

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JULY 2006

Domestic primary aluminum production in July was 192,139 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,198 t, about 2 % lower than that of the previous month and 9% below the rate for July 2005. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased slightly in July to \$1.196 per pound from \$1.193 per pound in June, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) fluctuated during July. The price range began the month at 80–82 cents per pound. On July 11, the buying price range increased to 83–85 cents per pound and on July 19, it increased again to 85–87 cents per pound. On July 25, the price range decreased to 82–84 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum (table 6) for the first 6 months of 2006 decreased 3% compared with those for the same period in 2005. Imports of metal and alloys decreased 5% and imports of semifabricated materials decreased slightly, whereas imports of scrap increased 5% compared with those for the same period in 2005. Canada remained the leading shipper of materials to the United States, supplying 53% of total U.S.

imports in the first 6 months of the year, followed by Russia with 15%.

Total aluminum exports for the first half of 2006 increased 32% compared with those for the first 6 months of 2005. Exports were higher in all three categories detailed in table 7 and were led by a 56% increase in exports of aluminum scrap. Exports of metal and alloys increased 19%, and exports of semifabricated material increased 11% compared with those for the same period in 2005. China, Canada, and Mexico, in descending order of shipments, were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for 80% of total U.S. exports in the first 6 months of 2005.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased in August to \$1.170 per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs fluctuated during August. On August 15, the buying price range increased to 83–85 cents per pound. On August 22, the price range decreased to 81–83 cents per pound and on August 29, it decreased again to 80–82 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

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		
2005	2,481	1,930 ^r	1,060 ^r	2,990 ^r	3,660	1,190	4,850	10,300 ^r	1,430
2005:									
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	161	95	256	298	94	393	856	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-July	1,454	1,140	668	1,800	2,280	710	2,990	6,250	1,500
2006:									
January	197	168 ^r	89 ^r	257 ^r	348	97	445	898 ^r	1,490
February	179	161 ^r	84 ^r	245 ^r	247	87	333	757	1,680
March	198	168 ^r	93 ^r	261 ^r	289	104	393	852 ^r	1,480
April	190	160 ^r	90	251 ^r	353	103	456	897 ^r	1,480
May	197	162 ^r	91 ^r	252 ^r	318	106	424	873 ^r	1,430
June	189	165 ^r	93 ^r	259 ^r	298	109	407	854	1,430
July	192	166	92	257	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-July	1,342	1,150	632	1,780	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^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
	2005 ^r	1,700	1,310	815	725	926	867	90	80	10	9	3,540
2005:												
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	66	59	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	312	256
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-July	1,020	740	489	435	612	574	58	51	(2)	(2)	2,180	1,800
2006:												
January	135 ^r	100 ^r	76	68	87 ^r	81 ^r	8	7	(2)	(2)	306 ^r	257 ^r
February	131 ^r	96 ^r	78	70	76 ^r	71 ^r	8	7	(2)	(2)	294	245 ^r
March	143 ^r	104 ^r	81 ^r	73 ^r	82 ^r	77 ^r	8	7	(2)	(2)	314 ^r	261 ^r
April	138 ^r	100 ^r	80 ^r	72 ^r	77 ^r	72 ^r	8	7	(2)	(2)	303 ^r	251 ^r
May	141 ^r	103 ^r	65	58	90 ^r	84 ^r	8	7	(2)	(2)	305 ^r	252 ^r
June	141 ^r	103 ^r	76	68	86 ^r	81 ^r	8	7	(2)	(2)	312 ^r	259 ^r
July	137	100	76	68	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	309	257
January-July	966	706	532	477	586	548	56	49	3	3	2,140	1,780

^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 JULY 2006¹

(Metric tons)

	Calculated			
	Consumption		metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	114,000	137,000	83,400	100,000
Integrated aluminum companies	75,500	75,500	67,600	67,600
Independent mill fabricators	73,300	87,900	68,600	82,300
Foundries	6,510	7,820	5,720	6,860
Other consumers	536	643	536	643
Total	270,000	309,000	226,000	257,000

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 JULY 2006¹

(Metric tons)

	July			January-July ²		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	21,200 ^r	75,100	79,300	17,100	540,000	542,000
Can stock clippings	967 ^r	19,300	19,200	1,040	138,000	139,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	4,250 ^r	22,800	23,000	4,110	153,000	154,000
Casting	1,370 ^r	7,400	7,650	1,120	53,100	54,000
Borings and turnings	6,490 ^r	10,700	10,400	6,810	79,500	80,000
Dross and skimmings	3,570 ^r	34,800	34,700	3,590	245,000	245,000
Total new scrap	37,900	170,000	174,000	33,700	1,210,000	1,210,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,000 ^r	14,800	14,200	5,570	110,000	111,000
Used extrusion	397 ^r	1,340	1,340	397	8,410	8,410
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,510 ^r	60,000	60,200	1,370	414,000	413,000
Other wrought products	2,340 ^r	5,290	5,290	2,340	38,200	38,200
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,840 ^r	12,400	14,100	4,160	84,100	83,600
Total old scrap	15,100^r	93,800	95,100	13,800	655,000	654,000
Sweated pig	198	790	790	198	5,620	5,620
Total all classes	53,200^r	265,000	270,000	47,800	1,870,000	1,870,000

