

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2011

Domestic primary aluminum production in February 2011 was 140,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 5,000 t, slightly higher than that for the previous month and 8% higher than that for February 2010.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in February 2011 was 240,000 t, 2% lower than that in the previous month and 9% higher than the total in February 2010. Of this, 132,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 6% lower than the amount in the previous month and slightly higher than that of February 2010. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in February 2011 totaled 108,000 t, which was 4% higher than that in January and 20% higher than the amount in February 2010.

Update

A five-year labor contract between Ormet Corp. (Hannibal, OH) and nearly 900 hourly employees represented by the United Steelworkers union at the 266,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) smelter was ratified by the employees on June 8. Production had continued since the previous contract expired on May 31 during the discussions between the union and Ormet even though a previous proposed contract was rejected by the employees (American Metal Market., 2011).

Qatar Aluminium Ltd. (Qatalum) announced that problems in commissioning a powerplant would delay the ramp-up of its 585,000-t/yr smelter in Qatar until September. The smelter was commissioned in December 2009, but all pots in production were shut down as a result of a power failure on August 9, 2010. Production was restarted on September 15, 2010, and production at full capacity was planned for the end of June 2011 until the issues with the powerplant occurred. (See Aluminum in July 2010). Qatalum was a joint venture between Norsk Hydro ASA (Oslo, Norway) and Qatar Petroleum Ltd. (Doha, Qatar) (Norsk Hydro ASA, 2011).

In February, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$1.194 per pound from \$1.163 per pound in January, and in March, it increased to \$1.218 per pound. In April, it increased to \$1.283 per pound before decreasing slightly to \$1.261 per pound in May.

References Cited

- American Metal Market, 2011, Ormet workers OK five-year pact: American Metal Market, v. 119, no. 23-5, June 10, p. 4.
- Norsk Hydro ASA, 2011, Commissioning of power plant further delays Qatalum ramp-up: Oslo, Norway, Norsk Hydro ASA news release, June 14, 1 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		
2010 ^p	1,726	1,550 ^r	1,250	2,800 ^r	2,650	967	3,610	8,140 ^r	1,010
2010:									
February	130	131	90	220 ^r	209	67	276	626	976
March	146	138	84	222	230	94	325	693	970
April	142	123	97	221	257	102	359	722	988
May	148	124 ^r	102	225 ^r	233	96	329	702 ^r	999
June	141	126 ^r	103	228 ^r	232	74	306	676 ^r	1,090
July	146	132 ^r	99	230 ^r	223	92	315	691	1,030
August	146	135 ^r	100	235 ^r	207	81	288	669	989
September	143	127 ^r	100	227 ^r	224	78	302	672 ^r	1,000
October	148	130 ^r	94	224 ^r	203	76	279	651 ^r	1,030
November	144	130 ^r	98	227 ^r	209	68	277	649	998
December	148	120 ^r	85	204 ^r	179	59	238	591 ^r	1,010
January-February	272	262 ^r	172	435 ^r	447	148	595	1,300 ^r	1,960
2011:									
January	152	141 ^r	104	245 ^r	211	64	276	672 ^r	1,050
February	140	132	108	240	212	63	275	655	1,060
January-February	292	272	212	485	423	128	551	1,330	2,110

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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
	2010 ^p	1,780 ^r	1,360	1,530 ^r	1,390 ^r	56	49 ^r	7 ^r	7	3,370 ^r
2010:										
February	151 ^r	113	112	102	5	4	1	1	268 ^r	220
March	159 ^r	117 ^r	110	101	5	4	1	1	274 ^r	222
April	150	110	116	105	5	4	1	1	272 ^r	221 ^r
May	153 ^r	114 ^r	118	106	5	4	1	1	277 ^r	225
June	154 ^r	113 ^r	122	110	5	4	1	1	281 ^r	228
July	157 ^r	114 ^r	123	112	5	4	1	1	285	230
August	163 ^r	119	122	111	5	4	1	1	291 ^r	235
September	159 ^r	115	117	107	5	4	1	1	282 ^r	227 ^r
October	163 ^r	117	111	101	5	4	1	1	280 ^r	224 ^r
November	161 ^r	117 ^r	116	106	5	4	1	1	283 ^r	227
December	152 ^r	109 ^r	99 ^r	90 ^r	5	4	1	1	257 ^r	204 ^r
January-February	296 ^r	220 ^r	224 ^r	205 ^r	10	9	1	1	532 ^r	435 ^r
2011:										
January	176 ^r	131 ^r	119 ^r	109 ^r	5	4	1	1	301 ^r	245 ^r
February	176	131	114	104	5	4	1	1	295	240
January-February	352	262	233	213	10	9	1	1	596	485

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN FEBRUARY 2011¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	146,000	176,000	109,000	131,000
Independent mill fabricators	104,000	114,000	94,500	104,000
Foundries	4,220	5,070	3,690	4,220
Other consumers	524	629	524	629
Total	255,000	295,000	208,000	240,000

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 FEBRUARY 2011¹

(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	18,100 ^r	44,100	43,600	18,600	89,300	91,500
Can stock clippings	6,120 ^r	20,100	20,200	6,100	41,100	40,500
Other wrought sheet/clippings	7,180	27,000	27,000	7,180	58,300	56,900
Casting	1,490	5,430	5,430	1,490	11,800	11,200
Borings and turnings	2,600 ^r	9,430	9,430	2,600	19,000	19,200
Dross and skimmings	7,450	40,200	40,200	7,450	80,900	81,600
Total new scrap	43,000^r	146,000	146,000	43,400	300,000	301,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	10,200 ^r	22,000	23,200	8,940	44,300	44,500
Used extrusion	4,250	8,100	7,420	4,940	16,600	16,300
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	19,700 ^r	52,000	51,700	20,000	101,000	103,000
Other wrought products	4,460	20,600	20,600	4,460	35,700	38,400
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	999	6,300	6,300	999	12,500	12,700
Total old scrap	39,600^r	109,000	109,000	39,300	210,000	215,000
Sweated pig	89	147	147	89	277	295
Total all classes	82,700^r	255,000	255,000	82,800	510,000	516,000

^rRevised.

