

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2012

Domestic primary aluminum production in June 2012 was 173,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,760 t, essentially the same as that during the previous month but 4% higher than that for June 2011.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in June 2012 was 289,000 t, 3% less than the amount recovered in the previous month but 12% more than the amount recovered in June 2011. Of this, 151,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 3% less than the amount in the previous month but 11% more than the amount in June 2011. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in June 2012 totaled 138,000 t, 3% less than the amount in May but 13% more than the amount in June 2011.

U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum (table 8) for the first 6 months of 2012 increased by 10% compared with those for the same period in 2011. Imports of metal and alloys increased by 11%, imports of semifabricated materials increased by 12%, and imports of scrap increased by 5% compared with

those for the same period in 2011. Canada remained the leading shipper of aluminum materials to the United States, supplying 58% of total U.S. imports in the first 6 months of the year, followed by Russia with 8%, and the United Arab Emirates with 6%.

Total aluminum exports (table 9) for the first half of 2012 increased by 6% compared with those for the first 6 months of 2011. Exports of metal and alloys increased by 12%, exports of semifabricated material increased by 14%, and exports of aluminum scrap exports remained essentially unchanged compared with the amount exported in the first half of 2011. China, Mexico, and Canada were, in descending order of shipments, the major recipients of U.S. aluminum exports in the first 6 months of 2012.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot declined slightly to \$0.951 per pound in July, down from \$0.954 per pound in June.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2011 ^P	1,986	1,630	1,410	3,040	2,830	880	3,710	8,740	1,060
2011:									
January–June	951	813 ^r	695 ^r	1,510	1,420	416	1,840	4,300	1,090
June	167	136	122	258	263	74	337	762	1,090
July	171	135	120	256	220	70	290	717	1,110
August	172	148	123	271	241	85	327	770	1,090
September	169	138	122	260	263	86	349	778	1,080
October	175	141	123	263	243	78	321	759	1,060
November	171	129	116	245	192	74	266	683	1,050
December	177	126	114	240	245	70	315	732	1,060
2012:									
January	178	146	125	272	281	70	351	801	1,090
February	167	147	131	278	284	77	360	805	1,060
March	179	155	139	293	248	83	332	804	1,060
April	174	151	133	284	231	78	309	767	1,090
May	179	156	143	298	293	82	376	853	1,090
June	173	151	138	289	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January–June	1,051	905	809	1,710	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.

⁴Inventories 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		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
	2011 ^p	2,210	1,650 ^r	1,470 ^r	1,340 ^r	61	53	8	8	3,750
2011:										
January–June	1,080 ^r	806 ^r	740 ^r	672 ^r	30	27	4	4	1,860	1,510
June	186	139	126	114	5	4	1	1	318	258
July	185	138	124	113	5	4	1	1	315	256
August	192	144	134	122	5	4	1	1	332	271
September	187	140	127	115	5	4	1	1	320	260
October	192	143	127	115	5	4	1	1	324	263
November	186	138	113	102	5	4	1	1	304	245
December	184	136	109	99	5	4	1	1	299	240
2012:										
January	209	151	128	116	5	4	1	1	343	272
February	213	156	129	117	5	4	1	1	347	278
March	217	159	143	130	5	4	1	1	366	293
April	218	158	129	117	10	9	1	1	357	284
May	215	157	146	133	10	9	1	1	372	298
June	218	159	133	120	10	9	1	1	362	289
January–June	1,290	939	809	733	44	39	3	3	2,150	1,710

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JUNE 2012¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	182,000	218,000	133,000
Independent mill fabricators	121,000	133,000	110,000	120,000
Foundries	8,110	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	482	579	481	577
Total	312,000	362,000	250,000	289,000

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

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN JUNE 2012¹

(Metric tons)

	June			January–June ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	19,300	40,600	40,400	19,600	239,000	240,000
Can stock clippings	25,300	23,400	23,400	25,300	142,000	141,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	8,700	36,900	36,700	8,920	226,000	230,000
Casting	2,480	5,830	5,860	2,450	33,700	33,700
Borings and turnings	5,080	12,300	12,500	4,920	68,900	68,800
Dross and skimmings	16,300	55,200	55,200	16,300	329,000	329,000
Total new scrap	77,200	174,000	174,000	77,500	1,040,000	1,040,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	4,970	28,000	27,100	5,900	155,000	156,000
Used extrusion	7,680	14,300	13,500	8,470	80,100	81,100
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	30,300	63,400	62,600	31,100	369,000	369,000
Other wrought products	12,700	25,000	24,800	12,900	156,000	154,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,930	9,810	9,720	2,020	49,000	48,800
Total old scrap	57,500	141,000	138,000	60,300	809,000	808,000
Sweated pig	55	33	33	55	195	195
Total all classes	135,000	315,000	312,000	138,000	1,850,000	1,850,000

