

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2008

Imports of all forms of bauxite and alumina in the first quarter of 2008 increased compared with those in the first quarter of 2007. Crude and dried bauxite imports were 17% higher, calcined bauxite imports were 72% higher, and alumina imports were 15% higher. Exports of these materials were higher as well, with the exception of calcined bauxite, which fell by 40% from exports in the first quarter of 2007. Crude and dried bauxite exports were 6% higher and alumina exports were 23% higher than those in the first quarter of 2007.

In December 2007, Aluminum Corporation of China Ltd. (Chinalco) started production from the first phase of the Guangxi Huayin alumina refinery in Bose, Guangxi Autonomous Region, with an initial capacity of 400,000 metric tons per year. Further expansions would increase capacity to 1.6 million metric tons per year (Mt/yr).

Chinalco's partners in the refinery include Guangxi Investment Group and China Minmetals Nonferrous Metals Corp. (Aluminum Corporation of China Ltd., 2008). The refinery is supplied by a mine in Debao County, which started production in July 2007 and has a capacity of 1.8 Mt/yr. Another mine in Jingxi County with a capacity of 2.1 Mt/yr was also recently completed and would also be supplying the refinery by the end of the quarter (CRU Alumina Monitor, 2008).

References Cited

- Aluminum Corporation of China Ltd., 2008, First phase of Hua Yin alumina project put into operation: Beijing, China, Aluminum Corporation of China Ltd. news release, February 25, 2 p.
CRU Alumina Monitor, 2008, Industry news: CRU Alumina Monitor, January, p. 2.

TABLE 1
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE¹

(Metric tons)

Country	2007					2008
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Year to date	First quarter
Imports (for consumption):						
Brazil	260,000	362,000	358,000	427,000	1,410,000	419,000
Guinea	446,000	366,000	628,000	518,000	1,960,000	667,000
Guyana	183,000	252,000	179,000	289,000	903,000	179,000
Jamaica	1,180,000	1,140,000	1,090,000	1,030,000	4,450,000	1,130,000
Sierra Leone	181,000	288,000	163,000	199,000	832,000	280,000
Other	65,200	68,600	142,000	14,800	290,000	40,000
Total	2,320,000	2,480,000	2,560,000	2,480,000	9,840,000	2,710,000
Exports:						
Belgium	140	832	--	--	972	--
Canada	2,350	2,060	3,160	3,050	10,600	2,400
Germany	257	108	307	243	915	65
Mexico	377	--	--	--	377	--
Other	322	40	497	947	1,810	1,170
Total	3,440	3,040	3,960	4,240	14,700	3,640

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CALCINED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons)

Country	2007										2008	
	First quarter		Second quarter		Third quarter		Fourth quarter		Year to date		First quarter	
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
Imports (for consumption):												
Australia	--	33,000	--	20,100	--	79,600	--	41,800	--	174,000	--	--
Brazil	24,800	40	25,900	1,200	21,400	12,500	20,800	--	92,800	13,800	23,800	27,000
China	38,900	19,700	35,300	6,750	15,100	9,310	29,000	11,700	118,000	47,500	40,000	10,700
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	--	23,100	--	--	--	23,100	--	46,100
Greece	17,000	--	18,000	--	--	27,200	--	27,200	35,000	54,400	--	--
Guyana	10,300	33,300	6,850	113,000	5,710	18,900	13,400	47,200	36,300	212,000	13,800	114,000
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	28,800
Other	--	--	--	--	--	90 ^r	--	--	--	90	--	--
Total	91,000	86,100	86,000	141,000	42,200	171,000	63,200	128,000	282,000	525,000	77,600	227,000
Exports:												
Canada	655	320	956	564	452	--	1,130	124	3,190	1,010	1,060	--
Mexico	159	1,160	217	805	319	697	140	--	835	2,660	293	53
Other	189	--	21	42	--	258	34	129	244	429	17	51
Total	1,000	1,480	1,190	1,410	771	955	1,300	253	4,270	4,100	1,370	104

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF ALUMINA¹

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

Country	2007					2008
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Year to date	First quarter
Imports (for consumption):²						
Australia	173,000	192,000 ^r	250,000 ^r	207,000	822,000	188,000
Brazil	36,800 ^r	120,000 ^r	88,400	143,000	389,000	157,000
Canada	5,810	5,680 ^r	5,380 ^r	5,730 ^r	22,600	4,060
Jamaica	233,000	150,000	90,500	142,000 ^r	616,000	119,000
Suriname	71,800	83,800	57,900	67,300	281,000	69,100
Venezuela	--	--	50,000	27,100	77,100	62,500
Other	13,700 ^r	15,700 ^r	16,900 ^r	15,000 ^r	61,300	15,500
Total	534,000 ^r	568,000 ^r	559,000 ^r	608,000 ^r	2,270,000	614,000
Exports:³						
Canada	63,900 ^r	167,000 ^r	80,300 ^r	128,000	439,000	143,000
China	3,740 ^r	3,020 ^r	2,510 ^r	3,040 ^r	12,300	2,170
Iceland	51,800	81,200	106,000	68,800	308,000	105,000
Mexico	7,610 ^r	8,810 ^r	6,730 ^r	6,600 ^r	29,800	6,830
Norway	94,500	31,600	32,100	67,200	225,000	18
Other	20,000 ^r	25,200 ^r	44,700 ^r	18,000 ^r	108,000	40,000
Total	242,000 ^r	317,000 ^r	272,000 ^r	291,000 ^r	1,120,000	297,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Includes imports of aluminum hydroxide: 168,000 tons in 2007; 31,900 tons in the first quarter of 2008.

³Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide: 40,700 tons in 2007; 10,900 tons in the first quarter of 2008.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.