

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2011

Domestic primary aluminum production in March 2011 was 162,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 5,230 t, 5% higher than that for the previous month and 11% higher than that for March 2010. Primary production for the first quarter of 2011 was up by 8% from that of the first quarter of 2010 and up 5% from that of the fourth quarter of 2010. The increase was primarily attributed to restarts of potlines at five smelters during the first quarter of the year. (See Aluminum in October 2010.) Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) reported increased output from its smelters at Massena, NY [125,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) capacity]; Wenatchee, WA (184,000 t/yr capacity); and Ferndale, WA (278,000 t/yr capacity) (Alcoa Inc., 2011). Century Aluminum Co. (Monterey, CA) restarted a potline at its 244,000-t/yr smelter in Hawesville, KY, and production at full capacity from the smelter was planned during the third quarter of the year (Century Aluminum Co., 2011). Ormet Corp. (Hannibal, OH) reported that shipments of primary aluminum during the first quarter of the year were 31% higher than those in the first quarter of 2010 as a result of the restart of two potlines at its 265,000-t/yr smelter (Ormet Corp., 2011).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in March 2011 was 260,000 t, 9% higher than that in the previous month and 17%

higher than the total in March 2010. Of this, 138,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 5% higher than the amount in the previous month and the same as that in March 2010. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in March 2011 totaled 122,000 t, which was 14% higher than that in February and 45% higher than the amount in March 2010.

Update

In March, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot continued its upward trend, rising to \$1.218 per pound from \$1.194 per pound in February. The trend continued through April, the average monthly price rising to \$1.283 per pound, before reversing, with the average monthly price falling to \$1.261 per pound in May, and \$1.244 per pound in June.

References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2011, Alcoa second quarter income from continuing operations jumps 138 percent, revenue rises 27 percent over year-ago quarter: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. news release, July 11, 11 p.
- Century Aluminum Co., 2011, Century reports first quarter 2011 earnings: Monterey, CA, Century Aluminum Co. news release, May 3, 1 p.
- Ormet Corp., 2011, Results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2011: Hannibal, OH, Ormet Corp. news release, May 23, 7 p.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2010 ^p	1,726	1,550	1,250	2,800	2,650	967	3,610	8,140	1,010
2010:									
January–March	418	401	257	657	678	242	920	2,000	970
March	146	138	84	222	230	94	325	693	970
April	142	123	97	221	257	102	359	722	988
May	148	124	102	225	233	96	329	702	999
June	141	126	103	228	232	74	306	676	1,090
July	146	132	99	230	223	92	315	691	1,030
August	146	135	100	235	207	81	288	669	989
September	143	127	100	227	224	78	302	672	1,000
October	148	130	94	224	203	76	279	651	1,030
November	144	130	98	227	209	68	277	649	998
December	148	120	85	204	179	59	238	591	1,010
2011:									
January	152	141	104	245	211	64	276	672	1,050
February	140	132	107 ^r	239 ^r	212	63	275	653 ^r	1,060
March	162	138	122	260	232	75	307	728	1,070
January–March	453	410	333	743	655	202	857	2,050	1,070

^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	1,360	1,530	1,390	56	49	7	7	3,370
2010:										
January–March	455	337	334	305	15	13	2	2	806	657
March	159	117	110	101	5	4	1	1	274	222
April	150	110	116	105	5	4	1	1	272	221
May	153	114	118	106	5	4	1	1	277	225
June	154	113	122	110	5	4	1	1	281	228
July	157	114	123	112	5	4	1	1	285	230
August	163	119	122	111	5	4	1	1	291	235
September	159	115	117	107	5	4	1	1	282	227
October	163	117	111	101	5	4	1	1	280	224
November	161	117	116	106	5	4	1	1	283	227
December	152	109	99	90	5	4	1	1	257	204
2011:										
January	176	131	119	109	5	4	1	1	301	245
February	175 ^r	131	113 ^r	103 ^r	5	4	1	1	294 ^r	239 ^r
March	187	140	126	115	5	4	1	1	319	260
January–March	538	401	359	327	15	13	2	2	914	743

^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 MARCH 2011¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	156,000	187,000	117,000
Independent mill fabricators	115,000	126,000	104,000	115,000
Foundries	4,220	5,070	3,690	4,420
Other consumers	524	629	524	629
Total	275,000	319,000	225,000	260,000

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 MARCH 2011¹

(Metric tons)

	March			January–March ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	18,500	46,400	46,700	18,300	136,000	138,000
Can stock clippings	5,420	23,000	21,000	7,390	64,000	62,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	7,410	27,400	27,700	7,090	85,800	84,400
Casting	1,480	5,040	5,020	1,500	16,700	16,100
Borings and turnings	2,650	10,100	10,100	2,620	29,100	29,300
Dross and skimmings	7,450	42,000	42,000	7,450	123,000	124,000
Total new scrap	42,900	154,000	153,000	44,300	454,000	454,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,870	25,400	25,400	8,870	69,600	69,800
Used extrusion	4,940	10,200	9,910	5,250	26,800	26,200
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	21,200	60,400	60,500	21,100	161,000	162,000
Other wrought products	4,460	20,400	20,400	4,460	56,100	58,800
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	904	6,440	6,500	843	18,600	18,900
Total old scrap	40,300	123,000	123,000	40,500	332,000	336,000
Sweated pig	89	147	147	89	424	442
Total all classes	83,400	277,000	275,000	84,900	787,000	790,000

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)

