

Mineral Industry Surveys

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PLATINUM-GROUP METALS IN APRIL 2016

The Engelhard average April prices for platinum and rhodium increased by 3% and 4%, respectively, and that for palladium increased slightly compared with average March prices (fig. 1). The average monthly prices for iridium and ruthenium were unchanged during the same time period.

Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd. (South Africa) produced 11,000 kilograms (kg) of platinum during January through March, the third quarter of its fiscal year 2016, which was 17% more than platinum production in the same quarter of 2015. The increases were mainly from the Zimplats Mine in Zimbabwe, where platinum production increased by 71% to 2,800 kg, owing to an increased milling rate and the processing of material that had been stockpiled during a furnace outage in May 2015. Impala planned to produce 44,200 kg of platinum during its fiscal year 2016 ending June 30, about 11% more than that produced in 2015 (Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd., 2016).

Production of other platinum-group metals also increased at Impala's South African mines. Impala produced 6,810 kg of

palladium and 1,650 kg of rhodium during its third quarter, increases of 24% and 43%, respectively, compared with the same period of 2015 (Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd., 2016).

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Reference Cited

Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd., 2016, Third quarter production report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2016: Johannesburg, South Africa, Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd. news release, April 26, 5 p. (Accessed June 28, 2016, at [http://www.implats.co.za/implats/downloads/2016/Implats-Third-Quarter-Production-Report\(1-Jan-31-Mar-2016\).pdf](http://www.implats.co.za/implats/downloads/2016/Implats-Third-Quarter-Production-Report(1-Jan-31-Mar-2016).pdf).)

