

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2012

Domestic primary aluminum production in September 2012 was 164,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,480 t, slightly less than that during the previous month and 3% less than that in September 2011. Primary aluminum production during the first 9 months of 2012 was 7% more than that during the same period of 2011.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in September 2012 was 275,000 t, 8% less than the amount recovered in the previous month but 6% more than the amount recovered in September 2011. Of this, 139,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 11% less than the amount in the previous month but slightly more than the amount in September 2011. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in September 2012 totaled 137,000 t, 6% less than the amount in August but 12% more than the amount in September 2011. Total secondary aluminum production during the first 9 months of 2012 was 9% more than that during the same period of 2011. Production of secondary aluminum from new and old scrap during the first 9 months of 2012 was respectively 7% and 12% more than that during the same period of 2011.

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in the first three quarters of 2012 (table 8) were 4% more than those in the same period in 2011; imports of crude metal and alloys increased by 5%, imports of semifabricated products and aluminum scrap increased slightly. Canada continued to be the leading source of imported aluminum materials, supplying 58% of all aluminum imports during the first three quarters of 2012, followed by Russia with 7%, and the United Arab Emirates with 6%.

Total exports of aluminum (table 9) increased by 4% during the first three quarters of 2012 compared with those of the same period in the previous year. Exports of crude metal and alloys increased by 15%, exports of semifabricated aluminum products increased by 14%, but exports of aluminum scrap decreased slightly. The leading destinations of total aluminum products during the first 9 months of 2012, in descending order of volume, were China (41%), Mexico (20%), and Canada (18%).

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to \$1.008 per pound in October from \$1.033 per pound in September.

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	1,986	1,650	1,450	3,110	2,830	880	3,710	8,800	1,060
2011:									
January–September	1,463	1,260 ^r	1,100 ^r	2,360 ^r	2,150	658	2,810	6,630	1,080
September	169	137 ^r	122	259 ^r	263	86	349	776 ^r	1,080
October	175	139 ^r	123	262 ^r	243	78	321	758 ^r	1,060
November	171	128 ^r	116	244 ^r	192	74	266	682 ^r	1,050
December	177	125 ^r	114	239 ^r	245	70	315	731 ^r	1,060
2012:									
January	178	145 ^r	125	270 ^r	281	70	351	800 ^r	1,090
February	167	146 ^r	131	276 ^r	284	77	360	804 ^r	1,060
March	179	154 ^r	139	292 ^r	248	83	332	803 ^r	1,060
April	174	150 ^r	133	283 ^r	231	78	309	766 ^r	1,090
May	179	154 ^r	143	298	293	82	376	852 ^r	1,110
June	173	150 ^r	138	289 ^r	240	78	318	780 ^r	1,100
July	177	152 ^r	137	289 ^r	233	80	313	780 ^r	1,140
August	171	155 ^r	145	300 ^r	234	65	300	770 ^r	1,130
September	164	139	137	275	214	60	273	713	1,110
January–September	1,564	1,350	1,230	2,570	2,260	673	2,930	7,070	1,110

^rRevised.

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.

⁴Inventory 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 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	2,250	1,650	1,560	1,410	61	49	6	6	3,880	3,110
2011:										
January–September	1,700 ^r	1,230 ^r	1,210 ^r	1,100 ^r	46	36 ^r	4 ^r	4 ^r	2,960 ^r	2,370 ^r
September	186 ^r	139 ^r	127	115	5	4	1	1	319 ^r	259 ^r
October	191 ^r	142 ^r	127	115	5	4	1	1	323 ^r	262 ^r
November	184 ^r	137 ^r	113	102	5	4	1	1	303 ^r	244 ^r
December	182 ^r	135 ^r	109	99	5	4	1	1	298 ^r	239 ^r
2012:										
January	208 ^r	149 ^r	128	116	5	4	1	1	342 ^r	270 ^r
February	211 ^r	155 ^r	129	117	5	4	1	1	346 ^r	276 ^r
March	216 ^r	157 ^r	143	130	5	4	1	1	365 ^r	292 ^r
April	217 ^r	156 ^r	129	117	10	9	1	1	356 ^r	283 ^r
May	214 ^r	156 ^r	146	133	10	9	1	1	371 ^r	298 ^r
June	227 ^r	167 ^r	126	113	10	9	1	1	363 ^r	289 ^r
July	223 ^r	163 ^r	130	117	10	9	1	1	363 ^r	289 ^r
August	227 ^r	168 ^r	136	123	10	9	1	1	373 ^r	300 ^r
September	224	163	115	103	10	9	1	1	349	275
January–September	1,970	1,430	1,180	1,070	74	65	5	5	3,230	2,570