	March			January–March ³		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,490	3,020	3,180	1,340	9,070	9,460
380 and variations	2,510	25,300	25,300	2,510	66,200	66,700
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,500	2,490	2,490	2,500	7,480	7,610
No. 319 and variations	2,360	5,680	5,740	2,310	17,000	17,800
F-132 alloy and variations	948	672	672	948	2,020	1,520
Al-Zn alloys	278	130	130	278	391	391
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	398	228	228	398	684	684
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	48	34	34	48	102	102
Other ⁴	9,740	11,300	12,100	9,000	29,600	34,400
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,700	38,800	38,900	16,500	118,000	117,000
Total all alloys	37,000	87,700	88,800	35,900	250,000	256,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	14,000	XX	XX	41,500	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,590	XX	XX	4,660	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,140	XX	XX	3,360	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	70,900	XX	XX	201,000	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
March	121.800	115.767
January–March	119.184	113.386

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
March	90.96	87.07	81.96	81.00
January–March	88.95	84.88	79.48	77.54

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January– February	February	January– February	February	January– February	February	January– February
Argentina	8,500	17,900	--	--	--	--	8,500	17,900
Australia	108	4,590	(2)	(2)	--	--	108	4,590
Austria	(2)	13	1,500	2,360	--	--	1,500	2,380
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	354	694	354	694
Bahrain	--	--	1,310	2,400	--	--	1,310	2,400
Brazil	9,720	10,100	874	1,710	--	70	10,600	11,900
Canada	143,000	293,000	24,600	51,400	24,100	51,400	191,000	396,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	422	608	422	608
China	127	230	10,800	16,800	1	6	10,900	17,100
Costa Rica	--	--	294	659	--	--	294	659
Egypt	--	--	344	732	--	--	344	732
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	330	756	330	756
France	297	405	306	419	--	--	603	824
Germany	147	225	5,860	12,600	18	18	6,020	12,900
Greece	--	--	1,120	2,110	--	42	1,120	2,150
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	571	1,040	571	1,040
Hong Kong	--	(2)	267	682	--	--	267	682
India	18	18	1,120	2,160	--	--	1,130	2,180
Indonesia	--	--	4,630	10,800	--	--	4,630	10,800
Italy	(2)	(2)	248	649	19	42	266	692
Japan	2	91	1,050	1,760	29	69	1,080	1,920
Korea, Republic of	624	948	273	465	--	--	897	1,410
Malaysia	--	--	386	1,200	101	101	487	1,300
Mexico	1,310	3,010	2,050	4,310	11,900	20,700	15,300	28,100
New Zealand	3,850	5,510	18	31	--	4	3,870	5,550
Qatar	2,780	4,880	--	--	--	--	2,780	4,880
Russia	15,900	31,000	1,020	2,131	--	--	16,900	33,100
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	772	1,860	772	1,860
South Africa	1,520	1,520	2,150	5,630	--	--	3,670	7,150
United Arab Emirates	15,300	30,400	--	--	--	46	15,300	30,500
United Kingdom	23	42	653	1,290	1,230	1,800	1,910	3,130
Venezuela	8,370	9,160	115	133	146	417	8,627	9,712
Other	299	9,820	2,250	5,020	1,380	2,630	3,920	17,500
Total	212,000	423,000	63,300	128,000	41,300	82,300	316,000	633,000

-- 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 FEBRUARY 2011¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January– February	February	January– February	February	January– February	February	January– February
Australia	18	155	129	353	(2)	(2)	147	507
Belgium	8	25	155	231	2	2	165	259
Brazil	--	--	569	918	435	878	1,000	1,800
Canada	7,300	14,800	25,500	54,500	10,900	21,000	43,700	90,300
Chile	119	119	88	161	--	--	207	280
China	388	825	2,730	5,100	107,000	201,000	111,000	207,000
Colombia	1	1	180	354	17	17	198	373
France	117	276	1,040	2,170	--	--	1,150	2,450
Germany	299	517	772	1,710	--	50	1,070	2,280
Guatemala	--	--	1,120	2,360	--	--	1,120	2,360
Hong Kong	(2)	21	322	667	2,540	5,350	2,870	6,040
India	6	30	254	502	2,560	6,560	2,820	7,100
Indonesia	7	7	29	173	257	529	293	709
Ireland	(2)	3	523	1,740	--	--	524	1,750
Israel	111	148	655	1,190	--	--	766	1,330
Italy	18	18	303	557	--	--	321	575
Japan	59	236	1,150	2,600	1,350	2,220	2,550	5,050
Korea, Republic of	11	79	1,410	2,640	18,200	32,300	19,600	35,000
Malaysia	--	(2)	98	222	82	190	180	412
Mexico	15,000	31,200	21,500	43,100	11,600	22,000	48,100	96,300
Netherlands	18	72	85	154	77	119	181	345
Pakistan	(2)	(2)	(2)	6	538	1,110	538	1,120
Panama	--	--	626	826	--	22	626	848
Romania	108	176	22	31	--	--	130	207
Saudi Arabia	--	(2)	2,850	6,370	--	--	2,850	6,370
Singapore	108	132	258	478	1	1	367	612
Spain	--	--	119	333	65	107	184	440
Taiwan	148	261	884	1,660	4,530	8,380	5,570	10,300
Thailand	(2)	(2)	100	181	637	853	737	1,030
Tunisia	--	--	190	423	--	--	190	423
Turkey	7	23	207	321	--	18	214	362
United Arab Emirates	--	--	859	1,450	39	40	898	1,490
United Kingdom	194	414	961	2,060	7	112	1,160	2,590
Vietnam	--	--	14	49	795	1,110	809	1,160
Other	91	166	1,270	2,900	149	192	1,510	3,250
Total	24,200	49,700	67,000	138,000	162,000	304,000	253,000	493,000

-- 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.