

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MAGNESIUM IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2015

U.S. magnesium exports in the first half of 2015 were 4% less than exports in the first half of 2014. Canada (35%), Mexico (24%), and Singapore (18%) were the principal destinations. Exports of metal and of waste and scrap decreased by 15% and 68%, respectively. These export declines were partially offset by a 12% increase in alloy exports and exports of semifabricated products increased slightly. Magnesium imports for consumption in the first half of 2015 were 13% less than imports in the first half of 2014. Israel was the source of 67% of imported magnesium metal and Russia was the source of 20% (fig. 1). Scrap accounted for 44% of the total second quarter 2015 imports, 53% of which came from Canada, and 22% came from Mexico.

The quoted U.S. magnesium price range and the European free market price (table 2) decreased slightly during the second quarter of 2015. U.S. spot dealer prices for imported magnesium were unchanged, as were prices in China. Stagnant demand for magnesium in China and most other markets during the second quarter of 2015 was cited for the stable prices during the quarter (Yee, 2015).

Update

In July, the U.S. Department of Commerce ruled that certain magnesium alloys jointly patented and developed by Dead Sea Magnesium Co. Ltd. (DSM) and Volkswagen AG are within the scope of the antidumping duty order on pure magnesium from China. DSM had planned to import magnesium alloy from China and requested a scope ruling to determine if the patented alloys would be subject to the 111.73% anti-dumping tariff rate. DSM said it would continue to supply the alloys to the United States from its plant in Israel instead of China (Platts Metals Daily, 2015).

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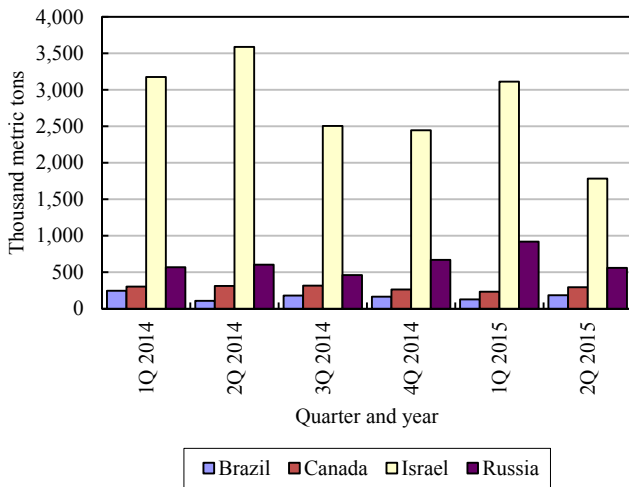


Figure 1. Quarterly U.S. imports of magnesium metal, by source country.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

References Cited

Platts Metals Daily, 2015, DSM says unaffected DOC ruling on Mg imports from China: Platts Metals Daily, v. 4, no. 147, July 29, p. 5–6.
 Yee, Alvin, 2015, China magnesium spot export trade remains lackluster: Platts Metals Daily, v. 4, no. 118, June 18, p. 6–7.

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

(Metric tons)

	2014	2015				
		January– March	April	May	June	January– June
Imports for consumption:						
Metal	16,200	4,500	1,230	871	766	7,360
Waste and scrap	19,000	3,830	1,840	1,680	1,410	8,750
Alloys (magnesium content)	15,600	3,770	1,510	922	747	6,950
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (magnesium content)	1,200	198	82	123	126	529
Total	52,000	12,300	4,660	3,590	3,050	23,600
Exports:						
Metal	6,010	1,230	443	699	461	2,830
Waste and scrap	923	97	5	29	38	169
Alloys (gross weight)	8,900	1,940	857	894	889	4,580
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (gross weight)	1,160	276	67	130	89	562
Total	17,000	3,540	1,370	1,750	1,480	8,140

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 2015

		Beginning of quarter	End of quarter
U.S. spot dealer import	dollars per pound	1.80–1.85	1.79–1.85
U.S. spot Western	do.	2.10–2.20	2.10–2.20
China	dollars per metric ton	2,150–2,200	2,150–2,200
European free market	do.	2,220–2,300	2,175–2,250
do. Ditto.			

Source: Platts Metals Week.