

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2009

Domestic primary aluminum production in February was 149,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 5,320 t, 15% lower than that for the previous month and 30% lower than that for February 2008.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in February 2009 was 266,000 t, 4% lower than that of the previous month and 8% lower than the total in February 2008. Of this, 158,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 2% lower than that of the previous month and 12% lower than that in February 2008. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in February 2009 totaled 108,000 t, which was 6% lower than that in January 2009 and essentially equal to that in February 2008.

In February, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot declined to \$0.629 per pound from \$0.676 per pound in January, and in March, the price recovered slightly to \$0.638 per pound.

Alcoa Inc. announced that in May it will close 120,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of its 255,000-t/yr of smelting capacity at Massena, NY. The low aluminum price was cited as the reason for the closure. Alcoa had been considering releasing plant employees, but in an agreement with the New York Power Authority, Alcoa will retain 250 of the 420 affected employees

to prepare the shuttered plant for a planned modernization (Alcoa Inc., 2009).

Ormet Corp. sought legal action against Glencore International AG (Baar, Switzerland) to enforce its contract rights under the two companies' tolling agreement. Glencore had informed Ormet that alumina deliveries to the Hannibal, OH, smelter from the temporarily closed Windalco refinery in Jamaica would stop immediately. Glencore stated that the tolling agreement with Ormet allowed it to cease deliveries without supplying alumina from an alternative source. Ormet stated that without an alternative source of alumina, the 265,000-t/yr smelter would shutdown in late May or early June (Ormet Corp., 2009; Ziegler, 2009).

References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2009, NYPA, Alcoa partner to save hundreds of jobs at Massena, NY operations despite major production curtailment: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. news release, March 31, 1 p.
- Ormet Corp., 2009, Ormet commences legal actions against Glencore to enforce rights under tolling agreement: Hannibal, OH, Ormet Corp. news release, April 16, 2 p.
- Ziegler, Heather, 2009, Ormet faces fight: The Intelligencer [Wheeling, WV], April 18. (Accessed April 20, 2009, at <http://theintelligencer.net/page/content.net/age/content.detail/id/523052.html?showlayout=0>.)

Used beverage can prices, cents per pound¹

February 6	42-44
February 13	42-44
February 20	38-40
February 27	40-42
March 6	39-41
March 13	41-43
March 20	44-46
March 27	43-45

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		
2008 ^p	2,658	2,090	1,350 ^r	3,440 ^r	2,790	914	3,710	9,810 ^r	1,400
2008:									
February	219	180	109	289	208	74	282	790	1,350
March	234	183	116	299	247	77	324	857	1,320
April	228	180	114	295	238	78	316	839	1,320
May	236	179	123	302	237	81	318	856	1,320
June	224	177	115	292	263	80	343	859	1,310
July	225	179	117	296	227	82	309	830	1,310
August	222	178	112	290	204	77	281	793	1,330
September	214	172	110	281	229	78	307	803	1,290
October	217	174	113	287	249	75	324	827	1,270
November	202	150	94	245	219	69	289	736	1,260
December	204	150 ^r	104 ^r	254 ^r	233	65	297	755 ^r	1,220
January-February	452	368	235	603	448	152	600	1,660	XX
2009:									
January	193	162 ^r	115 ^r	277 ^r	270	64	334	804	1,210
February	149	158	108	266	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-February	342	320	224	544	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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
	2008 ^p	1,800	1,410	2,200 ^r	1,950 ^r	93	81	9 ^r	8 ^r	4,100 ^r
2008:										
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
October	147	115	186	165	7	7	(3)	(3)	341	287
November	146	114	140	123	7	7	(3)	(3)	295	245
December	144 ^r	112 ^r	155 ^r	134 ^r	7	7	(3)	(3)	307 ^r	254 ^r
January-February	318	251	379	337	16	14	(3)	(3)	715	603
2009:										
January	144 ^r	112 ^r	182 ^r	158 ^r	7	7	(3)	(3)	334 ^r	277 ^r
February	144	112	169	147	7	7	(3)	(3)	321	266
January-February	287	225	351	305	15	13	(3)	(3)	655	544

^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 ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN FEBRUARY 2009¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	120,000	144,000	93,400
Independent mill fabricators ²	150,000	169,000	131,000	147,000
Foundries	6,240	7,490	5,450	6,540
Other consumers	693	831	612	735
Total	277,000	321,000	230,000	266,000

