, 2014, at <http://ded.mo.gov/News/NewsArticle.aspx?NewsId=1027>.)
- Yee, Alvin, 2014, Chinese Mg export offers remain weak on lack of buying: Platts Metals Daily, v. 3, no. 159, August 14, p. 4-5.

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

(Metric tons)

	2014					
	2013	January– March	April	May	June	January– June
Imports for consumption:						
Metal	15,200	4,320	1,720	1,750	1,260	9,050
Waste and scrap	17,500	4,940	1,840	1,510	1,900	10,200
Alloys (magnesium content)	12,400	4,110	955	1,230	1,110	7,400
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (magnesium content)	835	258	72	94	74	498
Total	45,900	13,600	4,580	4,580	4,340	27,100
Exports:						
Metal	5,790	1,740	568	562	443	3,320
Waste and scrap	471	246	45	115	122	528
Alloys (gross weight)	8,240	1,720	871	807	688	4,090
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (gross weight)	1,600	289	101	69	99	558
Total	16,100	4,000	1,580	1,550	1,350	8,490

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 2014

		Beginning of quarter	End of quarter
U.S. spot dealer import	dollars per pound	1.82–1.93	1.86–1.91
U.S. spot Western	do.	2.10–2.20	2.10–2.20
China	dollars per metric ton	2,470–2,500	2,470–2,490
European free market	do.	2,625–2,750	2,550–2,650
do. Ditto.			

Source: Platts Metals Week.