

# 2017 Minerals Yearbook

SILVER [ADVANCE RELEASE]

# SILVER

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Domestic survey data and tables were prepared by Michelle B. Blackwell, statistical assistant.

In 2017, the United States produced 1,030 metric tons (t) of silver, which was 10% less than revised production in 2016 (table 1). Silver was produced in 11 States in 2017, and Alaska remained the leading silver-producing State, followed by Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and Idaho in descending order of production. Approximately 45% of domestic silver production was produced from primary silver ore at 4 mines, whereas 43% of domestic silver was produced from base-metal ores at 9 mines, and the remaining 12% was from gold ores at 12 mines (table 3). Hecla Mining Co.'s Greens Creek Mine, for data collection purposes, had been considered a primary zinc mine up to 2016, when it was redesignated a primary silver mine bringing the classification into alignment with Hecla's and Mine Safety and Health Administration reporting.

The Engelhard price of silver averaged \$17.07 per troy ounce in 2017, a slight decrease compared with the 2016 average price of \$17.20 per troy ounce (table 1).

Traditional use categories for silver included coin and medal fabrication; industrial applications such as brazing alloys and solders, electrical and electronics components, ethylene oxide, photography, and photovoltaics; jewelry; non-coin investments; and silverware. In 2017, global use of silver decreased slightly compared with that of 2016. Apart from coins and bars, ethylene oxide, and photography (which decreased by 27%, 32%, and 3%, respectively), silver use in all other categories increased in 2017. Photovoltaics and silverware increased by 19% and 11%, respectively (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 8).

In 2017, silver was mined in approximately 65 countries. Production was 27,800 t, essentially unchanged from revised production of 27,900 t in 2016 (tables 1, 8). Mexico was the leading producer, followed by Peru, China, Russia, and Poland. These five countries accounted for 62% of the global production of silver. The United States ranked ninth in world silver mine production in 2017.

## **Legislation and Government Programs**

On September 30, 2017, the amount and value of Deep Storage and Working Stock custodial silver reserves held by the U.S. Mint were 498 t with a total market value of \$270 million at \$16.86 per fine troy ounce and a statutory value of \$20.7 million. As custodian, the U.S. Mint is responsible for safeguarding much of the Nation's gold and silver. In accordance with 31 U.S. Code \$5117(b) and 31 U.S. Code \$5116(b)(2), a statutory rate of no less than \$1.292929292 per fine troy ounce was used to value the custodial silver held by the U.S. Mint. Total silver bullion ounces sold decreased by 46% in fiscal year 2017 when compared with fiscal year 2016. Sales of American Eagle silver bullion coins and America the Beautiful silver bullion coins decreased by 46% and 47%, respectively (U.S. Mint, 2018, p. 14, 43).

#### **Production**

Domestic lode mine production data for silver were compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey from two separate voluntary monthly surveys of U.S. mining operations and from publicly available sources and represented 100% of U.S. mine production listed in table 1. Domestic mine production of silver decreased by 10% in 2017 to 1,030 t, primarily because of decreased production at the Lucky Friday Mine in Idaho. Silver in the United States was mainly produced as a principal product at the Galena Complex, Greens Creek, Lucky Friday, and Rochester Mines, with mine production of about 3%, 25%, 3%, and 14%, respectively (based on company reports), of 2017 U.S. silver production.

Hecla's Lucky Friday Mine, an underground silver-lead-zinc mine in the Coeur d'Alene mining district in northern Idaho, produced 77% less silver in 2017 than in 2016 as a result of a worker's strike that started on March 13 and continued through the remainder of the year. The mill operated intermittently during the strike (Hecla Mining Co., 2018, p. HL10–K19 to HL10–K21). Silver production at the Greens Creek Mine on Admiralty Island near Juneau, AK, was 260 t, a decrease of almost 10% compared with 2016 production, owing to a lower average silver ore grade. The expansion of the tailings facility at the Greens Creek Mine continued through 2017 (Hecla Mining Co., 2018, p. HL10–K32).

Coeur Mining, Inc.'s Rochester Mine near Lovelock, NV, a silver surface mine with gold byproduct, produced 147 t of silver in 2017, 3% more than 2016 production. Higher silver recovery rates and timing of leach pad recoveries more than offset the decrease in ore mined (Coeur Mining, Inc., 2018, p. 30, 45).

In 2017, Alaska produced 514 t of silver, of which 239 t was produced at the Red Dog Mine in northwest Alaska, primarily a zinc-lead mine, a 5% increase compared with 228 t in 2016. The grade from the Aqqualuk pit decreased early in the year and was supplemented by the higher grade ore from the Qanalyaq pit (Athey and Werdon, 2018, p. 61, 66).

The Galena Complex silver mine, near Silverton, ID, owned by Americas Silver Corp., produced 35 t of silver in 2017 compared with 43 t in 2016, a decrease of 19% (Americas Silver Corp., 2018, p. 12).

#### Consumption

Consumption of silver for fabrication (excluding silver bars) in the United States was 5,340 t in 2017, an 8% decrease from that of the 2016. Declines in silver consumption for coins and medals more than offset increases in consumption for industrial applications and jewelry (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 52, 73, 76, 84).

*Coin and Medal Fabrication.*—Approximately 610 t of silver was consumed for coins and medals in the United States in

2017, a 50% decrease from 1,220 t in 2016. In fiscal year 2017, the U.S. Mint sold 718 t of American Eagle silver bullion coins, a decrease of 46% from 1,320 t in 2016, and the sales of America the Beautiful silver bullion coins decreased by 47% in 2017 to 28 t from 52 t in 2016. The silver consumed in coins was the lowest level since 2008 (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 24–25; U.S. Mint, 2018, p. 14).

