

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2004

Domestic primary aluminum production in April was 208,824 metric tons (t), according to data reported to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,961 t, slightly lower than that of the previous month and 7% below the rate for April 2003. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 82.06 cents per pound in March to 84.60 cents per pound in April, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) fluctuated during April. The buying price range began the month at 60–61 cents per pound. On April 2, the buying price range increased to 61–63 cents per pound; on April 6, it increased to 62–64 cents per pound; and on April 19, the price range increased again to 64–65 cents per pound. On April 22, the price range returned to 62–64 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

2003 UBC Recycling Rate

According to data jointly released by the Aluminum Association Inc., the Can Manufacturers Institute, and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc., 49.9 billion aluminum beverage cans were recycled in the United States in 2003. The recycling rate was 50% (Aluminum Association Inc., 2004).

U.S. Trade through March

Total U.S. imports for consumption of aluminum for the first quarter of 2004 decreased 3% compared with the total for the same period in 2003. A large increase in scrap imports (28%)

and a slight increase in imports of semifabricated materials (2%) were more than offset by an 8% decrease in imports of crude metal and alloys. Canada and Russia continued to be the major suppliers of imported aluminum, accounting for more than three-fourths of the total imports in the first quarter of 2004.

Total U.S. exports for the first quarter of 2004 increased 10% compared with those for the same period in 2003. Exports, which increased in all three categories shown in table 7, were led by a 45% increase in exports of crude metal and alloys.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased sharply in May to 80.38 cents per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs fluctuated during May. On May 3, the price decreased sharply to 58–60 cents per pound. On May 6, the price range recovered slightly to 59–61 cents per pound before decreasing to 56–58 cents per pound on May 11. The price range slipped again on May 18 to 55.5–57 cents per pound before beginning an upward climb on May 21 to 56–58 cents per pound and on May 25, to 57–59 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

Reference Cited

Aluminum Association Inc., 2004, Aluminum beverage can is most recycled consumer beverage package: Washington, DC, Aluminum Association Inc., press release, May 21, 4 p.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2003 ^p	2,703	1,770	1,160	2,930	2,870	822	3,690	9,320	1,400
2003:									
April	225	143	99	242	202	69	272	739	1,470
May	228	150	106	256	265	69	335	819	1,530
June	221	139	102	240	261	66	327	789	1,480
July	226	140	97	236	233	74	307	770	1,480
August	225	153	100	253	194	67	261	739	1,470
September	217	152	98	249	215	70	284	751	1,400
October	224	154	105	259	210	72	281	765	1,380
November	215	147	99	246	233	67	301	761	1,390
December	221	139	86	226	243	64	306	754	1,400
January-April	925	591	372	963	1,010	273	1,290	3,180	1,470
2004:									
January	216	151 ^r	91 ^r	242 ^r	211	64	274	733	1,430
February	202	155 ^r	83 ^r	238	288	69	356	796 ^r	1,440 ^r
March	217	159 ^r	97 ^r	256	248	76	324	797	1,420
April	209	150	99	249	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-April	844	615	370	985	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.

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		Integrated aluminum companies		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	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
	2003 ^p	1,660	1,230	859	741	897	836	131	118	6	6	3,550
2003:												
April	137	102	75	65	71	66	10	9	1	1	294	242
May	143	106	82	71	74	68	11	10	1	1	311	256
June	143	106	74	64	65	60	11	10	1	1	293	240
July	122	89	75	64	78	73	11	10	(2)	(2)	286	236
August	137	101	71	62	85	79	12	11	(2)	(2)	306	253
September	135	100	70	60	84	79	12	10	(2)	(2)	302	249
October	145	107	80	70	76	71	12	11	(2)	(2)	314	259
November	138	102	75	64	75	70	11	10	(2)	(2)	299	246
December	126	93	61	52	76	71	10	9	(2)	(2)	274	226
January-April	571	424	270	233	284	266	43	38	2	2	1,170	963
2004:												
January	131 ^r	97	57 ^r	51	90 ^r	84 ^r	11	10	(2)	(2)	290 ^r	242 ^r
February	132 ^r	98	50 ^r	45	90	85 ^r	11	10	1	1	284 ^r	238
March	141	103	64	57	92	86	11	10	(2)	(2)	308	256
April	136	100	65	57	90	84	9	8	(2)	(2)	299	249
January-April	540	398	236	210	362	339	42	38	1	1	1,180	985

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN APRIL 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	113,000	136,000	83,400
Integrated aluminum companies	64,600	64,600	57,300	57,300
Independent mill fabricators	74,700	89,700	69,600	83,500
Foundries	7,310	8,770	6,480	7,780
Other consumers	107	128	107	128
Total	260,000	299,000	217,000	249,000

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 APRIL 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	April				January-April ²	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	20,800 ^r	78,100	74,900	24,000	317,000	312,000
Can stock clippings	3,200	25,200	25,300	3,130	102,000	101,000
Other clippings	3,570 ^r	7,430	7,430	3,570	30,200	30,700
Borings and turnings	4,930 ^r	18,300	18,300	4,930	72,200	72,000
Dross and skimmings	4,800 ^r	31,600	31,600	4,800	126,000	126,000
Total new scrap	37,300 ^r	161,000	158,000	40,400	648,000	642,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	10,500 ^r	29,900	29,600	10,700	116,000	116,000
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,590 ^r	1,620	1,430	1,780	6,890	6,650
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	5,830	71,100	63,100	13,800	227,000	226,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,220 ^r	7,280	7,280	3,220	29,300	29,300
Total old scrap	21,100 ^r	110,000	101,000	29,500	379,000	378,000
Sweated pig	64 ^r	749	749	64	2,840	2,840
Total all classes	58,500 ^r	271,000	260,000	70,000	1,030,000	1,020,000

^rRevised.

