Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2007

Domestic primary aluminum production in April was 208,928 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,964 t, slightly lower than that of the previous month but 10% higher than the rate for April 2006. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in April 2007 was 234,000 t, 9% lower than in the previous month and 5% lower than in April 2006. In April 2007, 144,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, which was 9% lower than in March and 9% lower than in April 2006. Aluminum recovered from old scrap totaled 91,000 t in April, which was 9% lower than in the previous month and 1% higher than in April 2006.

At Alcoa's smelter in Alcoa, TN, a power outage caused by a lightning strike at a substation forced the closure of a potline in the middle of April. Workers were able to restore power quickly, but one of the two potlines had frozen and was not able to be restarted. After digging out the 164 pots and making repairs, the line was restarted in June, 7 weeks after the outage. The affected potline has an annual capacity of 107,000 t of aluminum (Alcoa Inc., 2007a, b).

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 used beverage cans (UBCs) increased to 92-94 cents per pound on April 3. On April 10, the UBC price range increased to 93-95 cents per pound. The price range for UBCs decreased to 92-94 cents per pound on April 17 and remained at that range for the rest of the month.

U.S. Trade

Total imports of aluminum for consumption (table 6) in the first quarter of 2007 were down by 12% compared with those in the first quarter of 2006. During the first 3 months of 2007 imports of crude metal and alloys declined by 16%, scrap imports declined by 10%, and imports of semifabricated products declined by 4% compared with imports in the same period of 2006. During the first quarter of 2007, Canada continued to be the leading source of imported aluminum, supplying 59% of all aluminum imports, followed by Russia with 12%.

Total exports of aluminum (table 7) declined by 5% during the first quarter of 2007 compared with those in the same period of the previous year. Exports of crude metal and alloys declined by 11%, semifabricated product exports declined by 9%, and scrap exports by declined by 1%, compared with those in the first quarter of 2006. The leading destinations of aluminum exports were Canada, China, and Mexico, in descending order of importance, which accounted for 74% of all exports during the first 3 months of 2007.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot in May decreased to $1.293 per pound from $1.308 per pound in April. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased to 93-95 cents per pound on May 10. On May 17, the price range for UBCs increased to 93-96 cents per pound. The UBC price range decreased to 92-94 cents per pound on May 22 and then decreased again on May 30 to 89-91 cents per pound.

References Cited

Alcoa Inc., 2007a, Alcoa restarts Tennessee smelter ahead of schedule; curtails potline at Rockdale: Pittsburgh, PA, Alcoa Inc. press release, June 13, 1 p.
Alcoa Inc., 2007b, Power outage impacts Alcoa Tennessee operations: Pittsburgh, PA, Alcoa Inc. press release, April 16, 1 p.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY[1]

(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	2,000 [r]	1,040 [r]	3,030 [r]	3,440	1,220 [r]	4,660 [r]	9,970 [r]	1,410
2006:									
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-April	763	647	358	1,010	1,240	391	1,630	3,400	2,940
2007:									
January	202	166 [r]	97	263 [r]	251	98	349	813 [r]	1,460 [r]
February	185	138 [r]	79	217 [r]	258	86	344	746 [r]	1,460 [r]
March	217	158 [r]	100 [r]	258 [r]	238	93	332	807	1,410
April	209	144	91	234	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-April	813	606	367	972	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised. NA Not available.

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

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

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

[4]Inventory 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 SCRAP[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2006[p]	1,930 [r]	1,320 [r]	901	792	892 [r]	836 [r]	87 [r]	76 [r]	9 [r]	8 [r]	3,820 [r]	3,030 [r]
2006:												
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-April	542	395	311	279	322	302	32	28	2	2	1,210	1,010
2007:												
January	152 [r]	112 [r]	81 [r]	64 [r]	85 [r]	80 [r]	8	7	(2)	(2)	327 [r]	263 [r]
February	115 [r]	78 [r]	69 [r]	52 [r]	85 [r]	80 [r]	8	7	(2)	(2)	278 [r]	217 [r]
March	149 [r]	106 [r]	90 [r]	69 [r]	82	76 [r]	8	7	(2)	(2)	329 [r]	258 [r]
April	128	88	80	62	82	76	8	7	(2)	(2)	298	234
January-April	544	384	320	247	334	312	32	28	2	2	1,230	972

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN APRIL 2007[1]

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	106,000	128,000	73,600	88,300
Integrated aluminum companies	80,200	80,200	62,500	62,500
Independent mill fabricators	68,300	81,900	63,600	76,400
Foundries	6,590	7,910	5,790	6,950
Other consumers	316	379	316	379
Total	262,000	298,000	206,000	234,000

[1]Data 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 APRIL 2007[1]

(Metric tons)

	April				January-April	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts[2]	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts[2]	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	17,600	44,500	45,100	17,100	203,000	204,000
Can stock clippings	1,210	33,700	33,600	1,300	136,000	136,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	4,190 r	21,300	21,600	3,880	87,300	87,500
Casting	1,380 r	5,990	5,960	1,420	24,200	25,400
Borings and turnings	3,100 r	13,300	13,400	3,010	54,200	54,100
Dross and skimmings	3,480 r	35,700	35,800	3,430	143,000	143,000
Total new scrap	31,000 r	155,000	155,000	30,100	648,000	650,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	3,510 r	13,500	13,600	3,400	54,700	54,900
Used extrusion	419 r	2,500	2,500	419	10,000	10,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	728	55,900	55,500	1,140	214,000	217,000
Other wrought products	2,340	22,700	22,700	2,340	94,100	94,100
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,930 r	11,200	11,400	2,700	53,400	53,200
Total old scrap	9,920 r	106,000	106,000	9,990	426,000	429,000
Sweated pig	-- r	544	544	--	2,390	2,390
Total all classes	40,900 r	261,000	262,000	40,100	1,080,000	1,080,000

-- Zero.