Industrial Applications.—Silver consumed in domestic industrial applications increased for a third year in a row after 4 years of decreases. Approximately 4,210 t of silver was used in the United States in 2017 for industrial applications, a slight increase from 4,140 t in 2016 (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 52, 54).

The principal components of industrial demand for silver were brazing alloys and solders, catalysts, electrical components and electronics, photography, photovoltaics, and other applications. Adding silver to solder or brazing alloys helps produce smooth, leak-tight, and corrosion-resistant joints. Silver brazing alloys were used widely in a variety of applications, including air conditioning and refrigeration, and electric power distribution. They also were important in the aerospace and automobile industries. In 2017, about 192 t of silver was used domestically in brazing alloys and solders, slightly more than in 2016 (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 62).

As a catalyst, silver can be used in the form of mesh screens or crystals to produce ethylene oxide and formaldehyde, both of which are essential ingredients in plastics. Approximately 90% of the silver used as an industrial catalyst was for the production of ethylene oxide from ethylene. Aside from plastics, ethylene oxide was used for antifreeze, detergents, and polyester fiber. Ethylene oxide catalyst use in the United States increased by 59% in 2017 to 27 t from 17 t owing to the commissioning of two new plants (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 60, 89).

In 2017, the domestic use of silver for electronic and electrical applications totaled 1,730 t, a slight increase from 1,720 t in 2016 (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 58). One of silver's electrical applications is in batteries. The most common silver-oxide battery was the small button-cell battery used in calculators, cameras, hearing aids, toys, and watches; the batteries contain about 35% silver by weight. Because of environmental and safety concerns, silver-oxide batteries were beginning to replace lithium-ion batteries in mobile phones and laptop computers. Silver-zinc batteries feature a water-based chemistry and contain no lithium or flammable liquids. Some larger silver-oxide and silver-zinc batteries were used in military applications. Silver also was used in conductors, contacts, fuses, switches, and timers (Silver Institute, The, undated).

Silver membrane switches were used in buttons on electronics such as computer keyboards, microwave ovens, telephones, televisions, and toys. Silver-based inks and films were applied to composite boards to create electrical pathways in printed circuit boards. Silver-based inks also were used in radio frequency identification (RFID) tags used in hundreds of millions of products to prevent theft and allow easy inventory control (Silver Institute, The, undated).

The use of silver in automotive manufacturing is increasing in autonomous vehicles, internal combustion engines, and photovoltaics, producing new applications in the industry.

Almost all contacts in automobiles are silver coated. Silver membrane switches are used for various functions in vehicles, such as opening windows, closing the trunk, and starting the engine. Growth in demand for automobiles in developing countries is expected to increase silver consumption (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 61).

In 2017, global silver powder production increased to 2,930 t from 2,470 t, an increase of 19%, with Japan (1,840 t), the United States (558 t), and China (535 t) the leading producers. Silver paste manufactured from silver powder, is used in the fabrication of crystalline silicon photovoltaic solar panels, the most commonly used type of solar panel. Solar panel production increased by 370% in China in 2017 compared with that in 2016. During the same period, installations in India nearly doubled to 8 gigawatts and those in Europe increased by 28% (Turkey contributing 1.79 gigawatts). Although installations in the United States decreased by 17% to 12.1 gigawatts, it still accounted for 13% of world installations. In 2017, the average silver loading per cell was 0.13 grams, but increased cell efficiency could adversely affect future consumption of silver. Most silver paste was produced in China, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, and the United States. In 2017, Taiwan and the United States produced 64% of global silver paste, whereas China produced 13%; however, China produced about 70% of the solar cells (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 64–66).

Silver was one of the essential materials used in the manufacture of photographic films and papers. The decline in the use of silver for photography began in 2000 in response to the growth in digital camera technology and the decline in the production of color film and paper. The use of silver in film and paper for consumer applications declined more rapidly than its use in motion picture film because of the slower adoption of digital formats in motion picture production. Other broad photographic-use categories for silver-containing film and paper included commercial photography, dental and industrial x-ray film, graphic arts, and medical x-ray film. In 2017, domestic use of silver for photographic applications was 426 t, a 4% decrease from 442 t in 2016 (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 62–64).

Dental amalgam contains silver, but its use is declining because of concerns about its mercury content (U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 2015). Owing to silver's antibacterial properties, silver also was used in such products as clothing, laundry machines, shoes, and toothbrushes. Silver embedded in locker room surfaces was used to reduce staph infections, and silver-based disinfectants have been introduced as a low-cost, environmentally sensitive option for use in care centers and food-processing facilities (Silver Institute, The, undated).

Jewelry and Silverware.—In 2017, U.S. consumption of silver for fabrication of jewelry and silverware was 519 t, an 11% increase compared with the 468 t consumed in 2016. Silver consumption for jewelry increased to 495 t, 12% more than that in 2016, and consumption for silverware was unchanged at 25 t (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 73, 76).

World consumption of silver for jewelry increased slightly in 2017 to 6,503 t from 6,376 t, mainly because of consumption in India. Consumption for jewelry in India increased by 7% to 2,060 t from 1,930 t, and there was an increase in stockpiling of silver before the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was instituted

in midyear. Chinese consumption decreased by 5% from a year earlier to 830 t (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 70–74).