^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 SEPTEMBER 2012¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	187,000	224,000	136,000	163,000
Independent mill fabricators	103,000	115,000	92,500	103,000
Foundries	8,110	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	482	579	481	577
Total	298,000	349,000	236,000	275,000

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 SEPTEMBER 2012¹

(Metric tons)

	September			January–September ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	19,100	30,800	30,900	19,100	346,000	347,000
Can stock clippings	23,100	22,600	22,200	23,500	211,000	212,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	8,980	35,100	35,200	8,930	336,000	340,000
Casting	2,390	5,670	5,750	2,300	50,300	50,400
Borings and turnings	4,290	11,600	11,700	4,190	106,000	106,000
Dross and skimmings	16,300	56,800	56,800	16,300	494,000	494,000
Total new scrap	74,200	163,000	162,000	74,200	1,540,000	1,550,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,190	28,500	27,200	6,540	240,000	239,000
Used extrusion	7,500	13,100	13,200	7,400	121,000	122,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	31,900	64,300	64,700	31,500	568,000	567,000
Other wrought products	12,200	25,000	23,000	14,300	230,000	226,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,550	7,600	7,740	1,410	71,100	71,100
Total old scrap	58,400	139,000	136,000	61,100	1,230,000	1,230,000
Sweated pig	55	33	33	55	293	293
Total all classes	133,000	301,000	298,000	135,000	2,770,000	2,780,000

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 SEPTEMBER 2012^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	September			January–September ³		
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,480	3,670	3,870	3,280	37,000	36,600
380 and variations	10,500	13,200	13,200	10,500	159,000	159,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,900	4,130	4,130	1,900	38,400	38,400
No. 319 and variations	3,640	5,430	5,460	3,610	52,000	51,900
F-132 alloy and variations	446	397	397	446	3,950	3,950
Al-Zn alloys	99	143	143	99	1,520	1,520
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	104	246	246	104	2,640	2,640
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	170	162	162	170	1,780	1,780
Other ⁴	4,230	6,930	6,000	5,150	66,200	63,100
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,500	42,700	43,000	16,100	382,000	382,000
Total all alloys	41,000	77,000	76,600	41,400	745,000	741,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	8,980	XX	XX	96,300	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,750	XX	XX	17,600	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,180	XX	XX	12,200	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	65,100	XX	XX	619,000	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:		
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
August	93.850	83.359
September	103.250	93.146
January–September	100.838	91.858

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:					
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 ¹	76.80 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	76.05	72.65
May	74.27	76.41	72.91	75.73	73.25
June	69.76	74.02	69.48	71.43	70.14
July	70.81	71.02	66.83	69.74	68.10
August	70.35	70.59	65.37	69.39	66.74
September	77.82	73.87	69.21	72.00	69.63
January–September	75.07	74.94	70.67	73.20	70.77