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

²May include revisions to prior month(s) data.

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2011^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	February			January-February ³		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,560	3,030	3,030	1,560	6,050	6,220
380 and variations	2,510	25,300	25,300	2,510	40,900	41,400
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,500	2,490	2,490	2,500	4,990	5,120
No. 319 and variations	2,370	5,680	5,680	2,370	11,400	12,100
F-132 alloy and variations	948	672	672	948	1,340	850
Al-Zn alloys	278	130	130	278	260	260
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	398	228	228	398	456	456
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	48	34	34	48	68	68
Other ⁴	8,740	9,370	9,370	8,740	18,700	23,800
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	17,400	38,300	39,000	16,700	78,900	77,900
Total all alloys	36,800	85,300	86,000	36,000	163,000	168,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	13,800	XX	XX	27,500	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,550	XX	XX	3,100	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,130	XX	XX	2,260	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	68,800	XX	XX	130,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

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

³May include revisions to prior month(s) data.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No 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
2010:		
February	98.688	92.923
March	105.700	100.028
April	110.875	105.072
May	98.688	92.541
June	93.438	87.589
July	96.000	90.166
August	102.438	96.055
September	103.550	98.067
October	112.438	106.418
November	111.938	105.807
December	111.950	106.600
January-December	104.382	98.553
2011:		
January	116.313	110.638
February	119.438	113.752
January-February	117.876	112.195

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)
2010:				
February	68.05	64.50	64.71	63.18
March	75.48	70.80	70.26	68.85
April	78.77	78.00	73.36	70.73
May	69.10	71.03	64.75	62.70
June	65.77	67.05	62.14	60.45
July	67.43	68.88	63.64	62.64
August	72.45	72.91	66.59	65.14
September	74.76	73.60	66.98	65.83
October	82.57	76.86	70.74	68.38
November	79.38	76.90	71.35	68.93
December	82.26	77.68	72.47	70.05
January-December	74.16	72.63	67.81	65.97
2011:				
January	86.78	82.23	76.53	73.53
February	89.11	85.34	79.95	78.08
January-February	87.95	83.79	78.24	75.81

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2011¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	9,430	--	--	9,430
Australia	4,480	(2)	--	4,480
Austria	13	863	--	876
Bahrain	--	1,100	--	1,100
Brazil	360	834	70	1,260
Canada	151,000	26,800	27,300	205,000
China	103	6,020	6	6,130
El Salvador	--	--	426	426
Germany	77	6,780	--	6,860
Greece	--	990	42	1,030
Guatemala	--	--	471	471
India	--	1,050	--	1,050
Indonesia	--	6,170	--	6,170
Italy	--	401	24	425
Japan	88	708	39	836
Korea, Republic of	323	192	--	516
Malaysia	--	817	--	817
Mexico	1,700	2,260	8,840	12,800
New Zealand	1,660	14	4	1,680
Qatar	2,100	--	--	2,100
Russia	15,100	1,110	--	16,200
Saudi Arabia	--	--	1,090	1,090
South Africa	--	3,480	--	3,480
Taiwan	(2)	680	--	680
United Arab Emirates	24,100	--	46	24,100
United Kingdom	19	637	563	1,220
Venezuela	796	18	271	1,090
Other	632	3,360	1,770	5,770
Total	211,000	64,300	41,000	317,000

-- 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 JANUARY 2011¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	30	100	--	129
Australia	137	224	--	360
Belgium	17	76	--	93
Brazil	--	350	443	793
Canada	7,540	29,000	10,000	46,500
Chile	--	74	--	74
China	437	2,370	93,900	96,700
Colombia	--	175	--	175
Czech Republic	2	83	--	85
France	159	1,130	--	1,290
Germany	218	935	50	1,200
Guatemala	--	1,240	--	1,240
Hong Kong	21	345	2,810	3,170
India	24	248	4,010	4,280
Indonesia	--	144	272	416
Ireland	3	1,220	--	1,220
Israel	37	531	--	568
Italy	--	254	--	254
Japan	177	1,450	870	2,500
Korea, Republic of	69	1,220	14,100	15,400
Kuwait	--	639	--	639
Malaysia	(2)	124	108	232
Mexico	16,100	21,600	10,400	48,200
Netherlands	54	69	41	164
New Zealand	8	63	--	72
Pakistan	--	6	571	576
Panama	--	200	22	222
Poland	30	54	--	85
Romania	67	10	--	77
Saudi Arabia	(2)	3,530	--	3,530
Singapore	24	220	--	244
Spain	--	215	42	256
Taiwan	113	773	3,840	4,730
Thailand	--	81	216	297
Tunisia	--	233	--	233
Turkey	17	113	18	148
United Arab Emirates	--	591	(2)	592
United Kingdom	219	1,100	105	1,420
Vietnam	--	35	318	353
Other	2	695	47	743
Total	25,500	71,500	142,000	239,000

-- 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.