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES IN JUNE 2012^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	June			January–June ³		
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	4,350	4,610	4,810	4,150	24,700	23,300
380 and variations	11,000	16,700	16,700	11,000	116,000	115,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,360	4,600	4,600	3,360	25,800	24,400
No. 319 and variations	5,190	6,830	6,850	5,170	35,200	33,500
F-132 alloy and variations	541	478	478	541	2,670	2,580
Al-Zn alloys	297	376	376	297	1,090	891
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	228	346	346	228	1,810	1,690
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	509	487	487	509	1,300	958
Other ⁴	4,310	9,920	9,340	4,890	57,300	54,500
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,000	42,400	42,400	16,000	255,000	255,000
Total all alloys	45,800	86,700	86,400	46,100	521,000	512,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	11,300	XX	XX	71,200	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,010	XX	XX	12,400	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,480	XX	XX	8,810	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	71,900	XX	XX	428,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

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

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
AVERAGE PRICE OF ALUMINUM IN THE UNITED STATES
AND ON THE LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Cents per pound)

Period	Midwest U.S. market price	LME cash price Grade A
2011:		
June	124.350	115.896
July	121.625	113.926
August	116.563	108.508
September	112.400	104.160
October	105.875	98.515
November	102.563	94.038
December	98.150	91.694
January–December	116.121	108.768
2012:		
January	103.375	97.244
February	107.000	99.953
March	107.900	99.002
April	101.563	92.815
May	100.100	90.727
June	95.375	85.481
January–June	102.552	94.204

TABLE 7
AVERAGE BUYING PRICES FOR ALUMINUM SCRAP

(Cents per pound)

Month	Used beverage cans	Mixed low copper clips	Old sheet	Old cast	Turnings (clean and dry)
2011:					
June	94.05	84.50	79.00	79.59	79.11
July	90.95	84.55	78.15	80.70	79.00
August	86.54	83.91	76.52	78.59	76.87
September	83.07	80.64	73.14	75.40	73.64
October	78.07	74.88	69.19	71.07	68.90
November	76.63	73.85	67.90	70.30	68.60
December	73.18	73.03	67.76	70.26	68.13
January–December	86.68	81.94	74.96 ^{r,1}	76.80 ^{r,1}	75.68
2012:					
January	77.30	75.60	70.98	72.28	69.88
February	79.83	77.93	73.60	75.85	72.88
March	79.86	78.41	74.14	76.36	73.66
April	75.65	76.65	73.50	72.65	76.05
May	74.27	74.89	72.91	73.25	75.73
June	69.76	74.02	69.48	71.43	70.14
January–June	76.11	76.25	72.44	73.64	73.06

^rRevised.

¹Average price for April–December; prices for January through March were not available.