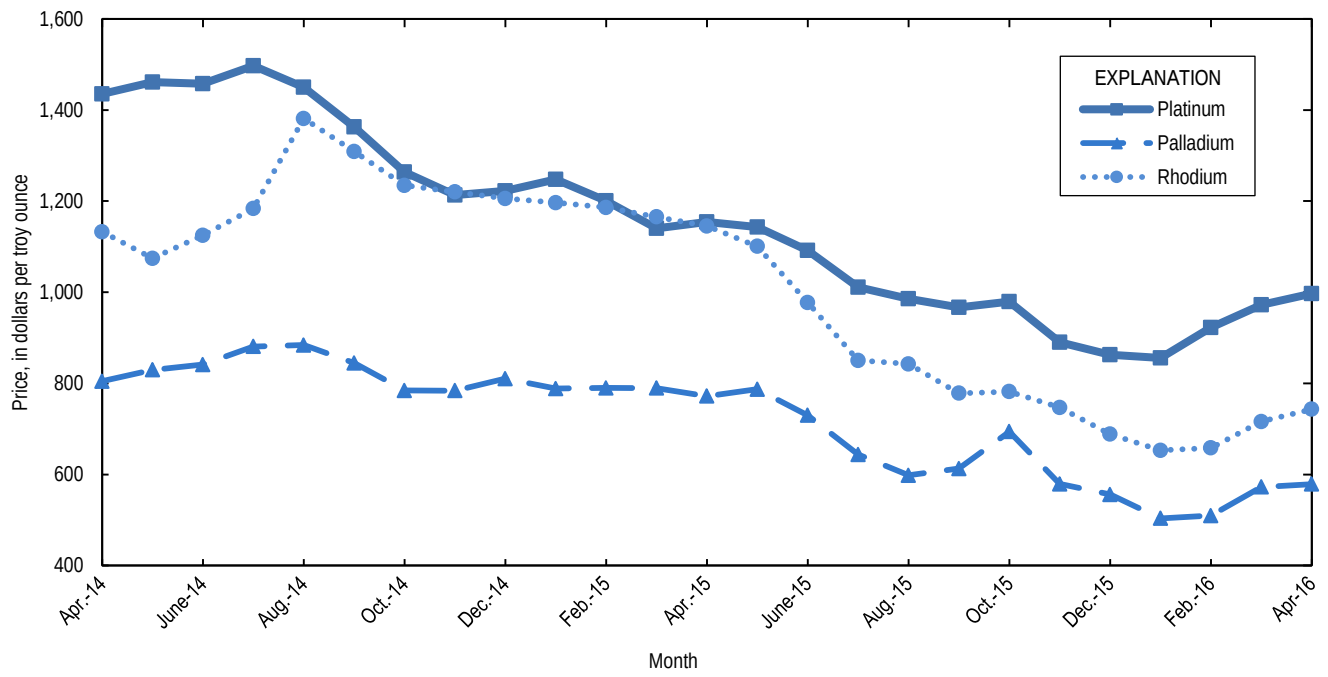


Figure 1. Engelhard monthly platinum, palladium, and rhodium prices for April 2014 through April 2016. Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 1
PLATINUM-GROUP METALS PRICES¹

(Dollars per troy ounce)

	Platinum	Palladium	Rhodium	Iridium	Ruthenium
2015:					
Low/date	833.00 Nov. 30	527.00 Aug. 26	660.00 Dec. 16 and 17	500.00 July–Sept. ²	40.00 July–Aug. ²
High/date	1,289.00 Jan. 21	834.00 Mar. 3	1,245.00 Jan. 2 and 5	575.00 Jan.–June ²	58.00 Jan. ²
Average	1,056.09	694.99	954.90	544.19	47.63
2016:					
March:					
Low/date	934.00/2	516.00/1	675.00/2	525.00 ²	42.00 ²
High/date	1,008.00/8	610.00/22	750.00 ²	525.00 ²	42.00 ²
Average	972.14	572.50	716.14	525.00	42.00
April:					
Low/date	945.00/6	540.00/7	730.00/11 and 12	525.00 ²	42.00 ²
High/date	1,069.00/29	633.00/29	750.00 ²	525.00 ²	42.00 ²
Average	997.19	578.81	743.10	525.00	42.00
January–April:					
Low/date	816.00 Jan. 21	473.00 Jan. 12	640.00 Jan. 11 and 12, and Feb. 2	525.00 Jan.–Apr. ²	42.00 Jan.–Apr. ²
High/date	1,069.00 Apr. 29	633.00 Apr. 29	750.00 Mar.–Apr. ²	525.00 Jan.–Apr. ²	42.00 Jan.–Apr. ²
Average	936.83	540.95	692.50	525.00	42.00

¹Quotes from Engelhard.

²Occurred multiple days in month(s) listed.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PLATINUM METAL, BY COUNTRY¹

(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	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)
2015	820	\$24,100	30,000	\$1,040,000	4,750	\$167,000	5,960	\$197,000	196,000	\$903,000	1,210	\$43,700
2016:												
February	4	104	3,130	91,200	382	11,100	816	24,000	5,140	52,400	150	4,730
March	214	6,060	2,130	63,900	582	17,700	764	22,900	5,610	78,800	145	5,020
April:												
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	62	1,410	26	1,120
Belgium	--	--	82	2,810	--	--	(2)	6	--	--	--	--
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4,890	2,170	--	--
Canada	3	108	--	--	--	--	17	510	6,110	5,000	9	344
China	--	--	--	--	104	3,580	--	--	219	1,290	--	--
Colombia	--	--	--	--	41	1,310	--	--	18	446	--	--
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	26	823	(2)	7	--	--
France	--	--	8	249	--	--	8	275	112	4,990	--	--
Germany	1	13	175	5,890	13	466	222	6,870	212	9,080	10	514
Italy	--	--	363	11,600	--	--	(2)	4	102	1,720	--	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	6	194	(2)	13	146	3,260	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	7	206	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	147	3,950	--	--
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35	509	--	--
Mexico	1	32	--	--	4	128	--	--	63	1,910	--	--
Norway	--	--	93	2,880	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,260	450	--	--
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	483	15,700	--	--
Singapore	--	--	--	--	1	40	4	133	149	4,410	--	--
South Africa	--	--	709	22,100	156	4,970	--	--	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	--	36	1,160	6	3	14	650
United Kingdom	--	--	643	20,200	20	576	3	120	4,300	11,600	4	55
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	(2)	4	50	613	--	--
Total	5	153	2,080	65,900	345	11,300	316	9,920	19,400	68,500	63	2,680
January–April	6,390	6,390	8,520	254,000	1,530	46,900	2,180	64,700	33,400	272,000	440	14,800

