

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2009

Domestic primary aluminum production in August was 133,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 4,290 t, slightly lower than that of the previous month and 40% lower than that of August 2008.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in August 2009 was 277,000 t, 6% higher than the total of the previous month and slightly higher than the total in August 2008. Of this, 174,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 12% higher than the amount in the previous month and slightly higher than that of August 2008. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in August 2009 totaled 103,000 t, which was 3% lower than that in July 2009 and 5% higher than the amount in August 2008.

In August, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$0.921 per pound from \$0.797 per pound in July; then in September it fell to \$0.883 per pound.

Update

Noranda Aluminum Corp. (Franklin, TN) announced it would restart a potline in October 2009 at its 250,000-metric-tons-per-year (t/yr) smelter in New Madrid, MO. The potline had been idled as a result of storm in January that cut power to the smelter. (See Aluminum in March 2009.) The restart would increase production of the smelter to full capacity (Noranda Aluminum Corp., 2009).

Reference Cited

Noranda Aluminum Corp., 2009, Noranda to increase production at New Madrid aluminum smelter: Franklin, TN, Noranda Aluminum Corp. news release, September 30, 1 p.

Used beverage can prices, cents per pound¹

August 7	62-64
August 14	63-65
August 21	60-62
August 28	57-59
September 4	57-59
September 11	57-59
September 18	59-61
September 25	56-58

¹Source: American Metal Market.

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		
2008 ^p	2,658	2,020	1,190	3,210	2,790	914	3,710	9,580	1,400
2008:									
August	222	173	98	272	204	77	281	775	1,330
September	214	166	96	262	229	78	307	784	1,290
October	217	168	99	268	249	75	324	808	1,270
November	202	142	80	221	219	69	289	712	1,260
December	204	138	89	227	233	65	297	729	1,220
January-August	1,821	1,410	827	2,230	1,860	626	2,490	6,550	XX
2009:									
January	193	149	102	251	270	64	334	777	1,210
February	149	145	95	240	204	39	244	633	1,150
March	154	154	98	252	333	54	387	794	1,020
April	145	144	96	240	233	55	288	673	952
May	147	149	98	247	292	68	361	755	997
June	132	156	108 ^r	264 ^r	200	57	256	651	947
July	135	155	106	261	299	70	369	766	978
August	133	174	103	277	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-August	1,188	1,230	807	2,030	NA	NA	NA	NA	XX

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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 ²		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
	2008 ^P	1,600	1,240	2,130	1,880	93	81	9	8	3,830
2008:										
August	133	103	182	162	7	7	(3)	(3)	323	272
September	130	100	175	155	7	7	(3)	(3)	313	262
October	131	101	180	160	7	7	(3)	(3)	319	268
November	126	97	134	117	7	7	(3)	(3)	268	221
December	122	92	148	128	7	7	(3)	(3)	278	227
January-August	1,090	848	1,490	1,330	63	55	6	5	2,660	2,230
2009:										
January	124	94	174	150	7	7	(3)	(3)	306	251
February	123	93	161	139	7	7	(3)	(3)	293	240
March	125	95	174	150	7	7	(3)	(3)	307	252
April	116	90	165	142	7	7	(3)	(3)	289	240
May	115	89	174	151	7	7	(3)	(3)	297	247
June	115	89	192 ^r	167 ^r	7	7	(3)	(3)	316 ^r	264 ^r
July	115	89	189 ^r	165 ^r	7	7	(3)	(3)	313 ^r	261
August	123	98	197	172	7	7	(3)	(3)	328	277
January-August	956	738	1,430	1,240	60	52	7	6	2,450	2,030

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."

³Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN AUGUST 2009¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	103,000	123,000	81,800
Independent mill fabricators ²	176,000	197,000	154,000	172,000
Foundries	6,240	7,490	5,450	6,540
Other consumers	693	831	612	735
Total	286,000	328,000	242,000	277,000

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

²Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN AUGUST 2009¹

(Metric tons)

	August			January-August ²		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	31,900	76,700	78,200	30,400	586,000	580,000
Can stock clippings	4,440	26,200	26,000	4,620	161,000	161,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,090	22,300	22,300	5,030	151,000	151,000
Casting	1,060	9,940	9,940	1,060	44,800	44,800
Borings and turnings	2,870	9,900	9,900	2,870	73,100	72,800
Dross and skimmings	6,200	32,900	32,900	6,200	287,000	287,000
Total new scrap	51,500	178,000	179,000	50,100	1,300,000	1,300,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	6,750 ^r	16,200	17,900	5,090	135,000	140,000
Used extrusion	2,760	5,490	5,490	2,760	52,300	52,300
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	8,830	57,600	58,100	8,240	447,000	445,000
Other wrought products	4,680	20,800	20,800	4,680	165,000	165,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,130	3,970	3,970	1,130	30,500	30,600
Total old scrap	24,200 ^r	104,000	106,000	21,900	830,000	833,000
Sweated pig	96	151	151	96	1,210	1,210
Total all classes	75,800 ^r	282,000	286,000	72,200	2,130,000	2,130,000