#### **Prices and Stocks**

From January 1 to December 31, 2017, there was an overall increase in silver prices of 6% compared with a 14% increase in 2016. The daily average Engelhard silver price yearly high was \$18.56 per troy ounce on April 13 and the yearly low was \$15.34 per troy ounce on July 10. The daily average price per troy ounce of silver was \$17.07, a slight decrease when compared with the daily average price of silver in 2016 (table 1).

## **Foreign Trade**

U.S. exports of silver content bullion, dore, and ores and concentrates decreased by 45% to 157 t in 2017 from 289 t in 2016. Principal destinations were Canada (36%), Switzerland (9%), and India (8%) (table 4). U.S. imports for consumption of content bullion, dore, and ores and concentrates decreased by 18% to 5,050 t in 2017 from 6,160 t in 2016. The principal import sources were Mexico (49%), Canada (23%), and Peru (6%) (table 6). The main reason for the decline in imports was the decrease in domestic investment demand for silver (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 47).

#### **World Review**

World mine production of silver decreased for the second consecutive year to 27,800 t in 2017, essentially unchanged from the revised figure of 27,900 t in 2016. Mexico continued to be the leading producer of silver, accounting for 22% of world production. Mexico was followed by Peru (16%); China (13%); Russia (7%); Chile and Poland (5% each); Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, and the United States (4% each); Morocco (3%); and Guatemala, India, Kazakhstan, and Sweden (2% each). These 15 countries accounted for about 93% of the global silver production. Silver production increased in Mexico (by 700 t); other countries with increases in production (in descending order) were Morocco (534 t), Mongolia (91 t), India (81 t), Eritrea (37 t), Kazakhstan (27 t), and the Dominican Republic (25 t). World mine production decreased as a whole in 2017; the most notable decreases (in descending order) were in Chile (237 t), Australia (235 t), Guatemala (220 t), Poland (192 t), Russia (170 t), Turkey (127 t), the United States (117 t); Bolivia (110 t), Indonesia (86 t), and Peru (72 t) (table 8).

According to the Silver Institute, about 28% of global silver production was from silver ores, 36% from lead and zinc ores, 23% from copper ores, 12% from gold ores, and 1% from other types of mining operations. Silver scrap recycling declined slightly to 4,296 t, the sixth consecutive year of decline and the lowest level since 1996. The relatively lower silver prices reduced the incentive for suppliers and consumers to recycle scrap (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 34, 42–44).

Global silver consumption decreased slightly to 31,650 t in 2017 from 32,410 t in 2016. Industrial applications, accounting for 59% of the total global consumption, were the leading end uses of silver, followed by jewelry (21%); bars, coins, and medals (15%); and silverware (5%). Apart from coins and bars, ethylene oxide, and photography (which decreased by 27%, 32%, and 3%, respectively), silver use in all other categories increased in 2017. Photovoltaics and silverware were the leading increases at 19% and 11%, respectively (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 8).

Argentina.—In 2017, silver production in Argentina decreased by 4% to 1,016 t from 2016 owing to reduced production from SSR Mining Inc.'s Puna Operations, which produced 192 t in 2017, 41% less than compared with 2016 production. Mining at the San Miguel Pit ended in January 2017, and processing continued with lower grade stockpiled ore raising costs by 40%. Goldcorp Inc. increased production from its Cerro Negro operations with higher production rates offsetting slight decreases in recovery rates (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 30; SSR Mining Inc., 2018).

*Bolivia.*—Silver production in Bolivia in 2017 was 1,243 t compared with 1,353 t in 2016, a decrease of 8% owing to decreased production at the San Bartolomé, San Cristobal, and San Vicente Mines (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 30). During the year, the San Bartolomé Mine produced 133 t of silver. In December 2017, Coeur and its subsidiaries agreed to sell all of Empress Minera Manquiri, S.A. (the operator of the San Bartolomé Mine) to Ag-Mining Investments, AB, with the deal expected to be completed in early 2018 (Coeur Mining, Inc., 2018, p. 27). Production of silver at the San Vincente Mine was 112 t in 2017, a 19% decrease compared with 138 t in 2016 (Pan American Silver Corp., 2018, p. 35).

Canada.—Silver production in Canada was 395 t in 2017, a slight decrease from 405 t in 2016. Most of the silver in Canada was produced as a coproduct or byproduct of other metals in 34 mines. Vale's Sudbury operations produced less silver owing to reduced production at nickel-mining operations. Lower ore grades were cited for decreased silver production from the Kidd Creek (Glencore plc) copper-zinc mine, the Highland Valley (Teck Resources Ltd) copper-molybdenum mine, and the Minto (Capstone Mining Corp.) copper-gold-silver mine. Agnico Eagle Mines, Ltd.'s LaRonde gold-silver-copper-zinc mine produced 39 t of silver in 2017, a 27% increase compared with 31 t in 2016 (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 29; Mining Association of Canada, The, 2019, p. 84–88).

*China.*—Silver production in China was 3,502 t in 2017, essentially unchanged from the revised amount in 2016. Silver in the country was produced as a byproduct of copper, lead, and zinc mining. Increased attention to environmental protection by the Government led to decreased lead and zinc production and resulted in a decrease of silver production (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 33).

*Mexico.*—In 2017, Mexico was the leading producer of silver in the world with production of 6,109 t, a 13% increase from the revised production of 5,409 t in 2016. The increase in production was the result of increased production at the Peñasquito and San Julian Mines. Fresnillo plc's San Julian operations were commissioned in late 2016 and produced 328 t of silver in 2017. After a prolonged maintenance at Goldcorp Inc.'s Peñasquito mill, production in 2017 increased to 112 t, a 20% increase as compared with that of 2016 (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 27).

