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Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2009

Domestic primary aluminum production in November was 133,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 4,420 t, slightly higher than that for the previous month and 34% lower than that for November 2008.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in November 2009 was 249,000 t, 12% lower than the total of the previous month and 13% higher than the total in November 2008. Of this, 147,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 13% lower than the amount recovered in the previous month and 4% higher than that of November 2008. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in November 2009 totaled 102,000 t, which was 11% lower than that in October 2009 and 28% higher than the amount in November 2008.

In November, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to $0.931 per pound from $0.894 per pound in October, and in December, it increased to $1.038 per pound.

Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) signed a power supply contract for the 278,000-metric-ton-per-year Intalco smelter at Ferndale, WA. The power provided to the smelter would increase from 285 average megawatts to 320 average megawatts in March 2010. The contract was divided into two phases, the first extending through May 2011, and the second phase lasting an additional 5 years. The second phase would be contingent on several factors, including resolution of concerns of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that struck down an earlier contract between BPA and Alcoa. Alcoa agreed to maintain an average of 528 full-time employees at the smelter through the contract period (Alcoa Inc., 2009; Bonneville Power Administration Journal, 2010).

Qatar Aluminium Ltd. (Qatalum) (Doha, Qatar), a joint venture between Qatar Petroleum Ltd. and Norsk Hydro ASA, announced the first production from its smelter in Qatar. Although construction was still progressing in parts of the 585,000-t/yr smelter, some pots were in operation, and Qatalum planned to add production as pots are completed. Completion of construction and full operation of the smelter were scheduled for the second half of 2010 (Qatar Aluminium Ltd., 2009).

References Cited

Alcoa Inc., 2009, Alcoa, BPA reach power supply accord for Intalco smelter helping secure 528 jobs: Ferndale, WA, Alcoa Inc. news release, December 21, 1 p.

Bonneville Power Administration Journal, 2010, BPA, Alcoa sign power contract: Portland, OR, Bonneville Power Administration Journal, January, p. 1.

Qatar Aluminium Ltd., 2009, First primary aluminum produced in Qatar: Doha, Qatar, Qatar Aluminium Ltd. news release, December 20, 2 p.

Used beverage can prices, cents per pound[1]

November 6	**61-63**
November 13	**63-65**
November 20	**67-69**
November 27	**65-67**
December 4	**68-70**
December 11	**69-71**
December 18	**73-75**
December 22	**71-73**
December 30	**71-73**

[1]Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY[1]

(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:									
November	202	142	80	221	219	69	289	712	1,260
December	204	138	89	227	233	65	297	729	1,220
January-November	2,454	1,880	1,100	2,990	2,560	849	3,410	8,850	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	947
July	135	155	106	261	299	70	369	766	978
August	133	174	100	274	216	68	284	692	944
September	129	165	105	270	212	77	289	688	925
October	137	168	115	284	207	79	286	706	892
November	133	147	102	249	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-November	1,587	1,710	1,130	2,830	NA	NA	NA	NA	XX

[p]Preliminary. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

[3]Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

[4]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[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Independent mill fabricators[2]		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2008[p]	1,600	1,240	2,130	1,880	93	81	9	8	3,830	3,210
2008:										
November	126	97	134	117	7	7	(3)	(3)	268	221
December	122	92	148	128	7	7	(3)	(3)	278	227
January-November	1,480	1,150	1,980	1,760	85	75	9	7	3,560	2,990
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	169	7	7	(3)	(3)	325	274
September	126	97	190	166	7	7	(3)	(3)	324	270
October	128	102	201	175	7	7	(3)	(3)	337	284
November	126	98	168	144	7	7	(3)	(3)	302	249
January-November	1,340	1,030	1,980	1,720	82	72	9	8	3,410	2,840

[p]Preliminary.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."
[3]Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN NOVEMBER 2009[1]

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	105,000	126,000	81,400	97,700
Independent mill fabricators[2]	151,000	168,000	130,000	144,000
Foundries	6,240	7,490	5,450	6,540
Other consumers	693	831	612	735
Total	263,000	302,000	218,000	249,000

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."

TABLE 4

PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN NOVEMBER 2009[1]

(Metric tons)

	November				January-November[2]	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	31,600	60,400	62,100	29,900	799,000	793,000
Can stock clippings	4,240	20,000	19,700	4,510	226,000	225,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,060	24,700	24,600	5,150	223,000	223,000
Casting	951	4,790	4,790	953	64,000	64,000
Borings and turnings	2,810	9,670	9,620	2,850	102,000	102,000
Dross and skimmings	6,200	37,000	37,000	6,200	395,000	395,000
Total new scrap	50,800	157,000	158,000	49,500	1,810,000	1,800,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	4,930	16,800	16,900	4,850	189,000	194,000
Used extrusion	2,760	5,490	5,490	2,760	68,800	68,800
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	8,000	57,600	57,700	7,920	630,000	629,000
Other wrought products	4,680	21,000	21,000	4,680	228,000	228,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,170	4,390	4,270	1,290	43,700	43,600
Total old scrap	21,500	105,000	105,000	21,500	1,160,000	1,160,000
Sweated pig	96	151	151	96	1,670	1,670
Total all classes	72,400	262,000	263,000	71,100	2,970,000	2,970,000

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

[2]Includes revised data from previous month(s).

