

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

E. Lee Bray, Magnesium Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: lbray@usgs.gov

Paula R. Neely (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-7949
 Fax: (703) 648-7975
 Email: pneely@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

MAGNESIUM IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2018

U.S. magnesium exports in the second quarter of 2018 were 21% more than exports in the first quarter of 2018 but 4% less than those in the second quarter of 2017. Mexico (37%), Brazil (27%), and Canada (18%) were the principal destinations. Exports of alloys, semifabricated products, and scrap increased by 36%, 32%, and 23%, respectively, but metal exports decreased by 31% compared with exports in the first quarter 2018. Compared with those in the second quarter of 2017, exports of metal and semifabricated products increased by 144%, and 52%, respectively, but exports of alloys and scrap decreased by 19% and 32%, respectively (table 1).

Magnesium imports for consumption in the second quarter of 2018 were 27% more than imports in the first quarter of 2018 and 23% more than those in the second quarter of 2017. Imports of metal, alloys, semifabricated products, and scrap increased by 40%, 43%, 58%, and 11%, respectively compared with those in the first quarter of 2018. Compared with those in the second quarter of 2017, imports of metal and scrap increased by 4% and 65%, respectively, and imports of alloys and semifabricated products increased slightly. In the second quarter of 2018, magnesium metal accounted for 33% of the imports with Israel (36%), Turkey (30%), and Russia (23%) being the leading sources (fig. 1).

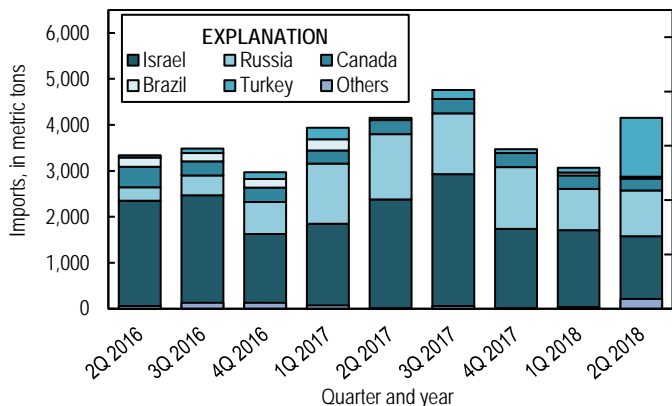


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of magnesium metal from the second quarter 2016 through the second quarter 2018. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Scrap accounted for 43% of the imports in the second quarter of 2018, with Canada (36%), Mexico (21%), and the Spain (10%) as the leading sources (table 1).

The U.S. spot Western average price for magnesium was unchanged in the second quarter 2018. The average U.S. spot dealer price for imported magnesium increased by 4% during the second quarter 2018. Outside of the United States, average magnesium prices in China and Europe increased slightly during the quarter (table 2).

Update

The U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration (ITA) completed its administrative review on imports of pure magnesium from China for Tianjin Magnesium International Co. Ltd. (TMI) and Tianjin Magnesium Metal Co. Ltd. (TMM) for May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The review determined that TMI and TMM did not export magnesium to the United States during the review period, and the antidumping duty of 339.6% ad valorem would remain on imports of pure magnesium from TMI and TMM. Magnesium from all other producers in China that did not have an individual rate would have a duty rate of 111.73% ad valorem (U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, 2018).

Reference Cited

U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, 2018, Pure magnesium from the People's Republic of China—Final results of antidumping duty administrative review; 2016–2017: Federal Register, v. 83, no. 118, June 19, p. 28412–28413. (Accessed August 13, 2018, <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-19/pdf/2018-13134.pdf>.)

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

(Metric tons)

	2017	2018				
		January– March	April	May	June	January– June
Imports for consumption:						
Metal	16,500	3,100	1,190	1,560	1,590	7,430
Waste and scrap	16,900	4,990	1,670	1,760	2,110	10,500
Alloys (magnesium content)	5,290	1,450	1,090	651	332	3,520
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (magnesium content)	3,270	676	294	387	386	1,740
Total	41,900	10,200	4,240	4,350	4,420	23,200
Exports:						
Metal	1,890	534	114	105	150	903
Waste and scrap	1,200	178	68	52	101	398
Alloys (gross weight)	8,900	1,460	575	718	688	3,440
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (gross weight)	1,660	442	252	94	239	1,030
Total	13,700	2,610	1,010	968	1,180	5,770

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 2018

		Beginning of quarter	End of quarter
U.S. spot dealer import	dollars per pound	1.44–1.48	1.49–1.55
U.S. spot Western	do.	2.10–2.20	2.10–2.20
China	dollars per metric ton	2,420–2,460	2,480–2,500
European free market	do.	2,375–2,500	2,475–2,525
do. Ditto.			

Source: Platts Metals Week.