

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2008

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the third quarter of 2008 were 2.55 million metric tons, 3% lower than those in the second quarter of 2008 and essentially the same as those in the third quarter of 2007. Imports of refractory-grade calcined bauxite in the third quarter of 2008 were 132,000 metric tons (t), 67% higher than those in the second quarter of 2008 and 212% higher than those in the third quarter of 2007. Imports of nonrefractory-grade calcined bauxite in the third quarter of 2008 were 90,100 t, 62% lower than those in the second quarter of 2008 and 47% lower than those in the third quarter of 2007. Imports of alumina during the third quarter of 2008 were 636,000 t, 6% lower than those in the second quarter 2008 and 6% higher than those in the third quarter of 2007.

Exports of crude and dried bauxite in the third quarter of 2008 were 2,680 t, 17% lower than those in the second quarter of 2008 and 32% lower than those in the third quarter of 2007. Exports of refractory-grade calcined bauxite in the third quarter of 2008 were 2,880 t, 112% higher than those in the second

quarter of 2008 and 274% higher than those in the third quarter of 2007. Exports of nonrefractory-grade calcined bauxite in the third quarter of 2008 were 88 t, 73% lower than those in the second quarter of 2008 and 91% lower than those in the third quarter of 2007. Exports of alumina during the third quarter of 2008 were 296,000 t, 5% lower than those in the second quarter of 2008 and 5% higher than those in the third quarter of 2007.

Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) announced that it would reduce alumina production by 25% at its 2.3 million-metric-ton-per-year refinery in Pt. Comfort, TX, by the end of November. Reduced demand and lower prices for alumina and aluminum were cited as the reasons for the production cut (Alcoa Inc., 2008).

Reference Cited

Alcoa Inc., 2008, Alcoa to reduce production at Pt. Comfort, TX refinery 25%: Pittsburgh, PA, Alcoa Inc. news release, October 23, 1 p.

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

(Metric tons)

Country	2007	2008			Year to date
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	
Imports (for consumption):					
Brazil	1,410,000	419,000	554,000	464,000	1,440,000
Guinea	1,960,000	667,000	506,000	593,000	1,770,000
Guyana	903,000	179,000	284,000	131,000	594,000
Jamaica	4,450,000	1,130,000	1,140,000	1,110,000	3,370,000
Sierra Leone	832,000	280,000	112,000	115,000	506,000
Other	290,000	40,000	34,400	137,000	211,000
Total	9,840,000	2,710,000	2,630,000	2,550,000	7,890,000
Exports:					
Belgium	972	--	--	--	--
Canada	10,600	2,400	2,060	1,990	6,440
China	657	--	189	--	189
Germany	915	65	284	243	592
Ireland	30	--	--	144	144
Mexico	377	--	--	5	5
Venezuela	413	26	592	45	663
Other	706	1,150	104	256	1,510
Total	14,700	3,640	3,220	2,680	9,540

-- 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	2007		2008							
			First quarter		Second quarter		Third quarter		Year to date	
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
Imports (for consumption):										
Australia	--	174,000	--	--	--	98,300	--	--	--	98,300
Brazil	92,800	13,800	23,800	27,000	26,300	--	32,300	--	82,400	27,000
China	118,000	47,500	40,000	10,700	41,000	12,200	68,500	38,700	149,000	61,600
Dominican Republic	--	23,100	--	46,100	--	--	--	--	--	46,100
Greece	35,000	54,400	--	--	--	--	28,100	--	28,100	--
Guyana	36,300	212,000	13,800	114,000	11,800	72,500	2,880	51,400	28,400	238,000
Jamaica	--	--	--	--	--	47,800	--	--	--	47,800
Other	--	90	--	28,800 ^r	--	7,520	--	20	--	36,400
Total	282,000	525,000	77,600	227,000	79,000	238,000	132,000	90,100	288,000	555,000
Exports:										
Canada	3,190	1,010	1,060	--	692	129	2,200	--	3,950	129
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	177	--	--	--	177
Mexico	835	2,660	293	53	357	--	372	55	1,020	108
Other	244	429	17	51	308	17	311	33	636	101
Total	4,270	4,100	1,370	104	1,360	323	2,880	88	5,610	515

-- 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	Third quarter	
Imports (for consumption):²					
Australia	833,000	188,000	262,000	237,000	687,000
Brazil	390,000	157,000	80,500	158,000	395,000
Jamaica	620,000	126,000	199,000	63,700	388,000
Suriname	281,000	69,100	57,100	81,500	208,000
Venezuela	77,100	62,500	26,300	40,200	129,000
Other	236,000	44,400	51,200	55,400	151,000
Total	2,440,000	646,000	676,000	636,000	1,960,000
Exports:³					
Canada	443,000	144,000	186,000	161,000	491,000
Iceland	308,000	105,000	85,700	61,000	252,000
Mexico	49,600	11,100	13,900	15,400	40,400
Netherlands	3,460	24,800	857	687	26,300
Norway	225,000	18	54	34,300	34,400
Russia	27,100	164	298	268	730
Other	106,000	22,900	25,000	23,300	71,100
Total	1,160,000	308,000	311,000	296,000	916,000

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; 49,100 tons in the first quarter of 2008; 62,800 tons in the second quarter of 2008; 46,900 tons in the third quarter of 2008.

³Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 62,600 tons in 2007; 16,800 tons in the first quarter of 2008; 21,000 tons in the second quarter of 2008; 19,500 tons in the third quarter of 2008.

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