

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2007

Domestic primary aluminum production in March was 216,837 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,995 t, 6% higher than that of the previous month and 10% higher than the rate for March 2006. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in the first quarter of 2007 was 750,000 t, 1% lower than in the first quarter of 2006. In the first quarter of 2007, 476,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, which was 3% less than in the first quarter of 2006. Aluminum recovered from old scrap totaled 275,000 t in the first quarter of 2007, which was 3% higher than in the first quarter of 2006.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot in March decreased to \$1.290 per pound from \$1.295 per pound in February. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs decreased on March 9 to 87-90 cents

per pound from 89-91 cents per pound. The price increased to 88-91 cents per pound on March 13, and increased again on March 20 to 91-93 cents per pound. The price range declined to 90-92 cents per pound on March 27 and remained at that range for the rest of the month.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot in April increased to \$1.308 per pound from \$1.290 per pound in March. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased to 92-94 cents per pound on April 3. On April 10 the price range increased to 93-95 cents per pound. The price range decreased to 92-94 cents per pound on April 17 and remained at that range for the rest of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2006 ^P	2,284	1,940	1,080	3,020	3,440	1,220	4,660	9,960	1,410
2006:									
March	198	164	94	258	289	104	393	849	1,460
April	190	158	90	247	353	103	456	893	1,480
May	197	160	90	250	318	106	424	870	1,430
June	189	162	92	254	298	109	407	850	1,430
July	192	165	92	256	249	111	360	808	1,450
August	185	166	109	275	315	111	426	887	1,430
September	183	160	90	250	289	102	391	823	1,480
October	190	161	80	241	259	100	359	790	1,410
November	188	163	84	247	233	99	332	766	1,400
December	196	153	89	242	241	89	330	768	1,410
January-March	574	490	268	758	884	288	1,170	2,500	2,940
2007:									
January	202	161	97	257	251	98	349	803	1,450
February	185	148	79	227	258	86	344	753	1,450
March	217	167	99	266	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-March	604	476	275	750	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^PPreliminary. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
	2006 ^p	1,660	1,210	901	792	990	927	96	84	5	5	3,650
2006:												
March	141	103	79	71	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	311	258
April	135	97	79	71	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	299	247
May	138	100	66	58	90	84	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	250
June	138	100	74	66	86	81	8	7	(2)	(2)	307	254
July	136	99	76	68	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	308	256
August	167	126	71	64	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	330	275
September	135	98	77	69	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	300	250
October	130	94	69	62	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	289	241
November	139	103	76	61	81	76	8	7	(2)	(2)	304	247
December	134	98	82	66	76	71	8	7	(2)	(2)	299	242
January-March	406	298	231	207	246	230	24	21	1	1	909	758
2007:												
January	136	102	84	66	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	315	257
February	116	84	72	54	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	283	227
March	148	111	92	71	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	331	266
January-March	400	297	248	191	258	241	24	21	(2)	(2)	929	750

^pPreliminary.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MARCH 2007¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	124,000	148,000	92,600
Integrated aluminum companies	92,200	92,200	71,000	71,000
Independent mill fabricators	68,600	82,300	64,100	76,900
Foundries	6,490	7,790	5,690	6,830
Other consumers	375	450	375	450
Total	291,000	331,000	234,000	266,000

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

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN MARCH 2007¹

(Metric tons)

	March			January-March		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ²	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ²	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	17,400	77,900	77,700	17,600	209,000	209,000
Can stock clippings	790	17,400	17,000	1,210	69,800	69,700
Other wrought sheet/clippings	4,410	23,900	24,100	4,270	70,100	70,000
Casting	3,820	6,610	9,060	1,360	18,900	20,200
Borings and turnings	5,450	12,000	14,500	3,030	34,500	34,400
Dross and skimmings	3,840	33,200	33,500	3,520	95,200	95,000
Total new scrap	35,700	171,000	176,000	31,000	497,000	498,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	3,470	14,300	14,300	3,450	40,800	41,000
Used extrusion	431	2,630	2,630	431	7,960	7,930
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,310	56,300	56,900	728	157,000	160,000
Other wrought products	2,340	23,400	23,400	2,340	64,900	64,900
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	7,300	13,100	17,600	2,830	42,500	42,200
Total old scrap	14,800	110,000	115,000	9,780	313,000	316,000
Sweated pig	198	790	790	198	2,370	2,370
Total all classes	50,700	282,000	291,000	41,000	813,000	816,000

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

²Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2007^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

