

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2009

Domestic primary aluminum production in January was 193,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 6,230 t, 5% lower than that for the previous month and 17% lower than that for January 2008.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in January 2009 was 264,000 t, 9% higher than that of the previous month and 16% lower than the total in January 2008. Of this, 161,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 8% higher than that of the previous month and 15% lower than that in January 2008. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in January 2009 totaled 103,000 t, which was 10% higher than that in December 2008 and 18% less than that in January 2008.

In January, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot declined to \$0.676 per pound from \$0.715 per pound in December 2008, and in February, the price continued to decline to \$0.629 per pound.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. (CFAC) (Columbia Falls, MT) negotiated an amendment to a power contract that was overturned by U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. The new contract included provisions for CFAC to continue production from one-half of one potline at its 168,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) smelter at

Columbia Falls, MT, through June. The company had previously announced that all production would be shut down by the end of February because of the Court ruling and declining aluminum prices. In January, Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) also signed an amended power sales agreement for power to its 278,000-t/yr smelter at Ferndale, WA, to replace its contract with BPA that had also been nullified by the Court (Bonneville Power Administration Journal, 2009). (See Aluminum in December 2008.)

Century Aluminum Co. (Monterey, CA) announced that one potline at its 244,000-t/yr smelter at Hawsville, KY, had closed. The closure would reduce production by approximately 50,000 t/yr. Low aluminum prices were cited as the reason for the closure (Century Aluminum Co., 2009).

References Cited

- Bonneville Power Administration Journal, 2009, CFAC contract amended for FY 2009: Portland, OR, Bonneville Power Administration Journal, March, p. 3.
Century Aluminum Co., 2009, Century announces the curtailment of one potline at Hawsville, KY smelter: Monterey, CA, Century Aluminum Co. news release, March 3, 1 p.

Used beverage can prices, cents per pound¹

January 2	44-46
January 9	47-49
January 16	44-46
January 23	39-41
January 30	40-42
February 6	42-44
February 13	42-44
February 20	38-40
February 27	40-42

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	1,340 ^r	3,430	2,790	914	3,710	9,800	1,400
2008:									
January	233	189	125	315	240	78	318	865	1,380
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 ^r	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 ^r	219	69	289	736	1,260
December	204	149 ^r	94 ^r	243	233	65	297	744	1,220
2009, January	193	161	103	264	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not Available.

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	2,180	1,940 ^r	93	81	(3)	(3)	4,080	3,430
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 ^r	7	7	(3)	(3)	341	287
November	146	114	140	123	7	7	(3)	(3)	295	245
December	145 ^r	113 ^r	140 ^r	123 ^r	7	7	(3)	(3)	292 ^r	243
2009, January	140	110	167	147	7	7	(3)	(3)	315	264

^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 1/2 unit.

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

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	116,000	140,000	91,300	110,000
Independent mill fabricators ²	150,000	167,000	132,000	147,000
Foundries	6,240	7,490	5,450	6,540
Other consumers	696	836	616	740
Total	273,000	315,000	229,000	264,000

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 2009¹

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening [†]	Net receipts ²	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Extrusion	25,000	73,200	75,400	22,800
Can stock clippings	3,740	18,300	18,300	3,700
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,410	22,900	22,900	5,410
Casting	1,200	6,210	6,200	1,210
Borings and turnings	2,260	10,300	10,300	2,280
Dross and skimmings	4,120	33,000	33,000	4,120
Total new scrap	41,700	164,000	166,000	39,500
Old scrap:				
Used castings	8,620	15,000	15,700	7,980
Used extrusion	2,040	6,090	6,090	2,040
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,130	50,500	51,000	585
Other wrought products	2,470	19,400	19,400	2,470
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	6,160	14,800	14,500	6,470
Total old scrap	20,400	106,000	107,000	19,500
Sweated pig	96	151	151	96
Total all classes	62,300	270,000	273,000	59,200

[†]Revised.

