

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BISMUTH IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2017

Bismuth imports in the first quarter of 2017 were 736 metric tons (t), 57% more than those in the fourth quarter of 2016 and 81% more than imports in the first quarter of 2016 (fig. 1, table 3). The average bismuth price for the first quarter was \$4.69 per pound, essentially unchanged from the last quarter of the previous year and a 6% increase from the price in the first quarter of 2016 (table 1). During the first quarter of 2017, China remained the dominant source of United States bismuth imports, accounting for 577 t, or 78%, of total bismuth imports for the quarter.

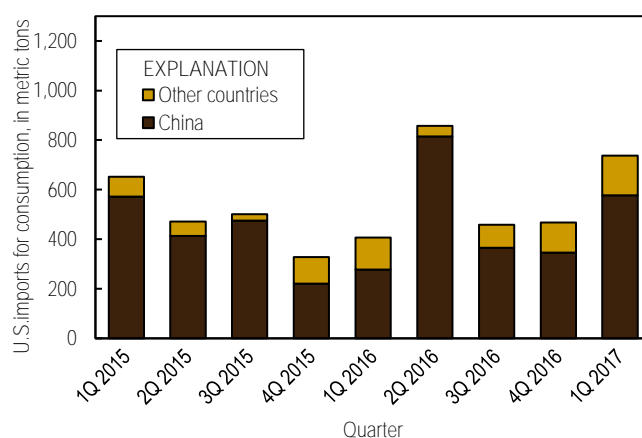


Figure 1. U.S. imports of bismuth metal (gross weight) from the first quarter of 2015 through the first quarter of 2017. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT BISMUTH STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2016					2017
	Year	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter
Exports ²	421	131	102	87	102	101
Imports for consumption ²	2,190	406	857	459	468	736
Price per pound, dealer, average of period ³	\$4.53	\$4.42	\$4.49	\$4.40	\$4.67	\$4.69

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices.

²Bismuth metal and articles thereof, including waste and scrap.

³Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY^{1,2}

(Kilograms)

Country	2016					2017			
	Year	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	January	February	March	1st quarter
Belgium	6,500	--	--	6,500	--	--	--	--	--
Brazil	8,500	2,820	5,570	--	118	--	--	218	218
Canada	18,000	5,310	5,590	1,660	5,400	2,040	1,380	1,280	4,700
China	37,400	4,340	2,150	4,710	26,200	521	371	1,940	2,830
Costa Rica	1,790	--	1,400	--	393	434	--	--	434
France	15,600	--	13,400	1,770	475	--	--	250	250
French Guiana	1,690	1,690	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hong Kong	22,000	3,790	9,480	4,840	3,900	4,230	978	3,510	8,720
India	1,720	1,200	--	191	330	1,010	2,820	--	3,830
Israel	3,160	1,650	1,510	--	--	--	--	204	204
Japan	4,020	698	1,950	--	1,370	--	172	--	172
Laos	11,300	11,300	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	17,600	3,980	3,570	4,850	5,180	272	228	540	1,040
Netherlands	42,000	42,000	--	--	--	--	--	429	429
Singapore	6,030	3,070	1,170	627	1,170	--	1,770	386	2,150
Thailand	32,200	9,830	5,090	15,900	1,380	330	2,010	1,700	4,040
United Kingdom	1,240	470	--	769	--	2,370	--	568	2,940
Vietnam	184,000	37,000	49,700	42,900	54,500	28,300	15,500	23,800	67,600
Other	5,850 ^r	1,380 ^r	1,010 ^r	1,910 ^r	1,560	921	--	270	1,190
Total	421,000	131,000	102,000	86,600	102,000	40,400	25,200	35,100	101,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Bismuth metal and articles thereof, including waste and scrap.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY^{1, 2}

(Kilograms)

Country	2016					2017			
	Year	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	January	February	March	1st quarter
Belgium	130,000	61,800	--	17,000	51,000	1,000	3,000	--	4,000
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20,000	20,000
Canada	6,210	361	2,280	1,440	2,130	887	2,150	687	3,720
Chile	20,000	--	--	--	20,000	--	--	--	--
China	1,800,000	277,000	815,000	366,000	346,000	216,000	138,000	223,000	577,000
Germany	863	769	77	--	17	1,070	2,480	77	3,620
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	10,000	--	10,000
Korea, Republic of	18,000	10	14	18,000	--	--	--	35,600	35,600
Mexico	161,000	58,600	24,000	49,100	29,600	19,500	19,700	19,800	58,900
United Kingdom	49,500	7,560	15,700	7,420	18,800	8,270	50	15,400	23,700
Other	662 ^r	197 ^r	272 ^r	132 ^r	61	--	--	--	--
Total	2,190,000	406,000	857,000	459,000	468,000	246,000	175,000	314,000	736,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Bismuth metal and articles thereof, including waste and scrap.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.