*Peru.*—In 2017, Peru was the second leading producer of silver in the world with production of 4,304 t, a slight decrease from that in 2016. Buenaventura (803 t) was the leading producer, followed by Compañía Minera Antamina S.A. (647 t) and Volcan Compañía Minera S.A.A. (Volcan Compañía Minera S.A.A., 2018, p. 42). The leading silver producer was Compañía de Minas Buenaventura S.A.A. with production from the following

mines: Uchucchacua (516 t), El Brocal (127 t), Julcani (70 t), Tambomayo (56 t), and Mallay (35 t) (Compañía de Minas Buenaventura S.A.A., 2018). Volcan Compañía Minera S.A.A. and subsidiaries was the third leading producer of silver in Peru in 2017 with a production of 538 t; Hochschild Mining plc produced 493 t of silver from its Arcata (137 t), Inmaculada (171 t), and Pallancata (185 t) Mines (Hochschild Mining plc, 2018, p. 2, 24–26). In 2017, Compañía Minera Milpo S.A.A. produced 184 t of silver from the Cerro Lindo and El Porvenir Mines, 6% less than that produced in 2016 (Compañía Minera Milpo S.A.A., 2018, p. 14–15).

**Russia.**—In 2017, Russia produced about 2,030 t of silver, a decrease of 9% compared with 2,200 t from a year earlier. Polymetal International plc's output from the Dukat Mine, Russia's leading silver operation, produced 551 t of silver in 2017, a decrease of 65 t from 2016 owing to lower ore grades. At the Lunnoye Mine, ore throughput increased by 6%, but the silver output fell by 25 t because of lower silver ore grades (O'Connell and others, 2018, p. 33).

#### Outlook

World production of silver is expected to increase, as output from gold and primary silver mines in Mexico and South America increases. The use of silver in photographic applications is expected to continue to decline, and as hospitals convert their x-ray equipment to digital systems, silver use will probably remain only in niche applications such as artistic photography.

The use of silver in crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells is expected to increase as production increases, although, per solar cell, silver use is expected to decline owing to the relatively high cost of silver. The demand for silver from the electrical and electronics industry is expected to increase in 2018 because of technological improvements. New uses for silver include those that take advantage of its biocidal or conductive properties. Antimicrobial silver technology is expected to be used in cooking utensils, food packaging, medical products, textiles, toiletries, and water-purification devices. The use of RFIDs for tracking shipments and stocks, including silver-based highdata-capacity tags, readers, and computer systems, is expected to increase. Although silver-oxide batteries are already used in many products, demand for the batteries may increase with the proliferation of laptop and tablet computers and cellular telephones with advanced computing capabilities.

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 $\label{eq:table 1} \textbf{TABLE 1} \\ \textbf{SALIENT SILVER STATISTICS}^1$ 

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
United States:						
Mine production:						
Quantity	metric tons	1,050	1,180	1,090	1,150	1,030
Value	thousands	\$804,000	\$727,000	\$551,000	\$627,000 r	\$566,000
Refinery production:						
Domestic and foreign ores and concentrates	metric tons	800	800	800	800	800
Scrap (old and new)	do.	1,700	1,400	1,200	1,300	1,300
Exports:						
Ore and concentrate	do.	14	6	2	16	16
Bullion and dore	do.	395	374	815	273	141
Imports for consumption:						
Ore and concentrate <sup>2</sup>	do.	57	(3)	(3) r	5	7
Bullion and dore	do.	5,020	5,000	5,930	6,160	5,040
Stocks, December 31:						
Industry	do.	110	120	130	140	150
COMEX	do.	5,350	5,610	5,000	5,710	7,570
U.S. Department of the Treasury	do.	498	498	498	498	498
Bullion coin production <sup>4</sup>	do.	1,390	1,210	1,520	1,370	746
Price, average <sup>5</sup>	dollars per troy ounce	23.89	19.09	15.72	17.20 <sup>r</sup>	17.07
Employment, mine and mill workers <sup>6</sup>		819	792	750	785	1,030
World, mine production	metric tons	26,700 <sup>r</sup>	27,800 <sup>r</sup>	27,400 <sup>r</sup>	27,900 <sup>r</sup>	27,800
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>r</sup>Revised. do. Ditto.

 $\label{eq:table 2} \textbf{TABLE 2}$  MINE PRODUCTION OF SILVER IN THE UNITED STATES, BY STATE  $^1$ 

## (Kilograms)

State	2015	2016	2017
Alaska	490,000	520,000	514,000
Arizona	99,200	86,700	78,900
Nevada	290,000	278,000	265,000
Other <sup>2</sup>	211,000 <sup>r</sup>	264,000 <sup>r</sup>	173,000
Total	1,090,000	1,150,000	1,030,000

rRevised.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through April 27, 2020. Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Includes silver content of ash and residues.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Data from the U.S. Mint.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Price data are the annual Handy & Harman quotations published in Platts Metals Week.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Employment data are from the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, for mines classified as (active and temporarily idle) silver mines by the U.S. Geological Survey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through April 27, 2020. Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Includes California, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Utah.