	March			January-March		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,420	2,030	1,570	2,870	4,710	4,350
380 and variations	2,850	19,200	19,500	2,520	46,100	46,700
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,120	1,770	1,770	1,110	5,050	5,120
No. 319 and variations	2,390	5,030	5,670	1,750	16,800	16,900
F-132 alloy and variations	717	1,500	1,520	696	4,910	4,900
Al-Zn alloys	302	209	198	314	582	574
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	41	24	24	41	72	72
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283	1,230	1,230
Other ³	4,020	7,890	8,050	3,860	23,900	24,200
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,900	19,400	19,600	10,600	57,300	57,000
Total all alloys	25,000	57,400	58,300	24,100	161,000	161,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,130	XX	XX	27,700	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,420	XX	XX	6,950	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	685	XX	XX	2,580	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	45,200	XX	XX	123,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁴No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2007¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February
Argentina	3,010	6,100	17	32	--	--	3,030	6,130
Australia	5,750	10,300	15	29	264	1,080	6,030	11,400
Bahrain	3,350	5,430	1,040	2,490	--	--	4,390	7,920
Belgium	29	58	984	2,570	14	14	1,030	2,640
Brazil	6,710	12,700	3,320	6,430	--	--	10,000	19,200
Canada	152,000	315,000	35,200	75,400	23,800	51,900	211,000	443,000
China	2,880	7,680	10,600	25,000	15	16	13,500	32,700
France	14	239	299	651	--	20	313	910
Germany	336	562	8,420	16,600	--	13	8,760	17,200
Hungary	--	--	10	26	--	--	10	26
Italy	71	71	797	1,700	23	23	891	1,790
Japan	93	93	951	2,120	31	99	1,080	2,320
Korea, Republic of	21	87	153	221	18	18	192	326
Mexico	1,110	2,440	1,670	3,380	7,050	16,400	9,830	22,300
Netherlands	67	109	142	371	--	--	209	481
Norway	392	657	--	78	--	--	392	735
Russia	61,100	103,000	4,040	9,310	1,130	1,660	66,300	113,000
South Africa	9,140	13,700	3,010	7,540	--	--	12,200	21,200
Spain	--	11	93	217	--	--	93	228
Sweden	--	--	147	207	--	--	147	207
Switzerland	(2)	(2)	347	836	--	--	347	836
United Arab Emirates	7,290	15,100	--	--	--	18	7,290	15,100
United Kingdom	252	558	449	847	--	4	701	1,410
Venezuela	98	2,290	1,710	2,200	80	166	1,890	4,650
Other	4,120	12,600	12,900	25,900	3,250	7,860	20,300	46,300
Total	258,000	509,000	86,300	184,000	35,700	79,300	380,000	772,000

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2007¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February
Australia	8	57	104	186	14	14	126	256
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	3
Belgium	136	160	350	863	--	--	486	1,020
Brazil	4	8	885	1,980	94	173	983	2,160
Canada	9,260	18,500	32,400	70,200	12,000	25,400	53,700	114,000
China	54	69	670	1,940	52,900	106,000	53,600	108,000
Czech Republic	--	--	40	70	--	--	40	70
Dominican Republic	--	10	62	96	--	--	62	106
France	15	30	937	2,240	--	--	952	2,270
Germany	144	222	652	1,710	33	52	829	1,980
Hong Kong	199	298	1,180	2,010	2,450	4,530	3,830	6,840
India	39	46	49	94	1,310	1,910	1,400	2,050
Israel	5	167	467	784	--	--	473	951
Italy	--	8	334	585	--	--	334	593
Japan	1,150	1,810	1,390	2,780	3,350	6,950	5,890	11,500
Korea, Republic of	71	128	1,390	2,540	14,300	32,900	15,800	35,600
Malaysia	1	7	111	211	51	116	163	334
Mexico	15,100	34,300	20,500	42,300	6,010	12,500	41,600	89,200
Netherlands	23	1,550	49	106	22	22	93	1,680
Russia	254	254	63	66	--	--	317	321
Saudi Arabia	--	--	428	2,920	--	--	428	2,920
Singapore	49	49	218	356	--	6	266	412
Spain	10	13	373	442	19	40	402	495
Sweden	--	9	2	9	--	--	2	18
Taiwan	7	88	188	503	7,690	14,100	7,880	14,700
Thailand	--	(2)	840	1,870	867	1,610	1,710	3,490
United Kingdom	44	69	1,440	2,870	67	134	1,550	3,080
Venezuela	--	--	28	140	(2)	(2)	28	140
Other	510	1,240	3,670	7,690	980	2,830	5,160	11,800
Total	27,100	59,100	68,800	148,000	102,000	209,000	198,000	416,000

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.