

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2008

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the second quarter of 2008 were 2.63 million metric tons, 3% lower than those in the first quarter of 2008 and 6% more than those in the second quarter of 2007. Imports of refractory-grade calcined bauxite in the second quarter of 2008 were 79,000 metric tons (t), slightly higher than those in the first quarter of 2008 and 8% lower than those in the second quarter of 2007. Imports of nonrefractory-grade calcined bauxite in the second quarter of 2008 were 238,000 t, 5% higher than those in the first quarter of 2008 and 69% higher than those in the second quarter of 2007. Imports of alumina during the second quarter of 2008 were 676,000 t, 4% higher than those in the first quarter of 2008 and 10% higher than those in the second quarter of 2007.

Exports of crude and dried bauxite in the second quarter of 2008 were 3,220 t, 11% lower than those in the first quarter of 2008 and 6% more than those in the second quarter of 2007. Exports of refractory-grade calcined bauxite in the second quarter of 2008 were 1,360 t, slightly lower than those in the first quarter of 2008 and 14% higher than those in the second quarter of 2007. Exports of nonrefractory-grade calcined bauxite in the second quarter of 2008 were 323 t, 211% higher than those in the first quarter of 2008 and 77% lower than those in the second quarter of 2007. Exports of alumina during the

second quarter of 2008 were 311,000 t, slightly higher than those in the first quarter of 2008 and 4% lower than those in the second quarter of 2007.

Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) declared a force majeure on alumina contracts with its refineries in Western Australia as a result of an explosion at a natural gas facility owned by Apache Corp. (Houston, TX) on June 3, 2008. Apache was one of two gas suppliers to Alcoa's refineries at Kwinana, Pinjarra, and Wagerup, which have a combined alumina capacity of 7.8 million metric tons per year. The other supplier was still able to deliver gas to the refineries, and the full impact of the gas shortage on alumina production was not announced. Apache did not expect gas production to resume until mid-August, and full production was not expected until December (Alcoa Inc., 2008; Apache Corp., 2008).

References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2008, Alcoa of Australia declares force majeure: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. news release, June 10, 1 p.
Apache Corp., 2008, Apache completes initial damage assessment and estimates timetable for re-establishing production at Varanus Island Western Australia: Perth, Australia, Apache Corp. news release, June 23, 1 p.

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

(Metric tons)

Country	2008			
	2007	First quarter	Second quarter	Year to date
Imports (for consumption):				
Brazil	1,410,000	419,000	554,000	973,000
Guinea	1,960,000	667,000	506,000	1,170,000
Guyana	903,000	179,000	284,000	463,000
Jamaica	4,450,000	1,130,000	1,140,000	2,260,000
Sierra Leone	832,000	280,000	112,000	391,000
Other	290,000	40,000	34,400	74,300
Total	9,840,000	2,710,000	2,630,000	5,340,000
Exports:				
Belgium	972	--	--	--
Canada	10,600	2,400	2,060	4,450
China	657	--	189	189
Germany	915	65	284	349
Ireland	30	--	--	--
Mexico	377	--	--	--
Venezuela	413	26	592	618
Other	706 ^r	1,150 ^r	104	1,250
Total	14,700	3,640	3,220	6,860

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

(Metric tons)

Country	2008							
	2007		First quarter		Second quarter		Year to date	
	Refractory	Other	Refractory	Other	Refractory	Other	Refractory	Other
Imports (for consumption):								
Australia	--	174,000	--	--	--	98,300	--	98,300
Brazil	92,800	13,800	23,800	27,000	26,300	--	50,100	27,000
China	118,000	47,500	40,000	10,700	41,000	12,200	81,000	22,900
Dominican Republic	--	23,100	--	46,100	--	--	--	46,100
Greece	35,000	54,400	--	--	--	--	--	--
Guyana	36,300	212,000	13,800	114,000	11,800	72,500	25,500	187,000
Jamaica	--	--	--	--	--	47,800	--	47,800
Other	--	90	--	28,800	--	7,520	--	36,300
Total	282,000	525,000	77,600	227,000	79,000	238,000	157,000	465,000
Exports:								
Canada	3,190	1,010	1,060	--	692	129	1,760	129
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	177	--	177
Mexico	835	2,660	293	53	357	--	650	53
Other	244	429	17	51	308	17	325	68
Total	4,270	4,100	1,370	104	1,360	323	2,730	427

^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		Year to date
		First quarter	Second quarter	
Imports (for consumption):²				
Australia	833,000 ^r	188,000	262,000	450,000
Brazil	390,000 ^r	157,000	80,500	237,000
Jamaica	620,000 ^r	126,000 ^r	199,000	325,000
Suriname	281,000	69,100	57,100	126,000
Venezuela	77,100	62,500	26,300	88,700
Other	236,000 ^r	44,400 ^r	51,200	95,600
Total	2,440,000^r	646,000^r	676,000	1,320,000
Exports:³				
Canada	443,000 ^r	144,000 ^r	186,000	329,000
Iceland	308,000	105,000	85,700	191,000
Mexico	49,600 ^r	11,100 ^r	13,900	25,000
Netherlands	3,460	24,800	857	25,600
Norway	225,000	18	54	72
Russia	27,100	164	298	462
Other	106,000 ^r	22,900 ^r	25,000	47,900
Total	1,160,000^r	308,000^r	311,000	620,000

^rRevised.

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

²Includes imports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 258,000 tons in 2007 (revised); 49,100 tons in the first quarter of 2008 (revised); 62,800 tons in the second quarter of 2008.

³Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 62,600 tons in 2007 (revised); 16,800 tons in the first quarter of 2008 (revised); 21,000 tons in the second quarter of 2008.

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