

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MAGNESIUM IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2019

Magnesium imports for consumption in the third quarter of 2019 were 20% less than imports in the second quarter of 2019, and 6% less than those in the third quarter of 2018 but 6% more than those in the third quarter of 2017. Compared with those in the second quarter of 2019, imports of semifabricated products increased by 21% but imports of metal, alloys, and scrap decreased by 45%, 9%, and 13%, respectively. Compared with those in the third quarter of 2018, imports of metal decreased by 38% but imports of semifabricated products, and scrap increased by 29% and 6%, respectively, and alloy imports increased slightly. In the third quarter of 2019, magnesium metal accounted for 20% of the imports, with Russia (54%), Israel (16%), Canada (9%) and Turkey (9%) being the leading sources (fig. 1). Scrap accounted for 58% of the imports in the third quarter of 2019, with Canada (25%), China (21%), and Mexico (21%) as the leading sources (table 1).

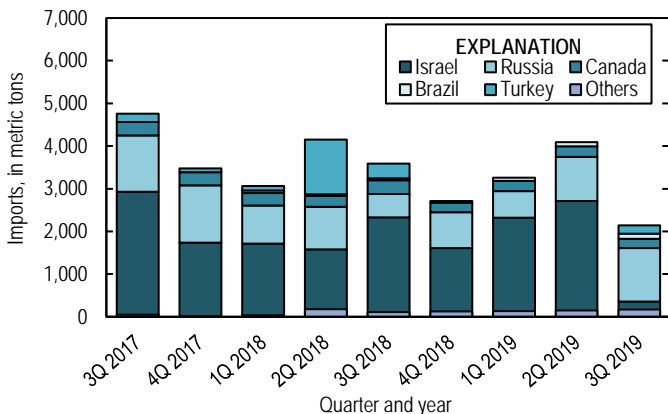


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of magnesium metal from the third quarter of 2017 through the third quarter of 2019. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

U.S. magnesium exports in the third quarter of 2019 were 20% more than exports in the second quarter of 2019 but 18% less than those in the third quarter of 2018, and 27% less than those in the third quarter of 2017. Mexico (35%), Canada (29%), and Brazil (20%) were the principal destinations in the

third quarter of 2019. Exports of metal, alloys, and semifabricated products increased by 24%, 135%, and 7%, respectively, compared with exports in the second quarter of 2019 but exports of scrap decreased by 74% compared with those in the second quarter of 2019. Compared with those in the third quarter of 2018, exports of metal, semifabricated products, and scrap increased by 39%, 86%, and 18%, respectively, but exports of alloys decreased by 53% (table 1).

The U.S. spot Western average price for magnesium increased slightly in the third quarter of 2019. The average U.S. spot dealer price for imported magnesium decreased slightly during the third quarter of 2019. In Europe, the price decreased by 10%, during the quarter (table 2).

Update

On November 22, the U.S. International Trade Commission issued a final determination that Dead Sea Magnesium Ltd. (DSM) would be subject to antidumping and countervailing duties on magnesium produced in Israel at the rate of 218.98% and 13.77%, respectively. In July, the Department of Commerce assigned preliminary antidumping and countervailing duties of 193.24% and 7.48%, respectively, on magnesium produced in Israel by DSM. (See Magnesium in the Second Quarter 2019.) US Magnesium LLC filed a complaint alleging dumping and subsidies of magnesium from Israel during the period of January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017 (McBeth, 2019; U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, 2019).

References Cited

McBeth, Karen, 2019, US Commerce Dept finds final AD, CV rates totaling 232.75% for imports of Israeli magnesium: *Platts Metals Daily*, v. 8, no. 231, November 22, p. 1, 13–14.
 U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, 2019, Magnesium from Israel—Final affirmative countervailing duty determination: *Federal Register*, v. 84, no. 230, November 29, p. 65785–65787. (Accessed November 29, 2019 at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-11-29/pdf/2019-25891.pdf>.)

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TABLE 1
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS OF MAGNESIUM¹
(Metric tons)

	2018	2019				
		January– June	July	August	September	January– September
Imports for consumption:						
Metal	14,000	7,630	969	659	685	9,950
Waste and scrap	22,200	15,300	1,530	2,460	2,790	22,100
Alloys (magnesium content)	7,210	4,330	770	328	569	5,990
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (magnesium content)	3,220	1,620	268	414	265	2,560
Total	46,600	28,900	3,540	3,860	4,310	40,600
Exports:						
Metal	1,490	567	94	68	202	931
Waste and scrap	784	537	22	46	24	629
Alloys (gross weight)	8,060	2,110	319	228	340	3,000
Sheet, tubing, ribbons, wire, powder, and other (gross weight)	1,950	1,260	283	328	279	2,150
Total	12,300	4,470	718	670	845	6,700

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 2
MAGNESIUM PRICES, THIRD QUARTER 2019

		Beginning of quarter	End of quarter
U.S. spot dealer import	dollars per pound	2.30-2.55	2.25-2.45
U.S. spot Western	do.	2.35-2.55	2.40-2.60
China	dollars per metric ton	NA	NA
European free market	do.	2,420-2,550	2,230-2,260

do. Ditto. NA Not available.

Source: Platts Metals Week.