

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## PLATINUM-GROUP METALS IN DECEMBER 2006

According to Platts Metals Week, the average December price of platinum decreased 5% as compared with that of November. The average December price of palladium was slightly higher than the November average price. The average December ruthenium price continued to increase and was up over 83% compared with that of November, owing to increased demand from computer hard disk manufacturers (Johnson Matthey, 2006). The ruthenium price finished the month of December at an all-time high of \$600 per troy ounce, 186% higher than the

November 1 price. The December average iridium price remained the same as that of November, and the rhodium average December price was 10% higher than the average November price.

### Reference Cited

Johnson Matthey, 2006, The platinum metal report: Herts, United Kingdom, Johnson Matthey, December, 3 p.

TABLE 1  
PLATINUM-GROUP METALS PRICES<sup>1</sup>

(Dollars per troy ounce)

	Platinum	Palladium	Rhodium	Iridium	Ruthenium
2005:					
Low/date	847.00 Jan. 4	174.00 Jul. 5	1,330.00 Jan. <sup>2</sup>	145.00 Feb., Mar., Apr. <sup>2</sup>	55.00 Feb. and Mar. <sup>2</sup>
High/date	1,019.00 Dec. 12	297.00 Dec. 9	3,110.00 Nov. 17 and 18	195.00 Dec. <sup>2</sup>	87.00 Dec. <sup>2</sup>
Average	899.51	203.54	2,059.73	169.51	74.41
2006:					
October:					
Low/date	1,055.00/24	297.00/6	4,800.00 <sup>2</sup>	400.00 <sup>2</sup>	185.00 <sup>2</sup>
High/date	1,153.00/2	330.00/19	5,030.00 <sup>2</sup>	400.00 <sup>2</sup>	210.00 <sup>2</sup>
Average	1,085.32	315.18	4,930.00	400.00	197.95
November:					
Low/date	1,100.00/1	317.00/15	4,850.00/22 and 27	400.00 <sup>2</sup>	210.00/1
High/date	1,360.00/21	335.00/7 and 10	4,920.00 <sup>2</sup>	400.00 <sup>2</sup>	375.00/30
Average	1,187.10	326.70	4,883.75	400.00	265.25
December:					
Low/date	1,107.00/18	323.00/20	4,925.00/1	400.00 <sup>2</sup>	375.00/1
High/date	1,162.00/4	333.00/5	6,000.00/19 and 20	400.00 <sup>2</sup>	600.00/29
Average	1,124.79	328.00	5,380.79	400.00	486.32
Year to date:					
Low/date	985.00 Jan. 3	263.00 Jan. 5	3,000.00 Jan. <sup>2</sup>	195.00 Jan. <sup>2</sup>	87.00 Jan. <sup>2</sup>
High/date	1,360.00 Nov. 21	407.00 May 12	6,000.00 Dec. 19 and 20	400.00 May-Dec. <sup>2</sup>	600.00 Dec. 29
Average	1,144.42	322.93	4,561.06	349.45	193.09

<sup>1</sup>Quotes from Engelhard Industries.

<sup>2</sup>Occured multiple days in month(s) listed.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PLATINUM METAL, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Kilograms metal content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Platinum grain and nuggets		Platinum sponge		Other unwrought platinum		Platinum, other		Platinum waste and scrap		Platinum coins	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
2005	358	\$10,000	68,100	\$1,940,000	1,740	\$48,000	7,020	\$144,000	184,000	\$157,000	23	\$574
2006:												
September	1	60	5,410	206,000	137	5,670	1,000	32,400	9,530	21,300	(2)	3
October	(2)	17	6,580	239,000	3,170	116,000	861	25,900	5,050	26,500	(2)	11
November:												
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	417	15,700	--	--	4 <sup>3</sup>	15
Belgium	--	--	277	9,590	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	(2)	7	1,510 <sup>3</sup>	254	--	--
Canada	2	58	--	--	(2)	3	31	1,140	206 <sup>3</sup>	383	--	--
China	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	220	--	--	--	--
Colombia	--	--	--	--	41	1,580	--	--	35 <sup>3</sup>	985	--	--
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22 <sup>3</sup>	53	--	--
France	--	--	--	--	--	--	5 <sup>3</sup>	76	--	--	--	--
Germany	--	--	2 <sup>3</sup>	44	3 <sup>3</sup>	67	420 <sup>3</sup>	8,820	196	8,410	--	--
Greece	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	74	--	--
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	111	4,450	--	--	--	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	1 <sup>3</sup>	19	(2)	3	--	--	--	--
Jordan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9 <sup>3</sup>	432	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	(2) <sup>3</sup>	18	25	690	--	--
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	21	699	--	--
Norway	--	--	31	1,100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11 <sup>3</sup>	281	--	--
Russia	--	--	305	11,400	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
South Africa	--	--	3,020 <sup>3</sup>	106,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	1 <sup>3</sup>	25	(2)	10	6 <sup>3</sup>	129	--	--	--	--
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	89	--	--
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	27	--	--
United Kingdom	--	--	1,300 <sup>3</sup>	49,000	32 <sup>3</sup>	868	22 <sup>3</sup>	450	95	2,810	3	117
Total	2	58	4,930	177,000	77	2,540	1,020	31,000	2,140	15,200	7	132
Year to date	232	7,270	55,100	1,960,000	7,470	276,000	7,960	215,000	91,700	266,000	64	866

