

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MOLYBDENUM IN AUGUST 2023

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate in August 2023 was 3% less than the output in the previous month and 9% more than the output in August 2022 (fig. 1, table 1).

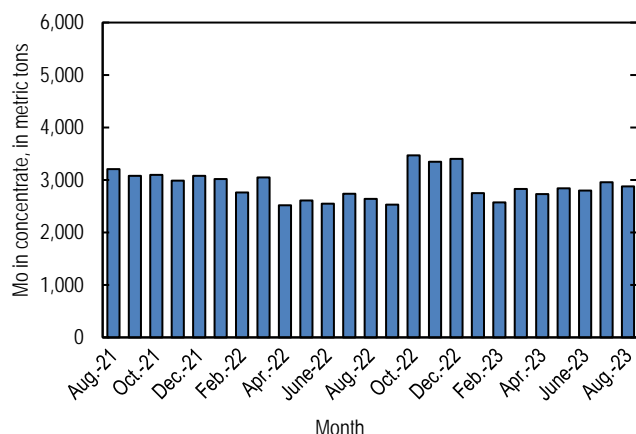


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production of molybdenum (Mo) in concentrate from August 2021 through August 2023 (may include revisions to previously published data).

Prices

According to CRU Group, the monthly average price range for U.S. ferromolybdenum (FeMo) was \$25.400 to \$26.400 per pound of molybdenum content in August 2023 compared with \$24.000 to \$25.000 per pound in July 2023. FeMo monthly average prices in Europe ranged from \$54.000 to \$55.200 per kilogram (\$24.494 to \$25.038 per pound) of molybdenum content in August 2023 compared with \$50.000 to \$52.000 per kilogram (\$22.680 to \$23.587 per pound) in July 2023. U.S. molybdc oxide (MoO₃) prices ranged from \$22.425 to \$23.425 per pound of molybdenum content in August 2023 compared with \$21.625 to \$22.625 per pound of molybdenum content in July 2023 (fig. 2).

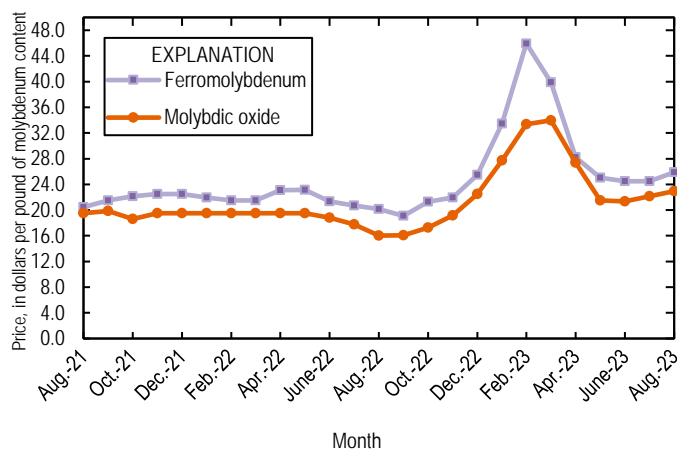


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. ferromolybdenum and molybdc oxide from August 2021 through August 2023. Source: CRU Group.

Industry News

China's molybdenum concentrate imports increased by 44% to 18,500 metric tons (t) in the first six months of 2023 compared with 12,900 t during the same period in 2022. China imported 3,530 t of roasted molybdenum concentrate and 15,000 t of unroasted molybdenum concentrates in the first six months of 2023 (Argus Media group—Metal Pages, 2023).

Reference Cited

Argus Media group—Metal Pages, 2023, China's January-June Mo concentrate imports rise: Argus Media group—Metal Pages, August 11, 1 p. (Accessed October 10, 2023, via www.argusmedia.com/)

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

(Metric tons, molybdenum content)

Period	Production	Shipments ^{3,4}
2022:		
January	3,020	3,100
February	2,760	2,760
March	3,050	3,080
April	2,520	2,540
May	2,610	2,620
June	2,550	2,530
July	2,740	2,700
August	2,640	2,680
September	2,530	2,550
October	3,470	3,390
November	3,350	3,360
December	3,400	3,350
January–December	34,600	34,700
2023:		
January	2,750	2,610
February	2,570	2,570
March	2,830	2,900
April	2,730	2,720
May	2,840	2,860
June	2,800	2,790
July	2,960	2,930
August	2,880	2,910
January–August	22,400	22,300

