

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2006

Domestic primary aluminum production in March was 197,505 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,371 t, essentially equal to that of the previous month, but 8% below the rate for March 2005. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased slightly to \$1.148 per pound in March from \$1.169 in February, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) increased during March. The price began the month at 80–81 cents per pound. On March 7, the price range increased to 81–83 cents per pound; on March 14, it increased to 84–86 cents per pound;

and on March 21, the price range increased to 88–90 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

### Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum increased significantly in April to \$1.237 per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs also increased during April. On April 11, the price range increased to 89–91 cents per pound; on April 18, it increased to 91–92 cents per pound; and on April 25, the price range increased to 94–96 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

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		
2005 <sup>p</sup>	2,481	1,900	1,120	3,020	3,660	1,190	4,850	10,400	1,430
2005:									
March	214	171	96	267	262	105	367	847	1,480
April	211	162	95	257	372	104	476	943	1,500
May	214	159	98	257	372	104	476	947	1,520
June	206	153	96	249	324	107	431	886	1,500
July	210	170	96	267	324	104	428	904	1,550
August	208	167	96	262	264	110	374	845	1,510
September	199	157	91	248	282	97	379	827	1,590
October	207	151	95	246	298	94	393	846	1,550
November	204	151	84	236	240	91	330	770	1,440
December	208	143	82	225	299	89	388	821	1,430
January-March	614	490	282	773	885	292	1,180	2,560	1,480
2006:									
January	197	159	87	246	348	97	445	888	1,490
February	179	146	85	231	247	87	333	743	1,680
March	198	153	92	245	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-March	573	458	264	722	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. 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		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2005 <sup>P</sup>	1,740	1,260	812	722	1,010	943	98	87	6	6	3,660	3,020
2005:												
March	150	108	67	60	97	91	8	7	1	1	323	267
April	146	106	66	59	90	84	8	7	1	1	311	257
May	151	109	69	61	85	80	8	7	1	1	313	257
June	138	103	67	60	84	79	9	8	1	1	299	249
July	141	102	92	83	79	74	8	7	1	1	321	267
August	151	109	77	69	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	319	262
September	148	107	65	58	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	248
October	154	112	55	49	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	246
November	138	101	62	55	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	285	236
December	129	93	63	56	74	69	8	7	(2)	(2)	274	225
January-March	443	320	194	173	274	257	25	22	1	1	937	773
2006:												
January	138	101	66	59	84	79	8	7	(2)	(2)	297	246
February	133	97	64	56	75	70	8	7	(2)	(2)	280	231
March	144	105	66	58	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	298	245
January-March	415	302	195	173	239	224	24	21	1	1	875	722

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary.

<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.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MARCH 2006<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	120,000	144,000	87,400	105,000
Integrated aluminum companies	65,600	65,600	58,100	58,100
Independent mill fabricators	66,600	79,900	62,400	74,800
Foundries	6,590	7,910	5,790	6,950
Other consumers	355	426	355	426
Total	259,000	298,000	214,000	245,000

<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 MARCH 2006<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	26,000 <sup>r</sup>	61,400	61,200	26,200	190,000	189,000
Can stock clippings	972	19,300	19,500	776	56,500	57,800
Other wrought sheet/clippings	7,730 <sup>r</sup>	26,200	26,300	7,640	77,000	77,000
Casting	1,260	7,400	7,450	1,210	20,700	21,200
Borings and turnings	7,410	11,600	11,700	7,320	34,000	34,700
Dross and skimmings	4,060	36,900	36,900	4,060	106,000	106,000
<b>Total new scrap</b>	<b>47,400<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>163,000</b>	<b>163,000</b>	<b>47,200</b>	<b>484,000</b>	<b>486,000</b>
<b>Old scrap:</b>						
Used castings	5,190	16,600	16,900	4,900	45,800	46,700
Used extrusion	137	295	295	137	885	885
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,320	59,600	59,200	1,650	172,000	171,000
Other wrought products	3,930 <sup>r</sup>	5,900	5,900	3,930	18,900	18,900
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,330	13,200	13,200	3,350	35,200	35,700
<b>Total old scrap</b>	<b>13,900<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>95,600</b>	<b>95,500</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>273,000</b>	<b>273,000</b>
<b>Sweated pig</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>2200</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b>Total all classes</b>	<b>61,600<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>259,000</b>	<b>259,000</b>	<b>61,400</b>	<b>759,000</b>	<b>762,000</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 2006<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.)	5,250	1,170	1,310	5,110	3,490	3,830
380 and variations	2,290	17,100	17,200	2,190	45,800	47,500
<b>Sand and permanent mold:</b>						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,020	1,870	1,850	1,050	5,570	5,540
No. 319 and variations	3,250	7,320	6,880	3,690	19,200	18,100
F-132 alloy and variations	682	1,710	1,710	682	5,160	5,380
Al-Zn alloys	119	174	182	111	517	503
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	46	46	39	137	137
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	45	325	325	45	976	976
Other <sup>4</sup>	6,410	6,010	5,370	7,050	17,900	16,400
<b>Wrought alloys:</b>						
Extrusion billets	9,210 <sup>r</sup>	19,000	19,000	9,230	61,200	61,300
Total all alloys	28,300 <sup>r</sup>	54,700	53,800	29,200	160,000	160,000
<b>Less:</b>						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	8,900	XX	XX	32,500	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,720	XX	XX	8,390	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,640	XX	XX	2,820	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>5</sup>	XX	40,400	XX	XX	116,000	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 revised data from previous months.