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

[2]Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2007[1, 2]

(Metric tons)

	April				January-April	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,760 r	1,620	1,780	2,600	6,950	6,860
380 and variations	2,440 r	12,900	12,500	2,790	58,900	59,300
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,110	1,510	1,500	1,110	6,160	6,240
No. 319 and variations	1,740 r	4,040	3,020	2,760	21,500	20,500
F-132 alloy and variations	696	1,420	1,430	685	5,610	5,610
Al-Zn alloys	314	186	181	319	768	756
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	41	24	24	41	96	96
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283	1,650	1,650
Other[3]	4,300 r	11,000	11,200	4,040	41,800	42,400
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	5,130 r	10,300	10,500	4,970	41,900	41,800
Total all alloys	18,800 r	43,400	42,600	19,600	185,000	185,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	3,780	XX	XX	15,600	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,980	XX	XX	8,820	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	387	XX	XX	2,630	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot[4]	XX	37,200	XX	XX	158,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

[1]Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

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

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

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

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2007[1]

(Metric tons)

	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
Country	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March
Argentina	5,870	12,000	8	40	--	--	5,880	12,000
Australia	8,730	19,100	13	42	403	1,480	9,140	20,600
Bahrain	2,730	8,150	1,520	4,010	--	--	4,250	12,200
Belgium	--	58	932	3,500	--	14	932	3,570
Brazil	9,240	22,000	2,350	8,780	1	1	11,600	30,800
Canada	164,000	479,000	38,800	114,000	26,600	78,500	229,000	672,000
China	4,700	12,400	12,700	37,700	--	16	17,400	50,100
France	42	281	196	847	--	20	238	1,150
Germany	110	672	9,080	25,700	109	122	9,300	26,500
Hungary	--	--	17	43	--	--	17	43
Italy	110	180	839	2,540	(2)	23	949	2,740
Japan	35	129	1,140	3,260	30	129	1,200	3,520
Korea, Republic of	58	145	341	562	40	58	439	765
Mexico	1,250	3,690	1,660	5,050	8,500	24,900	11,400	33,700
Netherlands	56	165	87	458	--	--	143	623
Norway	629	1,290	59	137	--	--	688	1,420
Russia	19,900	122,000	5,490	14,800	--	1,660	25,400	139,000
South Africa	6,640	20,300	4,840	12,400	--	--	11,500	32,700
Spain	13	24	88	305	--	--	101	329
Sweden	--	--	91	298	--	--	91	298
Switzerland	(2)	(2)	547	1,380	--	--	547	1,380
United Arab Emirates	9,650	24,800	--	--	--	18	9,650	24,800
United Kingdom	290	848	491	1,340	34	38	814	2,220
Venezuela	3,190	5,480	1,010	3,210	--	166	4,210	8,860
Other	1,100	13,700	11,000	36,800	3,180	11,000	15,300	61,600
Total	238,000	746,000	93,300	277,000	38,900	118,000	370,000	1,140,000

-- Zero.

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

[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2007[1]

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March
Australia	31	88	150	335	5	19	186	442
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	3
Belgium	77	238	234	1,100	--	--	312	1,340
Brazil	(2)	8	638	2,620	331	504	969	3,130
Canada	9,360	27,900	36,600	107,000	14,200	39,600	60,100	174,000
China	43	112	1,340	3,280	55,700	162,000	57,100	165,000
Czech Republic	--	--	9	79	--	--	9	79
Dominican Republic	(2)	10	12	109	--	--	13	119
France	42	71	942	3,180	3	3	986	3,250
Germany	57	279	667	2,370	97	149	821	2,800
Hong Kong	(2)	299	968	2,980	2,630	7,160	3,600	10,400
India	19	65	122	216	1,340	3,250	1,480	3,530
Israel	42	209	596	1,380	--	--	637	1,590
Italy	(2)	8	336	921	95	95	431	1,020
Japan	2,120	3,930	1,820	4,610	3,220	10,200	7,170	18,700
Korea, Republic of	18	146	1,700	4,240	17,600	50,500	19,300	54,900
Malaysia	--	7	435	645	452	568	887	1,220
Mexico	14,900	49,200	21,400	63,700	7,160	19,700	43,400	133,000
Netherlands	4	1,550	55	161	57	79	116	1,790
Russia	20	274	25	91	--	--	44	365
Saudi Arabia	--	--	2,030	4,960	--	--	2,030	4,960
Singapore	20	68	119	476	--	6	139	550
Spain	15	28	169	611	--	40	184	680
Sweden	--	9	61	70	--	--	61	78
Taiwan	1	89	172	674	8,290	22,400	8,460	23,200
Thailand	2	3	912	2,780	554	2,170	1,470	4,950
United Kingdom	35	104	1,450	4,330	172	306	1,660	4,740
Venezuela	(2)	(2)	47	187	--	(2)	47	187
Other	227	1,460	5,610	13,300	1,340	4,170	7,180	18,900
Total	27,000	86,200	78,600	226,000	113,000	323,000	219,000	635,000

-- Zero.

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

[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.