

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2008

Domestic primary aluminum production in October was 217,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 7,000 t, slightly lower than that for the previous month and 3% lower than that for October 2007. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in October 2008 was 287,000 t, slightly higher than that of the previous month and 16% lower than the total in October 2007. Of this, 174,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, essentially the same as in the previous month, and 10% less than the amount in October 2007. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in October 2008 totaled 113,000 t, which was 3% lower than that in September and 24% less than that in October 2007.

In October, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot declined to \$1.019 per pound from \$1.192 per pound in September.

U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum for the first 3 quarters of 2008 decreased by 7% compared with those for the same period in 2007. During the first 3 quarters of 2008, imports of crude metal and alloys decreased by 7%, imports of semifabricated materials decreased by 16%, and imports of scrap increased by 12% compared with imports during the first 9 months of 2007. Canada remained the leading supplier of aluminum materials to the United States, supplying 64% of

total U.S. imports in the first 9 months of the year, followed by Russia with 8%.

Total aluminum exports in the first 3 quarters of 2008 increased by 30% compared with those for the first 9 months of 2007. Exports of crude metal and alloys decreased by 5%, exports of semifabricated material increased by 8%, and exports of scrap increased by 52% compared with those for the same period in 2007. China, Canada, and Mexico, in descending order of shipments, were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for 64% of total U.S. exports in the first 9 months of 2008.

Update

In November, the price continued to decline, to \$0.881 per pound.

In December, Century Aluminum Co. announced the immediate closure of a 42,500-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) potline at its primary smelter in Ravenswood, WV. The company also announced that it may close the entire 170,000-t/yr smelter in February 2009 if aluminum prices do not improve to profitable levels (Century Aluminum Co., 2008).

Reference Cited

Century Aluminum Co., 2008, Century issues conditional WARN notice and announces the curtailment of one potline at Ravenswood, WV smelter: Monterey, CA, Century Aluminum Co. news release, December 17, 1 p.

Used beverage can prices, cents per pound¹

October 3	68-70
October 10	64-66
October 17	67-69
October 24	56-58
October 31	56-58
November 7	56-58
November 14	57-59
November 21	53-55
November 28	51-53

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:									
October	224	194	148	342	243	86	330	896	1,345
November	220	186	135	321	238	76	314	855	1,348
December	225	167	122	288	215	70	285	798	1,400
January-October	2,110	1,930	1,360	3,280	2,500	924	3,420	8,810	XX
2008:									
January	233	189	125	315	240	78	318	865	1,380
February	219	180	109	289	208	74	282	790	1,350
March	233	183	116	299	247	77	324	856	1,320
April	228	180	114	295	238	78	316	839	1,320
May	235	179	123	302	237	81	318	855	1,320
June	224	177	115	292	263	80	343	859	1,310
July	225	179	117	296	227	82	309	831	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	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-October	2,251	1,790	1,160	2,950	NA	NA	NA	NA	XX

^PPreliminary. 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
2007 ^p	2,310	1,800	2,190	2,010	95	83	5	5	4,600	3,890
2007:										
October	196	153	199	182	8	7	(3)	(3)	404	342
November	190	147	183	167	8	7	(3)	(3)	381	321
December	178	138	157	143	8	7	(3)	(3)	343	288
January-October	1,950	1,510	1,850	1,700	79	69	(3)	(3)	3,880	3,280
2008:										
January	168	133	195	174	8	7	(3)	(3)	372	315
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
January-October	1,510	1,180	1,900	1,690	78	68	(3)	(3)	3,500	2,950

^pPreliminary.

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 OCTOBER 2008¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	122,000	147,000	95,700	115,000
Independent mill fabricators ²	166,000	186,000	148,000	165,000
Foundries	6,230	7,480	5,450	6,530
Other consumers	608	730	522	626
Total	296,000	341,000	249,000	287,000

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 OCTOBER 2008¹

(Metric tons)

	October			January-October ²		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusions	26,000	87,100	87,500	25,600	892,000	892,000
Can stock clippings	2,340	15,200	15,700	1,780	174,000	176,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	6,550	23,400	23,400	6,460	248,000	246,000
Castings	835	6,080	5,990	926	58,900	58,900
Borings and turnings	4,430	11,300	11,500	4,250	117,000	117,000
Dross and skimmings	3,670	34,700	34,700	3,670	348,000	348,000
Total new scrap	43,800	178,000	179,000	42,600	1,840,000	1,840,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,670	18,900	21,000	3,580	185,000	189,000
Used extrusions	2,000	6,300	6,300	2,000	63,000	63,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	3,220	55,100	54,900	3,500	585,000	587,000
Other wrought products	3,270	21,500	21,500	3,270	202,000	202,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	6,200	12,900	12,900	6,190	158,000	157,000
Total old scrap	20,400	115,000	103,000	18,500	1,190,000	1,200,000
Sweated pig	82	246	246	82	2,460	2,460
Total all classes	64,300	293,000	296,000	61,300	3,030,000	3,040,000

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)

