

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2009

Domestic primary aluminum production in April was 145,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 4,830 t, 3% lower than that for the previous month and 36% lower than that for April 2008.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in April 2009 was 240,000 t, 5% lower than the revised total of the previous month and 13% lower than the revised total in April 2008. Of this, 144,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 6% lower than the revised amount in the previous month and 18% lower than the revised amount in April 2008. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in April 2009 totaled 96,000 t, which was slightly lower than the revised amount in March 2009 and 5% lower than the revised amount in April 2008.

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in the first quarter of 2009 (table 6) were essentially unchanged compared with those in the same period in 2008; imports of crude metal and alloys increased by 16% over the comparable period, while imports of semifabricated products declined by 31%, and imports of aluminum scrap declined by 26% compared with the amounts imported in the first quarter of 2008. Canada continued to be the leading source of imported aluminum materials, supplying 59% of all aluminum imports during the first quarter of 2009, followed by Russia with 12%.

Total exports of aluminum (table 7) decreased by 36% during the first quarter of 2009 compared with those of the same period in the previous year. Exports of aluminum scrap decreased by 40% and accounted for most of the decrease, exports of crude metal and alloys decreased by 47%, and exports of

semifabricated aluminum products decreased by 24%. The leading destinations of total aluminum products, in descending order of importance, were China (37%), Canada (22%), and Mexico (17%), and accounted for 76% of all aluminum exports during the first 3 months of 2009.

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

### Update

In May, Ormet Corp. curtailed one potline at its 265,000-metric-ton-per-year smelter at Hannibal, OH. Ormet cited a shortage of alumina resulting from a force majeure declared by its supplier, Glencore International, for the closure. Glencore stated that the closure of a refinery in Jamaica was the cause of deliveries to Ormet being reduced. Ormet was seeking arbitration to restore deliveries from Glencore under the tolling agreement between the companies, but stated that if deliveries are not restored, further curtailments at the smelter are possible (Ormet Corp., 2009, p. 2).

In May, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$0.70 per pound.

### Reference Cited

Ormet Corp., 2009, Information and disclosure statement for the quarter ended March 31, 2009: Hannibal, OH, Ormet Corp. news release, May 26, 57 p.

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

April 3	43-45
April 10	44-46
April 17	45-47
April 24	42-44
May 1	45-47
May 8	48-50
May 15	47-49
May 22	45-47
May 29	43-45

