

# Mineral Industry Surveys

---

**For information, contact:**

E. Lee Bray, Aluminum Commodity Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
989 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
E-mail: lbray@usgs.gov

Paula R. Neely (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7949  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: pneely@usgs.gov

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2008

Domestic primary aluminum production in November was 202,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 6,730 t, 4% lower than that for the previous month and 8% lower than that for November 2007. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in November 2008 was 244,000 t, 15% lower than that of the previous month and 24% lower than the total in November 2007. Of this, 150,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 14% lower than that of the previous month and 19% lower than that in November 2007. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in November 2008 totaled 94,000 t, which was 17% lower than that in October and 30% less than that in November 2007.

In November, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot declined to \$0.881 per pound from \$1.019 per pound in October, and in December, the price continued to decline to \$0.715 per pound.

Low aluminum prices were cited as the reason for production cuts announced at three smelters in December 2008 and January 2009. These cuts followed the previously announced shutdown at Ravenswood, WV. (See Aluminum in October 2008.) Noranda Aluminum Inc. announced that it would cut 228 positions at its 250,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) smelter in New Madrid, MO, by the end of March 2009. No details on the amount of smelting capacity to be idled were released (Noranda

Aluminum Inc., 2008). Alcoa Inc. announced the closure of its 215,000-t/yr smelter at Alcoa, TN. One potline would be shut immediately, with the remainder of production to cease by the end of March 2009 (Alcoa Inc., 2009). Glencore International AG announced that its Columbia Falls, MT, smelter would shut all production by the end of February 2009. The smelter had been operating at only 25% of its 168,000-t/yr capacity since shutting two potlines in July 2008. (See Aluminum in March and April 2008.) In addition to low aluminum prices, a court ruling nullifying a low-cost power contract with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) was cited as a reason for the closure. Alcoa's 278,000-t/yr smelter at Ferndale, WA, also receives power under the same BPA contract, but Alcoa did not comment on the impact of the ruling (Platts Metals Week, 2008).

### References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2009, Alcoa takes decisive action to address economic downturn: Pittsburgh, PA, Alcoa Inc. news release, January 6, 3 p.  
Noranda Aluminum Inc., 2008, Noranda Aluminum Holding Corporation announces corporate restructuring to reduce costs, improve efficiency and conserve liquidity: Franklin, TN, Noranda Aluminum Inc. news release, December 4, 2 p.  
Platts Metals Week, 2008, Columbia Falls halts aluminum smelter, sends WARN notice: Platts Metals Week, December 29, p. 1, 6.

### Used beverage can prices, cents per pound<sup>1</sup>

November 7	56-58
November 14	57-59
November 21	53-55
November 28	51-53
December 5	44-46
December 12	47-49
December 19	44-46
December 26	44-46

<sup>1</sup>Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery <sup>2</sup>			Imports for consumption			Total new supply <sup>3</sup>	Total stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2007 <sup>P</sup>	2,554	2,280	1,610	3,890	2,950	1,070	4,020	10,500	1,400
2007:									
November	220	186	135	321	238	76	314	855	1,350
December	225	167	122	288	215	70	285	798	1,400
January-November	2,329	2,110	1,490	3,600	2,730	1,000	3,730	9,660	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	234 <sup>r</sup>	183	116	299	247	77	324	856	1,320
April	228	180	114	295	238	78	316	839	1,320
May	236 <sup>r</sup>	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	249	75	324	828	1,270
November	202	150	94	244	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-November	2,454	1,940	1,250	3,190	NA	NA	NA	NA	XX

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not Available. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

<sup>3</sup>Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

<sup>4</sup>Inventory 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 SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Independent mill fabricators <sup>2</sup>		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 <sup>p</sup>	2,310	1,800	2,190	2,010	95	83	5	5	4,600
2007:										
November	190	147	183	167	8	7	(3)	(3)	381	321
December	178	138	157	143	8	7	(3)	(3)	343	288
January-November	2,140	1,660	2,030	1,860	87	76	(3)	(3)	4,260	3,600
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	160	7	7	(3)	(3)	341	287
November	146	114	140	123	7	7	(3)	(3)	294	244
January-November	1,650	1,300	2,040	1,810	85	75	(3)	(3)	3,790	3,190

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN NOVEMBER 2008<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	122,000	146,000	95,200
Independent mill fabricators <sup>2</sup>	126,000	140,000	110,000	123,000
Foundries	6,230	7,480	5,450	6,530
Other consumers	608	730	522	626
Total	254,000	294,000	211,000	244,000

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."

TABLE 4  
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN NOVEMBER 2008<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	November			January-November <sup>2</sup>		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusions	25,600	71,900	71,200	26,200	964,000	963,000
Can stock clippings	2,030 <sup>r</sup>	12,700	11,900	2,760	187,000	188,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	6,460	21,500	22,600	5,330	269,000	268,000
Castings	926	5,750	5,990	690	64,600	64,900
Borings and turnings	4,250	11,100	11,200	4,180	128,000	128,000
Dross and skimmings	3,670	34,700	34,700	3,670	382,000	383,000
Total new scrap	42,900 <sup>r</sup>	158,000	158,000	42,800	1,990,000	1,990,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	3,580	17,600	16,800	4,360	202,000	206,000
Used extrusions	2,000	6,300	6,300	2,000	69,300	69,300
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	3,500	41,500	41,700	3,310	627,000	629,000
Other wrought products	3,270	16,400	16,400	3,270	218,000	218,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	6,190	14,800	15,100	5,850	173,000	172,000
Total old scrap	18,500	96,600	96,400	18,800	1,290,000	1,290,000
Sweated pig	82	246	246	82	2,710	2,710
Total all classes	61,500 <sup>r</sup>	254,000	254,000	61,700	3,290,000	3,290,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes revised data from previous month(s).