¹ 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 SEPTEMBER 2012¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September
Argentina	14,500	55,600	(2)	4	--	--	14,500	55,600
Australia	2,600	17,600	2	41	--	40	2,600	17,700
Austria	(2)	8	1,980	18,900	--	2	1,980	18,900
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	236	2,170	236	2,170
Bahrain	3,210	19,800	2,010	17,200	--	14	5,220	37,000
Belgium	19	692	61	1,710	--	192	80	2,590
Brazil	2,590	9,160	1,260	14,800	--	2,840	3,850	26,800
Canada	132,000	1,460,000	18,700	246,000	29,500	264,000	180,000	1,970,000
Chile	--	--	--	49	467	3,450	467	3,500
China	77	1,200	9,070	83,400	--	87	9,150	84,700
Colombia	75	949	148	1,620	213	948	436	3,520
Costa Rica	40	427	23	24	424	2,840	487	3,290
Egypt	--	--	342	2,460	--	--	342	2,460
El Salvador	--	201	--	43	234	2,170	234	2,420
France	58	3,270	239	3,550	(2)	18	297	6,840
Germany	116	463	5,710	57,300	--	158	5,830	57,900
Greece	--	--	913	10,900	--	18	913	10,900
Guatemala	--	219	--	--	1,100	10,100	1,100	10,300
Honduras	--	--	--	--	279	2,410	279	2,410
Hong Kong	--	--	319	3,660	--	--	319	3,660
India	--	2,030	959	11,900	--	6	959	14,000
Indonesia	--	--	3,520	65,700	--	43	3,520	65,800
Italy	1,170	4,780	462	3,960	18	457	1,650	9,200
Japan	3	28	282	3,220	62	937	347	4,180
Korea, Republic of	475	8,960	377	2,800	--	327	852	12,100
Malaysia	--	63	390	3,870	--	--	390	3,930
Mexico	1,080	33,500	2,630	22,500	11,200	97,000	14,900	153,000
New Zealand	991	15,300	(2)	12	--	100	991	15,400
Qatar	7,720	109,000	--	19	--	--	7,720	109,000
Romania	14	249	557	7,570	162	1,060	733	8,880
Russia	22,300	241,000	1,250	11,600	--	--	23,600	253,000
Saudi Arabia	168	312	--	--	2,700	21,200	2,870	21,500
South Africa	710	4,280	4,660	44,600	--	--	5,370	48,900
Sweden	19	98	448	3,620	--	8	467	3,720
Switzerland	(2)	51	455	2,140	--	--	455	2,190
Taiwan	--	4	563	4,600	--	--	563	4,600
Tajikistan	--	13,900	--	--	--	--	--	13,900
United Arab Emirates	20,800	201,000	--	12	203	859	21,000	201,000
United Kingdom	82	542	869	7,800	357	3,460	1,310	11,800
Venezuela	--	41,500	2	426	--	2,480	2	44,400
Other	3,070	13,000	1,330	14,300	2,910	23,500	7,310	50,800
Total	214,000	2,260,000	59,600	673,000	50,000	443,000	323,000	3,370,000

-- 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 SEPTEMBER 2012¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September
Australia	8	273	394	1,930	--	--	402	2,210
Belgium	--	42	516	3,800	--	334	516	4,170
Brazil	7	70	413	7,420	103	2,240	523	9,730
Canada	8,310	74,900	34,500	314,000	7,630	80,500	50,400	469,000
Chile	--	1,430	109	6,680	--	21	109	8,130
China	75	3,300	3,070	29,100	117,000	1,060,000	120,000	1,100,000
Colombia	1	503	112	1,300	--	65	113	1,860
France	488	2,390	1,960	14,900	--	56	2,450	17,300
Germany	429	2,860	851	8,610	38	345	1,320	11,800
Guatemala	--	6	2,180	13,300	16	73	2,190	13,300
Hong Kong	1	124	133	1,430	1,830	23,500	1,960	25,100
India	22	212	107	1,310	4,000	45,400	4,130	46,900
Indonesia	--	114	79	1,850	101	2,860	180	4,830
Ireland	--	34	32	503	--	--	32	537
Israel	1	788	739	5,690	--	18	740	6,500
Italy	--	32	287	2,770	--	20	287	2,820
Japan	177	824	1,370	13,400	793	8,050	2,340	22,300
Jordan	--	--	1,370	7,750	--	--	1,370	7,750
Korea, Republic of	8	294	1,850	15,700	14,700	143,000	16,600	159,000
Kuwait	--	1	1,020	4,920	--	--	1,020	4,920
Malaysia	--	32	162	2,250	169	4,620	331	6,900
Mexico	14,200	178,000	26,700	254,000	10,700	101,000	51,600	533,000
Netherlands	4	37	63	723	--	649	67	1,410
New Zealand	(2)	16	130	2,100	1	4	131	2,120
Norway	1	1	2	105	287	1,130	290	1,240
Pakistan	--	--	9	47	1,610	22,700	1,620	22,800
Panama	--	20	303	3,070	11	24	314	3,120
Romania	33	789	43	419	--	--	76	1,210
Saudi Arabia	3	62	8,380	51,400	--	--	8,380	51,500
Singapore	102	851	445	3,620	--	177	547	4,650
Spain	--	7	71	1,110	23	101	94	1,220
Taiwan	237	2,110	1,490	8,620	6,850	54,600	8,570	65,400
Thailand	--	9	48	898	1,470	5,050	1,510	5,960
Tunisia	17	17	307	1,630	--	--	324	1,650
Turkey	4	23	233	2,150	--	--	237	2,170
United Arab Emirates	--	1	1,390	9,240	23	294	1,420	9,540
United Kingdom	46	770	1,440	14,000	--	389	1,480	15,200
Vietnam	--	--	5	176	523	3,220	528	3,400
Other	71	940	2,250	15,300	189	3,330	2,510	19,500
Total	24,300	272,000	94,500	827,000	168,000	1,570,000	287,000	2,670,000

-- 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.