[3]Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5

ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2009[1, 2]

(Metric tons)

	November				January-November[3]	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,800	1,500	1,140	2,160	12,500	12,300
380 and variations	1,890	5,020	5,020	1,890	55,300	55,300
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,490	1,300	1,300	1,490	14,300	14,300
No. 319 and variations	1,700	2,810	2,850	1,660	31,100	31,100
F-132 alloy and variations	341	404	404	341	4,440	4,440
Al-Zn alloys	209	136	136	209	1,490	1,490
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	141	1,570	1,570	141	17,200	17,200
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	11	43	43	11	477	477
Other[3]	11,600	9,860	9,040	12,400	126,000	121,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,800	53,300	53,300	18,800	588,000	589,000
Total all alloys	37,900	75,900	74,800	39,000	851,000	847,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	17,000	XX	XX	190,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	771	XX	XX	8,950	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	595	XX	XX	6,490	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot[4]	XX	57,500	XX	XX	646,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

[1]Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

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

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

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

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2009[1]

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January-October	October	January-October	October	January-October	October	January-October
Argentina	16,400	145,000	--	2	--	--	16,400	145,000
Australia	132	7,390	1	44	--	--	132	7,440
Bahrain	--	1,690	340	8,260	--	--	340	9,950
Belgium	29	162	165	1,960	--	26	194	2,150
Brazil	5,950	102,000	1,820	11,100	--	--	7,770	113,000
Canada	168,000	1,680,000	23,900	220,000	29,700	239,000	221,000	2,130,000
China	117	1,560	28,700	191,000	--	4	28,800	193,000
France	46	1,430	82	1,580	17	35	145	3,040
Germany	70	397	5,080	51,000	30	260	5,190	51,600
Hungary	--	--	6	47	--	--	6	47
Italy	(2)	(2)	208	3,200	20	77	228	3,280
Japan	71	368	830	7,840	26	298	927	8,500
Korea, Republic of	2	2,290	130	1,270	--	105	132	3,670
Mexico	1,810	14,800	1,380	10,700	7,900	79,400	11,100	105,000
Netherlands	21	155	360	1,360	497	1,680	878	3,190
Norway	204	262	1	14	--	--	205	276
Russia	2,250	326,000	1,340	14,200	--	750	3,590	341,000
South Africa	--	51,400	3,950	28,600	--	27	3,950	80,000
Spain	12	81	17	112	--	--	29	193
Sweden	--	1,060	128	576	--	--	128	1,630
Switzerland	--	4	406	2,960	--	--	406	2,970
Tajikistan	99	6,690	--	--	--	--	99	6,690
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Arab Emirates	4,480	39,600	--	--	--	16	4,480	39,600
United Kingdom	17	273	595	4,070	794	6,730	1,410	11,100
Venezuela	2,070	67,800	976	3,770	22	3,890	3,070	75,500
Other	5,730	21,200	8,390	66,200	2,840	17,200	17,000	105,000
Total	207,000	2,470,000	78,800	631,000	41,800	350,000	328,000	3,450,000

-- Zero.

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

[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2009[1]

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January-October	October	January-October	October	January-October	October	January-October
Australia	1	151	313	1,670	--	49	313	1,870
Belgium	7	55	58	611	20	23	85	689
Brazil	--	58	1,490	9,800	948	4,730	2,440	14,600
Canada	8,180	56,000	27,900	253,000	10,300	90,300	46,400	399,000
China	351	20,900	3,180	28,300	90,400	815,000	94,000	864,000
Czech Republic	--	--	9	89	--	--	9	89
Dominican Republic	--	118	23	347	--	--	23	465
France	20	575	957	7,930	--	3	977	8,510
Germany	260	4,030	685	7,040	86	322	1,030	11,400
Hong Kong	1	1,620	527	6,630	5,880	64,200	6,410	72,400
India	10	120	113	951	3,070	27,400	3,190	28,400
Israel	1	115	337	3,160	--	--	338	3,270
Italy	--	1,150	97	2,070	--	--	97	3,220
Japan	2,030	5,700	421	7,650	1,730	17,600	4,190	30,900
Korea, Republic of	804	1,860	1,240	8,870	18,100	124,000	20,100	135,000
Malaysia	5	136	85	1,720	715	2,720	804	4,570
Mexico	13,900	101,000	26,100	207,000	13,000	68,600	52,900	377,000
Netherlands	(2)	84	56	604	21	274	76	962
Russia	(2)	3	16	108	--	--	16	111
Saudi Arabia	(2)	238	1,850	25,500	--	--	1,850	25,700
Singapore	2,272	9,800	156	821	147	393	2,580	11,000
Spain	--	9	231	1,330	19	19	250	1,360
Sweden	--	6	32	145	--	--	32	152
Taiwan	110	2,410	555	2,170	9,160	62,600	9,820	67,200
Thailand	7	115	1,020	6,770	568	4,800	1,600	11,700
Ukraine	--	--	--	6	22	22	22	27
United Kingdom	32	558	646	8,750	58	446	736	9,760
Venezuela	(2)	41	43	255	--	718	44	1,010
Other	54	3,930	6,500	62,400	2,030	33,500	8,590	99,800
Total	28,000	211,000	74,600	656,000	156,000	1,320,000	259,000	2,180,000

-- Zero.

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

[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.