 ${\it TABLE~3}$  Leading silver-producing mines in the united states in 2017, in order of output  $^1$ 

Rank	Mine	County and State <sup>2</sup>	Operator	Source of silver
1	Greens Creek	Southeastern Region, AK	Hecla Mining Co.	Silver-zinc ore.
2	Red Dog	Northern Region, AK	Teck Alaska Inc.	Zinc-lead ore.
3	Rochester	Pershing, NV	Coeur Mining, Inc.	Silver ore.
4	Bingham Canyon	Salt Lake, UT	Rio Tinto Kennecott <sup>3</sup>	Copper-molybdenum ore.
5	Mission Complex	Pima, AZ	ASARCO LLC <sup>4</sup>	Copper ore.
6	Phoenix	Lander, NV	Newmont Mining Corp.	Gold-copper ore.
7	Galena Complex	Shoshone, ID	Americas Silver Corp.	Silver ore.
8	Round Mountain	Nye, NV	Kinross Gold Corp.	Gold ore.
9	Lucky Friday	Shoshone, ID	Hecla Mining Co.	Silver ore.
10	Midas	Elko, NV	Klondex Mining Ltd.	Gold ore.
11	Bagdad	Yavapai, AZ	Freeport-McMoRan Inc.	Copper-molybdenum ore.
12	Continental Pit	Silver Bow, MT	Montana Resources LLP	Do.
13	Chino	Grant, NM	Freeport-McMoRan Inc.	Do.
14	Morenci	Greenlee, AZ	do.	Do.
15	Carlin Mines Operations	Elko, Eureka, and Humboldt, NV	Newmont Mining Corp.	Gold ore.
16	Pinto Valley	Gila, AZ	Capstone Mining Corp.	Copper-molybdenum ore.
17	Soledad Mountain	Kern, CA	Golden Queen Mining Co. Ltd. (50%), Jefferies Financial Group (37.73%), Auvergne, LLC (12.27%)	Gold ore.
18	Rawhide	Mineral, NV	Coral Reef Capital L.L.C.	Do.
19	Goldstrike	Elko and Eureka, NV	Barrick Gold Corp.	Do.
20	Ray	Pinal, AZ	ASARCO LLC <sup>4</sup>	Copper ore.
21	Cortez Operations	Eureka and Lander, NV	Barrick Gold Corp.	Gold ore.
22	Bald Mountain	White Pine, NV	Kinross Gold Corp.	Do.
23	Fire Creek	Lander, NV	Klondex Mining Ltd.	Do.
24	Wharf	Lawrence, SD	Coeur Mining, Inc.	Do.
25	Hollister	Elko, NV	Klondex Mining Ltd.	Do.
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

Do., do. Ditto

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through April 27, 2020. The mines on this list accounted for more than 99% of U.S. mine production in 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>For Alaska, mines are located by geographic region, as delineated by the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys in its Special Report 73, Alaska's mineral industry 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Wholly owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto plc.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Wholly owned subsidiary of Grupo México, S.A.B. de C.V.

 $\label{eq:table 4} \textbf{U.S. EXPORTS OF REFINED SILVER, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY}^{1}$ 

	Ores and co	oncentrates	Bull	ion	Do	ore	Tot	al
	Silver content	Value						
Year and country or locality	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)
2016	15,900	\$27,500	237,000	\$139,000	35,800	\$21,300	289,000	\$188,000
2017:								
Argentina					50	28	50	28
Australia	3	17	7,620	4,280	441	199	8,060	4,490
Canada	308	699	55,700	32,700			56,000	33,400
Cayman Islands			1,960	1,230			1,960	1,230
Chile	13	6	2,420	1,720			2,430	1,720
China	9,020	7,560	40	16	22	13	9,080	7,590
Germany			5,380	2,670	3,070	1,810	8,450	4,480
Hong Kong			136	160	433	329	569	489
India			2,000	1,200	11,100	8,950	13,100	10,200
Israel					263	163	263	163
Italy			3,750	2,380	1,130	645	4,880	3,020
Japan	133	532	36	111			169	643
Korea, Republic of	6,680	17,900	20	13	410	238	7,110	18,100
Mexico			3,470	1,950	3,250	2,920	6,720	4,880
New Zealand			693	407	987	510	1,680	917
Norway			74	33	1,120	706	1,190	739
Panama			272	154			272	154
Singapore	14	8	4,630	2,270	4,230	2,470	8,870	4,740
South Africa	6	11	109	67	1,590	895	1,710	973
Sweden			1,850	1,690	17	4	1,870	1,700
Switzerland					13,600	10,100	13,600	10,100
Taiwan	123	77	10	13			133	90
Thailand			130	125			130	125
United Arab Emirates			28	17	2,220	1,220	2,250	1,230
United Kingdom			1,070	646	5,240	3,340	6,310	3,980
Other	18	18	348	247	196	121	562	386
Total	16,300	26,800	91,800	54,100	49,400	34,700	157,000	116,000

<sup>--</sup> Zero.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through April 27, 2020. Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

U.S. EXPORTS OF SILVER, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY  $^{\rm l}$ TABLE 5

