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Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2010

Domestic primary aluminum production in February was 130,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 4,640 t, slightly higher than that for the previous month and 13% lower than that for February 2009.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in February 2010 was 217,000 t, slightly lower than the total in the previous month and 10% lower than the total in February 2009. Of this, 131,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, slightly lower than the amount recovered in the previous month and 10% lower than that of February 2009. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in February 2010 totaled 86,000 t, the same as that in the previous month and 10% lower than the amount in February 2009.

In February 2010, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to $0.987 per pound from $1.069 per pound in January, but in March, it increased to $1.057 per pound.

Alcoa Inc. announced that the temporary closures of the Badin, NC, and Frederick, MD, smelters would be made permanent, and the sites would be remediated. The Badin smelter was first opened in 1916 and last operated in August 2002. It had a capacity of 120,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of aluminum. The Frederick smelter had a capacity of 195,000 t/yr when it closed in December 2005. It began production in 1970. High power prices were cited as reasons for initial closure of both smelters, and subsequent efforts to obtain long-term power contracts at competitive prices were unsuccessful (Alcoa Inc., 2010).

Reference Cited

Alcoa Inc., 2010, Alcoa reports 1q 2010 results: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. news release, April 12, 7 p.

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		
2009[p]	1,727	1,850	1,250 [r]	3,100 [r]	2,900	786	3,680	8,510 [r]	937
2009:									
February	149	146 [r]	96 [r]	242 [r]	204	39	244	635 [r]	1,150
March	154	154	100 [r]	255 [r]	333	54	387	796 [r]	1,020
April	145	144	98 [r]	242 [r]	233	55	288	675 [r]	952
May	147	150 [r]	100 [r]	250 [r]	292	68	361	757 [r]	997
June	132	156	110 [r]	267 [r]	200	57	256	655 [r]	947
July	135	155	108 [r]	263 [r]	299	70	369	767 [r]	978
August	133	173 [r]	103 [r]	276 [r]	216	68	284	694 [r]	944
September	129	165	107 [r]	272 [r]	212	77	289	690 [r]	925
October	137	168	117 [r]	285 [r]	207	79	286	708 [r]	892
November	133	147	104 [r]	251 [r]	211	83	294	678 [r]	896
December	140	141	103 [r]	244 [r]	217	73	290	674 [r]	937
January-February	342	295	200	496	474	103	577	1,420	XX
2010:									
January	142	135 [r]	86 [r]	221 [r]	238	82	319	682	984
February	130	131	86	217	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-February	272	266	172	438	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised. 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		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2009[p]	1,490 [r]	1,160 [r]	2,140	1,860	90	78	10	9	3,730 [r]	3,100 [r]
2009:										
February	126 [r]	96 [r]	161	139	7	7	(2)	(2)	296 [r]	242 [r]
March	127 [r]	97 [r]	174	150	7	7	(2)	(2)	309 [r]	255 [r]
April	119 [r]	93 [r]	165	142	7	7	(2)	(2)	292 [r]	242 [r]
May	118 [r]	92 [r]	174	151	7	7	(2)	(2)	300 [r]	250 [r]
June	118 [r]	92 [r]	192	167	7	7	(2)	(2)	319 [r]	267 [r]
July	117 [r]	91 [r]	189	164	7	7	(2)	(2)	315 [r]	263 [r]
August	125 [r]	100 [r]	193	169	7	7	(2)	(2)	327 [r]	276 [r]
September	128 [r]	98 [r]	190	166	7	7	(2)	(2)	326 [r]	272 [r]
October	130 [r]	104 [r]	201	175	7	7	(2)	(2)	339 [r]	285 [r]
November	129 [r]	100 [r]	168	144	7	7	(2)	(2)	305 [r]	251 [r]
December	128 [r]	98 [r]	162	139	7	7	(2)	(2)	298 [r]	244 [r]
January-February	252	192	335	290	15	13	(2)	(2)	604	496
2010:										
January	117 [r]	89 [r]	147 [r]	127 [r]	5	4	(2)	(2)	278	227
February	113	86	146	126	5	4	(2)	(2)	264	217
January-February	230	175	293	253	10	9	(2)	(2)	534	438

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised.

