

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ALUMINUM IN MAY 2007

Domestic primary aluminum production in May was 210,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,780 t, 3% lower than that of the previous month but 7% higher than the rate for May 2006. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in May 2007 was 261,000 t, 5% higher than in the previous month and 4% higher than in May 2006. In May 2007, 152,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, which was 3% higher than in April but 5% lower than in May 2006. Aluminum recovered from old scrap totaled 109,000 t in May, which was 7% higher than in the previous month and 21% higher than in May 2006.

Ormet Corp. announced plans to restart a fifth potline at its Hannibal, OH, smelter in June, and to restart the sixth potline in September. When the sixth potline is in full operation, the smelter will be producing about 260,000 metric tons per year of aluminum (Platts Metals Week, 2007). After closing all six of its potlines in January 2005, the smelter began restoring operations in December 2006 following negotiation of a long-term power agreement and a 3-year labor contract (Ormet Corp., 2006a, b).

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 used beverage cans (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.

### Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot in June decreased to \$1.223 per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs decreased to 87-89 cents per pound on June 12. On June 19, the price range for UBCs decreased to 86-88 cents per pound. The UBC price range decreased to 84-86 cents per pound on June 26.

### References Cited

- Ormet Corp., 2006a, Done deal—Ormet and AEP sign power agreement: Wheeling, WV, Ormet Corp. press release, November 9, 1 p.
- Ormet Corp., 2006b, Ormet's labor contract ratified: Wheeling, WV, Ormet Corp. press release, July 17, 2 p.
- Platts Metals Week, 2007, Ormet to restart fifth line in June: Platts Metals Week, v. 78, no. 20, May 14, p. 14-15.

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery <sup>2</sup>			Imports for consumption			Total new supply <sup>3</sup>	Total stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2006 <sup>p</sup>	2,284	2,000	1,070 <sup>r</sup>	3,070 <sup>r</sup>	3,440	1,220	4,660	10,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,410
2006:									
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-May	961	807	447	1,260	1,560	496	2,050	4,270	4,370
2007:									
January	202	169 <sup>r</sup>	107 <sup>r</sup>	276 <sup>r</sup>	251	98	349	827 <sup>r</sup>	1,460
February	185	141 <sup>r</sup>	91 <sup>r</sup>	232 <sup>r</sup>	258	86	344	761 <sup>r</sup>	1,460
March	217	161 <sup>r</sup>	114 <sup>r</sup>	275 <sup>r</sup>	238	93	332	823 <sup>r</sup>	1,410
April	209	147 <sup>r</sup>	102 <sup>r</sup>	248 <sup>r</sup>	259	94	353	810 <sup>r</sup>	1,430
May	210	152	109	261	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-May	1,023	770	523	1,290	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

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

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

<sup>3</sup>Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

<sup>4</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(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 <sup>p</sup>	1,930	1,340 <sup>r</sup>	901	807	892	836	87	76	9	8	3,820	3,070 <sup>r</sup>
2006:												
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-May	679	495	376	337	412	386	40	35	2	2	1,510	1,260
2007:												
January	155 <sup>r</sup>	117 <sup>r</sup>	81	73 <sup>r</sup>	85	80	8	7	(2)	(2)	330 <sup>r</sup>	276 <sup>r</sup>
February	118 <sup>r</sup>	83 <sup>r</sup>	69	62 <sup>r</sup>	85	80	8	7	(2)	(2)	281 <sup>r</sup>	232 <sup>r</sup>
March	152 <sup>r</sup>	111 <sup>r</sup>	90	81 <sup>r</sup>	82	76	8	7	(2)	(2)	332 <sup>r</sup>	275 <sup>r</sup>
April	131 <sup>r</sup>	93 <sup>r</sup>	80	72 <sup>r</sup>	82	76	8	7	(2)	(2)	301 <sup>r</sup>	248 <sup>r</sup>
May	125	89	94	84	87	81	8	7	(2)	(2)	314	261
January-May	681	493	414	372	421	393	40	35	2	2	1,560	1,290

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MAY 2007<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	104,000	125,000	74,100	88,900
Integrated aluminum companies	93,600	93,600	83,800	83,800
Independent mill fabricators	72,300	86,700	67,400	80,900
Foundries	6,570	7,890	5,770	6,930
Other consumers	394	473	394	473
Total	277,000	314,000	231,000	261,000

<sup>1</sup>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 MAY 2007<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	May			January-May		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts <sup>2</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>2</sup>	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	18,000 <sup>r</sup>	72,800	74,800	16,100	286,000	288,000
Can stock clippings	1,300	15,300	15,300	1,350	151,000	151,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	3,880	19,500	19,700	3,670	107,000	107,000
Casting	1,420	5,630	5,790	1,250	29,800	31,200
Borings and turnings	3,010	13,200	12,800	3,340	67,400	67,000
Dross and skimmings	3,430	34,900	34,800	3,520	178,000	178,000
Total new scrap	31,000 <sup>r</sup>	161,000	163,000	29,200	819,000	823,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	3,400	12,900	14,000	2,260	67,600	68,900
Used extrusion	419	2,500	2,500	419	12,500	12,500
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,140	60,600	61,000	649	275,000	278,000
Other wrought products	2,340	25,700	25,700	2,340	120,000	120,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,700	10,300	10,400	2,670	63,700	63,600
Total old scrap	9,990	112,000	114,000	8,340	538,000	543,000
Sweated pig	--	544	544	--	2,940	2,940
Total all classes	40,990 <sup>r</sup>	273,816	277,261	37,545	1,360,327	1,368,187

