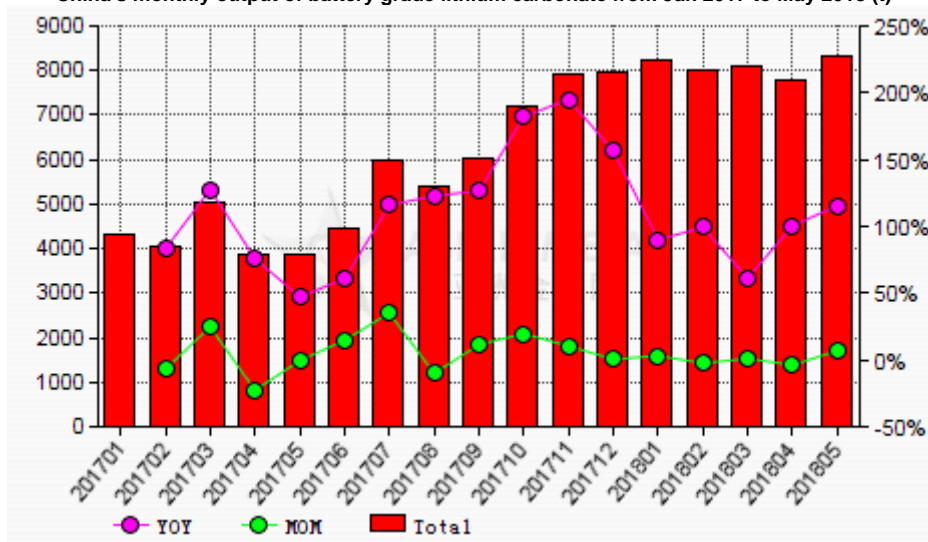


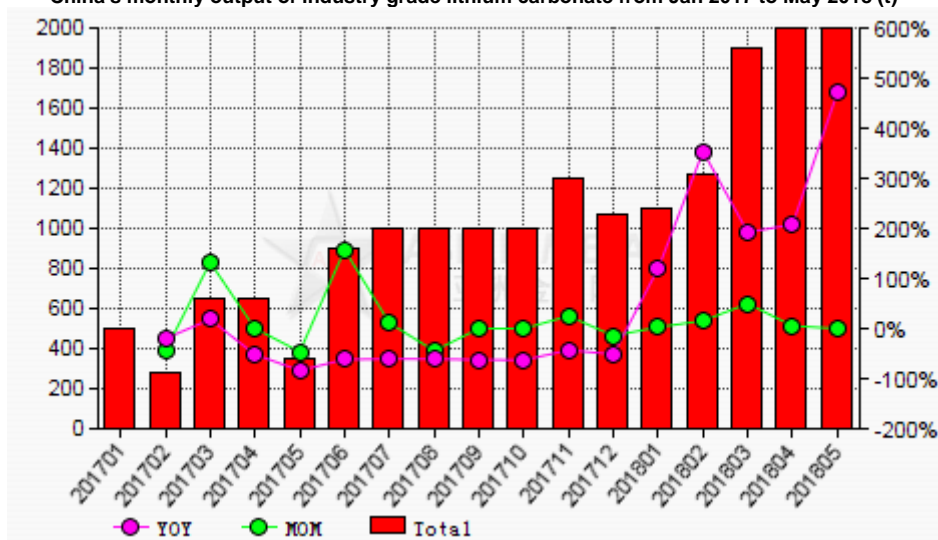
AM Stats: China's lithium carbonate output substantially up by 145.0% YOY in May 2018

BEIJING (Asian Metal) 13 Jun 18 - According to statistics from Asian Metal Database, China's lithium carbonate output was 10,340t in May 2018, up by 145.0% YOY and 5.5% MOM. In particular, the output of battery grade lithium carbonate was 8,340t in May 2018, dramatically up by 115.5% YOY and 6.9% MOM; that of industry grade lithium carbonate was 2,000t, sharply up by 471.4% YOY while unchanged MOM.

China's monthly output of battery grade lithium carbonate from Jan 2017 to May 2018 (t)



China's monthly output of industry grade lithium carbonate from Jan 2017 to May 2018 (t)



Due to weakened demand from downstream cathode material industry, some lithium carbonate producers' stocks increased slightly in May. Under great pressure of stocks, industry grade lithium carbonate producers stopped from raising their running capacities during the month. But some producers, who usually purify lithium carbonate and had undersold industry grade lithium carbonate before to ease the pressure of funds, raised their running capacities with the supply of battery grade lithium carbonate increasing in China during May.

Despite the formal implementation of new energy subsidy policies in China, the demand for lithium carbonate from downstream battery market doesn't improve in June 2018 and new energy automobile producers who generally take a wait-and-see attitude don't raise automobile assembly output, resulting in continuously soft demand for lithium carbonate now. Although some lithium carbonate producers plan to put their new production lines into production in June, it's expected that China's lithium carbonate output would keep unchanged throughout the month due to continuously declined prices at present.