<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  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2006<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	5,350	13,100	--	--	--	--	5,350	13,100
Australia	5,180	11,100	16	21	156	248	5,350	11,400
Bahrain	1,420	6,780	1,210	2,520	--	--	2,630	9,300
Belgium	--	--	536	1,190	--	--	536	1,190
Brazil	3,130	17,900	2,260	4,760	--	--	5,390	22,700
Canada	153,000	329,000	41,700	87,200	27,000	55,100	222,000	472,000
China	2,320	9,110	8,490	18,600	--	--	10,800	27,700
France	53	61	474	931	--	--	528	993
Germany	2,500	2,710	9,150	17,200	30	59	11,700	20,000
Hungary	--	--	287	379	--	--	287	379
Italy	--	64	266	499	--	--	266	563
Japan	35	52	1,200	3,150	46	82	1,280	3,280
Korea, Republic of	17	53	157	354	(2)	(2)	173	406
Mexico	118	118	1,370	2,880	10,600	19,800	12,100	22,800
Netherlands	54	187	121	303	92	92	266	581
Norway	--	--	(2)	39	--	--	(2)	39
Russia	28,800	95,400	2,230	4,730	--	203	31,100	100,000
South Africa	10,200	17,200	3,120	8,630	--	--	13,300	25,800
Spain	10	24	68	134	--	--	78	159
Sweden	--	--	386	1,050	--	--	386	1,050
Switzerland	--	218	324	887	--	--	324	1,110
Tajikistan	25,700	25,700	--	--	--	--	25,700	25,700
United Arab Emirates	7,250	20,000	--	--	--	--	7,250	20,000
United Kingdom	285	10,700	146	489	244	522	675	11,700
Venezuela	282	30,200	1,900	4,090	239	398	2,420	34,700
Other	982	4,760	11,400	24,100	2,730	6,330	15,100	35,200
Total	247,000	595,000	86,800	184,000	41,100	82,800	375,000	862,000

-- 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 2006<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	32	80	200	--	--	83	232
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
Belgium	177	266	587	1,390	--	--	765	1,650
Brazil	2	35	465	705	--	49	467	790
Canada	11,800	23,700	36,400	77,600	9,040	19,700	57,300	121,000
China	425	1,030	1,430	3,880	59,900	118,000	61,700	122,000
Czech Republic	--	--	3	8	--	--	3	8
Dominican Republic	7	7	19	62	--	--	26	69
France	18	18	967	2,130	--	--	985	2,150
Germany	5	22	743	1,690	20	69	768	1,780
Hong Kong	68	154	479	1,370	1,870	2,970	2,410	4,500
India	22	51	42	77	502	1,070	566	1,190
Israel	126	169	241	522	--	--	367	691
Italy	1	2	336	640	--	--	337	642
Japan	247	523	1,430	2,670	4,510	8,570	6,190	11,800
Korea, Republic of	88	181	993	1,940	10,200	21,500	11,200	23,600
Malaysia	1	1	76	164	521	786	598	951
Mexico	12,500	38,600	21,700	43,400	6,450	13,300	40,600	95,300
Netherlands	29	32	36	101	--	40	65	173
Russia	--	--	--	22	--	--	--	22
Saudi Arabia	--	--	1,510	3,100	(2)	(2)	1,510	3,110
Singapore	5	16	129	297	--	--	134	313
Spain	5	5	65	167	--	--	70	171
Sweden	--	--	10	18	--	--	10	18
Taiwan	--	12	724	1,390	3,960	7,180	4,680	8,590
Thailand	47	154	850	1,590	484	856	1,380	2,600
United Kingdom	10	51	2,150	3,530	61	97	2,220	3,680
Venezuela	13	13	44	125	--	(2)	57	138
Other	403	897	3,330	6,730	3,570	7,430	7,300	15,100
Total	26,000	66,000	74,800	156,000	101,000	201,000	202,000	423,000

-- 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.