

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2008

Domestic primary aluminum production in February was 219,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 7,550 t, essentially the same as that of the previous month and 14% higher than the rate for February 2007. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in February 2008 was 289,000 t, 180,000 t from new scrap and 109,000 t from old scrap. Total aluminum recovered from scrap for January through February was 5% less than the total in the same period of 2007. Aluminum recovered from new scrap for January through February was 2% less than the total in the same period of 2007. Recovery of aluminum from old scrap for January through February was 9% less than the total in the same period of the previous year.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$1.286 per pound in February 2008 from \$1.136 per pound in January and increased to \$1.399 per pound in March. Much of the price increase since the beginning of 2008 has been attributed to reduced global production owing to electricity shortages in South Africa and

severe weather in China that forced many producers to decrease production (Platts Metals Week, 2008b).

Domestic primary aluminum production has increased as a result of smelter restarts that took place in 2007 when long-term power supply contracts took effect. (See Aluminum in May 2007 and Aluminum in June 2007.) Much of the increased production was exported; exports of crude metal increased 26% and exports of semifabricated aluminum products increased 19% in January 2008 compared with those of the previous month. However, declining domestic consumption of aluminum in the construction sector has been cited as the reason for shutdowns at rolling mills owned by Nichols Aluminum in Decatur, AL, and Aleris International Inc. in Richmond, VA (Platts Metals Week, 2008a).

References Cited

Platts Metals Week, 2008a, Nichol's Decatur rolling mill shuts amid weak demand: Platts Metals Week, v. 79, no. 10, March 10, p. 1, 8.
Platts Metals Week, 2008b, US, Japan markets rise; Europe sluggish on high LME price: Platts Metals Week, v. 79, no. 9, March 3, p. 10-11.

Used beverage can prices, cents per pound¹

February 1	85-87
February 8	85-87
February 15	85-87
February 22	90-92
February 29	102-104
March 7	103-105
March 14	102-104
March 21	92-94
March 28	96-98

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:									
February	185	182	120	302	258	86	344	831	1,460
March	217	201	143	344	238	93	332	892	1,410
April	209	188	131	319	259	94	353	881	1,430
May	210	194	138	332	220	97	317	859	1,400
June	209	196	134	329	255	92	347	885	1,330
July	219	205	127	332	236	102	337	888	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	121	287	215	70	285	797	1,400
January-February	387	376	256	633	509	184	693	1,710	1,460
2008:									
January	233	189	125	315	240	78	318	865	1,380
February	219	180	109	289	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-February	452	369	234	604	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^PPreliminary. NA Not available.

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	1,220	1,140	95	83	5	5	4,600
2007:										
February	183	142	167 ^r	153 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	359	302
March	216	168	184 ^r	168 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	408	344
April	196	152	174 ^r	159 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	379	319
May	191	148	193 ^r	176 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	392	332
June	185	142	196 ^r	180 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	389	329
July	194	151	190 ^r	175 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	392	332
August	191	147	198 ^r	181 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	397	336
September	191	148	171 ^r	156 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	370	312
October	196	153	199 ^r	182 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	404	342
November	190	147	183 ^r	167 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	381	321
December	178	138	157 ^r	143 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	343 ^r	288
January-February	386	301	346	317	16	14	(3)	(3)	749	633
2008:										
January	168	133	195 ^r	174 ^r	8	7	(3)	(3)	372	315
February	150	117	185	164	8	7	(3)	(3)	343	289
January-February	318	250	380	338	16	14	(3)	(3)	715	604

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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 1/2 unit.