<sup>3</sup>Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2008<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	November			January-November <sup>3</sup>		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,490	1,870	2,010	3,350	22,000	21,900
380 and variations	4,190	13,200	13,200	4,190	151,000	152,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,360	2,730	2,730	1,360	30,000	30,100
No. 319 and variations	1,930	3,380	3,390	1,920	38,000	38,500
F-132 alloy and variations	508	482	482	508	10,600	10,900
Al-Zn alloys	292	168	168	292	1,870	1,890
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	86	213	213	86	2,340	2,340
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283	4,530	4,530
Other <sup>3</sup>	8,340	26,200	26,100	8,420	279,000	278,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,800	53,800	53,800	18,800	603,000	603,000
Total all alloys	39,300	102,000	103,000	39,200	1,140,000	1,140,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	18,800	XX	XX	212,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,460	XX	XX	19,300	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	654	XX	XX	7,040	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>4</sup>	XX	81,500	XX	XX	903,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

<sup>4</sup>No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2008<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January- October	October	January- October	October	January- October	October	January- October
Argentina	21,600	78,600	--	--	--	--	21,600	78,600
Australia	3,950	37,500	12	94	--	109	3,960	37,700
Bahrain	1,480	7,430	1,620	14,500	--	--	3,100	21,900
Belgium	12	87	449	4,080	--	--	461	4,170
Brazil	9,490	65,100	527	13,100	--	367	10,000	78,600
Canada	168,000	1,660,000	31,100	330,000	29,000	289,000	228,000	2,280,000
China	277	21,500	12,100	122,000	--	33	12,400	143,000
France	19	327	488	3,740	--	772	508	4,840
Germany	32	1,990	8,050	75,100	45	349	8,130	77,500
Hungary	--	--	12	158	--	--	12	158
Italy	--	32	338	4,680	--	18	338	4,730
Japan	55	925	978	9,140	83	752	1,120	10,800
Korea, Republic of	287	559	122	1,720	--	144	409	2,430
Mexico	1,860	22,200	1,410	15,900	8,290	102,000	11,600	140,000
Netherlands	12	1,080	136	2,010	--	134	147	3,220
Norway	133	2,660	1	10	--	--	134	2,670
Russia	21,900	245,000	3,190	39,000	--	1,290	25,100	285,000
South Africa	--	6,440	3,450	33,600	--	500	3,450	40,500
Spain	28	145	4	124	--	8	32	277
Sweden	--	7	83	1,580	--	--	83	1,590
Switzerland	--	3	463	5,690	--	--	463	5,690
Tajikistan	--	782	--	--	--	--	--	782
United Arab Emirates	9,040	69,600	--	19	--	278	9,040	69,900
United Kingdom	113	1,710	599	6,120	1,170	4,970	1,880	12,800
Venezuela	8,100	89,300	97	3,130	291	2,360	8,490	94,800
Other	1,890	33,000	10,100	94,200	2,370	33,800	14,400	161,000
Total	249,000	2,340,000	75,300	780,000	41,200	437,000	365,000	3,560,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2008<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January- October	October	January- October	October	January- October	October	January- October
Australia	44	1,720	269	1,960	--	113	313	3,790
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
Belgium	38	949	135	1,490	152	881	325	3,320
Brazil	1	391	1,220	8,020	197	4,180	1,420	12,600
Canada	7,700	90,200	36,900	368,000	13,900	145,000	58,500	603,000
China	--	1,010	2,940	34,000	70,600	803,000	73,600	838,000
Czech Republic	--	13	5	203	--	--	5	216
Dominican Republic	--	357	25	507	18	21	43	885
France	48	560	992	9,530	--	48	1,040	10,100
Germany	149	2,420	782	9,190	173	1,020	1,100	12,600
Hong Kong	--	203	824	14,500	8,580	88,400	9,400	103,000
India	(2)	197	74	1,230	2,970	26,200	3,040	27,600
Israel	200	412	583	4,930	9	9	792	5,350
Italy	5	36	357	2,890	--	429	362	3,350
Japan	69	9,280	1,750	18,200	5,410	53,600	7,220	81,000
Korea, Republic of	65	826	1,320	13,700	16,100	204,000	17,500	218,000
Malaysia	1	12	675	8,150	3	1,220	678	9,380
Mexico	16,600	160,000	24,400	222,000	5,640	79,900	46,700	462,000
Netherlands	25	402	115	1,650	98	1,250	238	3,310
Russia	--	--	46	120	--	--	46	120
Saudi Arabia	44	264	3,650	38,200	--	18	3,700	38,500
Singapore	57	278	91	1,150	--	691	147	2,120
Spain	5	20	232	1,710	--	562	238	2,290
Sweden	--	9	1	139	--	--	1	147
Taiwan	--	60	543	7,360	4,600	312,000	5,140	320,000
Thailand	1	143	781	9,300	912	71,800	1,690	81,200
Ukraine	--	--	(2)	2	--	--	(2)	2
United Kingdom	125	773	1,770	21,100	51	784	1,950	22,700
Venezuela	--	21	37	711	232	236	268	968
Other	136	4,710	6,550	54,500	926	28,300	7,620	87,500
Total	25,300	275,000	87,100	855,000	131,000	1,820,000	243,000	2,950,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.