	October			January-October ³		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,650	1,870	2,040	3,490	20,200	19,900
380 and variations	4,190	13,200	13,200	4,190	137,000	138,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,360	2,730	2,730	1,360	27,300	27,400
No. 319 and variations	1,930	3,380	3,380	1,930	34,700	35,100
F-132 alloy and variations	508	482	482	508	10,200	10,400
Al-Zn alloys	292	168	168	292	1,710	1,720
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	86	213	213	86	2,130	2,130
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283	4,110	4,110
Other ³	6,720	38,200	36,600	8,340	253,000	252,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,900	53,800	53,900	18,800	549,000	549,000
Total all alloys	37,900	115,000	113,000	39,300	1,040,000	1,040,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	19,500	XX	XX	193,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,730	XX	XX	17,900	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	649	XX	XX	6,380	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴						
	XX	92,600	XX	XX	822,000	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 SEPTEMBER 2008¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September
Argentina	8,160	57,000	--	--	--	--	8,160	57,000
Australia	3,830	33,500	25	82	109	109	3,960	33,700
Bahrain	493	5,950	1,380	12,900	--	--	1,870	18,800
Belgium	--	75	440	3,630	--	--	440	3,710
Brazil	4,260	55,600	1,150	12,600	7	367	5,410	68,500
Canada	168,000	1,490,000	33,100	299,000	31,800	260,000	233,000	2,050,000
China	1,270	21,200	13,000	110,000	--	33	14,200	131,000
France	50	307	309	3,250	--	772	358	4,330
Germany	5	1,960	7,020	67,100	6	304	7,040	69,400
Hungary	--	--	21	146	--	--	21	146
Italy	--	32	532	4,340	(2)	18	532	4,390
Japan	428	870	910	8,160	100	669	1,440	9,700
Korea, Republic of	98	272	166	1,600	21	144	285	2,020
Mexico	1,940	20,300	1,560	14,500	9,000	93,600	12,500	128,000
Netherlands	95	1,070	188	1,880	--	134	283	3,070
Norway	4	2,530	(2)	9	--	--	4	2,540
Russia	25,600	223,000	3,680	35,800	260	1,290	29,500	260,000
South Africa	--	6,440	3,220	30,100	--	500	3,220	37,100
Spain	3	117	8	120	--	8	11	246
Sweden	--	7	148	1,500	--	--	148	1,510
Switzerland	--	3	821	5,220	--	--	821	5,230
Tajikistan	--	782	--	--	--	--	--	782
United Arab Emirates	5,810	60,600	--	19	--	278	5,810	60,900
United Kingdom	313	1,600	308	5,530	996	3,790	1,620	10,900
Venezuela	6,870	81,200	5	3,040	72	2,070	6,950	86,400
Other	1,960	31,100	10,100	84,100	3,440	31,400	15,500	147,000
Total	229,000	2,090,000	78,100	704,000	45,800	396,000	353,000	3,190,000

-- 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 SEPTEMBER 2008¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September
Australia	53	1,670	217	1,690	30	113	300	3,480
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
Belgium	60	910	187	1,350	59	728	306	2,990
Brazil	2	390	756	6,800	553	3,990	1,310	11,200
Canada	7,650	82,500	38,600	331,000	14,500	131,000	60,800	545,000
China	58	1,010	1,990	31,100	83,300	732,000	85,300	764,000
Czech Republic	--	13	21	198	--	--	21	211
Dominican Republic	--	357	110	482	--	3	110	842
France	69	512	930	8,540	20	48	1,020	9,100
Germany	211	2,270	1,050	8,400	35	842	1,290	11,500
Hong Kong	--	203	2,400	13,600	10,800	79,900	13,200	93,700
India	(2)	197	96	1,160	2,480	23,200	2,580	24,500
Israel	4	212	411	4,350	--	--	415	4,560
Italy	2	31	268	2,530	15	429	285	2,990
Japan	53	9,210	1,720	16,500	5,090	48,200	6,870	73,800
Korea, Republic of	163	761	1,250	12,300	18,000	188,000	19,400	201,000
Malaysia	--	11	1,040	7,470	461	1,220	1,500	8,700
Mexico	18,200	143,000	22,800	198,000	8,310	74,300	49,300	415,000
Netherlands	7	377	116	1,540	134	1,160	257	3,070
Russia	--	--	11	74	--	--	11	74
Saudi Arabia	(2)	219	2,810	34,500	--	18	2,810	34,800
Singapore	15	222	99	1,060	21	691	134	1,980
Spain	--	14	231	1,480	--	562	231	2,050
Sweden	8	9	2	137	--	--	10	146
Taiwan	5	60	398	6,820	7,160	308,000	7,570	315,000
Thailand	125	142	1,200	8,520	1,590	70,900	2,910	79,500
Ukraine	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
United Kingdom	156	648	1,840	19,400	62	734	2,060	20,700
Venezuela	--	21	76	674	--	5	76	700
Other	503	4,570	5,370	48,000	2,160	27,400	8,040	79,900
Total	27,400	250,000	85,900	767,000	155,000	1,690,000	268,000	2,710,000

-- 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.