

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MAGNESIUM IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2017

U.S. magnesium exports in the second quarter of 2017 were 4% less than exports in the second quarter of 2016 and 26% less than those in the first quarter of 2017. Mexico (50%), Brazil (22%), and Canada (14%) were the principal destinations. Exports of metal, alloys, and scrap decreased by 82%, 17%, and 11%, respectively, compared with exports in the first quarter 2017. Exports of semifabricated magnesium products increased by 21% compared with those in the first quarter of 2017 (table 1).

Magnesium imports for consumption in the second quarter of 2017 were 4% less than imports in the first quarter of 2017 and 15% less than those in the second quarter of 2016. Israel was the source of 57% of imported magnesium metal, and Russia was the source of 34% (fig. 1). Scrap accounted for 32% of the imports in the second quarter of 2017, 39% of which came from Canada, 37% came from Mexico, and 14% came from the United Kingdom (table 1).

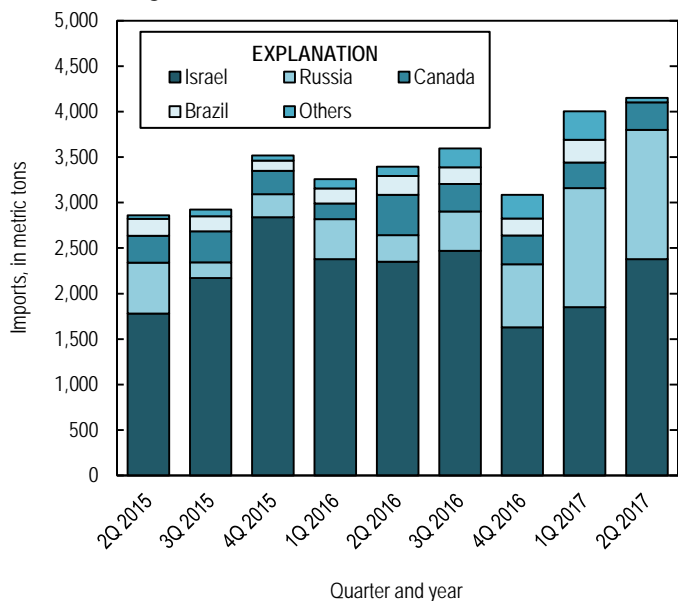


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of magnesium metal from the second quarter 2015 through the second quarter 2017. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

The U.S. spot Western average price for magnesium was unchanged in the second quarter 2017. The average U.S. spot dealer price for imported magnesium decreased slightly during the second quarter 2017. Outside of the United States, average daily magnesium prices in China decreased slightly during the second quarter 2017, but average daily magnesium prices in Europe increased slightly during the quarter (table 2).

**Update**

Alliance Magnesium Inc. (Canada) started production of magnesium at its 25-kilogram-per-day pilot plant in Danville, Quebec, Canada. Alliance used serpentinite from the tailings of an asbestos mine as the raw material for its plant. Alliance planned to construct a 50,000-metric-ton-per-year smelter which would be completed in three stages and reach full capacity in 2019 (Alliance Magnesium Inc., 2017).

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**Reference Cited**

Alliance Magnesium Inc., 2017, Alliance Magnesium produces its first magnesium ingots and also concludes a \$4.1 million loan: Brossard, Quebec, Canada, Alliance Magnesium Inc. press release, May 1. (Accessed August 16, 2017, at <http://alliancemagnesium.com/alliance-magnesium-produces-its-first-magnesium-ingots-and-also-concludes-a-4-1-million-loan/>.)

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

(Metric tons)

	2017					
	2016	January– March	April	May	June	January– June
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>						
Metal	13,300	4,010	1,530	1,310	1,320	8,160
Waste and scrap	21,900	3,910	663	1,310	1,390	7,270
Alloys (magnesium content)	7,840	2,110	868	643	508	4,130
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (magnesium content)	3,430	973	458	389	207	2,030
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,500</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>3,520</b>	<b>3,660</b>	<b>3,420</b>	<b>21,600</b>
<b>Exports:</b>						
Metal	5,270	830	64	64	23	981
Waste and scrap	996 <sup>r</sup>	365	135	141	48	689
Alloys (gross weight)	10,700	2,920	658	757	1,020	5,350
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (gross weight)	2,080	320	118	159	108	706
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,100</b>	<b>4,440</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>7,730</b>

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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, SECOND QUARTER 2017

		Beginning of quarter	End of quarter
U.S. spot dealer import	dollars per pound	1.45–1.50	1.40–1.48
U.S. spot Western	do.	2.10–2.20	2.10–2.20
China	dollars per metric ton	2,210–2,270	2,170–2,220
European free market	do.	2,200–2,250	2,175–2,300
do. Ditto.			

Source: Platts Metals Week.