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2007<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	May			January-May		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,600	1,630	1,740	2,480	8,570	8,600
380 and variations	2,790	12,700	12,800	2,630	71,500	72,100
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,110	1,510	1,510	1,120	7,670	7,740
No. 319 and variations	2,760	3,710	4,110	2,360	25,200	24,600
F-132 alloy and variations	685	1,330	1,310	704	6,950	6,930
Al-Zn alloys	319	198	209	307	965	964
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	41	24	24	41	120	120
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283	2,060	2,060
Other <sup>3</sup>	4,040	10,400	10,400	3,990	52,200	52,800
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	4,970	10,600	10,600	4,980	52,500	52,400
Total all alloys	19,600	42,500	43,200	18,900	228,000	228,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	3,910	XX	XX	19,600	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,090	XX	XX	10,900	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,150	XX	XX	3,780	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>4</sup>	XX	35,300	XX	XX	193,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

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

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

<sup>4</sup>No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2007<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April
Argentina	11,600	23,500	6	46	--	--	11,600	23,600
Australia	151	19,200	10	52	405	1,890	566	21,100
Bahrain	3,440	11,600	1,690	5,710	--	--	5,140	17,300
Belgium	--	58	873	4,370	--	14	873	4,440
Brazil	7,280	29,300	2,920	11,700	--	1	10,200	41,000
Canada	146,000	625,000	38,100	152,000	26,900	105,000	211,000	883,000
China	2,740	15,100	17,600	55,300	24	40	20,400	70,500
France	16	297	272	1,120	--	20	288	1,440
Germany	531	1,200	9,150	34,800	43	165	9,720	36,200
Hungary	--	--	15	58	--	--	15	58
Italy	287	468	517	3,060	17	40	821	3,570
Japan	2	131	1,440	4,700	90	219	1,530	5,050
Korea, Republic of	577	722	299	861	--	58	876	1,640
Mexico	1,350	5,040	1,770	6,820	7,330	32,300	10,400	44,100
Netherlands	114	279	283	741	--	--	397	1,020
Norway	290	1,580	2	139	--	--	291	1,710
Russia	55,000	177,000	4,890	19,700	--	1,660	59,900	199,000
South Africa	7,550	27,900	2,880	15,300	--	--	10,400	43,100
Spain	16	40	14	319	--	--	30	359
Sweden	--	--	137	435	--	--	137	435
Switzerland	(2)	(2)	326	1,710	--	--	326	1,710
United Arab Emirates	10,700	35,400	--	--	--	18	10,700	35,500
United Kingdom	793	1,640	362	1,700	18	56	1,170	3,400
Venezuela	8,010	13,500	702	3,910	147	313	8,860	17,700
Other	3,040	16,800	9,820	46,600	3,150	14,200	16,000	77,600
Total	259,000	1,010,000	94,100	371,000	38,100	156,000	392,000	1,530,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2007<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April
Australia	26	114	131	466	--	19	157	599
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	3
Belgium	5	243	235	1,330	--	--	240	1,580
Brazil	(2)	8	784	3,400	133	637	917	4,050
Canada	9,510	37,400	35,700	142,000	14,500	54,100	59,700	234,000
China	8	120	1,840	5,120	62,500	225,000	64,400	230,000
Czech Republic	--	--	36	115	--	--	36	115
Dominican Republic	--	10	33	142	--	--	33	152
France	60	131	1,030	4,210	--	3	1,090	4,340
Germany	43	322	818	3,190	(2)	149	861	3,660
Hong Kong	136	435	2,200	5,180	2,600	9,760	4,940	15,400
India	9	75	116	332	1,070	4,320	1,200	4,730
Israel	136	345	573	1,950	--	--	710	2,300
Italy	(2)	8	378	1,300	--	95	378	1,400
Japan	2,720	6,650	1,390	6,000	3,500	13,700	7,610	26,300
Korea, Republic of	14	160	1,680	5,920	17,500	68,000	19,200	74,100
Malaysia	4	11	1,650	2,300	5,260	5,830	6,920	8,140
Mexico	15,300	64,500	21,800	85,500	6,920	26,600	44,000	177,000
Netherlands	9	1,560	66	226	--	79	74	1,870
Russia	242	516	10	100	--	--	252	617
Saudi Arabia	5	5	1,620	6,570	--	--	1,620	6,580
Singapore	35	103	224	700	--	6	259	809
Spain	4	32	95	706	--	40	99	779
Sweden	--	9	22	92	--	--	22	101
Taiwan	120	210	582	1,260	11,700	34,100	12,400	35,600
Thailand	27	30	1,200	3,990	267	2,430	1,500	6,450
United Kingdom	11	115	1,020	5,350	155	461	1,190	5,920
Venezuela	(2)	(2)	49	236	1	1	50	237
Other	162	1,630	4,770	18,100	1,130	5,300	6,060	25,000
Total	28,600	115,000	80,100	306,000	127,000	451,000	236,000	872,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.