

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

E. Lee Bray, Aluminum Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: lbray@usgs.gov

Paula R. Neely (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7949
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: pneely@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2010

Domestic primary aluminum production in January was 142,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 4,580 t, slightly higher than that for the previous month and 26% lower than that for January 2009. Production was approaching full capacity at Noranda Aluminum Corp.'s 250,000-metric-ton-per-year smelter at New Madrid, MO, after restarting pots that were shut down as a result of a power failure during an ice storm in January 2009. Full production was expected to be reached during the first quarter of 2010 (Noranda Aluminum Corp., 2010). Average daily U.S. primary aluminum production has gradually increased since the potline was restarted in October.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in January 2010 was 227,000 t, 6% lower than the total of the previous month and 10% lower than the total in January 2009. Of this, 138,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, slightly lower than the amount recovered in the previous month and 7% lower than that of January 2009. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in January 2010 totaled 89,000 t, which was 12% lower than that in December 2009 and 13% lower than the amount in January

2009. Much of the lower recovery of aluminum from scrap was attributed to a shortage of old scrap. Winter weather reduced processing of old scrap was cited. Also, a shortage of new scrap from manufacturers was cited as a factor for lower secondary recovery (Schaffer, 2010).

In January 2010, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$1.069 per pound from \$1.038 per pound in December 2009, but in February 2010, it decreased to \$0.987 per pound.

Note: Beginning with this issue, monthly primary aluminum and aluminum scrap prices are included in tables 6 and 7, respectively, of the Aluminum Mineral Industry Surveys.

References Cited

- Noranda Aluminum Corp., 2010, Noranda Aluminum Holding Corporation reports fourth quarter 2009 results: Franklin, TN, Noranda Aluminum Corp. news release, March 1, 14 p.
- Schaffer, Paul, 2010, Aluminum smelters' order books up: American Metal Market, v. 118, no. 2-4, January 14, p. 10.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²		Total	Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old		Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2009 ^p	1,727	1,850	1,230	3,080	2,900	786	3,680	8,480	937
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	765 ^r	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	211	83	294	677	896
December	140	141	101	242	217	73	290	672	937
2010, January	142	138	89	227	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		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
	2009 ^p	1,460	1,130	2,140	1,860	90	78	10	9	3,700
2009:										
January	124	94	174	150	7	7	(2)	(2)	306	251
February	123	93	161	139	7	7	(2)	(2)	293	240
March	125	95	174	150	7	7	(2)	(2)	307	252
April	116	90	165	142	7	7	(2)	(2)	289	240
May	115	89	174	151	7	7	(2)	(2)	297	247
June	115	89	192	167	7	7	(2)	(2)	316	264
July	115	89	189	164 ^r	7	7	(2)	(2)	313	261
August	123	98	193	169	7	7	(2)	(2)	325	274
September	126	97	190	166	7	7	(2)	(2)	324	270
October	128	102	201	175	7	7	(2)	(2)	337	284
November	126	98	168	144	7	7	(2)	(2)	302	249
December	126	96	162	139	7	7	(2)	(2)	296	242
2010, January	121	92	151	130	5	4	(2)	(2)	278	227

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JANUARY 2010¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	101,000	121,000	76,500	91,800
Independent mill fabricators	134,000	151,000	115,000	130,000
Foundries	4,230	5,070	3,690	4,420
Other consumers	547	656	503	604
Total	240,000	278,000	196,000	227,000

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 JANUARY 2010¹

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Extrusion	29,800	51,800	52,600	29,000
Can stock clippings	3,750	23,000	20,700	6,120
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,530	25,900	26,000	5,460
Casting	838	3,690	3,650	881
Borings and turnings	1,700	8,610	8,600	1,710
Dross and skimmings	2,250	38,300	38,300	2,250
Total new scrap	43,800	151,000	150,000	45,400
Old scrap:				
Used castings	6,330	16,500	13,700	9,170
Used extrusion	3,070	5,500	5,500	3,070
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	9,990	53,800	51,400	12,400
Other wrought products	5,190	15,400	15,400	5,190
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	849	3,970	3,950	869
Total old scrap	25,400	95,200	89,900	30,700
Sweated pig	1	156	156	1
Total all classes	69,200	247,000	240,000	76,000

¹Revised.

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 IN 2010^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	January			Stocks, closing
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	
Die-cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,330 ^r	825	903	1,250
380 and variations	2,430 ^r	13,400	13,400	2,430
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,940 ^r	1,400	1,400	1,940
No. 319 and variations	1,580 ^r	2,810	2,820	1,570
F-132 alloy and variations	422 ^r	339	339	422
Al-Zn alloys	291 ^r	136	136	291
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	254 ^r	1,570	1,570	254
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	48 ^r	43	43	48
Other ³	13,900 ^r	7,730	7,700	13,900
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	19,400 ^r	52,000	52,000	19,400
Total all alloys	41,600 ^r	80,300	80,400	41,500
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	19,800	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,070	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,040	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	58,400	XX	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
AVERAGE PRICE OF ALUMINUM IN THE UNITED STATES
AND ON THE LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Cents per pound)

Period	Midwest U.S.	LME
	market price	cash price Grade A
2009:		
January	67.625	64.084
February	62.875	60.320
March	63.813	60.578
April	67.850	64.434
May	70.000	66.230
June	74.625	71.366
July	79.650	75.639
August	92.125	87.700
September	88.313	83.172
October	89.400	85.194
November	93.125	88.404
December	103.800	98.871
January-December	79.433	75.499
2010, January	106.875	101.372