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 2006^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	July				January-July ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	5,300 ^r	1,420	1,420	5,300	9,510	9,680
380 and variations	2,260 ^r	13,700	13,500	2,520	106,000	107,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,100 ^r	1,690	1,670	1,120	12,000	11,900
No. 319 and variations	3,810 ^r	3,860	3,880	3,790	41,400	40,100
F-132 alloy and variations	680 ^r	1,440	1,430	697	12,100	12,300
Al-Zn alloys	297 ^r	199	178	317	1,300	1,270
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	41 ^r	24	24	41	169	169
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283 ^r	411	411	283	2,880	2,880
Other ⁴	5,660 ^r	8,430	8,430	5,660	56,500	56,200
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,100 ^r	19,400	19,000	10,500	140,000	139,000
Total all alloys	29,600 ^r	50,600	50,000	30,200	382,000	381,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,700	XX	XX	73,100	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,770	XX	XX	16,900	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,260	XX	XX	6,700	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	37,900	XX	XX	285,000	XX

¹Revised. XX Not applicable.

²Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

³Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

⁴Includes revised data from previous months.

⁵Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁶No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2006¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January- June	June	January- June	June	January- June	June	January- June
Argentina	2,260	26,200	40	72	--	--	2,300	26,300
Australia	3,750	25,400	2	49	--	303	3,760	25,800
Bahrain	7,630	42,700	1,320	7,780	--	--	8,950	50,500
Belgium	27	98	580	3,230	39	122	647	3,450
Brazil	6,550	72,900	2,270	12,700	180	535	9,000	86,100
Canada	163,000	1,010,000	45,900	270,000	30,600	169,000	240,000	1,450,000
China	1,840	20,200	17,100	74,700	--	2	19,000	94,900
France	7	186	479	2,660	--	18	486	2,860
Germany	113	3,380	10,700	60,800	35	178	10,800	64,300
Hungary	--	--	328	1,450	--	--	328	1,450
Italy	(2)	157	162	1,410	--	--	162	1,570
Japan	35	208	1,470	9,380	105	438	1,610	10,000
Korea, Republic of	8	81	347	1,530	19	136	374	1,740
Mexico	58	455	2,070	10,500	11,700	63,900	13,900	74,800
Netherlands	55	441	125	948	11	102	190	1,490
Norway	53	141	25	137	--	--	77	278
Russia	84,700	375,000	3,740	21,100	215	3,170	88,600	399,000
South Africa	4,810	53,100	4,880	27,700	--	--	9,690	80,800
Spain	--	122	132	655	--	--	132	777
Sweden	--	1,640	473	2,620	--	31	473	4,290
Switzerland	--	1,100	343	2,600	--	--	343	3,700
Tajikistan	--	25,700	--	--	--	--	--	25,700
United Arab Emirates	5,780	53,700	--	3	53	53	5,830	53,700
United Kingdom	121	29,900	776	3,250	235	1,280	1,130	34,400
Venezuela	15,500	82,800	2,530	9,560	287	1,400	18,300	93,800
Other	1,590	23,300	12,700	80,200	4,350	22,100	18,600	126,000
Total	298,000	1,850,000	109,000	605,000	47,800	263,000	455,000	2,720,000

-- 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 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2006¹

(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
Australia	47	168	123	820	--	42	170	1,030
Belgium	24	758	523	3,900	25	309	572	4,970
Brazil	9	75	353	2,540	--	133	362	2,740
Canada	9,060	68,900	42,700	246,000	13,800	77,300	65,600	392,000
China	35	1,600	3,360	17,300	64,900	477,000	68,300	496,000
Czech Republic	--	(2)	6	81	--	--	6	82
Dominican Republic	13	70	37	154	--	33	51	257
France	34	62	1,080	7,150	--	4	1,110	7,220
Germany	101	225	819	5,770	11	107	932	6,100
Hong Kong	1	1,040	812	4,620	1,970	12,400	2,780	18,100
India	12	172	18	272	736	4,060	766	4,510
Israel	139	699	426	2,130	--	--	565	2,830
Italy	373	388	347	2,890	--	--	721	3,280
Japan	727	5,650	1,770	11,600	3,000	24,300	5,490	41,500
Korea, Republic of	112	613	916	7,130	9,830	69,600	10,900	77,400
Malaysia	4	16	456	1,430	110	1,670	570	3,120
Mexico	13,700	103,000	23,200	136,000	10,200	55,700	47,100	296,000
Netherlands	14	77	54	360	20	65	88	501
Russia	--	165	69	109	--	--	69	274
Saudi Arabia	2	2	3,620	16,500	--	(2)	3,620	16,500
Singapore	20	53	147	909	--	--	166	962
Spain	5	26	43	663	--	7	47	695
Sweden	(2)	1	10	68	--	--	11	68
Taiwan	9	216	964	5,530	5,470	33,700	6,440	39,400
Thailand	47	1,180	870	4,400	517	7,860	1,430	13,400
Ukraine	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
United Kingdom	43	165	1,350	9,720	7	176	1,400	10,100
Venezuela	--	21	125	708	--	1	125	731
Other	790	3,930	3,920	21,800	1,800	23,600	6,510	49,400
Total	25,300	190,000	88,100	511,000	112,000	788,000	226,000	1,490,000

-- 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.