

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MAGNESIUM IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2014

U.S. magnesium exports in the first three quarters of 2014 were essentially the same as exports in the first three quarters of 2013. Mexico (39%), Canada (19%), Brazil (17%), and Singapore (15%) were the principal destinations. Exports of metal and semifabricated products decreased by 6% and 25%, respectively, while exports of alloys increased slightly and those of waste and scrap more than doubled. Magnesium imports for consumption in the first three quarters of 2014 were 20% more than imports in the first three quarters of 2013. Israel was the source of 71% of imported magnesium metal. Scrap accounted for 37% of the total third quarter 2014 imports, 48% of which came from Canada, and 20% came from Mexico.

### Update

The Platts Metals Week quoted U.S. magnesium price range and U.S. dealer spot prices for imported magnesium (table 2)

were unchanged during the third quarter of 2014. Prices for magnesium in China and Europe decreased slightly. Continuing stagnant demand in export markets and abundant supplies in China contributed to the price declines in China and Europe (Yee, 2014).

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### Reference Cited

Yee, Alvin, 2014, Chinese Mg export offers slip on weak buying interest: Platts Metals Daily, v. 3, no. 189, September 25, p. 5–6.

TABLE 1  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS OF MAGNESIUM<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2013	2014				
		January– June	July	August	September	January– September
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>						
Metal	15,200	9,050	1,100	1,380	1,050	12,600
Waste and scrap	17,500	10,200	1,460	1,610	1,430	14,700
Alloys (magnesium content)	12,400	7,400	1,130	1,340	1,610	11,500
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (magnesium content)	835	498	88	100	107	793
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,900</b>	<b>27,100</b>	<b>3,770</b>	<b>4,430</b>	<b>4,190</b>	<b>39,500</b>
<b>Exports:</b>						
Metal	5,790	3,320	781	459	392	4,950
Waste and scrap	471	528	224	38	81	870
Alloys (gross weight)	8,240	4,090	983	743	664	6,480
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (gross weight)	1,600	558	148	81	124	911
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,100</b>	<b>8,490</b>	<b>2,140</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>13,200</b>

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 2  
MAGNESIUM PRICES, THIRD QUARTER 2014

		Beginning of quarter	End of quarter
U.S. spot dealer import	dollars per pound	1.86–1.91	1.86–1.91
U.S. spot Western	do.	2.10–2.20	2.10–2.20
China	dollars per metric ton	2,470–2,490	2,450–2,480
European free market	do.	2,550–2,650	2,530–2,600
do. Ditto.			

Source: Platts Metals Week.