<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	2,020 <sup>r</sup>	1,190 <sup>r</sup>	3,210 <sup>r</sup>	2,790	914	3,710	9,580 <sup>r</sup>	1,400
2008:									
April	228	176 <sup>r</sup>	101 <sup>r</sup>	277 <sup>r</sup>	238	78	316	821 <sup>r</sup>	1,320
May	236	174 <sup>r</sup>	110 <sup>r</sup>	284 <sup>r</sup>	237	81	318	838 <sup>r</sup>	1,320
June	224	171 <sup>r</sup>	102 <sup>r</sup>	273 <sup>r</sup>	263	80	343	840 <sup>r</sup>	1,310
July	225	175 <sup>r</sup>	104 <sup>r</sup>	279 <sup>r</sup>	227	82	309	813 <sup>r</sup>	1,310
August	222	173 <sup>r</sup>	98 <sup>r</sup>	272 <sup>r</sup>	204	77	281	775 <sup>r</sup>	1,330
September	214	166 <sup>r</sup>	96 <sup>r</sup>	262 <sup>r</sup>	229	78	307	784 <sup>r</sup>	1,290
October	217	168 <sup>r</sup>	99 <sup>r</sup>	268 <sup>r</sup>	249	75	324	808 <sup>r</sup>	1,270
November	202	142 <sup>r</sup>	80 <sup>r</sup>	221 <sup>r</sup>	219	69	289	712 <sup>r</sup>	1,260
December	204	138 <sup>r</sup>	89 <sup>r</sup>	227 <sup>r</sup>	233	65	297	729 <sup>r</sup>	1,220
January-April	913	713	413	1,130	933	307	1,240	3,280	XX
2009:									
January	193	149 <sup>r</sup>	102 <sup>r</sup>	251 <sup>r</sup>	270	64	334	777 <sup>r</sup>	1,210
February	149	145 <sup>r</sup>	95 <sup>r</sup>	240 <sup>r</sup>	204	39	244	633 <sup>r</sup>	1,150
March	154	154 <sup>r</sup>	98 <sup>r</sup>	252 <sup>r</sup>	333	54	387	794	1,020
April	145	144	96	240	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-April	641	592	391	983	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>	1,600 <sup>r</sup>	1,240 <sup>r</sup>	2,130 <sup>r</sup>	1,880 <sup>r</sup>	93	81	9	8	3,830 <sup>r</sup>
2008:										
April	136 <sup>r</sup>	105 <sup>r</sup>	185 <sup>r</sup>	164 <sup>r</sup>	8	7	(3)	(3)	329 <sup>r</sup>	277 <sup>r</sup>
May	135 <sup>r</sup>	105 <sup>r</sup>	194 <sup>r</sup>	172 <sup>r</sup>	8	7	(3)	(3)	338 <sup>r</sup>	284 <sup>r</sup>
June	134 <sup>r</sup>	103 <sup>r</sup>	183 <sup>r</sup>	162 <sup>r</sup>	8	7	(3)	(3)	325 <sup>r</sup>	273 <sup>r</sup>
July	134 <sup>r</sup>	104 <sup>r</sup>	189 <sup>r</sup>	168 <sup>r</sup>	7	7	(3)	(3)	332 <sup>r</sup>	279 <sup>r</sup>
August	133 <sup>r</sup>	103 <sup>r</sup>	182 <sup>r</sup>	162 <sup>r</sup>	7	7	(3)	(3)	323 <sup>r</sup>	272 <sup>r</sup>
September	130 <sup>r</sup>	100 <sup>r</sup>	175 <sup>r</sup>	155 <sup>r</sup>	7	7	(3)	(3)	313 <sup>r</sup>	262 <sup>r</sup>
October	131 <sup>r</sup>	101 <sup>r</sup>	180 <sup>r</sup>	160 <sup>r</sup>	7	7	(3)	(3)	319 <sup>r</sup>	268 <sup>r</sup>
November	126 <sup>r</sup>	97 <sup>r</sup>	134 <sup>r</sup>	117 <sup>r</sup>	7	7	(3)	(3)	268 <sup>r</sup>	221 <sup>r</sup>
December	122 <sup>r</sup>	92 <sup>r</sup>	148 <sup>r</sup>	128 <sup>r</sup>	7	7	(3)	(3)	278 <sup>r</sup>	227 <sup>r</sup>
January-April	557	434	745	661	32	28	3	3	1,340	1,130
2009:										
January	124 <sup>r</sup>	94 <sup>r</sup>	174 <sup>r</sup>	150 <sup>r</sup>	7	7	(3)	(3)	306 <sup>r</sup>	251 <sup>r</sup>
February	123 <sup>r</sup>	93 <sup>r</sup>	161 <sup>r</sup>	139 <sup>r</sup>	7	7	(3)	(3)	293 <sup>r</sup>	240 <sup>r</sup>
March	125 <sup>r</sup>	95 <sup>r</sup>	174 <sup>r</sup>	150 <sup>r</sup>	7	7	(3)	(3)	307 <sup>r</sup>	252 <sup>r</sup>
April	116	91	165	142	7	7	(3)	(3)	290	240
January-April	488	372	674	582	30	26	3	3	1,200	983

<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 APRIL 2009<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	97,000	116,000	75,500
Independent mill fabricators <sup>2</sup>	148,000	165,000	128,000	142,000
Foundries	6,240	7,490	5,450	6,540
Other consumers	693	831	612	735
Total	252,000	290,000	209,000	240,000

<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 APRIL 2009<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	April			January-April <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	23,900 <sup>r</sup>	68,900	68,800	24,000	285,000	285,000
Can stock clippings	3,480	16,600	16,500	3,550	66,400	66,600
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,150 <sup>r</sup>	18,200	18,300	5,060	73,400	73,900
Casting	946	4,990	5,080	861	20,100	20,200
Borings and turnings	2,850 <sup>r</sup>	9,200	9,320	2,730	36,600	36,500
Dross and skimmings	6,200 <sup>r</sup>	34,300	34,300	6,200	151,000	151,000
<b>Total new scrap</b>	<b>42,500<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>152,000</b>	<b>152,000</b>	<b>42,400</b>	<b>632,000</b>	<b>633,000</b>
<b>Old scrap:</b>						
Used castings	8,420 <sup>r</sup>	16,500	18,300	6,610	66,100	69,600
Used extrusion	2,760 <sup>r</sup>	5,490	5,490	2,760	23,000	23,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	5,980	54,300	53,800	6,430	212,000	212,000
Other wrought products	4,680	18,300	18,300	4,680	83,100	83,100
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,170 <sup>r</sup>	3,260	3,320	1,120	15,300	15,400
<b>Total old scrap</b>	<b>23,000<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>97,800</b>	<b>99,200</b>	<b>21,600</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>403,000</b>
Sweated pig	96	151	151	96	606	606
<b>Total all classes</b>	<b>65,600<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>252,000</b>	<b>64,100</b>	<b>1,030,000</b>	<b>1,040,000</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)