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 2009¹

(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	22,800	76,600	75,100	24,300	150,000	150,000
Can stock clippings	3,730 ^r	15,500	15,600	3,650	34,200	34,400
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,420 ^r	21,600	21,900	5,110	43,800	44,100
Casting	1,210	6,160	6,160	1,210	12,300	12,300
Borings and turnings	2,230 ^r	10,300	10,300	2,230	20,700	20,700
Dross and skimmings	6,280 ^r	37,900	37,900	6,280	75,800	75,800
Total new scrap	41,700 ^r	168,000	167,000	42,800	337,000	338,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	10,000 ^r	19,000	21,100	7,860	36,300	39,100
Used extrusion	3,130 ^r	7,290	7,290	3,130	14,700	14,700
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	5,870 ^r	47,100	47,200	5,830	102,000	102,000
Other wrought products	5,090 ^r	19,900	19,900	5,090	42,900	42,900
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	6,470	14,400	14,400	6,470	29,200	28,900
Total old scrap	30,600 ^r	108,000	110,000	28,400	225,000	228,000
Sweated pig	96	151	151	96	303	303
Total all classes	72,400 ^r	276,000	277,000	71,300	562,000	566,000

^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 2009^{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.)	3,700	2,380	2,380	3,700	4,760	4,390
380 and variations	4,520	13,600	13,600	4,520	27,200	27,200
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,340	2,820	2,820	1,340	5,640	5,640
No. 319 and variations	1,910	3,140	3,140	1,910	6,280	6,280
F-132 alloy and variations	341	425	425	341	851	851
Al-Zn alloys	195	136	136	195	271	271
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	141	216	216	141	433	433
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	11	157	157	11	315	315
Other ³	9,580	29,100	29,100	9,580	58,300	57,100
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	20,000	53,900	54,100	19,800	108,000	108,000
Total all alloys	41,700	106,000	106,000	41,600	212,000	211,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	19,700	XX	XX	39,400	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,620	XX	XX	3,240	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	613	XX	XX	1,230	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	84,000	XX	XX	168,000	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 JANUARY 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	20,300	(2)	--	20,300
Australia	2,840	4	--	2,840
Bahrain	998	1,760	--	2,760
Belgium	45	166	--	211
Brazil	18,100	379	--	18,500
Canada	171,000	18,100	19,800	209,000
China	537	21,300	--	21,800
France	143	369	--	512
Germany	15	5,280	26	5,320
Hungary	--	7	--	7
Italy	--	277	--	277
Japan	28	1,080	52	1,160
Korea, Republic of	496	177	--	674
Mexico	587	905	8,870	10,400
Netherlands	17	164	54	235
Norway	8	(2)	--	9
Russia	19,100	2,010	--	21,100
South Africa	--	2,980	27	3,000
Spain	2	20	--	22
Sweden	--	53	--	53
Switzerland	--	494	--	494
United Arab Emirates	6,570	--	--	6,570
United Kingdom	2	678	240	921
Venezuela	18,700	434	--	19,100
Other	10,300	6,990	840	18,200
Total	270,000	63,600	30,000	363,000

-- 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 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Australia	(2)	167	--	167
Belgium	--	107	--	107
Brazil	3	586	--	589
Canada	5,430	24,600	7,950	38,000
China	250	1,560	40,200	42,000
Czech Republic	--	7	--	7
Dominican Republic	--	18	--	18
France	23	672	--	695
Germany	353	751	--	1,100
Hong Kong	--	338	2,930	3,270
India	68	80	3,430	3,580
Israel	13	253	--	266
Italy	7	162	--	169
Japan	41	740	1,830	2,610
Korea, Republic of	--	827	6,970	7,790
Malaysia	(2)	75	37	112
Mexico	9,560	18,300	4,680	32,600
Netherlands	13	46	152	210
Russia	2	11	--	14
Saudi Arabia	--	2,300	--	2,300
Singapore	17	84	--	101
Spain	--	160	--	160
Sweden	--	11	--	11
Taiwan	--	126	2,680	2,810
Thailand	6	246	58	311
United Kingdom	64	1,300	16	1,380
Venezuela	17	37	174	227
Other	27	5,590	1,450	7,070
Total	15,900	59,200	72,600	148,000

-- 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.