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

[2]Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN FEBRUARY 2010[1]

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	94,000	113,000	71,600	85,900
Independent mill fabricators	130,000	146,000	113,000	126,000
Foundries	4,230	5,070	3,690	4,420
Other consumers	547	656	503	604
Total	229,000	264,000	188,000	217,000

[1]Data 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 FEBRUARY 2010[1]

(Metric tons)

	February				January-February[2]	
	Stocks, opening[2]	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	28,600	47,800	49,900	26,500	99,100	102,000
Can stock clippings	6,120	20,000	21,700	4,440	42,300	41,700
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,460	22,400	22,600	5,290	48,400	48,600
Casting	881	4,020	4,090	811	7,840	7,870
Borings and turnings	1,710	8,590	8,710	1,590	16,700	16,800
Dross and skimmings	2,250	34,100	34,100	2,250	69,500	69,500
Total new scrap	45,000	137,000	141,000	40,900	284,000	286,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	9,170	17,000	15,600	10,600	32,600	28,300
Used extrusion	3,070	5,460	5,460	3,070	10,900	10,900
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	12,400	48,700	49,900	11,200	102,000	101,000
Other wrought products	5,190	12,700	12,700	5,190	26,300	26,300
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	869	4,030	4,180	722	7,980	8,110
Total old scrap	30,700	87,800	87,800	30,700	180,000	175,000
Sweated pig	1	156	156	1	311	311
Total all classes	75,600	225,000	229,000	71,600	464,000	462,000

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

[2]May include 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 2010[1, 2]

(Metric tons)

	February				January-February[3, 4]	
	Stocks, opening[4]	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,080	1,390	921	1,550	2,180	1,790
380 and variations	2,600	10,900	10,900	2,600	22,800	22,800
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,940	1,660	1,660	1,940	3,320	3,320
No. 319 and variations	1,570	2,260	2,150	1,690	4,410	4,310
F-132 alloy and variations	422	339	339	422	679	679
Al-Zn alloys	291	152	152	291	305	305
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	254	293	293	254	585	585
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	48	48	48	48	97	97
Other[3]	13,900	6,170	7,020	13,000	15,000	15,800
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	19,100	50,000	50,000	19,100	102,000	102,000
Total all alloys	41,200	73,200	73,500	40,900	151,000	152,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	19,200	XX	XX	39,100	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,120	XX	XX	2,130	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	748	XX	XX	1,520	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot[5]	XX	52,100	XX	XX	108,000	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]May include revised data from previous month(s).

[5]No 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. market price	LME cash price Grade A
2009:		
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	80.507	76.537
2010:		
January	106.875	101.372
February	98.688	92.923
January-February	102.782	97.148

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:				
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	54.15	50.56	46.21	42.04
2010:				
January	73.95	73.34	66.76	64.76
February	68.05	64.50	64.71	63.18
January-February	71.00	68.92	65.74	63.97

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2010[1]

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	10,000	--	--	10,000
Australia	109	18	103	231
Bahrain	--	1,170	6	1,180
Belgium	20	122	--	142
Brazil	4,700	1,110	--	5,810
Canada	191,000	24,300	29,100	245,000
China	142	26,500	--	26,600
France	217	69	(2)	286
Germany	18	4,170	33	4,220
Hungary	--	2	--	2
Italy	(2)	127	30	157
Japan	43	588	2	634
Korea, Republic of	383	94	19	496
Mexico	2,030	1,350	8,690	12,100
Netherlands	6	166	136	308
Norway	49	1	--	50
Russia	4,200	1,450	--	5,650
South Africa	3,000	6,010	--	9,010
Spain	4	1	--	4
Sweden	--	76	--	76
Switzerland	--	666	--	666
United Arab Emirates	4,410	--	--	4,410
United Kingdom	28	742	804	1,570
Venezuela	10,800	457	101	11,400
Other	6,240	12,400	3,710	22,400
Total	238,000	81,600	42,700	362,000

-- 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 9
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2010[1]

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Australia	(2)	301	--	301
Belgium	21	76	--	97
Brazil	--	1,830	316	2,140
Canada	6,740	27,300	8,990	43,100
China	215	3,300	79,500	83,000
Czech Republic	--	26	--	26
Dominican Republic	--	12	--	12
France	51	690	--	741
Germany	104	953	18	1,080
Hong Kong	6	1,080	6,390	7,470
India	6	64	2,610	2,690
Israel	83	345	--	429
Italy	1	130	--	131
Japan	49	396	1,500	1,950
Korea, Republic of	46	749	12,600	13,400
Malaysia	(2)	62	691	753
Mexico	12,600	16,900	12,200	41,600
Netherlands	--	71	--	71
Russia	--	(2)	--	(2)
Saudi Arabia	2	266	--	268
Singapore	44	137	12	194
Spain	--	37	--	37
Sweden	--	6	--	6
Taiwan	25	300	12,500	12,800
Thailand	--	77	324	401
United Kingdom	112	761	45	919
Venezuela	--	100	--	100
Other	55	4,650	1,170	5,880
Total	20,200	60,600	139,000	220,000

-- 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.