

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ALUMINUM IN JULY 2008

Domestic primary aluminum production in July was 225,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 7,250 t, 3% less than the rate of the previous month and 3% higher than the rate for July 2007. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in July 2008 was 296,000 t, essentially the same as that of the previous month and 11% lower than the total in July 2007. Of this, 179,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, essentially unchanged from that in June, and 13% less than the amount in July 2007. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in July 2008 totaled 117,000 t, which was essentially unchanged from that in June and 8% less than that in July 2007.

### U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption (table 6) for the first 6 months of 2008 increased 12% compared with those for the same period in 2007. Imports of metal and alloys increased 15% and imports of semifabricated materials decreased 3%, whereas imports of scrap increased 28% compared with those for the same period in 2007. Canada remained the leading shipper of materials to the United States, supplying 63% of total U.S. imports in the first 6 months of the year, followed by Russia with 10%.

Total aluminum exports (table 7) for the first half of 2008 increased 33% compared with those for the first 6 months of

2007. Exports of metal and alloys decreased 5%, and exports of semifabricated material increased 8% compared with those for the same period in 2007. Aluminum scrap exports increased 59% compared to the amount exported in the first half of 2007. China, Canada, and Mexico, in descending order of shipments, were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for 62% of total U.S. exports in the first 6 months of 2008.

In July, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$1.426 per pound from \$1.374 per pound in June. In August, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot declined to \$1.29 per pound.

In June Alcoa Inc. announced that one-half of the production capacity at its 267,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) Rockdale, TX, smelter would be idled temporarily as a result of power supply disruptions and high power costs (See Aluminum in March and April 2008.) In September, Alcoa announced that the Rockdale smelter would shut all production immediately (Alcoa Inc., 2008).

### Reference Cited

Alcoa Inc., 2008, Alcoa to curtail remainder of Rockdale, TX smelter due to local power supply and market conditions: Pittsburgh, PA, Alcoa Inc. news release, September 30, 1 p.

### Used beverage can prices, cents per pound<sup>1</sup>

July 3	101-102
July 11	101-102
July 18	98-100
July 25	94-96
August 1	91-93
August 8	91-92
August 15	88-90
August 22	86-88
August 29	84-86

<sup>1</sup>Source: American Metal Market

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		
2007 <sup>p</sup>	2,554	2,280	1,610	3,890	2,950	1,070	4,020	10,500	1,400
2007:									
July	219	205	127	332	236	102	337	888 <sup>r</sup>	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	167	122	288	215	70	285	798	1,400
January-July	1,449	1,360	930	2,290	1,720	662 <sup>r</sup>	2,380 <sup>r</sup>	6,120 <sup>r</sup>	XX
2008:									
January	233	189	125	315	240	78	318	865	1,380
February	219	180	109	289	208	74	282	790	1,350
March	233	183	116	299	247	77	324	856	1,320
April	228	180	114	295	238	78	316	839	1,320
May	235	179	123	302	237	81	318	855	1,320
June	224	177	115	292	263	80	343	859	1,310
July	225	179	117	296	227	82	309	831	1,310
January-July	1,597	1,270	821	2,090	1,660	549	2,210	5,900	XX

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

<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		Independent mill fabricators <sup>2</sup>		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
	2007 <sup>P</sup>	2,310	1,800	2,190	2,010	95	83	5	5	4,600
2007:										
July	194	151	190	175	8	7	(3)	(3)	392	332
August	191	147	198	181	8	7	(3)	(3)	397	336
September	191	148	171	156	8	7	(3)	(3)	370	312
October	196	153	199	182	8	7	(3)	(3)	404	342
November	190	147	183	167	8	7	(3)	(3)	381	321
December	178	138	157	143	8	7	(3)	(3)	343	288
January-July	1,370	1,060	1,280	1,180	55	48	(3)	(3)	2,710	2,290
2008:										
January	168	133	195	174	8	7	(3)	(3)	372	315
February	150	117	185	164	8	7	(3)	(3)	343	289
March	148	116	197	175	8	7	(3)	(3)	354	299
April	150	118	190	169	8	7	(3)	(3)	349	295
May	150	117	200	177	8	7	(3)	(3)	358	302
June	150	117	189	167	8	7	(3)	(3)	347	292
July	149	117	194	173	8	7	(3)	(3)	352	296
January-July	1,070	836	1,350	1,200	55	49	(3)	(3)	2,480	2,090

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JULY 2008<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	124,000	149,000	97,500
Independent mill fabricators <sup>2</sup>	174,000	194,000	154,000	173,000
Foundries	6,230	7,480	5,450	6,530
Other consumers	608	730	522	626
Total	305,000	352,000	258,000	296,000

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."

TABLE 4  
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN JULY 2008<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	July			January-July <sup>2</sup>		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
<b>New scrap:</b>						
Extrusion	23,700	90,400	89,700	24,400	629,000	630,000
Can stock clippings	2,570	19,000	18,100	3,450	126,000	126,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,400	23,900	23,800	5,510	176,000	174,000
Casting	755	5,710	5,670	803	41,500	41,600
Borings and turnings	4,440	11,400	11,300	4,480	82,500	82,500
Dross and skimmings	3,670	34,700	34,700	3,670	244,000	244,000
Total new scrap	40,500	185,000	183,000	42,300	1,300,000	1,300,000
<b>Old scrap:</b>						
Used castings	4,720	21,300	20,300	5,690	126,000	128,000
Used extrusion	2,000	6,300	6,300	2,000	44,100	44,100
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	4,690	62,000	62,300	4,320	421,000	421,000
Other wrought products	3,270	17,500	17,500	3,270	145,000	145,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,670	15,500	15,500	5,750	114,000	114,000
Total old scrap	20,400	123,000	122,000	21,000	849,000	852,000
Sweated pig	82	246	246	82	1,720	1,720
Total all classes	61,000	308,000	305,000	63,500	2,150,000	2,150,000

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes revised data from previous month(s).

