

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

E. Lee Bray, Aluminum Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: lbray@usgs.gov

Hoa P. Phamdang (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7965
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: hphamdan@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2008

Domestic primary aluminum production in January was 233,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 7,520 t, 4% higher than that of the previous month and 16% higher than the rate for January 2007. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in January 2008 was 315,000 t, 10% higher than that of the previous month and 5% less than that in January 2007. Of this, 189,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, which was 13% more than in the previous month and 3% less than in January 2007. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in January 2008 totaled 125,000 t, which was 3% more than that in December 2007 and 8% less than that in January 2007.

2007 U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in 2007 (table 6) decreased by 13% compared with those of 2006. Imports of metal and alloys decreased 14%; imports of semifabricated materials decreased by 12%; and scrap imports decreased by 11% compared with those of 2006. Canada remained the leading source for all categories of aluminum materials

imported into the United States during 2007, supplying 65% of all crude metal and alloy imports, 41% of semifabricated material imports, 68% of scrap imports, and 60% of total aluminum imports. Russia was the second leading source of aluminum imports, supplying 11% of the total.

Total exports of aluminum in 2007 increased slightly compared with those in 2006. Exports of crude metal and alloys increased slightly, exports of semifabricated aluminum products declined by 4%, and scrap exports increased by 5%. China was the leading destination for aluminum exported from the United States in 2007, accounting for 29% of all aluminum exports and 52% of exported scrap. Canada was the second leading destination of aluminum exports, accounting for 25% of total exports in 2007, 33% of all crude metal and alloy exports, and 45% of semifabricated aluminum exports.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$1.136 per pound in January 2008 from \$1.107 per pound in December 2007 and increased further to \$1.286 per pound in February 2008.

Used beverage can prices, cents per pound¹

January 4	81-83
January 11	82-84
January 18	83-85
January 25	82-84
February 1	85-87
February 8	85-87
February 15	85-87
February 22	90-92
February 29	102-104

¹Source: American Metal Market

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		
2007 ^P	2,554	2,280	1,610	3,890	2,950	1,070	4,020	10,500	1,400
2007:									
January	202	194	136	331	251	98	349	881	1,460
February	185	182	120	302	258	86	344	831	1,460
March	217	201	143	344	238	93	332	892	1,410
April	209	188	131	319	259	94	353	881	1,430
May	210	194	138	332	220	97	317	859	1,400
June	209	196	134	329	255	92	347	885	1,330
July	219	205	127	332	236	102	337	888	1,370
August	220	188	148	336	267	91	358	914	1,390
September	216	183	129	312	268	84	352	881	1,350
October	224	194	148	342	243	86	330	896	1,350
November	220	186	135	321	238	76	314	855	1,350
December	225 ^r	167	121	287 ^r	215	70	285	797	1,400
2008, January	233	189	125	315	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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
2007 ^P	2,310	1,800	973	868	1,220	1,140	95	83	5	5	4,600	3,890
2007:												
January	203	159	81	73	98	91	8	7	(2)	(2)	391	331
February	183	142	69	62	98	91	8	7	(2)	(2)	359	302
March	216	168	90	81	94	88	8	7	(2)	(2)	408	344
April	196	152	80	72	94	88	8	7	(2)	(2)	379	319
May	191	148	94	84	99	92	8	7	(2)	(2)	392	332
June	185	142	88	79	108	100	8	7	(2)	(2)	389	329
July	194	151	77	69	113	106	8	7	(2)	(2)	392	332
August	191	147	93	83	105	98	8	7	(2)	(2)	397	336
September	191	148	75	66	96	90	8	7	(2)	(2)	370	312
October	196	153	91	80	109	102	8	7	(2)	(2)	404	342
November	190	147	68	60	115	107	8	7	(2)	(2)	381	321
December	178	138	67	60	89	83	8	7	(2)	(2)	342	288
2008, January	168	133	73	65	122	109	8	7	1	1	372	315

^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 JANUARY 2008¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated	Estimated	Tabulated	Estimated
	reports	full coverage	reports	full coverage
Secondary smelters	140,000	168,000	111,000	133,000
Integrated aluminum companies	73,300	73,300	65,000	65,000
Independent mill fabricators	102,000	122,000	90,600	109,000
Foundries	6,800	8,160	5,990	7,190
Other consumers	611	733	525	630
Total	323,000	372,000	273,000	315,000

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 2008¹

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ²	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Extrusion	26,000 [†]	95,000	92,000	29,000
Can stock clippings	3,610 [†]	19,000	19,200	3,390
Other wrought sheet/clippings	4,180 [†]	25,700	24,800	5,030
Casting	1,300 [†]	7,790	8,010	1,070
Borings and turnings	4,800 [†]	13,900	14,200	4,550
Dross and skimmings	4,180 [†]	35,300	35,500	3,910
Total new scrap	44,000 [†]	197,000	194,000	46,900
Old scrap:				
Used castings	3,030 [†]	13,800	14,300	2,580
Used extrusion	2,000 [†]	6,300	6,300	2,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	4,970 [†]	58,300	58,000	5,200
Other wrought products	5,510 [†]	29,200	29,200	5,510
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	7,170 [†]	21,000	21,000	7,180
Total old scrap	22,700 [†]	129,000	129,000	22,500
Sweated pig	82	246	246	82
Total all classes	66,800 [†]	326,000	323,000	69,500

[†]Revised.

