

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ALUMINUM IN JULY 2012

Domestic primary aluminum production in July 2012 was 177,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,710 t, slightly less than that during the previous month but 3% higher than that for July 2011.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in July 2012 was 291,000 t, essentially the same as the amount recovered in the previous month but 14% more than the amount recovered in July 2011. Of this, 153,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, slightly more than the amount in the previous month and 13% more than the amount in July 2011. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in July 2012 totaled 137,000 t, essentially the same as the amount in June and 14% more than the amount in July 2011.

### Update

In addition to a potline that was shut down in early August, Ormet Corp. shut down a potline at the end of August at its 270,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) smelter in Hannibal, OH. (See Aluminum in May 2012.) High electricity prices and low aluminum prices were cited for the shutdown of a combined 90,000 t/yr of smelting capacity (Ormet Corp., 2012; Platts Metals Week, 2012b).

A 5-year labor contract between Noranda Aluminum Holding Corp. and the United Steelworkers union was ratified on September 7 by employees at the 250,000-t/yr smelter in New Madrid, MO. Work continued during contract negotiations after

the previous contract set to expire on August 31 was extended through September 7 (Noranda Aluminum Holding Corp., 2012).

Bermco Aluminum Co. (Birmingham, AL) announced that it temporarily shut down a 30,000-t/yr furnace at its secondary aluminum smelter. The lack of available scrap and decreased demand from some customers were cited for the shutdown. Two other furnaces would continue to produce secondary aluminum ingot at the smelter (Platts Metals Week, 2012a).

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot declined for the fifth consecutive month to \$0.939 per pound in August, down from \$0.951 per pound in July.

### References Cited

- Noranda Aluminum Holding Corp., 2012, USW members ratify New Madrid labor agreement: Franklin, TN, Noranda Aluminum Holding Corp. news release, September 8. (Accessed September 20, 2012, at <http://investor.norandaaluminum.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=220051&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1733155&highlight=>.)
- Ormet Corp., 2012, Ormet reduces operations at smelter: Hannibal, OH, Ormet Corp news release, August 28. (Accessed September 20, 2012, at [http://www.ormet\\_press\\_release\\_8-28\\_Final\\_A.pdf](http://www.ormet_press_release_8-28_Final_A.pdf).)
- Platts Metals Week, 2012a, Bermco taking alloy furnace offline: Platts Metals Week, v. 83, no. 37, September 10, p. 7.
- Platts Metals Week, 2012b, Ormet idling may affect alumina output: Platts Metals Week, v. 83, no. 36, September 3, p. 6.

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>	Stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2011 <sup>P</sup>	1,986	1,630	1,410	3,040	2,830	880	3,710	8,740	1,060
2011:									
January–July	1,122	949 <sup>r</sup>	815 <sup>r</sup>	1,760 <sup>r</sup>	1,640	486	2,130	5,020	1,110
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	1,110 <sup>r</sup>
June	173	151	138	290 <sup>r</sup>	240	78	318	781	1,100
July	177	153	137	291	233	80	313	781	NA
January–July	1,228	1,060	947	2,010	1,810	548	2,360	5,590	NA

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

<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		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 <sup>P</sup>	2,210	1,650	1,470	1,340	61	53	8	8	3,750
2011:										
January–July	1,270 <sup>r</sup>	943 <sup>r</sup>	864 <sup>r</sup>	785	35	31	4	4	2,170 <sup>r</sup>	1,760 <sup>r</sup>
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	228 <sup>r</sup>	168 <sup>r</sup>	126 <sup>r</sup>	113 <sup>r</sup>	10	9	1	1	364 <sup>r</sup>	290 <sup>r</sup>
July	224	164	130	117	10	9	1	1	364	291
January–July	1,520	1,110	932	843	54	48	4	4	2,510	2,010

<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.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JULY 2012<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	187,000	224,000	137,000
Independent mill fabricators	117,000	130,000	106,000	117,000
Foundries	8,110	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	482	579	481	577
Total	313,000	364,000	251,000	291,000