	Other unwrought silver	ught silver	Metal powder	owder	Silver nitrate	itrate	Semimanufactured forms	ured forms <sup>2</sup>	Waste an	Waste and scrap
	Gross weight	Value	Gross weight	Value	Gross weight	Value	Gross weight	Value	Gross weight	Value
Year and country or locality	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)
2016	233,000 r	\$167,000 r	771,000 r	\$467,000 r	43,600	\$4,040	722,000 r	\$427,000	13,400,000	\$1,480,000 r
2017:										
Australia	88	36	22	17	809	76	4,310	2,230	34	83
Austria	6	34	154	86	139	29	2,650	1,470	1	;
Belgium	1	1	5,090	3,260	1	1	24	12	919,000	42,300
Brazil	;	!	1,790	1,800	13	3	764	443	068	37
Canada	53,900	28,300	12,600	11,000	30,200	1,220	121,000	69,300	1,820,000	224,000
China	999	434	81,800	51,700	128	35	13,300	8,340	2,050	1,610
Colombia	58	89	10	12	1	1	454	234	24	14
Costa Rica	1,970	1,040	134	94	824	164	2,000	1,160	449	9
Dominican Republic	519	332	124	82	96	36	966	647	∞	4
France	181	142	58,900	36,800	335	6	6,080	3,340	4	20
Germany	1,950	1,260	27,900	18,200	999	243	10,900	6,520	2,850,000	575,000
Hong Kong	089'9	3,800	13,300	8,630	1	1	2,660	2,820	2,740	2,450
India	38,800	18,400	1,580	1,020	09	28	8,560	5,230	18	434
Ireland	17	5	09	46	1	1	24,800	13,500	ŀ	1
Israel	212	50	57	35	1	1	1,070	160	9	30
Italy	2	5	57,100	31,000	1	1	1,510	874	1,830,000	459,000
Japan	20	34	54,100	37,800	1	1	141,000	80,900	2,580,000	135,000
Korea, Republic of	170	110	51,400	32,300	73	16	26,100	16,800	84,600	16,300
Malaysia	29	8	1,300	1,070	164	82	5,250	2,860	573	162
Mexico	4,820	3,340	10,700	9,590	7,240	1,780	71,100	38,200	187,000	31,000
Netherlands	1	1	16,400	10,200	1	1	99	39	51	253
Philippines	49	27	1	ı	74	38	3,690	3,230	1	10
Poland	1	1	1	I	1	1	1,060	571	122	12
Singapore	235	142	318,000	189,000	2,620	1,000	4,670	2,870	140	24
Spain	1	1	186	132	1	1	8,240	4,230	1	!
Sweden	!	!	1	I	185	38	5,070	2,350	2,270,000	56,400
Switzerland	648	805	15	13	1	1	3,400	2,160	496	10,500
Taiwan	70	44	127,000	78,700	1	1	1,100	989	168	52
Thailand	4,840	1,940	1,560	972	1	1	4,730	2,690	16	84
United Arab Emirates	455	108	1	ŀ	1	1	2,640	1,310	1	1
United Kingdom	118	52	29,400	22,400	426	16	18,600	10,500	448,000	249,000
Other	3,280	1,500	616	431	7,060	333	10,600	5,680	5,290	3,080
Total	120,000	62,000	872,000	546,000	50,900	5,170	508,000	292,000	13,000,000	1,810,000

Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through April 27, 2020. Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. <sup>2</sup>Containing 99.5% or more by weight of silver.

 $\label{eq:table 6} \text{U.s. imports for consumption of refined silver, by country or locality}^1$ 

	Ores and co	,	D.,1	lion	D	ore	T	otal
	Silver	residues	Silver	non	Silver	ore	Silver	otai
	content	Value	content	Value	content	Value	content	Value
Year and country or locality	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)
2016	4,790 r	\$1,520 r	4,870,000	\$2,680,000	1,290,000	\$1,090,000	6,160,000	\$3,770,000
2017:	4,790	\$1,320	4,870,000	\$2,080,000	1,290,000	\$1,090,000	0,100,000	\$3,770,000
Argentina			13,500	14,700	77,900	88,800	91,400	104,000
Australia			18,800	9,680	77,700	00,000	18,800	9,680
Belgium			111,000	54,300			111,000	54,300
Bolivia			23,000	12,600	72,100	40,100	95,000	52,700
Brazil	10	236	534	266	72,100	40,100	544	502
Canada	5,940	1,960	1,170,000	638,000	5,540	3,020	1,180,000	643,000
Chile	ŕ	1,900	204,000	111,000	3,340	3,020	204,000	111,000
China		<b></b>	54,800	29,100	18,000	10,200	72,800	39,200
Colombia			34,800		1,590	789	1,590	39,200 789
Curação					1,390	645	1,130	645
					,		,	589
Dominican Republic Ecuador					1,020 665	589 358	1,020 665	358
			20.700	17.400				
Germany			39,700	17,400	3,550	2,060	43,200	19,500
Guatemala					30,700	33,800	30,700	33,800
Italy			28,700	17,700	2,220	1,310	30,900	19,000
Kazakhstan			14,600	7,870			14,600	7,870
Korea, Republic of			126,000	71,400			126,000	71,400
Mexico	803	171	1,780,000	973,000	691,000	619,000	2,480,000	1,590,000
Panama			331	168	165	144	496	312
Peru			136,000	74,300	177,000	155,000	313,000	230,000
Poland			175,000	97,300			175,000	97,300
Russia			4,910	2,730			4,910	2,730
Switzerland			45	25	1,350	938	1,390	963
United Kingdom			54,600	28,500	774	520	55,400	29,000
Other	90	3	113	66	192	249	395	318
Total	6,840	2,370	3,950,000	2,160,000	1,080,000	958,000	5,050,000	3,120,000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through April 27, 2020. Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF SILVER, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY  $^{\rm I}$ 