^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 2009^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	August			January-August ³		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,730	892	892	1,730	9,200	8,880
380 and variations	1,890	5,020	5,020	1,890	40,200	40,200
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,490	1,300	1,300	1,490	10,400	10,400
No. 319 and variations	1,710	2,810	2,810	1,710	22,600	22,500
F-132 alloy and variations	341	404	404	341	3,230	3,230
Al-Zn alloys	209	136	136	209	1,090	1,090
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	141	1,570	1,570	141	12,500	12,500
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	11	43	43	11	347	347
Other ³	9,900	29,900	29,900	9,900	238,000	236,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,800	53,300	53,300	18,800	429,000	429,000
Total all alloys	36,200	95,400	95,400	36,200	766,000	764,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	17,000	XX	XX	143,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	811	XX	XX	6,710	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	570	XX	XX	4,720	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	76,900	XX	XX	612,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

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

³Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁴No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JULY 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	July	January-	July	January-	July	January-	July	January-
		July		July		July		July
Argentina	20,900	97,000	1	2	--	--	20,900	97,000
Australia	50	7,040	(2)	40	--	--	51	7,080
Bahrain	--	1,690	593	6,980	--	--	593	8,670
Belgium	--	133	112	1,390	--	7	112	1,530
Brazil	12,900	80,400	1,510	6,080	--	--	14,400	86,500
Canada	183,000	1,190,000	24,400	145,000	25,600	152,000	233,000	1,490,000
China	27	1,210	23,800	117,000	--	4	23,800	118,000
France	262	1,280	208	1,370	--	17	470	2,660
Germany	12	194	4,170	34,700	53	185	4,230	35,100
Hungary	--	--	1	30	--	--	1	30
Italy	(2)	(2)	308	2,700	9	57	317	2,760
Japan	29	210	780	5,830	20	135	829	6,170
Korea, Republic of	--	2,260	63	789	34	105	97	3,160
Mexico	1,450	9,850	1,270	7,080	9,170	53,700	11,900	70,700
Netherlands	19	96	98	855	9	1,090	126	2,040
Norway	--	49	1	13	--	--	1	62
Russia	64,600	291,000	1,020	10,200	120	750	65,800	302,000
South Africa	--	49,000	4,200	17,300	--	27	4,200	66,300
Spain	--	52	6	60	--	--	6	111
Sweden	--	1,050	73	419	--	--	73	1,470
Switzerland	--	4	248	2,160	--	--	248	2,170
Tajikistan	--	6,590	--	--	--	--	--	6,590
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Arab Emirates	6,590	26,800	--	--	--	16	6,590	26,800
United Kingdom	18	209	405	2,730	652	4,540	1,080	7,470
Venezuela	8,670	46,400	329	1,060	468	1,100	9,470	48,600
Other	626	14,700	6,590	44,300	1,920	9,540	9,130	68,500
Total	299,000	1,830,000	70,100	407,000	38,100	224,000	407,000	2,460,000

-- 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 JULY 2009¹

(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
Australia	49	132	91	809	--	41	140	982
Belgium	--	46	38	428	--	--	38	474
Brazil	11	58	563	6,820	902	2,200	1,480	9,080
Canada	4,990	34,300	25,400	169,000	8,230	61,900	38,700	265,000
China	3,010	19,900	2,140	17,000	92,100	543,000	97,300	580,000
Czech Republic	--	--	6	69	--	--	6	69
Dominican Republic	--	118	23	246	--	--	23	364
France	31	434	641	5,490	--	--	671	5,920
Germany	230	2,840	706	5,120	39	60	976	8,010
Hong Kong	--	1,620	1,200	4,820	4,740	45,300	5,940	51,700
India	5	104	137	608	2,390	19,500	2,530	20,200
Israel	1	59	309	2,010	--	--	310	2,070
Italy	(2)	1,150	156	1,600	--	--	157	2,760
Japan	977	2,760	1,500	6,050	2,690	10,200	5,160	19,000
Korea, Republic of	--	39	765	6,080	12,300	80,000	13,000	86,100
Malaysia	1	103	148	1,120	219	970	368	2,190
Mexico	12,500	61,700	23,000	138,000	7,060	33,300	42,600	233,000
Netherlands	7	79	96	495	8	253	110	826
Russia	--	2	1	57	--	--	1	59
Saudi Arabia	--	238	3,230	18,300	--	--	3,230	18,500
Singapore	1,450	1,590	147	565	71	227	1,670	2,380
Spain	(2)	9	84	953	--	--	84	962
Sweden	--	6	20	102	--	--	20	108
Taiwan	433	2,280	254	1,270	10,000	38,800	10,700	42,300
Thailand	--	107	719	4,440	653	2,750	1,370	7,290
Ukraine	--	--	1	6	--	--	1	6
United Kingdom	47	480	540	6,700	34	304	621	7,480
Venezuela	--	33	20	173	290	594	310	800
Other	816	3,200	6,350	41,500	5,050	27,100	12,200	71,800
Total	24,600	133,000	68,300	439,000	147,000	867,000	240,000	1,440,000

-- 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.