

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2008

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the fourth quarter of 2008 were 2.59 million metric tons, essentially the same as those in the third quarter of 2008 and 4% higher than those in the fourth quarter of 2007. Imports of refractory-grade calcined bauxite in the fourth quarter of 2008 were 81,900 metric tons (t), 38% lower than those in the third quarter of 2008 and 29% higher than those in the fourth quarter of 2007. Imports of nonrefractory-grade calcined bauxite in the fourth quarter of 2008 were 183,000 t, 103% higher than those in the third quarter of 2008 and 43% higher than those in the fourth quarter of 2007. Imports of alumina during the fourth quarter of 2008 were 577,000 t, 9% lower than those in the third quarter 2008 and 11% lower than those in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Exports of crude and dried bauxite in the fourth quarter of 2008 were 4,690 t, 75% higher than those in the third quarter of 2008 and 11% higher than those in the fourth quarter of 2007. Exports of refractory-grade calcined bauxite in the fourth quarter of 2008 were 2,970 t, 3% higher than those in the third quarter of 2008 and 128% higher than those in the fourth quarter of 2007. Exports of nonrefractory-grade calcined bauxite in the fourth quarter of 2008 were 300 t, 241% higher than those in the third quarter of 2008 and 19% higher than those in the fourth quarter of 2007. Exports of alumina during the fourth quarter of

2008 were 235,000 t, 21% lower than those in the third quarter of 2008 and 23% lower than those in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Century Aluminum Co., a joint owner of Gramercy Alumina LLC, announced that during the first quarter of 2009, production had been reduced to 500,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) at the 1.25-million-metric-ton-per-year (Mt/yr) refinery at Gramercy, LA. Weak aluminum markets and closures at the company's smelters in Ravenswood, WV, and Hawesville, KY, were the reasons cited for the curtailment (Century Aluminum Co., 2009).

Sherwin Alumina Co. announced that it would cut production to about 960,000 t/yr at its 1.6-Mt/yr refinery in Corpus Christi, TX. Reduced demand and lower prices for alumina and aluminum were cited as the reasons for the production cut (Sherwin Alumina Co., 2009).

References Cited

- Century Aluminum Co., 2009, Century reports first quarter 2009 results: Monterey, CA, Century Aluminum Co. news release, April 21, 5 p.
- Sherwin Alumina Co., 2009, Sherwin Alumina announces reduced production: Corpus Christi, TX, Sherwin Alumina Co. news release, March 25, 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	Fourth quarter	
Imports (for consumption):						
Brazil	1,410,000	419,000	554,000	464,000	501,000	1,940,000
Guinea	1,960,000	667,000	506,000	593,000	582,000	2,350,000
Guyana	903,000	179,000	284,000	131,000	128,000	723,000
Jamaica	4,450,000	1,130,000	1,140,000	1,110,000	1,050,000	4,430,000
Sierra Leone	832,000	280,000	112,000	115,000	272,000	779,000
Other	290,000	40,000	34,400	137,000	49,000	260,000
Total	9,840,000	2,710,000	2,630,000	2,550,000	2,590,000	10,500,000
Exports:						
Belgium	972	--	--	--	--	--
Canada	10,600	2,400	2,060	1,990	1,690	8,140
China	657	--	189	--	31	220
Germany	915	65	284	243	--	592
Ireland	30	--	--	144	2,740	2,880
Mexico	377	--	--	5	--	5
Venezuela	413	26	592	45	--	663
Other	706	1,150	104	256	226	1,730
Total	14,700	3,640	3,220	2,680	4,690	14,200

-- Zero.

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

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Jamaica Bauxite Institute; 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		Fourth quarter		Year to date	
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
Imports (for consumption):												
Australia	--	174,000	--	--	--	98,300	--	--	--	63,400	--	162,000
Brazil	92,800	13,800	23,800	27,000	26,300	--	32,300	--	42,700	--	125,000	27,000
China	118,000	47,500	40,000	10,700	41,000	12,200	68,500	38,700	27,500	4,500	177,000	66,100
Dominican Republic	--	23,100	--	46,100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	46,100
Greece	35,000	54,400	--	--	--	--	28,100	--	77	--	28,200	--
Guyana	36,300	212,000	13,800	114,000	11,800	72,500	2,880	51,400	10,300	67,100	38,600	305,000
Jamaica	--	--	--	--	--	47,800	--	--	--	47,500	--	95,300
Other	--	90	--	28,800	--	7,520	--	20	1,330	--	1,330	36,400
Total	282,000	525,000	77,600	227,000	79,000	238,000	132,000	90,100	81,900	183,000	370,000	738,000
Exports:												
Canada	3,190	1,010	1,060	--	692	129	2,200	--	2,580	--	6,530	129
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	177	--	--	--	--	--	177
Mexico	835	2,660	293	53	357	--	372	55	216	270	1,240	378
Other	244	429	17	51	308	17	311	33	173	30	809	131
Total	4,270	4,100	1,370	104	1,360	323	2,880	88	2,970	300	8,580	815

-- 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 ALUMINA ¹

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

Country	2007	2008				Year to date
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
Imports (for consumption):²						
Australia	833,000	188,000	262,000	237,000	243,000	930,000
Brazil	390,000	157,000	80,500	158,000	128,000	523,000
Jamaica	620,000	126,000	199,000	63,700	80,000	468,000
Suriname	281,000	69,100	57,100	81,500	56,300	264,000
Venezuela	77,100	62,500	26,300	40,200	25,100	154,000
Other	236,000	44,400	51,200	55,400	43,500	195,000
Total	2,440,000	646,000	676,000	636,000	577,000	2,530,000
Exports:						
Canada	443,000	144,000	186,000	161,000	138,000	629,000
Iceland	308,000	105,000	85,700	61,000	59,200	311,000
Mexico	49,600	11,100	13,900	15,400	14,000	54,400
Netherlands	3,460	24,800	857	687	1,430	27,700
Norway	225,000	18	54	34,300	38	34,500
Russia	27,100	164	298	268	129	859
Other	106,000	22,900	25,000	23,300	21,500	92,600
Total	1,160,000	308,000	311,000	296,000	235,000	1,150,000

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; 42,500 tons in the fourth quarter of 2008.

³Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 62,000 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; and 19,300 tons in the fourth quarter of 2008.

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