

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MOLYBDENUM IN OCTOBER 2023

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate in October 2023 was unchanged compared with the output in the previous month and 21% less than the output in October 2022 (fig. 1, table 1).

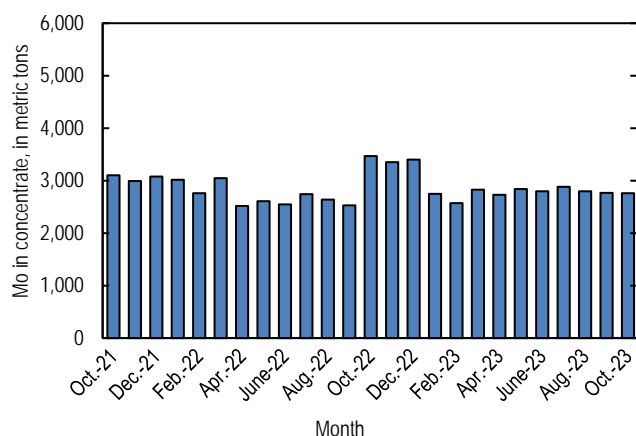


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production of molybdenum (Mo) in concentrate from October 2021 through October 2023 (may include revisions to previously published data).

Prices

According to CRU Group, the monthly average price range for U.S. ferromolybdenum (FeMo) was \$24.750 to \$25.750 per pound of molybdenum content in October 2023 compared with \$26.469 to \$27.469 per pound in September 2023. FeMo monthly average prices in Europe ranged from \$51.500 to \$52.611 per kilogram (\$23.360 to \$23.864 per pound) of molybdenum content in October 2023 compared with \$54.875 to \$55.875 per kilogram (\$24.891 to \$25.345 per pound) in September 2023. U.S. molybdic oxide (MoO₃) prices ranged from \$21.528 to \$22.328 per pound of molybdenum content in October 2023 compared with \$22.688 to \$23.538 per pound of molybdenum content in September 2023 (fig. 2).

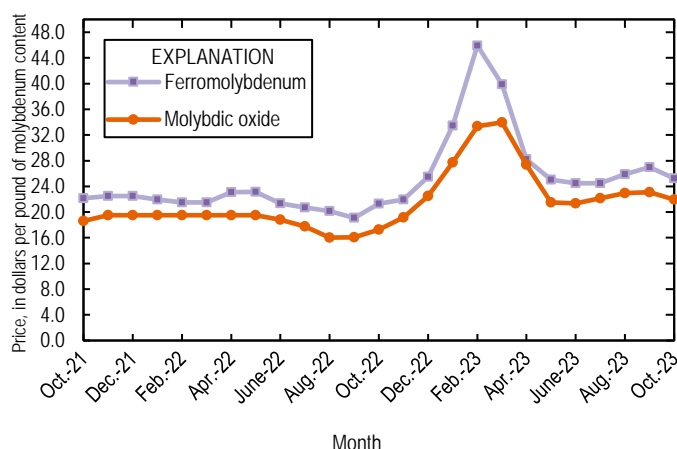


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. ferromolybdenum and molybdic oxide from October 2021 through October 2023. Source: CRU Group.

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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–October	27,900	28,000
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	2,880	2,850
August	2,800	2,830
September	2,770	2,760
October	2,760	2,750
January–October	27,700	27,600

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 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, molybdenum content)

Country or locality	2022			2023		
	January– December	October	January– October	September	October	January– October
Argentina	87,000	--	87,000	--	--	--
Belgium	2,130,000	343,000	1,780,000 ^r	6,690	204,000	583,000
Brazil	229,000	36,700	155,000	1,620	--	212,000
Cambodia	5,000	--	5,000	--	--	--
Canada	408,000	18,700	352,000	91,100	62,200	796,000
Chile	98,400	--	98,400	253,000	61,400	1,230,000
China	402,000	65,800	84,900	122,000	522,000	1,700,000
Ecuador	--	--	--	--	741	741
France	--	--	--	--	35,100	38,700
Germany	5,700	--	5,700	181	--	181
Hong Kong	1,680	--	1,680	--	--	--
India	499,000	91,900	408,000 ^r	53,000	24,200	305,000
Italy	114	--	--	--	--	--
Japan	3,460,000	221,000 ^r	3,010,000 ^r	278,000	161,000	2,700,000
Korea, Republic of	681,000	80,000 ^r	587,000	--	--	509,000
Latvia	1,140	--	1,140	--	--	--
Mexico	1,970,000	157,000	1,620,000	--	--	92,900
Netherlands	28,300,000	1,600,000	22,800,000 ^r	2,180,000	3,370,000	24,500,000
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	55,000
South Africa	11,800	--	11,800	--	--	330
Sweden	--	--	--	12,500	--	12,500
Taiwan	3,400	--	3,400	--	--	--
Thailand	12,400	--	7,060	--	--	14,900
United Kingdom	6,740,000	326,000	5,890,000	599,000	1,040,000	6,840,000
Vietnam	1,130,000	134,000 ^r	790,000 ^r	39,700	63,100	752,000
Total	46,200,000	3,080,000 ^r	37,700,000 ^r	3,640,000	5,540,000	40,400,000

^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	October	January– October	September	October	January– October
Argentina	547	--	462	--	--	--
Australia	2,560	--	2,560	1,340	--	2,510
Canada	93,400	544	89,400 ^r	19,300	5,320	162,000
Denmark	880	--	880	--	--	1,060
India	--	--	--	--	--	17,700
Mexico	92,600	73	82,600	4,450	--	108,000
Total	190,000	617	176,000 ^r	25,100	5,320	292,000

^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			October			January–October		
	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	198,000	124,000	\$5,810	1,950,000	1,220,000	\$69,000
Ore and concentrates, other	28,800,000	13,700,000	511,000	2,400,000	1,160,000	58,000	26,100,000	12,900,000	661,000
Molybdenum chemicals:									
Oxides and hydroxides	3,660,000	NA	106,000	651,000	NA	25,000	4,350,000	NA	174,000
Molybdates of ammonium	1,360,000	773,000	33,700	83,000	46,800	2,640	1,340,000	757,000	45,000
Molybdates (all others)	360,000	144,000	5,980	32,500	13,000	695	201,000	79,800	4,080
Molybdenum orange	174,000	NA	1,260	21,400	NA	167	228,000	NA	1,380
Ferromolybdenum	10,600,000	7,260,000	311,000	516,000	348,000	18,400	8,460,000	5,790,000	308,000
Molybdenum powders	238,000	232,000	13,400	858	825	102	64,100	58,000	4,770
Molybdenum unwrought	318,000	317,000	14,300	66,100	65,600	4,050	541,000	538,000	33,500
Molybdenum waste and scrap	1,910,000	1,540,000	68,000	171,000	159,000	9,580	1,580,000	1,430,000	89,300
Molybdenum wire	15,800	NA	1,950	646	NA	136	16,000	NA	2,360
Molybdenum other	192,000	NA	24,700	22,500	NA	2,840	214,000	NA	31,500
Total	50,900,000	XX	1,160,000	4,160,000	XX	127,000	45,000,000	XX	1,420,000

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.