<sup>3</sup>Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2008<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	July			January-July <sup>3</sup>		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
<b>Die-cast alloys:</b>						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,590	1,870	2,020	3,440	14,100	13,800
380 and variations	4,190	13,200	13,200	4,190	97,500	98,800
<b>Sand and permanent mold:</b>						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,360	2,730	2,730	1,360	19,100	19,200
No. 319 and variations	1,950	3,380	3,390	1,940	24,500	24,900
F-132 alloy and variations	508 <sup>r</sup>	482	482	508	8,720	8,950
Al-Zn alloys	292	168	168	292	1,200	1,220
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	86	213	213	86	1,490	1,490
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283	2,880	2,880
Other <sup>3</sup>	10,400	38,100	37,800	10,700	140,000	137,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,800	54,900	55,100	18,700	387,000	387,000
Total all alloys	41,400 <sup>r</sup>	116,000	116,000	41,400	696,000	695,000
<b>Less:</b>						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	19,800	XX	XX	134,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,680	XX	XX	13,000	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	621	XX	XX	4,480	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>4</sup>	XX	93,400	XX	XX	545,000	XX

<sup>r</sup>Revised. 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 JUNE 2008<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January- June	June	January- June	June	January- June	June	January- June
Argentina	12,400	40,900	--	--	--	--	12,400	40,900
Australia	3,840	23,500	(2)	49	--	--	3,840	23,500
Bahrain	1,490	3,970	1,320	8,300	--	--	2,810	12,300
Belgium	(2)	55	444	2,330	--	--	444	2,380
Brazil	3,960	40,200	1,840	10,100	--	354	5,790	50,700
Canada	165,000	994,000	33,200	203,000	30,100	169,000	229,000	1,370,000
China	1,380	12,000	11,800	67,700	(2)	8	13,200	79,700
France	75	223	604	2,010	421	574	1,100	2,810
Germany	595	1,250	7,870	43,500	49	226	8,520	45,000
Hungary	--	--	9	91	--	--	9	91
Italy	17	32	363	2,880	--	18	379	2,930
Japan	55	395	999	5,850	95	457	1,150	6,700
Korea, Republic of	33	138	56	1,130	--	69	89	1,340
Mexico	3,240	14,500	1,680	10,100	12,100	62,400	17,000	87,000
Netherlands	146	745	136	1,440	--	77	282	2,260
Norway	269	1,900	2	9	--	--	271	1,910
Russia	47,300	172,000	5,500	25,700	93	331	52,900	198,000
South Africa	1,500	6,440	2,110	19,200	--	500	3,610	26,100
Spain	17	58	20	92	--	8	37	158
Sweden	3	3	139	1,010	--	--	143	1,010
Switzerland	--	3	578	3,540	--	--	578	3,550
Tajikistan	--	782	--	--	--	--	--	782
United Arab Emirates	5,240	40,400	--	19	111	188	5,350	40,600
United Kingdom	60	1,100	503	4,230	321	1,800	884	7,120
Venezuela	8,470	55,800	195	2,450	703	1,500	9,370	59,700
Other	7,610	24,000	10,300	51,800	3,730	21,000	21,600	96,900
Total	263,000	1,430,000	79,700	467,000	47,700	259,000	390,000	2,160,000

-- 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 JUNE 2008<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January- June	June	January- June	June	January- June	June	January- June
Australia	18	1,590	79	1,020	19	43	116	2,650
Belgium	45	249	56	763	--	148	102	1,160
Brazil	10	328	1,080	4,530	357	1,960	1,450	6,810
Canada	7,860	58,600	35,300	220,000	15,100	86,800	58,200	366,000
China	3	787	2,420	24,100	86,600	457,000	89,100	482,000
Czech Republic	11	13	7	163	--	--	18	176
Dominican Republic	--	357	63	256	--	3	63	616
France	12	403	901	5,760	--	5	913	6,170
Germany	62	1,570	815	5,140	76	501	953	7,210
Hong Kong	28	174	641	9,000	11,100	46,100	11,700	55,200
India	4	197	133	889	2,220	13,800	2,360	14,900
Israel	15	144	427	2,630	--	--	442	2,780
Italy	20	28	298	1,490	19	414	336	1,930
Japan	2,000	9,080	1,540	11,300	4,380	32,400	7,920	52,800
Korea, Republic of	344	551	1,420	8,070	24,300	116,000	26,000	125,000
Malaysia	1	11	1,710	4,420	121	549	1,830	4,980
Mexico	16,600	92,400	24,200	121,000	10,400	49,800	51,200	264,000
Netherlands	25	251	102	1,120	73	481	199	1,850
Russia	--	--	1	15	--	--	1	15
Saudi Arabia	43	129	3,460	24,800	--	18	3,500	24,900
Singapore	8	54	170	752	--	631	178	1,440
Spain	4	11	208	820	--	394	212	1,220
Sweden	--	1	16	113	--	--	16	114
Taiwan	20	44	474	4,830	48,400	245,000	48,900	250,000
Thailand	--	17	780	5,230	5,190	52,300	5,970	57,500
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Kingdom	58	278	1,850	13,500	71	559	1,980	14,300
Venezuela	--	--	93	461	--	5	93	465
Other	352	3,200	5,790	30,100	1,920	18,800	8,060	52,100
Total	27,600	170,000	84,000	503,000	210,000	1,120,000	322,000	1,800,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.