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

²Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2009^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die-cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,340 ^r	2,380	2,010	3,700
380 and variations	4,520 ^r	13,100	13,100	4,520
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,340 ^r	2,820	2,820	1,340
No. 319 and variations	1,910 ^r	3,140	3,140	1,910
F-132 alloy and variations	341 ^r	425	425	341
Al-Zn alloys	195 ^r	136	136	195
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	141 ^r	216	216	141
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	11 ^r	157	157	11
Other ³	8,430 ^r	29,100	28,000	9,580
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	20,200 ^r	52,800	53,000	20,000
Total all alloys	40,400 ^r	104,000	103,000	41,700
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	19,800	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,620	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	614	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴				
	XX	82,400	XX	XX

^rRevised. 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 DECEMBER 2008¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Argentina	11,000	90,000	--	--	--	--	11,000	90,000
Australia	2,390	39,900	12	120	--	109	2,400	40,100
Bahrain	--	8,930	1,800	18,200	--	--	1,800	27,100
Belgium	--	87	370	4,790	--	--	370	4,880
Brazil	11,500	82,500	415	13,800	--	367	12,000	96,700
Canada	170,000	1,990,000	18,700	379,000	17,800	330,000	206,000	2,700,000
China	194	21,900	18,900	151,000	--	33	19,100	173,000
France	12	511	188	4,140	--	799	200	5,450
Germany	323	2,460	5,970	88,500	8	386	6,300	91,300
Hungary	--	--	13	181	--	--	13	181
Italy	(2)	32	505	6,120	--	18	505	6,170
Japan	69	1,030	533	10,700	47	818	650	12,500
Korea, Republic of	89	909	90	2,010	40	184	219	3,100
Mexico	540	23,900	833	17,800	6,160	114,000	7,530	155,000
Netherlands	20	1,130	57	2,330	--	191	77	3,650
Norway	39	2,710	2	14	--	--	41	2,720
Russia	17,200	288,000	3,410	45,900	201	1,490	20,800	335,000
South Africa	--	9,440	4,320	40,100	--	500	4,320	50,000
Spain	9	161	7	149	--	8	17	318
Sweden	3	10	85	1,800	--	--	89	1,810
Switzerland	--	3	411	6,570	--	--	411	6,580
Tajikistan	1,990	2,780	--	--	--	--	1,990	2,780
United Arab Emirates	6,060	80,300	--	19	--	278	6,060	80,600
United Kingdom	40	1,760	940	7,930	647	6,460	1,630	16,200
Venezuela	7,000	103,000	247	3,690	69	2,500	7,320	110,000
Other	4,030	38,200	6,900	109,000	685	35,900	11,600	183,000
Total	233,000	2,790,000	64,700	914,000	25,600	494,000	323,000	4,200,000

-- 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 DECEMBER 2008¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Australia	--	1,720	596	2,660	--	113	596	4,490
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
Belgium	20	1,030	264	1,850	--	919	284	3,790
Brazil	6	400	1,070	9,820	--	4,300	1,080	14,500
Canada	5,860	103,000	19,600	413,000	6,740	161,000	32,200	678,000
China	4	1,020	3,960	41,300	42,900	893,000	46,800	936,000
Czech Republic	--	13	9	220	--	--	9	233
Dominican Republic	--	367	56	599	--	21	56	987
France	21	749	593	10,900	61	113	676	11,800
Germany	228	2,780	937	10,700	22	1,210	1,190	14,700
Hong Kong	--	203	874	17,000	3,020	94,700	3,890	112,000
India	16	214	152	1,450	1,100	28,600	1,270	30,300
Israel	63	572	456	5,780	--	9	519	6,360
Italy	--	36	185	3,320	--	429	185	3,780
Japan	30	9,360	959	20,300	2,230	59,100	3,220	88,700
Korea, Republic of	10	865	1,270	16,300	8,650	223,000	9,930	240,000
Malaysia	--	22	171	8,650	123	1,550	294	10,200
Mexico	9,100	178,000	24,800	266,000	1,890	85,800	35,800	530,000
Netherlands	8	421	136	1,860	21	1,320	165	3,600
Russia	--	--	1	126	--	--	1	126
Saudi Arabia	(2)	264	2,510	43,400	--	18	2,510	43,700
Singapore	27	313	61	1,450	--	691	87	2,450
Spain	1	24	136	2,040	18	586	154	2,650
Sweden	--	9	31	183	--	--	31	192
Taiwan	1	84	524	8,360	5,800	321,000	6,320	330,000
Thailand	--	256	1,050	12,100	139	72,800	1,190	85,200
Ukraine	--	--	--	14	--	--	--	14
United Kingdom	178	1,100	1,310	24,300	59	849	1,550	26,300
Venezuela	--	42	1	772	252	502	252	1,320
Other	49	4,870	7,520	68,300	964	29,800	8,540	103,000
Total	15,600	308,000	69,200	993,000	74,000	1,980,000	159,000	3,280,000

-- 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.