<sup>1</sup>Data 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 JULY 2012<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	July			January–July <sup>2</sup>		
	Stocks, opening <sup>2</sup>	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
<b>New scrap:</b>						
Extrusion	19,600	42,800	42,200	20,200	282,000	282,000
Can stock clippings	25,300	21,700	23,000	23,900	163,000	164,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	8,750	37,600	37,200	9,180	263,000	268,000
Casting	2,310	5,580	5,470	2,410	39,200	39,200
Borings and turnings	4,260	13,200	12,800	4,670	82,100	81,600
Dross and skimmings	16,300	55,100	55,100	16,300	384,000	384,000
Total new scrap	76,500	176,000	176,000	76,700	1,210,000	1,220,000
<b>Old scrap:</b>						
Used castings	5,430	26,700	27,000	5,100	182,000	183,000
Used extrusion	8,090	14,000	13,200	8,860	94,100	94,300
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	30,900	66,400	64,900	32,400	435,000	434,000
Other wrought products	11,400	24,500	24,200	11,700	180,000	178,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,650	7,610	7,630	1,630	56,600	56,400
Total old scrap	57,400	139,000	137,000	59,700	948,000	946,000
Sweated pig	55	33	33	55	228	228
Total all classes	134,000	315,000	313,000	137,000	2,160,000	2,160,000

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

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

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES IN JULY 2012<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	July				January–July <sup>3</sup>	
	Stocks, opening <sup>3</sup>	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
<b>Die-cast alloys:</b>						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,730	3,840	3,940	2,630	28,500	28,700
380 and variations	10,500	15,100	15,100	10,500	131,000	131,000
<b>Sand and permanent mold:</b>						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,900	4,240	4,240	1,900	30,100	30,100
No. 319 and variations	3,590	5,630	5,640	3,580	40,800	40,800
F-132 alloy and variations	450	439	439	450	3,110	3,110
Al-Zn alloys	99	143	143	99	1,230	1,230
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	111	292	292	111	2,100	2,100
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	170	162	162	170	1,460	1,460
Other <sup>4</sup>	3,990	7,700	6,810	4,890	65,000	62,200
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,000	41,400	41,400	16,000	296,000	296,000
Total all alloys	39,600	78,900	78,100	40,400	600,000	597,000
<b>Less:</b>						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	10,400	XX	XX	81,500	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,700	XX	XX	14,100	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,200	XX	XX	10,000	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>5</sup>	XX	65,600	XX	XX	494,000	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>May include revisions to previously published data.

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

<sup>5</sup>No 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:		
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
July	95.125	84.997
January–July	101.491	92.888

Source: Platts Metals Week.

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:					
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 <sup>1</sup>	76.80 <sup>1</sup>	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
July	70.81	71.02	66.83	69.74	68.10
January–July	75.35	75.50	71.63	73.08	72.35

<sup>1</sup>Average 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 JULY 2012<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	July	January– July	July	January– July	July	January– July	July	January– July
Argentina	848	30,300	--	4	--	--	848	30,300
Australia	3,630	15,000	(2)	35	--	40	3,630	15,100
Austria	--	(2)	2,370	14,400	--	2	2,370	14,400
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	226	1,700	226	1,700
Bahrain	2,700	12,300	2,310	13,600	--	14	5,020	25,900
Belgium	127	611	252	1,360	40	192	419	2,170
Brazil	211	4,610	1,420	11,100	200	2,740	1,830	18,400
Canada	160,000	1,170,000	28,600	208,000	27,600	204,000	216,000	1,580,000
Chile	--	--	--	49	502	2,420	502	2,470
China	186	1,020	12,000	65,200	14	80	12,200	66,300
Colombia	36	764	188	1,240	75	582	299	2,590
Costa Rica	20	387	--	1	336	2,210	356	2,600
Egypt	--	--	290	2,060	--	--	290	2,060
El Salvador	20	180	--	25	179	1,640	199	1,850
France	669	2,860	322	2,950	--	9	991	5,810
Germany	37	239	6,480	44,900	5	158	6,520	45,300
Greece	--	--	757	9,110	--	18	757	9,130
Guatemala	40	219	--	--	1,180	7,920	1,220	8,130
Honduras	--	--	--	--	395	1,870	395	1,870
Hong Kong	--	--	480	2,820	--	--	480	2,820
India	203	2,030	1,560	9,680	--	6	1,770	11,700
Indonesia	--	--	8,410	55,400	--	--	8,410	55,400
Italy	--	3,410	520	2,730	99	357	619	6,490
Japan	--	25	419	2,560	268	843	687	3,430
Korea, Republic of	1,300	6,790	402	2,060	40	311	1,750	9,160
Malaysia	--	63	596	2,810	--	--	596	2,880
Mexico	2,930	31,500	2,640	17,000	12,000	74,100	17,500	123,000
New Zealand	1,830	10,700	5	10	23	61	1,860	10,800
Qatar	13,700	93,700	--	--	--	--	13,700	93,700
Romania	12	189	863	6,310	72	777	947	7,270
Russia	19,000	197,000	1,170	9,200	--	--	20,200	207,000
Saudi Arabia	--	143	--	--	3,580	15,400	3,580	15,500
South Africa	1,520	3,570	3,880	37,300	--	--	5,400	40,800
Sweden	20	33	546	2,700	--	--	566	2,730
Switzerland	(2)	51	323	1,490	--	--	323	1,540
Taiwan	--	4	644	3,530	--	--	644	3,530
Tajikistan	--	13,900	--	--	--	--	--	13,900
United Arab Emirates	21,300	164,000	--	11	164	518	21,500	164,000
United Kingdom	29	369	784	6,290	752	2,350	1,570	9,010
Venezuela	638	41,300	--	423	343	2,460	981	44,200
Other	2,390	8,210	1,750	11,500	1,500	17,800	5,640	37,500
Total	233,000	1,810,000	80,000	548,000	49,600	341,000	363,000	2,700,000

