

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2009

Domestic primary aluminum production in September was 129,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 4,300 t, essentially unchanged from that for the previous month and 40% lower than that for September 2008. The average daily primary aluminum production in the third quarter was 7% lower than that of the second quarter of 2009 and 40% lower than that of the third quarter of 2008. Primary aluminum production for the first three quarters of 2008 was 35% lower than that for the same period in 2008.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in September 2009 was 276,000 t, slightly higher than the total of the previous month and 5% higher than the total in September 2008. Of this, 168,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 3% lower than the amount in the previous month and slightly higher than that of September 2008. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in September 2009 totaled 108,000 t, which was 8% higher than that in August 2009 and 13% higher than the amount in September 2008. Total aluminum recovered from scrap for January through September was 8% lower than the total for the same period of 2008. In the same period, aluminum recovered from new scrap was down by 11%, and that recovered from old scrap was down slightly from that in the same period of the previous year.

In September, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot fell to \$0.883 per pound from \$0.921

per pound in August; then in October it increased to \$0.894 per pound.

Update

Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. (CFAC) (Columbia Falls, MT) closed all production at the end of October at its 168,000-metric-ton-per-year smelter in Columbia Falls. The smelter had been operating only one-half of one potline since April 2009 under short-term power contracts with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). In August, the original short-term power contract was extended to the end of October to allow CFAC and BPA to negotiate a new long-term power contract to replace the contract that was overturned by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. (See Aluminum in January and June 2009.) However, a long-term power contract was not achieved given the constraints of the Court order that prohibited a contract from benefiting CFAC at the expense of higher rates for other consumers. Continued low prices for aluminum and the lack of a power contract were cited by CFAC as reasons for the smelter closure (Jamison, 2009).

Reference Cited

Jamison, Micheal, 2009, Jobs at Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. relied on ratepayers' subsidies: Missoulian [Montana], The, November 1, p. 2. (Accessed November 10, 2009, at http://www.missoulian.com/news/local/article_80e88722-c6a0-11-de-a2bf-001cc4c002e0.html.)

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:									
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-September	2,035	1,570	923	2,500	2,090	704	2,800	7,330	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	264	200	57	256	652 ^r	947
July	135	155	106	261	299	70	369	766	978
August	133	174	100 ^r	274 ^r	216	68	284	292	944
September	129	168	108	276	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-September	1,318	1,390	912	2,310	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:										
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-September	1,220	948	1,670	1,480	70	62	7	6	2,970	2,500
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	167	7	7	(3)	(3)	316	264
July	115	89	189	165	7	7	(3)	(3)	313	261
August	123	98	193 ^r	169 ^r	7	7	(3)	(3)	325 ^r	274 ^r
September	126	97	197	172	7	7	(3)	(3)	330	276
January-September	1,080	834	1,620	1,410	67	59	7	7	2,780	2,310

^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 SEPTEMBER 2009¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	105,000	126,000	80,500
Independent mill fabricators ²	175,000	197,000	154,000	172,000
Foundries	6,240	7,490	5,450	6,540
Other consumers	693	831	612	735
Total	287,000	330,000	240,000	276,000

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)

	September			January-September ²		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	30,400	78,200	78,000	30,600	664,000	658,000
Can stock clippings	4,620	22,000	22,800	3,810	184,000	183,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,030	23,900	23,400	5,540	174,000	174,000
Casting	976 ^r	4,860	5,010	824	49,600	49,800
Borings and turnings	2,820 ^r	9,590	9,700	2,710	82,600	82,500
Dross and skimmings	6,200	37,400	37,400	6,200	325,000	325,000
Total new scrap	50,100	176,000	176,000	49,700	1,480,000	1,470,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,140 ^r	20,200	20,300	5,050	156,000	161,000
Used extrusion	2,760	5,490	5,490	2,760	57,800	57,800
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	8,240	59,600	59,600	8,200	503,000	501,000
Other wrought products	4,680	20,900	20,900	4,680	186,000	186,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,390 ^r	4,050	4,370	1,070	34,800	35,000
Total old scrap	22,200^r	110,000	111,000	21,800	938,000	941,000
Sweated pig	96	151	151	96	1,360	1,360
Total all classes	72,400^r	286,000	287,000	71,600	2,420,000	2,420,000

^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)