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>3</sup>All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PLATINUM-GROUP METALS, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Kilograms metal content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Unwrought palladium		Palladium, other		Iridium <sup>2</sup>		Unwrought osmium		Unwrought ruthenium		Rhodium <sup>3</sup>	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
2005	124,000	\$776,000	15,200	\$79,700	3,010	\$16,700	39	\$362	23,200	\$49,800	13,600	\$821,000
2006:												
September	6,670	64,200	1,590	14,400	291	3,550	--	--	2,360	11,300	1,100	149,000
October	6,900	57,200	1,620	16,500	202	2,530	--	--	5,130	28,600	1,340	166,000
November:												
Austria	--	--	3 <sup>4</sup>	50	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Belgium	10	102	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	147	22,800
Canada	164 <sup>4</sup>	3,010	--	--	25	317	--	--	--	--	--	--
China	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	57	--	--	--	--
France	--	--	2 <sup>4</sup>	76	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Germany	3 <sup>4</sup>	11	5 <sup>4</sup>	54	13 <sup>4</sup>	179	--	--	554	3,950	105	16,100
Italy	65 <sup>4</sup>	675	(5) <sup>4</sup>	17	--	--	--	--	--	--	23 <sup>4</sup>	2,980
Japan	130 <sup>4</sup>	689	57 <sup>4</sup>	64	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(5) <sup>4</sup>	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Norway	59	646	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	706
Russia	1,240	12,600	1,810	18,000	--	--	--	--	3	22	98	15,200
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	149 <sup>4</sup>	146	--	--
South Africa	1,530	15,700	156	1,480	105	1,260	--	--	1,550	9,260	650 <sup>4</sup>	79,500
Sweden	--	--	--	--	(5) <sup>4</sup>	10	--	--	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	1 <sup>4</sup>	2	21	291	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	1,180
United Kingdom	2,390	24,700	11 <sup>4</sup>	196	139	1,730	--	--	93	638	341 <sup>4</sup>	51,600
Total	5,600	58,100	2,070	20,200	282	3,500	9	57	2,350	14,000	1,380	190,000
Year to date	93,900	902,000	17,900	131,000	2,530	26,700	56	487	30,900	142,000	14,400	1,720,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Unwrought and other forms of iridium.

<sup>3</sup>Unwrought and other forms of rhodium.

<sup>4</sup>All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

<sup>5</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. EXPORTS OF PLATINUM-GROUP METALS, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Kilograms of metal content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Platinum <sup>2</sup>		Platinum waste and scrap		Palladium <sup>2</sup>		Iridium, osmium, and ruthenium <sup>2, 3</sup>		Rhodium <sup>2</sup>	
	Value		Value		Value		Value		Value	
	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)
2005	20,700	\$448,000	24,900	\$482,000	27,000	\$122,000	1,080	\$7,200	615	\$28,900
2006:										
September	2,090	47,900	1,990	53,700	4,380	34,900	321	2,470	79	11,700
October	8,810	158,000	2,960	66,500	3,830	23,400	323	2,650	48	7,250
November:										
Australia	5 <sup>4</sup>	96	--	--	69 <sup>4</sup>	495	--	--	--	--
Austria	4 <sup>4</sup>	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brazil	--	--	15	145	(5) <sup>4</sup>	10	--	--	--	--
Cambodia	(5) <sup>4</sup>	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Canada	79 <sup>4</sup>	1,720	199 <sup>4</sup>	1,890	299 <sup>4</sup>	2,410	4	37	(5)	21
China	206 <sup>4</sup>	5,600	--	--	159 <sup>4</sup>	1,990	27 <sup>4</sup>	403	29	5,510
France	4 <sup>4</sup>	76	--	--	68 <sup>4</sup>	453	18 <sup>4</sup>	165	--	--
Germany	246 <sup>4</sup>	5,820	943 <sup>4</sup>	5,210	290 <sup>4</sup>	850	--	--	--	--
Hong Kong	17 <sup>4</sup>	414	--	--	23	261	27 <sup>4</sup>	119	(5)	17
Ireland	29 <sup>4</sup>	592	--	--	9 <sup>4</sup>	27	--	--	--	--
Israel	--	--	--	--	78 <sup>4</sup>	332	--	--	--	--
Italy	454 <sup>4</sup>	11,900	(5)	4	426	4,380	--	--	--	--
Japan	589 <sup>4</sup>	18,200	435	6,230	1,050 <sup>4</sup>	11,700	222 <sup>4</sup>	2,840	178 <sup>4</sup>	28,500
Korea, Republic of	123	4,570	--	--	5	35	--	--	--	--
Malaysia	(5) <sup>4</sup>	6	--	--	1	5	16 <sup>4</sup>	433	--	--
Mexico	14 <sup>4</sup>	293	1 <sup>4</sup>	6	5	33	--	--	(5) <sup>4</sup>	52
New Zealand	1 <sup>4</sup>	13	--	--	9	122	--	--	--	--
Norway	14 <sup>4</sup>	212	--	--	4 <sup>4</sup>	76	--	--	--	--
Spain	--	--	(5)	4	28 <sup>4</sup>	134	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	3,260 <sup>4</sup>	121,000	--	--	1,540 <sup>4</sup>	16,100	--	--	--	--
Taiwan	179 <sup>4</sup>	4,510	--	--	20 <sup>4</sup>	83	--	--	--	--
Thailand	7 <sup>4</sup>	158	--	--	34 <sup>4</sup>	107	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	4,280 <sup>4</sup>	98,300	1,250	37,100	1,930 <sup>4</sup>	6,200	4	52	--	--
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	19	163	--	--	--	--
Other	15 <sup>4</sup>	307	--	--	26 <sup>4</sup>	274	(5)	3	(5) <sup>4</sup>	40
Total	9,520	274,000	2,850	50,600	6,100	46,200	319	4,050	208	34,100
Year to date	42,800	1,090,000	25,100	527,000	43,700	311,000	2,830	28,700	566	77,300

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Unwrought and other forms.

<sup>3</sup>Gross weight.

<sup>4</sup>All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

<sup>5</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.