

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**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 MARCH 2009

Domestic primary aluminum production in March was 154,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 4,970 t, 7% lower than that for the previous month and 34% lower than that for March 2008.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in March 2009 was 274,000 t, 4% higher than that of the previous month and 8% lower than the total in March 2008. Of this, 162,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 5% higher than that of the previous month and 11% lower than that in March 2008. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in March 2009 totaled 112,000 t, which was 3% higher than that in February 2009 and 3% lower than that in February 2008.

Primary aluminum production during the first quarter of 2009 was 28% lower than that in the same quarter of 2008. Total aluminum recovered from scrap for January through March 2008 was 10% less than the total for the first quarter of 2008. Aluminum recovered from new scrap for January through March 2009 was 14% less than the total for the same period of 2008. Recovery of aluminum from old scrap for January

through March 2009 was 4% less than the total for the same period of the previous year.

In March, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$0.638 per pound from \$0.629 per pound in February, and in April, the price increased to \$0.679 per pound.

Noranda Aluminum Corp. announced that its 250,000-metric-ton-per-year smelter at New Madrid, MO, operated at greater than 50% capacity at the beginning of May. A power outage at the smelter caused by a snowstorm on January 28, 2009, had forced the closure of 75% of the smelting capacity (see Aluminum in December 2008). The company was making progress in repairing all pots, but was monitoring market conditions to determine when to restart full production (Noranda Aluminum Corp., 2009).

### Reference Cited

Noranda Aluminum Corp., 2009, Noranda Aluminum Holding Corporation reports first quarter 2009 results: Franklin, TN, Noranda Aluminum Corp. news release, May 6, 12 p.

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

<b>March 6</b>	<b>39-41</b>
<b>March 13</b>	<b>41-43</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>44-46</b>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>43-45</b>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>43-45</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>44-46</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>45-47</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>42-44</b>

<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		
2008 <sup>p</sup>	2,658	2,090	1,350	3,440	2,790	914	3,710	9,810	1,400
2008:									
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	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	219	69	289	736	1,260
December	204	150	104	254	233	65	297	755	1,220
January-March	686	551	351	902	695	228	924	2,510	XX
2009:									
January	193	159 <sup>r</sup>	115	274 <sup>r</sup>	270	64	334	800 <sup>r</sup>	1,210
February	149	154 <sup>r</sup>	109 <sup>r</sup>	263 <sup>r</sup>	204	39	244	656	1,150
March	154	162	112	274	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-March	496	475	336	811	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
	2008 <sup>P</sup>	1,800	1,410	2,200	1,950	93	81	9	8	4,100
2008:										
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
November	146	114	140	123	7	7	(3)	(3)	295	245
December	144	112	155	134	7	7	(3)	(3)	307	254
January-March	466	367	576	512	24	21	(3)	(3)	1,070	902
2009:										
January	143 <sup>r</sup>	111 <sup>r</sup>	180 <sup>r</sup>	156 <sup>r</sup>	7	7	(3)	(3)	332 <sup>r</sup>	274 <sup>r</sup>
February	143 <sup>r</sup>	110 <sup>r</sup>	168 <sup>r</sup>	145 <sup>r</sup>	7	7	(3)	(3)	319 <sup>r</sup>	263 <sup>r</sup>
March	143	111	180	156	7	7	(3)	(3)	331	274
January-March	429	332	527	457	22	20	(3)	(3)	982	811

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <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 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 MARCH 2009<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	119,000	143,000	92,200
Independent mill fabricators <sup>2</sup>	161,000	180,000	140,000	156,000
Foundries	6,240	7,490	5,450	6,540
Other consumers	696	836	616	740
Total	287,000	331,000	238,000	274,000

<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 MARCH 2009<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	March			January-March <sup>2</sup>		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
<b>New scrap:</b>						
Extrusion	24,100 <sup>r</sup>	77,300	76,800	24,500	225,000	225,000
Can stock clippings	3,650	17,400	17,500	3,480	49,800	50,100
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,410 <sup>r</sup>	21,700	21,800	5,290	64,600	65,100
Casting	932 <sup>r</sup>	5,380	5,370	946	15,800	15,900
Borings and turnings	2,790 <sup>r</sup>	10,900	10,800	2,860	31,500	31,300
Dross and skimmings	6,280	39,300	39,300	6,280	118,000	118,000
<b>Total new scrap</b>	<b>43,100<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>172,000</b>	<b>172,000</b>	<b>43,400</b>	<b>504,000</b>	<b>505,000</b>
<b>Old scrap:</b>						
Used castings	7,390 <sup>r</sup>	18,100	17,000	8,470	54,000	55,700
Used extrusion	3,290 <sup>r</sup>	7,510	7,510	3,290	22,600	22,600
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	5,830	56,700	56,600	5,980	158,000	159,000
Other wrought products	4,680 <sup>r</sup>	20,300	20,300	4,680	63,800	63,800
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	6,320 <sup>r</sup>	13,800	14,000	6,170	43,000	43,100
<b>Total old scrap</b>	<b>27,500<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>116,000</b>	<b>115,000</b>	<b>28,600</b>	<b>342,000</b>	<b>344,000</b>
Sweated pig	96	151	151	96	454	454
<b>Total all classes</b>	<b>70,700<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>288,000</b>	<b>287,000</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>846,000</b>	<b>849,000</b>