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 7
AVERAGE BUYING PRICES FOR ALUMINUM SCRAP

(Cents per pound)

Month	Used beverage cans	Mixed low copper clips	Old sheet and cast	Turnings (clean and dry)
2009:				
January	43.70	36.20	32.60	30.10
February	41.42	33.71	31.21	27.08
March	41.91	36.77	33.59	27.57
April	44.00	43.88	40.52	32.93
May	46.80	45.90	43.10	34.00
June	50.64	44.61	41.93	33.14
July	54.27	50.59	46.98	40.09
August	61.62	58.21	54.50	49.93
September	58.00	59.50	56.50	52.83
October	61.43	59.69	57.26	53.02
November	64.42	59.71	56.58	54.50
December	71.16	63.55	46.15	57.34
January-December	53.28	49.36	45.08	41.04
2010, January	73.95	73.34	66.76	64.76

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January-December	December	January-December	December	January-December	December	January-December
Argentina	11,600	164,000	--	2	--	--	11,600	164,000
Australia	43	7,500	(2)	44	--	--	43	7,550
Bahrain	--	1,690	1,180	9,860	--	--	1,180	11,600
Belgium	11	178	127	2,180	--	26	138	2,380
Brazil	2,100	106,000	2,230	15,000	--	--	4,330	121,000
Canada	172,000	2,020,000	16,500	261,000	26,400	293,000	215,000	2,570,000
China	157	1,890	25,400	250,000	--	9	25,500	252,000
France	77	1,520	67	1,710	--	35	144	3,260
Germany	14	579	5,460	61,200	43	413	5,520	62,200
Hungary	--	--	1	51	--	--	1	51
Italy	--	(2)	174	3,540	20	97	193	3,630
Japan	57	492	572	8,900	81	414	710	9,800
Korea, Republic of	13	2,330	154	1,580	--	105	167	4,010
Mexico	1,870	18,400	1,290	13,400	8,260	95,700	11,400	128,000
Netherlands	14	210	108	1,560	215	2,150	338	3,920
Norway	77	442	(2)	14	--	--	77	457
Russia	15,400	353,000	1,200	16,700	--	1,740	16,600	371,000
South Africa	--	52,900	5,380	37,800	--	27	5,380	90,700
Spain	5	131	2	121	--	--	7	252
Sweden	--	1,060	198	815	--	--	198	1,870
Switzerland	--	4	122	3,450	--	--	122	3,450
Tajikistan	--	6,690	--	--	--	--	--	6,690
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Arab Emirates	4,390	48,300	--	--	--	16	4,390	48,300
United Kingdom	46	355	486	4,760	1,260	8,840	1,790	14,000
Venezuela	8,390	84,400	1,280	6,250	24	8,390	9,690	99,100
Other	916	22,800	10,800	85,700	2,790	22,000	14,600	130,000
Total	217,000	2,900,000	72,800	786,000	39,100	433,000	329,000	4,110,000

-- 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 9
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Australia	37	225	304	2,290	--	49	341	2,560
Belgium	75	131	105	752	--	23	180	907
Brazil	--	59	1,030	11,900	517	5,360	1,550	17,300
Canada	6,010	69,600	19,000	300,000	7,860	107,000	32,800	476,000
China	417	21,600	6,720	38,400	94,500	1,010,000	102,000	1,070,000
Czech Republic	--	--	34	128	--	--	34	128
Dominican Republic	--	118	60	451	--	--	60	569
France	119	710	614	9,240	--	3	733	9,950
Germany	415	4,860	1,230	9,820	--	326	1,640	15,000
Hong Kong	--	1,620	1,620	9,090	5,450	76,800	7,060	87,500
India	3	123	283	1,330	3,200	34,400	3,480	35,900
Israel	1	116	223	3,710	--	--	224	3,830
Italy	--	1,170	178	2,370	--	--	178	3,540
Japan	877	10,500	577	8,650	1,630	21,100	3,080	40,200
Korea, Republic of	4	1,870	1,140	10,900	17,400	160,000	18,500	173,000
Malaysia	6	149	76	1,880	546	3,900	628	5,930
Mexico	11,600	123,000	19,400	249,000	9,720	91,600	40,700	464,000
Netherlands	11	97	66	711	--	315	76	1,120
Russia	--	3	1	113	--	--	1	116
Saudi Arabia	(2)	239	468	26,100	--	--	468	26,400
Singapore	3,720	16,500	333	1,440	24	421	4,080	18,400
Spain	(2)	11	84	1,620	--	19	84	1,650
Sweden	--	6	4	158	--	--	4	164
Taiwan	22	2,460	467	2,910	21,200	100,000	21,700	106,000
Thailand	--	115	624	7,990	613	5,940	1,240	14,000
Ukraine	--	--	--	6	--	22	--	27
United Kingdom	161	769	570	10,000	36	572	768	11,400
Venezuela	--	41	90	361	(2)	718	90	1,120
Other	1,580	5,560	7,650	78,200	2,640	41,900	11,900	126,000
Total	25,100	262,000	62,900	789,000	165,000	1,660,000	253,000	2,710,000

-- 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.