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PLATINUM-GROUP METALS, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms metal content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Unwrought palladium		Palladium, other		Iridium ²		Osmium ²		Ruthenium ²		Rhodium ²	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
2015	72,900	\$1,650,000	9,600	\$228,000	1,010	\$17,400	8	\$59	8,230	\$14,600	10,600	\$336,000
2016:												
February	4,970	82,000	581	10,100	69	1,080	--	--	349	739	1,380	28,700
March	4,660	72,600	1,010	19,800	174	2,860	--	--	871	1,650	814	17,000
April:												
Belgium	229	4,310	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	66	1,490
Canada	--	--	380	9,930	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	29
China	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	23	--	--	26	894
Germany	55	963	74	1,560	15	270	--	--	5	35	31	749
Italy	290	5,430	1	18	1	23	--	--	--	--	23	554
Japan	213	1,290	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	35	609	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	73	1,470
Norway	311	5,560	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	218
Russia	2,100	38,700	805	14,500	--	--	--	--	--	--	75	1,640
South Africa	1,350	23,000	155	2,860	169	2,630	--	--	469	754	650	13,600
Switzerland	29	514	4	107	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	645	6,790	9	302	27	448	--	--	703	1,100	24	620
Other	--	--	5	81	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	5,260	87,100	1,440	29,400	211	3,370	--	--	1,180	1,890	979	21,200
January–April	19,500	316,000	3,980	75,300	544	8,800	2	23	3,240	5,660	3,740	79,200

-- Zero.

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

²Unwrought and other forms.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF PLATINUM-GROUP METALS, BY COUNTRY¹

(Kilograms metal content, unless otherwise specified)

Period and country	Platinum ²		Platinum waste and scrap		Palladium ²		Iridium, osmium, and ruthenium ^{2,3}		Rhodium ²	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
2015	14,400	\$470,000	246,000	\$886,000	23,000	\$458,000	782	\$13,800	759	\$25,800
2016:										
February	2,520	75,300	20,600	45,600	1,830	22,900	38	452	40	1,010
March	870 ^r	21,900	23,200	64,100	1,740	27,500	55	696	44	1,670
April:										
Australia	3	119	--	--	10	124	12	125	--	--
Belgium	--	--	16	378	--	--	--	--	--	--
Canada	22	734	(4)	10	149	2,000	--	--	(4)	6
China	16	360	--	--	229	2,750	1	36	17	365
Dominican Republic	2	40	--	--	3	4	--	--	--	--
France	8	256	--	--	43	450	--	--	--	--
Germany	111	4,060	574	7,510	129	1,490	--	--	10	353
Hong Kong	13	256	2	8	57	971	(4)	3	--	--
India	1	37	53	1,620	110	1,950	--	--	7	180
Ireland	29	901	--	--	7	38	--	--	--	--
Israel	--	--	--	--	58	266	--	--	--	--
Italy	3	82	--	--	8	160	--	--	--	--
Japan	6	192	27,200	15,300	35	229	--	--	(4)	9
Korea, Republic of	99	3,010	--	--	56	532	2	32	--	--
Luxembourg	62	1,980	1	20	186	3,460	--	--	--	--
Mexico	11	350	--	--	14	190	--	--	--	--
South Africa	--	--	17	130	--	--	--	--	--	--
Switzerland	233	7,340	350	6,880	23	386	--	--	--	--
Taiwan	5	158	--	--	144	2,400	(4)	4	--	--
Thailand	3	157	--	--	8	279	--	--	(4)	6
United Kingdom	9	303	9,230	29,000	9	155	8	140	--	--
Other	13	300	--	--	40	402	--	--	1	99
Total	651	20,600	37,400	60,800	1,320	18,200	23	341	35	1,020
January–April	4,990	145,000	96,500	234,000	7,350	105,000	210	3,140	298	7,590

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Unwrought and other forms.

³Gross weight.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.