<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 2009<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	March			January-March <sup>3</sup>		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
<b>Die-cast alloys:</b>						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,750 <sup>r</sup>	1,790	1,960	3,580	6,560	6,310
380 and variations	4,520	15,400	15,400	4,520	46,200	46,200
<b>Sand and permanent mold:</b>						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,490 <sup>r</sup>	2,280	2,280	1,490	6,840	6,840
No. 319 and variations	1,740 <sup>r</sup>	3,630	3,660	1,710	10,900	10,800
F-132 alloy and variations	341	425	425	341	1,280	1,280
Al-Zn alloys	209 <sup>r</sup>	136	136	209	407	407
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	141	1,570	1,570	141	4,700	4,700
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	11	157	157	11	472	472
Other <sup>3</sup>	10,900 <sup>r</sup>	31,800	30,800	12,000	94,200	90,700
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	19,800	54,000	54,100	19,700	162,000	163,000
<b>Total all alloys</b>	<b>42,900<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>43,700</b>	<b>334,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>
<b>Less:</b>						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	19,900	XX	XX	59,400	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,800	XX	XX	5,280	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	644	XX	XX	1,880	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>4</sup>	XX	88,900	XX	XX	267,000	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 FEBRUARY 2009<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January- February	February	January- February	February	January- February	February	January- February
Argentina	10,200	30,500	1	1	--	--	10,200	30,500
Australia	298	3,140	1	4	--	--	299	3,140
Bahrain	695	1,690	1,060	2,820	--	--	1,760	4,510
Belgium	81	126	141	307	--	--	222	433
Brazil	2,960	21,000	504	883	--	--	3,460	21,900
Canada	150,000	321,000	15,700	33,800	18,800	38,700	185,000	394,000
China	111	648	4,660	25,900	--	--	4,770	26,600
France	113	255	139	508	17	17	269	781
Germany	84	98	5,040	10,300	18	44	5,150	10,500
Hungary	--	--	2	9	--	--	2	9
Italy	(2)	(2)	415	693	11	11	427	704
Japan	--	28	672	1,750	--	52	672	1,830
Korea, Republic of	652	1,150	121	298	--	--	773	1,450
Mexico	1,200	1,780	944	1,850	6,280	15,200	8,420	18,800
Netherlands	34	52	98	262	--	--	133	367
Norway	21	30	(2)	(2)	--	18	22	30
Russia	25,500	44,600	1,460	3,460	18	27	27,000	48,100
South Africa	--	--	731	3,710	--	--	731	3,730
Spain	--	2	8	28	--	--	8	30
Sweden	--	--	106	159	--	--	106	159
Switzerland	--	--	355	849	--	--	355	849
Tajikistan	6,590	6,590	--	--	--	--	6,590	6,590
United Arab Emirates	2,100	8,670	--	--	16	16	2,120	8,690
United Kingdom	122	124	526	1,200	853	1,090	1,500	2,420
Venezuela	2,330	21,000	--	434	--	--	2,330	21,500
Other	915	11,200	6,810	13,800	1,030	1,870	8,760	26,900
Total	204,000	474,000	39,500	103,000	27,100	57,000	271,000	634,000

-- 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.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2009<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January- February	February	January- February	February	January- February	February	January- February
Australia	3	3	158	325	20	20	180	347
Belgium	9	9	93	201	--	--	103	210
Brazil	22	26	1,250	1,830	--	--	1,270	1,860
Canada	6,110	11,500	22,100	46,700	9,850	17,800	38,100	76,100
China	1,080	1,330	2,030	3,580	56,000	96,200	59,100	101,000
Czech Republic	--	--	16	23	--	--	16	23
Dominican Republic	--	--	26	45	--	--	26	45
France	--	23	672	1,340	--	--	672	1,370
Germany	540	893	678	1,430	20	20	1,240	2,340
Hong Kong	--	--	477	815	6,630	9,560	7,110	10,400
India	--	68	17	97	3,440	6,870	3,450	7,030
Israel	(2)	13	106	359	--	--	106	372
Italy	--	7	168	331	--	--	168	338
Japan	42	83	631	1,370	498	2,330	1,170	3,780
Korea, Republic of	18	18	876	1,700	7,830	14,800	8,720	16,500
Malaysia	--	(2)	44	119	81	118	125	237
Mexico	7,710	17,300	18,200	36,600	2,750	7,430	28,700	61,300
Netherlands	--	13	53	99	15	166	68	278
Russia	--	2	9	20	--	--	9	23
Saudi Arabia	96	96	2,800	5,090	--	--	2,890	5,190
Singapore	79	96	53	137	156	156	288	389
Spain	--	--	125	285	--	--	125	285
Sweden	--	--	23	34	--	--	23	34
Taiwan	(2)	(2)	168	294	4,100	6,790	4,270	7,080
Thailand	--	6	1,060	1,300	69	127	1,130	1,440
United Kingdom	119	183	1,310	2,610	51	67	1,480	2,860
Venezuela	9	26	16	52	130	304	155	382
Other	29	55	5,940	11,500	2,170	3,620	8,140	15,200
Total	15,900	31,800	59,200	118,000	93,800	166,000	169,000	316,000

-- 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.