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

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	125,000	150,000	97,900
Independent mill fabricators ²	166,000	185,000	147,000	164,000
Foundries	6,640	7,970	5,840	7,010
Other consumers	611	733	525	630
Total	298,000	343,000	251,000	289,000

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 FEBRUARY 2008¹

(Metric tons)

	February			January-February ²		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	28,600 ^r	89,200	90,000	27,900	184,000	182,000
Can stock clippings	3,390	16,700	17,200	2,830	35,700	36,500
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,030	25,400	25,000	5,380	51,000	49,800
Casting	740 ^r	5,620	5,560	792	13,400	13,600
Borings and turnings	4,240 ^r	11,500	11,500	4,240	25,400	25,700
Dross and skimmings	3,670 ^r	34,700	34,700	3,670	70,000	70,200
Total new scrap	45,700 ^r	183,000	184,000	44,800	380,000	378,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	7,580 ^r	14,200	16,900	4,830	28,000	31,200
Used extrusion	2,000	6,300	6,300	2,000	12,600	12,600
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	5,190 ^r	56,200	56,700	4,740	114,000	115,000
Other wrought products	3,270 ^r	18,300	18,300	3,270	47,500	47,500
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,720 ^r	15,500	15,600	5,660	36,500	36,500
Total old scrap	23,800 ^r	110,000	114,000	20,500	239,000	243,000
Sweated pig	82	246	246	82	493	493
Total all classes	69,500	294,000	298,000	65,300	619,000	621,000

^rRevised.

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)

	February			January-February ³		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	4,040 ^r	1,870	1,990	3,930	4,680	3,980
380 and variations	4,190 ^r	13,200	13,200	4,190	31,300	32,500
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,360 ^r	2,730	2,730	1,360	5,470	5,530
No. 319 and variations	2,000 ^r	3,380	3,400	1,990	7,570	7,920
F-132 alloy and variations	747 ^r	1,430	1,420	748	2,910	2,900
Al-Zn alloys	292 ^r	168	168	292	361	378
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	86	213	213	86	426	426
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283	823	823
Other ³	6,990	13,100	11,800	8,240	24,900	24,500
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,800	55,200	55,400	18,700	111,000	111,000
Total all alloys	38,800 ^r	91,800	90,800	39,800	189,000	190,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	18,200	XX	XX	35,200	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,710	XX	XX	4,430	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	633	XX	XX	1,310	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	71,300	XX	XX	148,000	XX

^rRevised. 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 JANUARY 2008¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	6,810	--	--	6,810
Australia	--	5	--	5
Bahrain	993	1,650	--	2,650
Belgium	19	401	--	421
Brazil	7,670	1,420	--	9,090
Canada	174,000	32,900	26,700	233,000
China	2,100	13,300	--	15,400
France	11	240	153	404
Germany	64	6,200	21	6,280
Hungary	--	26	--	26
Italy	(2)	557	--	557
Japan	100	550	49	700
Korea, Republic of	27	236	--	263
Mexico	1,030	1,480	7,920	10,400
Netherlands	51	476	--	527
Norway	374	7	--	381
Russia	26,400	3,760	--	30,100
South Africa	3,440	4,540	--	7,980
Spain	--	5	--	5
Sweden	--	173	--	173
Switzerland	--	398	--	398
United Arab Emirates	8,140	--	--	8,140
United Kingdom	349	459	355	1,160
Venezuela	5,580	270	60	5,910
Other	3,080	9,220	3,560	15,900
Total	240,000	78,300	38,800	357,000

-- 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 JANUARY 2008¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Australia	6	265	--	271
Belgium	37	144	56	237
Brazil	268	610	300	1,180
Canada	10,600	36,300	13,400	60,200
China	457	2,410	64,900	67,800
Czech Republic	--	40	--	40
Dominican Republic	353	25	--	378
France	89	1,210	--	1,300
Germany	518	1,140	49	1,710
Hong Kong	(2)	2,400	3,730	6,130
India	--	159	2,280	2,440
Israel	67	543	--	609
Italy	3	348	154	505
Japan	1,160	1,880	5,300	8,350
Korea, Republic of	1	1,210	15,000	16,300
Malaysia	9	298	60	367
Mexico	16,700	18,600	7,100	42,300
Netherlands	7	567	95	669
Russia	--	2	--	2
Saudi Arabia	--	3,490	--	3,490
Singapore	--	161	--	161
Spain	3	52	175	230
Sweden	--	12	--	12
Taiwan	7	556	29,400	30,000
Thailand	--	1,030	4,110	5,140
United Kingdom	22	2,330	13	2,370
Venezuela	--	205	--	205
Other	574	5,090	1,850	7,510
Total	30,800	81,000	148,000	260,000

-- 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.