	Other unwrought silver	ught silver	Metal powder	wder	Silver nitrate	itrate	Semimanufactured forms <sup>2</sup>	ured forms <sup>2</sup>	Waste and scrap	scrap
	Gross weight	Value	Gross weight	Value	Gross weight	Value	Gross weight	Value	Gross weight	Value
Year and country or locality	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)	(kilograms)	(thousands)
2016	343,000	\$164,000	358,000 r	\$52,500	3,390	\$731	692,000	\$357,000	6,640,000 r	\$260,000
2017:										
Belgium	!	ŀ	!	!	1	43	1	1	332,000	1,870
Bolivia	1	1	37,100	19,800	;	1	:	1	221	171
Brazil	;	1	1	1	(3)	38	;	;	760,000	5,140
Canada	91,500	23,400	21,800	826	(3)	141	104,000	57,500	578,000	70,100
Chile	1	1	1	1	;	1	114,000	62,900	15,100	3,390
China	69	72	42,800	1,850	(3)	5	18	11	301,000	12,800
France	1	1	20,000	2,110	1	1	;	ŀ	38,000	157
Germany	2,290	1,520	15,000	9,020	2	129	2,510	1,440	1,750,000	211,000
Honduras	;	1	!	1	1	1	1	1	28,100	433
Hong Kong	1	ŀ	1	1	1	1	1	1	62,300	136
Hungary	;	1	55,500	3,040	;	1	;	;	1	ŀ
India	199	65	24	15	(3)	9	400	112	3,350	184
Ireland	1	1	1	1	;	1	;	1	86,700	291
Israel	9	S	1	1	;	1	11	10	5,910	1,260
Italy	2,400	1,280	6	3	1	1	74	148	16	59
Japan	69	78	233,000	20,900	1	1	16	26	3,310	432
Korea, Republic of	85	15	129	47	(3)	7	128,000	71,100	2,900	555
Malaysia	1	1	10	7	;	1	:	1	533,000	2,800
Mexico	262,000	142,000	179	106	1	1	85,500	42,100	251,000	14,400
Netherlands	7,460	249	1	1	(3)	19	23	13	11,100	124
Peru	24,900	13,500	1	1	;	1	;	;	3,450	114
Poland	1	1	6	7	(3)	4	25,200	10,100	1	1
Singapore	1	1	39	37	1	1	212	125	42,900	782
Slovakia	1	1	!	1	1	1	:	1	91,600	446
South Africa	1	1	1	1	;	1	;	1	10,900	2,810
Spain	1	1	41	35	;	1	95	69	1,850	35,700
Sweden	1	1	445	179	1	1	1	1	101,000	848
Switzerland	1	ŀ	953	595	(3)	19	4	5	1	1
United Kingdom	42	30	1,620	596	(3)	158	1,110	503	20,400	089
Vietnam	!	ŀ	!	1	1	1	1	1	214,000	4,250
Other	562	274	882	321	3	80	1,820	1,100	143,000	15,700
Total	392,000	182,000	430,000	60,000	9	649	462,000	247,000	5,390,000	387,000
Revised Zero.	Ì	Ī				Ī				Ì

Revised. -- Zero.

Table includes data available through April 27, 2020. Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Containing 99.5% or more by weight of silver.
<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

 ${\bf TABLE~8}$  SILVER: WORLD MINE PRODUCTION, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY  $^1$ 

