

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

Paula R. Neely (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7949
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: pneely@usgs.gov

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

ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2008

Domestic primary aluminum production in September was 214,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 7,130 t, essentially equal to the rate for the previous month and to the rate for September 2007. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in September 2008 was 281,000 t, 3% less than that of the previous month and 10% lower than the total in September 2007. Of this, 172,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 3% lower than that in August, and 6% less than the amount in September 2007. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in September 2008 totaled 110,000 t, which was slightly lower than that in August and 15% less than that in September 2007.

In September, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot declined to \$1.192 per pound from \$1.29 per pound in August and in October continued to decline to \$1.019 per pound.

Arkansas Aluminum Alloys Inc. announced that its secondary smelter in Hot Springs, AR, will close at the end of November. A dramatic decline in demand for diecast aluminum alloys used in automobiles was the reason cited for the decision. No reopening date was projected (American Metal Market, 2008).

Reference Cited

American Metal Market, 2008, Ark. Aluminum calls off Spectro tie, idling output: American Metal Market, v. 116, no. 44-5, November 7, p. 1, 6.

Used beverage can prices, cents per pound¹

September 5	82-84
September 12	80-82
September 19	77-79
September 26	76-78
October 3	68-70
October 10	64-66
October 17	67-69
October 24	56-58
October 31	56-58

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:									
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-September	1,886	1,730	1,210	2,940	2,250	838	3,090	7,910	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
August	222	178	112	290	204	77	281	793	1,330
September	214	172	110	281	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-September	2,034	1,620	1,040	2,660	NA	NA	NA	NA	XX

^pPreliminary. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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		Independent mill fabricators ²		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 ^p	2,310	1,800	2,190	2,010	95	83	5	5	4,600
2007:										
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-September	1,750	1,360	1,650	1,510	71	62	(3)	(3)	3,480	2,940
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	7	7	(3)	(3)	352	296
August	148	116	188	167	7	7	(3)	(3)	344	290
September	146	114	181	160	7	7	(3)	(3)	335	281
January-September	1,360	1,070	1,720	1,530	70	62	(3)	(3)	3,160	2,660

^pPreliminary.

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

²Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."

³Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN SEPTEMBER 2008¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	122,000	146,000	95,300
Independent mill fabricators ²	162,000	181,000	144,000	160,000
Foundries	6,230	7,480	5,450	6,530
Other consumers	608	730	522	626
Total	291,000	335,000	245,000	281,000

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

²Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN SEPTEMBER 2008¹

(Metric tons)

	September			January-September ²		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	24,100	88,100	86,200	26,000	805,000	805,000
Can stock clippings	2,950	15,700	16,300	2,340	159,000	160,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,380	24,200	23,000	6,550	225,000	222,000
Casting	776	5,720	5,660	835	52,800	52,900
Borings and turnings	4,480	11,300	11,300	4,430	105,000	105,000
Dross and skimmings	3,670	34,700	34,700	3,670	313,000	313,000
Total new scrap	41,300	180,000	177,000	43,800	1,660,000	1,660,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,640	19,800	19,700	5,670	166,000	168,000
Used extrusion	2,000	6,300	6,300	2,000	56,700	56,700
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	3,500	54,300	54,600	3,220	530,000	532,000
Other wrought products	3,270	18,100	18,100	3,270	180,000	180,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,940	15,200	14,900	6,200	145,000	144,000
Total old scrap	20,400	114,000	114,000	20,400	1,080,000	1,080,000
Sweated pig	82	246	246	82	2,220	2,220
Total all classes	61,800	294,000	291,000	64,300	2,740,000	2,740,000

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

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2008^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	September			January-September ³		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,350	2,370	2,060	3,650	18,300	17,900
380 and variations	4,190	13,200	13,200	4,190	124,000	125,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,360	2,730	2,730	1,360	24,600	24,600
No. 319 and variations	1,920	3,430	3,420	1,930	31,300	31,700
F-132 alloy and variations	508	482	482	508	9,680	9,910
Al-Zn alloys	292	168	168	292	1,540	1,550
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	86	213	213	86	1,920	1,920
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283	3,700	3,700
Other ³	7,780	36,500	37,600	6,720	214,000	215,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	19,100	53,900	54,100	18,900	495,000	495,000
Total all alloys	38,900	113,000	114,000	37,900	925,000	927,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	19,100	XX	XX	174,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,700	XX	XX	16,100	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	612	XX	XX	5,730	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	92,000	XX	XX	729,000	XX