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 IN 2008^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die-cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,230	2,810	1,970	4,060
380 and variations	5,410	18,100	18,400	5,080
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,430	2,740	2,760	1,400
No. 319 and variations	2,340	4,190	4,090	2,440
F-132 alloy and variations	740	1,480	1,460	760
Al-Zn alloys	308	193	181	320
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	86	213	213	86
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283
Other ³	7,830 ^r	11,900	12,700	6,990
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,800 ^r	55,600	55,500	18,800
Total all alloys	40,400 ^r	97,500	97,700	40,200
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	17,000	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,730	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	676	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	77,100	XX	XX

^rRevised. 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 DECEMBER 2007¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Argentina	--	55,300	--	56	--	--	--	55,400
Australia	5,690	55,700	(2)	98	--	2,730	5,690	58,500
Bahrain	994	36,100	1,070	18,100	--	--	2,070	54,200
Belgium	--	94	705	11,700	--	14	705	11,800
Brazil	5,660	80,100	1,970	26,500	--	1	7,630	107,000
Canada	163,000	1,930,000	29,000	443,000	21,500	320,000	213,000	2,690,000
China	1,860	37,700	9,760	166,000	--	58	11,600	204,000
France	10	435	287	3,580	1	44	298	4,060
Germany	342	2,620	5,820	98,700	30	465	6,190	102,000
Hungary	--	--	15	150	--	--	15	150
Italy	(2)	513	280	7,250	(2)	77	280	7,840
Japan	50	239	493	14,400	46	703	590	15,300
Korea, Republic of	16	2,510	150	2,940	--	69	166	5,510
Mexico	1,590	22,100	1,260	19,600	7,990	105,000	10,800	146,000
Netherlands	54	841	130	2,930	64	143	248	3,920
Norway	520	4,940	(2)	140	--	--	520	5,080
Russia	17,400	434,000	4,350	55,900	--	1,660	21,800	492,000
South Africa	7,530	62,500	4,110	47,800	--	--	11,600	110,000
Spain	5	107	10	502	--	19	16	628
Sweden	--	--	106	1,740	--	--	106	1,740
Switzerland	--	137	586	6,090	--	--	586	6,230
United Arab Emirates	4,220	108,000	--	--	--	18	4,220	108,000
United Kingdom	147	3,990	653	5,870	132	1,110	931	11,000
Venezuela	4,050	63,800	762	8,770	--	486	4,820	73,000
Other	2,010	48,500	8,390	128,000	2,660	38,200	13,100	215,000
Total	215,000	2,950,000	69,900	1,070,000	32,400	471,000	317,000	4,490,000

-- 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 DECEMBER 2007¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Australia	35	297	405	2,100	39	185	479	2,580
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	9	--	--	--	9
Belgium	98	486	186	2,910	--	--	285	3,400
Brazil	436	1,930	859	12,200	432	4,690	1,730	18,800
Canada	8,250	116,000	25,500	422,000	10,700	158,000	44,400	696,000
China	359	1,310	2,850	23,900	68,200	803,000	71,500	828,000
Czech Republic	--	2	10	255	--	--	10	257
Dominican Republic	--	23	25	495	9	29	34	548
France	147	869	1,280	10,800	5	203	1,430	11,800
Germany	191	2,810	1,050	9,820	73	1,200	1,310	13,800
Hong Kong	11	668	1,790	20,400	6,470	39,900	8,270	61,000
India	--	159	103	1,300	1,650	15,700	1,760	17,200
Israel	86	1,290	260	5,410	--	1	346	6,700
Italy	--	5,800	239	3,850	408	3,570	647	13,200
Japan	1,250	15,000	1,950	19,100	6,030	45,900	9,230	80,000
Korea, Republic of	154	565	1,200	18,400	14,600	198,000	16,000	217,000
Malaysia	⁽²⁾	14	111	10,100	66	7,850	177	17,900
Mexico	12,200	190,000	16,000	247,000	6,700	82,400	35,000	519,000
Netherlands	77	1,680	446	1,730	128	1,390	651	4,800
Russia	--	516	306	1,790	--	139	306	2,450
Saudi Arabia	--	18	2,660	29,900	--	--	2,660	29,900
Singapore	19	352	58	2,760	--	329	76	3,440
Spain	--	588	92	1,510	20	602	112	2,700
Sweden	⁽²⁾	30	26	404	--	1,270	26	1,710
Taiwan	--	356	713	6,310	11,500	134,000	12,200	141,000
Thailand	--	526	920	12,200	4,160	24,800	5,080	37,600
Ukraine	--	573	--	322	--	--	--	895
United Kingdom	30	234	2,130	21,000	1	1,820	2,160	23,000
Venezuela	--	113	462	3,050	--	80	462	3,250
Other	1,130	6,660	6,330	56,200	1,020	20,200	8,480	83,100
Total	24,500	349,000	68,000	947,000	132,000	1,550,000	225,000	2,840,000

-- 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.