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

²Includes annual or quarterly published data from Freeport-McMoran Inc. (2022–2023) that has been adjusted by USGS to reflect estimated

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, molybdenum content)

Country or locality	2022			2023		
	January– December	August	January– August	July	August	January– August
Argentina	87,000	--	87,000	--	--	--
Belgium	2,130,000	117,000	1,440,000 ^r	72,000	75,800	372,000
Brazil	229,000	12,400	101,000	12,800	33,900	210,000
Cambodia	5,000	--	5,000	--	--	--
Canada	408,000	56,500	286,000	62,900	70,000	642,000
Chile	98,400	--	98,400	190,000	85,700	914,000
China	402,000	--	19,100	195,000	600,000	1,060,000
France	--	--	--	--	3,640	3,640
Germany	5,700	--	5,700	--	--	--
Hong Kong	1,680	--	1,680	--	--	--
India	499,000	55,400	316,000 ^r	23,100	11,900	227,000
Italy	114	--	--	--	--	--
Japan	3,460,000	323,000 ^r	2,450,000 ^r	266,000	237,000	2,260,000
Korea, Republic of	681,000	55,300	469,000	118,000	--	509,000
Latvia	1,140	--	1,140	--	--	--
Mexico	1,970,000	204,000	1,270,000	--	--	92,900
Netherlands	28,300,000	1,380,000	19,600,000 ^r	2,070,000	1,490,000	19,000,000
Singapore	--	--	--	11,000	--	55,000
South Africa	11,800	--	--	--	--	330
Taiwan	3,400	851	3,400	--	--	--
Thailand	12,400	--	7,060	--	--	14,900
United Kingdom	6,740,000	962,000	5,260,000	254,000	1,090,000	5,210,000
Vietnam	1,130,000	71,700	553,000 ^r	56,900	10,900	649,000
Total	46,200,000	3,230,000 ^r	31,900,000 ^r	3,330,000	3,710,000	31,200,000

^rRevised. -- 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, molybdenum content)

Country or locality	2022			2023		
	January– December	August	January– August	July	August	January– August
Argentina	547	--	462	--	--	--
Australia	2,560	852	2,560	--	111	1,170
Canada	93,400	2,650 ^r	87,300 ^r	27,200	4,270	138,000
Denmark	880	--	880	--	--	1,060
India	--	--	--	--	--	17,700
Mexico	92,600	40,000	71,500	--	226	104,000
Total	190,000	43,500 ^r	163,000 ^r	27,200	4,600	261,000

^rRevised. -- 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			August			January–August		
	Gross weight	Molybdenum content	Value ² (thousands)	Gross weight	Molybdenum content	Value ² (thousands)	Gross weight	Molybdenum content	Value ² (thousands)
Ore and concentrates, roasted	3,240,000	2,000,000	\$74,600	235,000	149,000	\$8,020	1,530,000	960,000	\$55,700
Ore and concentrates, other	28,800,000	13,700,000	511,000	2,620,000	1,310,000	56,500	20,700,000	10,200,000	534,000
Molybdenum chemicals:									
Oxides and hydroxides	3,660,000	NA	106,000	274,000	NA	9,820	3,510,000	NA	142,000
Molybdates of ammonium	1,360,000	773,000	33,700	69,100	38,900	2,110	1,110,000	624,000	37,500
Molybdates (all others)	360,000	144,000	5,980	20,100	7,960	424	164,000	64,900	3,270
Molybdenum orange	174,000	NA	1,260	3,970	NA	36	200,000	NA	1,150
Ferromolybdenum	10,600,000	7,260,000	311,000	759,000	514,000	26,300	7,460,000	5,120,000	272,000
Molybdenum powders	238,000	232,000	13,400	8,100	8,020	519	44,900	41,200	3,480
Molybdenum unwrought	318,000	317,000	14,300	96,800	96,700	5,930	426,000	424,000	26,400
Molybdenum waste and scrap	1,910,000	1,540,000	68,000	204,000	190,000	12,300	1,290,000	1,160,000	72,600
Molybdenum wire	15,800	NA	1,950	459	NA	97	13,200	NA	1,930
Molybdenum other	192,000	NA	24,700	24,900	NA	3,960	178,000	NA	26,500
Total	50,900,000	XX	1,160,000	4,320,000	XX	126,000	36,600,000	XX	1,180,000

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.