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 AUGUST 2008¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August
Argentina	3,500	48,800	--	--	--	--	3,500	48,800
Australia	3,610	29,700	2	57	--	--	3,620	29,800
Bahrain	992	5,460	1,550	11,500	--	--	2,540	17,000
Belgium	2	75	401	3,190	--	--	403	3,270
Brazil	5,150	51,300	295	11,400	--	360	5,450	63,100
Canada	163,000	1,320,000	29,100	266,000	29,000	229,000	221,000	1,810,000
China	1,780	19,900	14,600	96,800	--	33	16,400	117,000
France	26	258	410	2,950	--	772	436	3,980
Germany	681	1,950	8,290	60,100	50	298	9,020	62,300
Hungary	--	--	12	125	--	--	12	125
Italy	--	32	560	3,810	(2)	18	560	3,860
Japan	2	442	484	7,250	35	569	521	8,260
Korea, Republic of	--	174	105	1,430	20	123	125	1,730
Mexico	1,600	18,400	1,260	12,900	9,340	84,600	12,200	116,000
Netherlands	118	972	129	1,690	57	134	303	2,792
Norway	289	2,530	(2)	9	--	--	289	2,534
Russia	6,810	198,000	3,230	32,200	481	1,030	10,500	231,000
South Africa	--	6,440	5,050	26,900	--	500	5,050	33,800
Spain	20	115	2	112	--	8	22	234
Sweden	2	7	75	1,350	--	--	77	1,360
Switzerland	--	3	517	4,400	--	--	517	4,410
Tajikistan	--	782	--	--	--	--	--	782
United Arab Emirates	6,160	54,700	--	19	--	278	6,160	55,000
United Kingdom	120	1,290	422	5,220	509	2,800	1,050	9,300
Venezuela	8,000	74,400	93	3,030	--	2,000	8,090	79,400
Other	1,750	29,200	10,800	73,900	2,920	28,000	15,500	131,000
Total	204,000	1,860,000	77,400	626,000	42,400	350,000	323,000	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.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2008¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August
Australia	33	1,620	259	1,480	--	82	293	3,180
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
Belgium	75	850	242	1,170		670	551	2,690
Brazil	56	388	575	6,050	802	3,430	1,430	9,870
Canada	9,120	74,900	36,300	293,000	15,500	116,000	61,000	484,000
China	2	954	2,100	29,100	98,500	649,000	101,000	679,000
Czech Republic	--	13	10	176	--	--	10	190
Dominican Republic	--	357	79	371	--	3	79	732
France	18	442	857	7,610	23	28	898	8,080
Germany	306	2,060	1,180	7,360	113	806	1,600	10,200
Hong Kong	27	203	1,060	11,200	11,200	69,100	12,300	80,500
India	(2)	197	136	1,060	3,280	20,700	3,420	22,000
Israel	33	209	614	3,940	--	--	647	4,150
Italy	--	28	407	2,260	--	414	407	2,700
Japan	10	9,150	2,480	14,700	6,690	43,100	9,180	67,000
Korea, Republic of	31	598	1,690	11,100	25,800	170,000	27,500	181,000
Malaysia	--	11	1,280	6,440	144	757	1,420	7,200
Mexico	16,000	125,000	23,750	175,000	8,600	66,000	48,400	366,000
Netherlands	15	370	118	1,420	343	1,020	475	2,820
Russia	--	--	28	63	--	--	28	63
Saudi Arabia	20	219	3,290	31,700	--	18	3,310	32,000
Singapore	69	207	130	964	12	671	211	1,840
Spain	3	14	226	1,250	88	562	317	1,820
Sweden	--	1	5	135	--	--	5	136
Taiwan	4	55	567	6,420	17,500	301,000	18,100	307,000
Thailand	--	17	914	7,320	7,600	69,300	8,510	76,600
Ukraine	--	--	(2)	2	--	--	(2)	2
United Kingdom	108	491	1,870	17,500	90	671	2,070	18,700
Venezuela	21	21	66	598	--	5	87	624
Other	424	4,070	6,130	42,600	1,570	25,200	8,120	71,900
Total	26,400	223,000	86,400	682,000	198,000	1,540,000	311,000	2,440,000

-- 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.