

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MOLYBDENUM IN JANUARY 2023

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate in January 2023 was unchanged compared with the output of the previous month and essentially unchanged compared with the output of January 2022 (fig. 1, table 1).

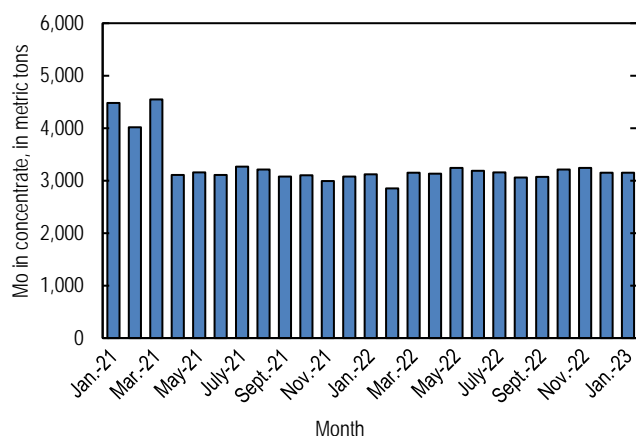


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production of molybdenum (Mo) in concentrate from January 2021 through January 2023 (may include revisions to previously published data).

Prices

According to CRU Group, the monthly average price range for U.S. ferromolybdenum (FeMo) was \$32.944 to \$33.944 per pound of molybdenum content in January 2023 compared with \$25.244 to \$25.778 per pound of molybdenum content in December 2022. FeMo monthly average prices in Europe ranged from \$71.933 to \$72.933 per kilogram (\$32.628 to \$33.082 per pound) of molybdenum content in January 2023 compared with \$53.844 to \$54.844 per kilogram (\$24.423 to \$24.877 per pound) in December 2022. FeMo prices have not been this high since September 2008.

U.S. molybdic oxide (MoO_3) prices ranged from \$27.333 to \$28.133 per pound of molybdenum content in January 2023 compared with from \$22.333 to \$22.678 per pound of molybdenum content in December 2022 (fig. 2).

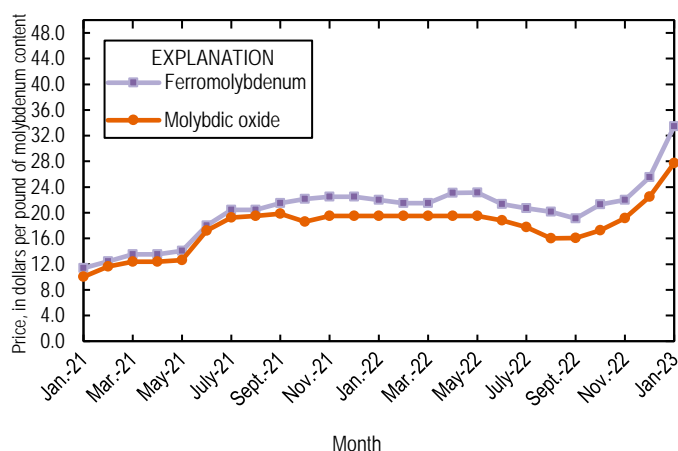


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. ferromolybdenum and molybdic oxide from January 2021 through January 2023. Source: CRU Group.

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TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE
STATISTICS^{1,2}

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Period	Production	Shipments ^{3,4}
2022:		
January	3,120	3,080
February	2,850	2,850
March	3,150	3,180
April	3,130	3,150
May	3,240	3,250
June	3,190	3,170
July	3,160	3,130
August	3,060	3,100
September	3,070	3,090
October	3,210	3,130
November	3,240	3,240
December	3,150	3,100
January–December	37,600	37,500
2023, January	3,150	3,000

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

²Includes data from Freeport-McMoRan Inc., 2021–2022. Adjusted by USGS to reflect estimated monthly data.

³As reported by producers.

⁴Shipments include sales to domestic customers, sales for export, and transfers to other company plants.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES
(including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country or locality	2022			2023
	January– December	January	December	January
Argentina	87,000	10,900	--	--
Belgium	2,070,000	117,000	161,000	16,700
Brazil	229,000	20,000	34,000	6,420
Cambodia	5,000	--	--	--
Canada	408,000	55,700	36,300	155,000
Chile	98,400	98,400	--	--
China	402,000	--	135,000	80,000
Germany	5,700	5,700	--	--
Hong Kong	1,680	--	--	--
India	529,000	96,700	69,400	--
Italy	114	--	--	--
Japan	3,500,000	253,000	299,000	314,000
Korea, Republic of	681,000	36,600	--	103,000
Latvia	1,140	--	--	--
Mexico	1,970,000	74,700	174,000	92,900
Netherlands	28,500,000	2,080,000	2,730,000	2,390,000
South Africa	11,800	--	--	--
Taiwan	3,400	--	--	--
Thailand	12,400	--	--	--
United Kingdom	6,740,000	445,000	781,000	254,000
Vietnam	1,130,000	42,100	103,000	79,400
Total	46,400,000	3,340,000	4,520,000	3,490,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country or locality	2022			2023
	January– December	January	December	January
Argentina	547	--	--	--
Australia	2,560	--	--	--
Canada	90,700	10,600	--	7,610
Denmark	880	--	--	--
Mexico	92,600	--	--	--
Total	187,000	10,600	--	7,610

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS¹

(Kilograms, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2022			2023		
	January–December			January		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value ² (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value ² (thousands)
Ore and concentrates, roasted	3,240,000	2,000,000	\$74,600	210,000	130,000	\$6,670
Ore and concentrates, other	28,800,000	13,700,000	511,000	2,950,000	1,450,000	63,000
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	3,660,000	NA	106,000	657,000	NA	25,000
Molybdates of ammonium	1,360,000	773,000	33,700	229,000	129,000	7,280
Molybdates (all others)	360,000	144,000	5,980	21,000	8,320	351
Molybdenum orange	160,000	NA	1,170	21,400	NA	79
Ferromolybdenum	10,600,000	7,260,000	311,000	551,000	373,000	16,000
Molybdenum powders	238,000	232,000	13,400	543	485	51
Molybdenum unwrought	330,000	329,000	14,800	26,200	26,200	1,470
Molybdenum waste and scrap	1,910,000	1,540,000	67,900	241,000	163,000	6,200
Molybdenum wire	15,800	NA	1,950	993	NA	144
Molybdenum other	192,000	NA	24,800	22,100	NA	2,220
Total	50,900,000	XX	1,170,000	4,930,000	XX	128,000

NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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

²Customs value.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.