	September			January-September ³		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,570 ^r	892	1,040	1,420	10,100	10,100
380 and variations	1,890	5,020	5,020	1,890	45,200	45,200
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,490	1,300	1,300	1,490	11,700	11,700
No. 319 and variations	1,710	2,810	2,890	1,630	25,400	25,400
F-132 alloy and variations	341	404	404	341	3,640	3,640
Al-Zn alloys	209	136	136	209	1,220	1,220
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	141	1,570	1,570	141	14,100	14,100
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	11	43	43	11	391	391
Other ³	10,200 ^r	10,100	9,080	11,300	106,000	103,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,800	53,300	53,300	18,800	482,000	482,000
Total all alloys	36,300^r	75,600	74,800	37,100	700,000	697,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	17,000	XX	XX	156,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	856	XX	XX	7,560	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	583	XX	XX	5,310	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	57,100	XX	XX	531,000	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 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 AUGUST 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August
Argentina	19,400	116,000	--	2	--	--	19,400	116,000
Australia	87	7,130	(2)	40	--	--	87	7,170
Bahrain	--	1,690	554	7,530	--	--	554	9,220
Belgium	--	133	130	1,520	17	24	147	1,680
Brazil	11,000	91,400	848	6,930	--	--	11,800	98,300
Canada	163,000	1,360,000	25,100	170,000	27,500	180,000	216,000	1,710,000
China	124	1,340	20,800	137,000	--	4	20,900	139,000
France	95	1,370	64	1,430	--	17	159	2,820
Germany	102	296	5,490	40,200	40	225	5,630	40,700
Hungary	--	--	5	35	--	--	5	35
Italy	(2)	(2)	185	2,890	--	57	185	2,950
Japan	29	239	720	6,550	55	190	803	6,980
Korea, Republic of	24	2,290	172	961	(2)	105	196	3,350
Mexico	1,510	11,400	1,070	8,140	9,372	63,100	12,000	82,600
Netherlands	6	102	41	896	85	1,180	131	2,180
Norway	--	49	(2)	13	--	--	(2)	62
Russia	4,720	296,000	1,280	11,500	--	750	6,000	308,000
South Africa	--	49,000	4,800	22,100	--	27	4,800	71,100
Spain	--	52	34	93	--	--	34	145
Sweden	--	1,050	18	436	--	--	18	1,490
Switzerland	--	4	229	2,390	--	--	229	2,400
Tajikistan	--	6,590	--	--	--	--	--	6,590
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Arab Emirates	2,820	29,600	--	--	--	16	2,820	29,600
United Kingdom	36	245	310	3,030	749	5,290	1,100	8,570
Venezuela	12,700	59,200	465	1,530	2,530	3,620	15,700	64,300
Other	462	15,200	5,730	50,000	2,100	11,600	8,290	76,800
Total	216,000	2,050,000	68,100	475,000	42,400	266,000	327,000	2,790,000

-- 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 AUGUST 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August
Australia	1	133	286	1,090	--	41	286	1,270
Belgium	--	46	49	477	--	--	49	523
Brazil	--	58	822	7,640	757	2,960	1,580	10,700
Canada	6,280	40,600	28,000	197,000	9,010	70,900	43,300	308,000
China	377	20,300	4,070	21,000	100,000	643,000	104,000	685,000
Czech Republic	--	--	6	75	--	--	6	75
Dominican Republic	--	118	53	299	--	--	53	417
France	70	503	765	6,250	--	--	835	6,750
Germany	601	3,440	627	5,740	132	192	1,360	9,370
Hong Kong	--	1,620	712	5,540	7,340	52,600	8,050	59,700
India	(2)	104	82	689	2,350	21,900	2,430	22,700
Israel	47	106	413	2,430	--	--	460	2,530
Italy	--	1,150	207	1,810	--	--	207	2,960
Japan	27	2,780	575	6,620	3,230	13,400	3,830	22,800
Korea, Republic of	498	536	782	6,860	12,100	92,100	13,300	99,500
Malaysia	11	115	322	1,440	404	1,380	738	2,930
Mexico	13,600	75,300	22,600	160,000	9,600	42,900	45,800	279,000
Netherlands	--	79	34	529	--	253	34	861
Russia	--	2	2	59	--	--	2	61
Saudi Arabia	--	238	2,010	20,300	--	--	2,010	20,600
Singapore	3,040	4,630	55	621	20	246	3,110	5,500
Spain	--	9	79	1,030	--	--	79	1,040
Sweden	--	6	6	108	--	--	6	114
Taiwan	--	2,280	160	1,430	6,680	45,500	6,840	49,200
Thailand	(2)	107	459	4,900	733	3,480	1,190	8,480
Ukraine	--	--	--	6	--	--	--	6
United Kingdom	38	518	628	7,330	64	367	729	8,210
Venezuela	(2)	33	15	188	110	704	125	925
Other	130	3,330	6,830	48,400	2,450	29,500	9,410	81,200
Total	24,700	158,000	70,700	510,000	155,000	1,020,000	250,000	1,690,000

-- 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.