	April			January-April <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.)	1,650 <sup>r</sup>	1,070	1,140	1,590	4,940	4,750
380 and variations	1,890 <sup>r</sup>	5,020	5,020	1,890	20,100	20,100
<b>Sand and permanent mold:</b>						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,490	1,300	1,300	1,490	5,190	5,190
No. 319 and variations	1,710	2,810	2,830	1,690	11,300	11,200
F-132 alloy and variations	341	404	404	341	1,620	1,620
Al-Zn alloys	209	136	136	209	542	542
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	141	1,570	1,570	141	6,270	6,270
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	11	43	43	11	174	174
Other <sup>3</sup>	11,000 <sup>r</sup>	30,100	29,800	11,400	120,000	116,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,800 <sup>r</sup>	53,900	53,900	18,800	216,000	216,000
<b>Total all alloys</b>	<b>37,300<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>96,400</b>	<b>96,100</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>386,000</b>	<b>382,000</b>
<b>Less:</b>						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	17,200	XX	XX	74,600	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	888	XX	XX	3,460	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	629	XX	XX	2,450	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>4</sup>	XX	77,700	XX	XX	305,000	XX

<sup>r</sup>Revised. 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 MARCH 2009<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January- March	March	January- March	March	January- March	March	January- March
Argentina	1,830	32,400	--	1	--	--	1,830	32,400
Australia	3,140	6,270	21	25	--	--	3,160	6,300
Bahrain	--	1,690	1,290	4,110	--	--	1,290	5,810
Belgium	7	133	453	760	2	2	462	895
Brazil	23,100	44,100	421	1,300	--	--	23,500	45,400
Canada	190,000	512,000	20,900	54,600	20,000	58,600	231,000	625,000
China	11	659	10,700	36,600	--	--	10,700	37,300
France	262	517	202	711	--	17	464	1,250
Germany	48	147	5,570	15,900	38	81	5,660	16,100
Hungary	--	--	5	14	--	--	5	14
Italy	(2)	(2)	548	1,240	(2)	11	548	1,250
Japan	(2)	28	694	2,440	27	78	721	2,550
Korea, Republic of	524	1,670	142	440	--	--	666	2,110
Mexico	1,310	3,090	956	2,800	7,517	22,700	9,780	28,600
Netherlands	13	65	102	364	894	948	1,010	1,380
Norway	--	30	3	4	--	--	3	33
Russia	81,500	126,000	1,270	4,730	333	351	83,100	131,000
South Africa	19,000	19,000	1,750	5,460	--	27	20,800	24,500
Spain	26	28	2	30	--	--	28	58
Sweden	3	3	107	266	--	--	110	269
Switzerland	4	4	389	1,240	--	--	394	1,240
Tajikistan	--	6,590	--	--	--	--	--	6,590
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Arab Emirates	4,720	13,400	--	--	--	16	4,720	13,400
United Kingdom	17	141	278	1,480	767	1,860	1,060	3,480
Venezuela	6,140	27,200	242	676	24	24	6,400	27,900
Other	1,420	12,700	8,210	22,000	1,245	3,120	10,900	37,800
Total	333,000	807,000	54,300	157,000	30,800	87,900	418,000	1,050,000

-- 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 MARCH 2009<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January- March	March	January- March	March	January- March	March	January- March
Australia	17	20	123	447	2	21	141	489
Belgium	--	9	67	268	--	--	67	277
Brazil	4	30	1,780	3,610	224	224	2,010	3,870
Canada	4,240	15,800	26,500	73,200	7,960	25,800	38,700	115,000
China	1,250	2,580	3,510	7,100	90,100	186,000	94,900	196,000
Czech Republic	--	--	6	29	--	--	6	29
Dominican Republic	58	58	33	78	--	--	91	135
France	93	116	957	2,300	--	--	1,050	2,420
Germany	374	1,270	735	2,160	--	20	1,110	3,450
Hong Kong	--	--	524	1,340	7,330	16,900	7,860	18,200
India	12	80	86	183	3,040	9,900	3,140	10,200
Israel	26	39	307	666	--	--	333	705
Italy	2	9	243	574	--	--	245	582
Japan	40	123	595	1,970	308	2,640	943	4,730
Korea, Republic of	14	31	1,000	2,710	11,400	26,200	12,400	28,900
Malaysia	1	1	97	216	100	218	198	434
Mexico	5,700	23,000	20,300	56,900	5,140	12,600	31,200	92,400
Netherlands	3	16	79	179	9	175	91	369
Russia	--	2	19	39	--	--	19	42
Saudi Arabia	23	120	3,500	8,590	--	--	3,520	8,710
Singapore	23	119	39	176	--	156	62	451
Spain	--	--	208	493	--	--	208	493
Sweden	6	6	5	39	--	--	11	45
Taiwan	4	4	106	400	4,850	11,600	4,960	12,000
Thailand	--	6	630	1,930	457	585	1,090	2,520
Ukraine	--	--	5	5	--	--	5	5
United Kingdom	118	302	1,060	3,670	106	173	1,280	4,140
Venezuela	7	33	60	112	--	304	67	449
Other	683	739	5,230	16,800	4,770	8,390	10,700	25,900
Total	12,700	44,400	67,800	186,000	136,000	302,000	216,000	533,000

-- 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.