## (Kilograms)

Country or locality	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Algeria	27	16	15 e	10 e	10 e
Argentina	890,152 <sup>r</sup>	989,950 <sup>r</sup>	1,175,760	1,055,700 °	1,016,215
Armenia	19,458	19,333	14,346	3,210 <sup>r</sup>	15,600 e
Australia	1,735,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,888,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,506,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,434,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,200,000 e
Azerbaijan	630	239	133	320 <sup>r</sup>	705
Bolivia	1,287,200	1,398,163 <sup>r</sup>	1,306,098 <sup>r</sup>	1,353,202 <sup>r</sup>	1,243,000
Botswana	22,597	22,328	2,801	r	
Brazil	38,200	36,700	37,000	32,000 r, e	30,000 e
Bulgaria	55,637	50,200	37,955 <sup>r</sup>	52,526 <sup>r</sup>	57,000 e
Burkina Faso	14,541	14,000 r, e	12,441	21,772	21,800
Canada <sup>2</sup>	640,362 <sup>r</sup>	495,403 <sup>r</sup>	383,807 <sup>r</sup>	404,666 <sup>r</sup>	395,000
Chile	1,174,000	1,572,000	1,504,000	1,497,037	1,260,000
China	3,673,320	3,567,572 <sup>r</sup>	3,393,392	3,496,000	3,502,000
Colombia	13,968	11,498	10,155	10,427 <sup>r</sup>	15,500
Congo (Kinshasa)	60,431	6,492	2,412	835 °	500 °
Côte d'Ivoire	572	586 <sup>r</sup>	587 <sup>r</sup>	594	485
Cyprus					96
Dominican Republic	80,439	135,108	99,800	121,749 <sup>r</sup>	147,047
Ecuador	1,198 <sup>r</sup>	577 <sup>r</sup>	1,494 <sup>r</sup>	934 <sup>r</sup>	1,000 °
Eritrea	15,799 <sup>r</sup>	52,668 <sup>r</sup>	70,330	13,200 <sup>r</sup>	49,921
Ethiopia	900 r, e	1,020 <sup>r</sup>	1,000 r, e	1,000 r	1,000 °
Fiji <sup>3</sup>	462	361 <sup>r</sup>	354 <sup>r</sup>	354 r, e	350
Finland	12,000 r, e	14,500 r, e	13,051 <sup>r</sup>	16,300 r, e	13,700 °
Georgia	1,100 °	700 °	800 °	900 <sup>r</sup>	500 °
Ghana <sup>e</sup>	3,300	3,400	3,200 <sup>r</sup>	2,300 <sup>r</sup>	1,800
-		35,785 <sup>r</sup>	25,170 <sup>r</sup>	2,300 29,409 <sup>r</sup>	
Greece Guatemala	- 283,000 °	631,382 <sup>r</sup>	862,197 <sup>r</sup>	793,083 <sup>r</sup>	24,191 572,714
Honduras	50,917	56,827	34,369 <sup>r</sup>	19,275 <sup>r</sup>	21,400 °
India	367,022 <sup>r</sup>	338,084 <sup>r</sup>	383,479 <sup>r</sup>	445,367	526,000
Indonesia	123,109	119,189	151,934	185,234 <sup>r</sup>	99,600
	- 85,000 <sup>r</sup>	80,000 <sup>r</sup>	90,000 <sup>r</sup>	90,000 <sup>r</sup>	90,000
Iran <sup>e</sup>	_ 83,000 7,822				*
Ireland	- - 3,644	6,436 <sup>r</sup>	3,770 °	1,080 °	1,340
Japan Kazakhstan	_	3,541	4,616	5,076	3,424
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	584,435 <sup>r</sup>	474,991 <sup>r</sup>	370,404 <sup>r</sup>	413,821 <sup>r</sup>	441,056
Korea, North <sup>e</sup>	50,000	50,000	50,300	50,400	50,000
Korea, Republic of	2,925 <sup>r</sup>	3,289	4,586 <sup>r</sup>	6,579 <sup>r</sup>	6,700
Kyrgyzstan	9,331	9,331	9,890 <sup>r</sup>	18,410 <sup>r</sup>	19,320
Laos	32,262 <sup>r</sup>	39,806 <sup>r</sup>	51,763 <sup>r</sup>	50,904 <sup>r</sup>	49,900
Malaysia	361 <sup>r</sup>	533 <sup>r</sup>	945 <sup>r</sup>	1,075 <sup>r</sup>	1,404
Mexico	5,820,991	5,765,662	5,591,510 <sup>r</sup>	5,408,521 <sup>r</sup>	6,108,722
Mongolia	38,000 r, e	51,451 <sup>r</sup>	60,000 r, e	69,000 r, e	160,000 e
Morocco	194,080	185,770	207,740 <sup>r</sup>	316,000 <sup>r</sup>	850,000 e
Namibia <sup>4</sup>	1,400	1,129 r,5	11,555 r, 6	4,702 <sup>r, 7</sup>	4,000 e
New Zealand	11,223	15,811 <sup>r</sup>	12,498 <sup>r</sup>	7,960 <sup>r</sup>	7,919
Nicaragua	13,743 <sup>r</sup>	13,889 <sup>r</sup>	18,577 °	21,382 <sup>r</sup>	19,000
Niger	50 r, e	67 °	119 <sup>r</sup>	120 r, e	120 e
Pakistan	1,988 <sup>r</sup>	1,609 <sup>r</sup>	9,693 <sup>r</sup>	3,110	3,000 e
Papua New Guinea	82,702 r	91,843 <sup>r</sup>	77,666 <sup>r</sup>	90,498 <sup>r</sup>	90,000
Peru	3,674,283	3,768,147 <sup>r</sup>	4,101,568 <sup>r</sup>	4,375,337 <sup>r</sup>	4,303,541
Philippines	40,043	23,005	29,952 <sup>r</sup>	35,186 <sup>r</sup>	32,351
Poland	1,393,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,384,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,407,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,482,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,290,000 e
Portugal	37,025 <sup>r</sup>	39,350 <sup>r</sup>	37,677 <sup>r</sup>	35,211 <sup>r</sup>	36,713
Russia	2,175,600 <sup>r</sup>	2,360,000 r, e	2,297,000 <sup>r</sup>	2,200,000 r	2,030,000
Slovakia	_ 508	437	440	500 r, e	500 <sup>e</sup>
Solomon Islands	413	280			
South Africa	68,777 <sup>r</sup>	49,220 <sup>r</sup>	51,861 <sup>r</sup>	52,127	56,000 °

See footnotes at end of table.

# $\label{total continued} \mbox{TABLE 8---Continued}$ SILVER: WORLD MINE PRODUCTION, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY $^1$

#### (Kilograms)

Country or locality	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Spain	27,979	27,306	27,287	26,099	30,596
Sweden	341,346	382,611	479,700 <sup>r</sup>	498,686 <sup>r</sup>	467,500
Tajikistan	1,800	3,000 e	4,000 <sup>e</sup>	3,000 <sup>r</sup>	3,000 e
Tanzania	12,159	15,569 <sup>r</sup>	15,569 <sup>r</sup>	17,984 <sup>r</sup>	25,914
Thailand	32,381 <sup>r</sup>	31,046 <sup>r</sup>	21,047 <sup>r</sup>	35,954 <sup>r</sup>	35,000 e
Turkey	189,600	183,880	190,550 <sup>r</sup>	376,640 <sup>r</sup>	249,484
United Kingdom	82	e			
United States	1,050,000	1,180,000	1,090,000	1,150,000	1,030,000
Uzbekistan	61,000 <sup>e</sup>	54,000	47,000	22,024 <sup>r</sup>	21,864
Zambia	16,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Zimbabwe	1,150 <sup>r</sup>	1,297 <sup>r</sup>	1,212 <sup>r</sup>	1,463 <sup>r</sup>	1,480
Total	26,700,000 r	27,800,000 <sup>r</sup>	27,400,000 <sup>r</sup>	27,900,000 <sup>r</sup>	27,800,000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through August 6, 2018. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Totals, U.S. data, and estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Metal content of concentrate produced.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Mine output, silver content.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Metal content of concentrates, estimated.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>From copper concentrate.

 $<sup>^6\</sup>mathrm{From}$  gold bullion.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>From zinc concentrates.