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

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2004^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	April				January-April ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,230 ^r	1,390	1,630	3,000	5,990	6,630
380 and variations	6,590 ^r	15,700	15,700	6,590	65,600	65,900
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,660 ^r	4,030	4,030	2,660	16,200	16,200
No. 319 and variations	5,390 ^r	9,310	9,310	5,390	37,300	37,400
F-132 alloy and variations	1,550 ^r	2,570	2,720	1,400	10,600	10,700
Al-Zn alloys	224 ^r	140	140	224	558	558
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39 ^r	3	3	39	12	12
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	50 ^r	381	381	50	1,520	1,520
Other ⁴	3,780 ^r	5,850	5,250	4,390	25,600	25,800
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,200 ^r	20,800	20,800	10,200	81,100	80,500
Total all alloys	33,700 ^r	60,200	60,000	34,000	244,000	245,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	10,100	XX	XX	39,300	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,070	XX	XX	12,800	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	637	XX	XX	4,100	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	46,300	XX	XX	188,000	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

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

³Includes revised data from previous months.

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
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2004¹

(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	4,090	14,300	1	130	--	103	4,090	14,500
Australia	3,860	11,100	(2)	26	--	--	3,860	11,100
Bahrain	201	201	800	3,180	--	--	1,000	3,380
Belgium	--	20	1,290	3,120	--	--	1,290	3,140
Brazil	9,930	26,500	2,150	4,950	--	--	12,100	31,500
Canada	163,000	448,000	42,500	114,000	30,600	80,000	236,000	642,000
China	187	2,320	3,500	9,790	--	77	3,690	12,200
France	23	163	568	1,490	--	33	591	1,680
Germany	69	3,440	6,690	17,400	24	45	6,780	20,900
Hungary	--	--	121	503	--	--	121	503
Italy	--	--	210	572	--	--	210	572
Japan	18	77	695	2,260	44	63	757	2,400
Korea, Republic of	--	7	190	746	--	29	190	782
Mexico	--	1,240	1,830	4,990	7,210	24,600	9,040	30,800
Netherlands	43	114	223	478	132	132	398	725
Norway	145	413	13	34	--	--	158	447
Russia	50,400	176,000	3,040	8,770	1,530	3,360	54,900	188,000
South Africa	--	6,920	3,340	9,660	--	--	3,340	16,600
Spain	20	33	89	250	--	--	109	284
Sweden	--	--	277	682	--	43	277	726
Switzerland	--	--	770	998	--	--	770	998
United Arab Emirates	2,870	15,200	--	--	49	49	2,920	15,300
United Kingdom	24	197	440	786	516	1,430	980	2,410
Venezuela	9,480	29,300	643	4,750	2,250	5,760	12,400	39,800
Other	3,580	10,800	6,870	19,000	5,450	12,700	15,900	42,500
Total	248,000	746,000	76,200	209,000	47,800	128,000	372,000	1,080,000

-- Zero.

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

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2004¹

(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	8	16	154	475	--	4	162	495
Belgium	37	213	829	1,610	20	20	886	1,840
Brazil	--	2	1,680	4,250	--	(2)	1,680	4,260
Canada	11,600	31,900	48,000	130,000	15,000	35,100	74,600	197,000
China	6	26	2,710	7,840	22,400	67,400	25,200	75,200
Czech Republic	--	--	8	58	--	--	8	58
Dominican Republic	4	4	63	113	--	--	67	117
France	4	19	563	1,760	20	20	586	1,800
Germany	5	115	314	1,080	24	146	343	1,340
Hong Kong	6	34	281	611	1,850	5,670	2,130	6,320
India	1	92	21	70	193	653	216	815
Israel	153	202	240	583	--	2	394	787
Italy	11	14	213	477	--	--	223	491
Japan	802	1,410	663	1,600	1,570	4,580	3,030	7,590
Korea, Republic of	24	81	2,220	5,460	5,360	12,000	7,600	17,500
Malaysia	7	7	127	357	--	--	135	364
Mexico	11,200	27,900	12,400	32,700	1,520	9,190	25,200	69,800
Netherlands	16	49	55	177	--	29	71	254
Russia	--	(2)	--	15	--	--	--	15
Saudi Arabia	16	16	804	3,850	--	--	821	3,870
Singapore	22	60	108	377	28	47	157	485
Spain	19	46	72	167	18	54	108	268
Sweden	--	--	23	49	--	--	23	49
Taiwan	137	177	536	1,560	3,390	7,730	4,060	9,470
Thailand	31	34	388	823	130	226	549	1,080
Ukraine	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
United Kingdom	62	335	930	2,350	17	62	1,010	2,750
Venezuela	14	14	170	631	--	--	184	644
Other	129	496	1,740	4,960	1,270	3,450	3,140	8,910
Total	24,300	63,200	75,300	204,000	52,900	146,000	152,000	414,000

-- Zero.

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

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.