

**1961 Progress Report:  
Powder Metallurgy and  
The Metal Powder Industry**

Based on statistics compiled by the Metal Powder Producers Association, a trade division of the Metal Powder Industries Federation, iron powder consumption in 1960 reached almost 33,000 tons (Fig. 1). This includes both domestically produced and imported powders—the latter representing about 500 tons. Iron powder consumption was about 2,000 tons lower than 1959 which represented an all-time high for the industry.

Capacity surveys show that powder producers can supply nearly twice the current demand, not counting expansion programs contemplated for 1961 which in one case amounts to 300%.

Non-ferrous powders (copper, brasses, nickel silver) reached about 19,300 tons; 3,300 tons lower than the previous year (Fig. 2). Based on statistics compiled by the Copper Division of BDSA (Department of Commerce), non-ferrous metal powders comprised about 10,600 tons of granular copper powders, 5,700 tons of granular copper alloy powders. The balance represents flake powders not used for powder metallurgical applications (Fig. 3).

Substantial improvements have been made in the fabricating properties of stainless steel powders in the last year, i.e., higher green strength, better compactibility and, more important, the ability to sinter stainless steel parts in conventional powder metallurgy processing equipment. Previously special equipment had been required. Now any established parts manufacturer with the capability of sintering iron-carbon or iron-copper-carbon powder compositions has within his grasp the ability to manufacture parts from a number of standard AISI alloys of stainless steel including 304, 314, 347 and 410.

There is more than adequate capacity to produce copper, copper base and stainless powders to meet any foreseeable demands.

Based on statistics compiled by the Powder Metallurgy Equipment Association, another trade division of the Federation, compacting press sales

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