-- 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 9  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JULY 2012<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–
		July		July		July		July
Australia	53	234	161	1,220	--	--	214	1,450
Belgium	--	25	232	3,100	48	272	280	3,400
Brazil	3	62	974	6,310	130	2,140	1,110	8,510
Canada	8,130	58,500	35,200	243,000	7,870	63,500	51,200	365,000
Chile	--	1,430	1,020	5,220	--	21	1,020	6,670
China	378	2,550	3,970	21,600	121,000	819,000	125,000	843,000
Colombia	--	502	88	1,080	--	45	88	1,620
France	51	1,530	1,690	11,100	--	56	1,740	12,700
Germany	412	2,070	778	6,880	18	269	1,210	9,220
Guatemala	--	6	1,630	9,450	20	58	1,650	9,520
Hong Kong	72	123	157	1,100	2,140	20,000	2,370	21,200
India	26	190	96	1,100	6,280	36,700	6,400	38,000
Indonesia	100	114	223	1,560	139	2,720	462	4,390
Ireland	5	27	75	428	--	--	80	455
Israel	86	682	446	4,390	--	18	532	5,090
Italy	(2)	32	361	2,210	--	20	361	2,260
Japan	9	634	1,690	10,800	900	6,770	2,600	18,200
Jordan	--	--	786	4,810	--	--	786	4,810
Korea, Republic of	15	244	1,670	11,700	14,200	112,000	15,900	124,000
Kuwait	1	1	532	3,390	--	--	533	3,400
Malaysia	25	32	162	1,760	964	4,370	1,150	6,150
Mexico	21,200	142,000	30,700	197,000	9,460	80,000	61,400	419,000
Netherlands	4	31	81	606	--	535	85	1,170
New Zealand	1	16	74	1,920	1	4	76	1,940
Norway	--	--	6	102	113	627	119	729
Pakistan	--	--	--	15	2,510	19,200	2,510	19,300
Panama	--	20	342	2,500	--	14	342	2,540
Romania	152	641	168	370	--	--	320	1,010
Saudi Arabia	59	59	6,070	38,000	--	--	6,130	38,100
Singapore	57	603	448	2,720	--	157	505	3,480
Spain	--	7	130	968	33	69	163	1,040
Taiwan	620	1,580	1,100	5,930	6,750	42,100	8,460	49,600
Thailand	--	9	99	651	383	3,190	482	3,850
Tunisia	--	--	234	1,100	--	--	234	1,100
Turkey	15	19	235	1,620	--	--	250	1,630
United Arab Emirates	(2)	1	1,560	6,800	60	176	1,620	6,980
United Kingdom	63	625	1,320	10,900	9	386	1,390	11,900
Vietnam	--	--	46	146	494	2,580	540	2,730
Other	44	810	987	10,100	864	2,290	1,900	13,200
Total	31,600	215,000	95,600	634,000	174,000	1,220,000	302,000	2,070,000

-- 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.