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2012¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June
Argentina	10,200	29,400	2	4	--	--	10,200	29,500
Australia	2,710	11,400	8	35	20	40	2,730	11,500
Austria	--	(²)	1,850	12,000	--	2	1,850	12,000
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	244	1,470	244	1,470
Bahrain	2,420	9,550	1,830	11,300	--	14	4,250	20,900
Belgium	127	484	220	1,110	38	152	385	1,750
Brazil	--	4,390	1,400	9,660	--	2,540	1,400	16,600
Canada	148,000	1,010,000	28,400	180,000	29,500	176,000	205,000	1,360,000
Chile	--	--	49	49	172	1,920	221	1,960
China	106	828	12,100	53,200	2	67	12,200	54,100
Colombia	38	727	165	1,050	172	507	375	2,290
Costa Rica	21	367	(²)	1	272	1,880	293	2,240
Egypt	--	--	102	1,770	--	--	102	1,770
El Salvador	100	161	--	25	134	1,470	234	1,650
France	273	2,190	723	2,620	4	9	1,000	4,820
Germany	38	202	6,230	38,500	68	153	6,340	38,800
Greece	--	--	1,690	8,360	--	18	1,690	8,370
Guatemala	119	179	--	--	1,090	6,730	1,210	6,910
Honduras	--	--	--	--	405	1,480	405	1,480
Hong Kong	--	--	324	2,340	--	--	324	2,340
India	101	1,830	1,610	8,110	--	6	1,720	9,950
Indonesia	--	--	7,100	47,000	--	--	7,100	47,000
Italy	11	3,410	462	2,210	36	259	509	5,880
Japan	--	25	316	2,140	18	575	334	2,740
Korea, Republic of	1,020	5,490	177	1,660	86	271	1,280	7,420
Malaysia	--	63	462	2,220	--	--	462	2,280
Mexico	4,150	28,600	2,410	14,300	11,500	62,200	18,000	105,000
New Zealand	1,410	8,910	(²)	5	18	38	1,430	8,960
Qatar	9,410	80,000	--	--	--	--	9,410	80,000
Romania	32	177	910	5,440	80	705	1,020	6,320
Russia	28,400	178,000	1,500	8,040	--	--	29,900	186,000
Saudi Arabia	--	143	--	--	2,810	11,800	2,810	11,900
South Africa	--	2,050	4,300	33,400	--	--	4,300	35,400
Sweden	1	12	415	2,150	--	--	416	2,160
Switzerland	(²)	51	164	1,170	--	--	164	1,220
Taiwan	(²)	4	428	2,880	--	--	428	2,890
Tajikistan	--	13,900	--	--	--	--	--	13,900
United Arab Emirates	27,200	142,000	--	11	157	354	27,400	143,000
United Kingdom	77	340	1,100	5,510	464	1,600	1,640	7,440
Venezuela	2,450	40,700	26	423	251	2,110	2,720	43,200
Other	2,020	5,820	1,600	9,720	1,230	16,300	4,850	31,900
Total	240,000	1,580,000	78,000	468,000	48,800	291,000	367,000	2,340,000

-- 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 9
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2012¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January–	June	January–	June	January–	June	January–
		June		June		June		June
Australia	77	181	220	1,060	--	--	297	1,240
Belgium	2	25	917	2,870	15	224	934	3,120
Brazil	24	59	453	5,330	407	2,010	884	7,400
Canada	8,230	50,400	34,600	208,000	8,190	55,600	51,000	314,000
Chile	--	1,430	393	4,200	--	21	393	5,650
China	205	2,170	3,210	17,700	113,000	697,000	116,000	717,000
Colombia	--	502	103	989	--	45	103	1,540
France	96	1,480	1,460	9,410	--	56	1,560	10,900
Germany	467	1,660	833	6,100	--	251	1,300	8,010
Guatemala	--	6	1,940	7,820	--	38	1,940	7,870
Hong Kong	--	51	177	940	2,470	17,800	2,640	18,800
India	17	164	154	1,010	6,030	30,400	6,200	31,600
Indonesia	--	14	174	1,330	256	2,580	430	3,930
Ireland	4	22	35	353	--	--	39	375
Israel	91	595	571	3,940	18	18	680	4,550
Italy	--	32	301	1,850	--	20	301	1,900
Japan	76	626	1,320	9,070	566	5,870	1,960	15,600
Jordan	--	--	1,110	4,020	--	--	1,110	4,020
Korea, Republic of	20	229	1,900	10,000	13,400	98,000	15,400	108,000
Kuwait	--	--	791	2,860	--	--	791	2,860
Malaysia	5	7	275	1,590	1,380	3,400	1,660	5,000
Mexico	20,600	121,000	30,300	166,000	11,100	70,600	62,100	358,000
Netherlands	4	27	57	524	44	535	105	1,090
New Zealand	(2)	14	457	1,850	1	3	458	1,860
Norway	--	--	14	96	94	514	108	610
Pakistan	--	--	11	15	2,880	16,700	2,890	16,700
Panama	20	20	356	2,160	9	14	385	2,190
Romania	216	489	98	202	--	--	314	691
Saudi Arabia	--	1	6,410	31,900	--	--	6,410	31,900
Singapore	61	545	502	2,270	4	157	567	2,980
Spain	(2)	7	208	837	--	36	208	880
Taiwan	110	957	731	4,840	4,500	35,300	5,340	41,100
Thailand	8	9	93	552	216	2,810	317	3,370
Tunisia	--	--	299	864	--	--	299	864
Turkey	--	4	294	1,380	--	--	294	1,380
United Arab Emirates	--	1	1,490	5,250	--	116	1,490	5,360
United Kingdom	85	561	1,320	9,540	122	377	1,530	10,500
Vietnam	--	--	13	100	360	2,090	373	2,190
Other	107	768	2,950	9,120	250	1,430	3,300	11,300
Total	30,600	184,000	96,500	538,000	165,000	1,040,000	292,000	1,770,000

-- 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.