

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2012

Domestic primary aluminum production in October 2012 was 170,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,470 t, slightly less than that during the previous month and 3% less than that in October 2011.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in October 2012 was 292,000 t, 5% more than the amount recovered in September and 12% more than the amount recovered in October 2011. Of this, 154,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 10% more than the amount in September and 10% more than the amount in October 2011. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in October 2012 totaled 138,000 t, slightly more than the amount in September and 13% more than the amount in October 2011.

Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) signed a 10-year power supply contract for the 279,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) smelter at Ferndale, WA. Starting in January 2013, BPA will provide 300 megawatts of power through September 2022. The prior long-term contract between Alcoa and BPA expired in May 2012 but power continued to be supplied to the smelter through short-term contracts during contract negotiations (Alcoa Inc., 2012b).

In December, Alcoa and Saudi Arabian Mining Co. (Ma'aden) produced the first aluminum from their smelter in Ras Al Khair, Saudi Arabia. The 740,000-t/yr smelter would ramp up to full capacity during 2013. Alcoa and Ma'aden also broke ground in December for the second phase of the rolling mill adjacent to the Ras Al Khair smelter that will produce foil stock and sheet for the automotive and construction markets.

When commissioned, the initial rolling mill capacity will produce sheet for containers and packaging. The entire rolling mill was expected to be completed in 2014. Alcoa owns 25.1% of the joint venture, with Ma'aden owning the remaining 74.9% (Alcoa Inc., 2012a, c).

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to \$0.983 per pound in November from \$1.008 per pound in October before increasing to \$1.051 per pound in December.

References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2012a, Alcoa and Ma'aden break ground for Middle East's first automotive products aluminum rolling mill: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. press release, December 12, (Accessed January 3, 2013, at http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20121212005612en&newsYear=2012.)
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- Alcoa Inc., 2012c, Ma'aden Alcoa joint venture reaches first hot metal milestone for smelter: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. press release, December 12, (Accessed January 3, 2013, at http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20121212005611en&newsYear=2012.)

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		
2011	1,986	1,650	1,450	3,110	2,830	880	3,710	8,800	1,060
2011:									
January–October	1,637	1,400 ^r	1,220 ^r	2,620 ^r	2,390	736	3,130	7,390	1,060
October	175	139	123	262	243	78	321	758	1,060
November	171	128	116	244	192	74	266	682	1,050
December	177	125	114	239	245	70	315	731	1,060
2012:									
January	178	145	125	270	281	70	351	800	1,090
February	167	146	131	276	284	77	360	804	1,060
March	179	154	139	292	248	83	332	803	1,060
April	174	150	133	283	231	78	309	766	1,090
May	179	154	143	298	293	82	376	852	1,110
June	173	150	138	289	240	78	318	780	1,100
July	177	152	137	289	233	80	313	780	1,140
August	171	155	145	300	234	65	300	770	1,130
September	164	140 ^r	137	277 ^r	214	60	273	715 ^r	1,110
October	170	154	138	292	204	62	265	727	1,130
January–October	1,733	1,500	1,370	2,870	2,460	734	3,200	7,800	1,130

^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	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2011	2,250	1,650	1,560	1,410	61	49	6	6	3,880	3,110
2011:										
January–October	1,890 ^r	1,370 ^r	1,340 ^r	1,210 ^r	51 ^r	40 ^r	5 ^r	5 ^r	3,280 ^r	2,630 ^r
October	191	142	127	115	5	4	1	1	323	262
November	184	137	113	102	5	4	1	1	303	244
December	182	135	109	99	5	4	1	1	298	239
2012:										
January	208	149	128	116	5	4	1	1	342	270
February	211	155	129	117	5	4	1	1	346	276
March	216	157	143	130	5	4	1	1	365	292
April	217	156	129	117	10	9	1	1	356	283
May	214	156	146	133	10	9	1	1	371	298
June	227	167	126	113	10	9	1	1	363	289
July	223	163	130	117	10	9	1	1	363	289
August	227	168	136	123	10	9	1	1	373	300
September	226 ^r	164 ^r	116 ^r	104 ^r	10	9	1	1	351 ^r	277 ^r
October	222	162	133	121	10	9	1	1	365	292
January–October	2,190	1,600	1,320	1,190	83	74	6	6	3,590	2,870

^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 OCTOBER 2012¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	185,000	222,000	135,000	162,000
Independent mill fabricators	120,000	133,000	109,000	121,000
Foundries	8,110	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	482	579	481	577
Total	314,000	365,000	252,000	292,000

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 OCTOBER 2012¹

(Metric tons)

	October			January–October ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	19,300	42,100	42,000	19,400	390,000	390,000
Can stock clippings	23,500	22,400	21,800	24,000	233,000	233,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	8,930	42,900	41,400	10,400	379,000	382,000
Casting	2,310	5,470	5,450	2,330	55,800	55,900
Borings and turnings	4,220	11,200	10,400	5,040	118,000	16,700
Dross and skimmings	16,300	54,700	54,700	16,300	549,000	549,000
Total new scrap	74,500	179,000	176,000	77,500	1,720,000	1,730,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	6,550	26,200	26,300	6,380	266,000	266,000
Used extrusion	7,400	13,000	13,300	7,100	134,000	136,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	31,500	63,200	64,400	30,300	631,000	631,000
Other wrought products	14,300	24,400	25,600	13,100	255,000	251,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,410	8,310	8,180	1,550	79,400	79,300
Total old scrap	61,100	135,000	138,000	58,400	1,370,000	1,360,000
Sweated pig	55	33	33	55	293	293
Total all classes	136,000	314,000	314,000	136,000	3,090,000	3,090,000

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER 2012^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

	October				January–October ³	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,310	3,840	4,020	3,130	41,000	40,700
380 and variations	10,500	13,300	13,300	10,500	172,000	172,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,900	4,240	4,240	1,900	42,800	42,800
No. 319 and variations	3,610	5,630	5,660	3,580	57,800	57,700
F-132 alloy and variations	450	439	439	450	4,430	4,430
Al-Zn alloys	99	143	143	99	1,660	1,660
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	111	292	292	111	2,970	2,970
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	170	162	162	170	1,950	1,950
Other ⁴	5,160	7,200	6,710	5,650	73,500	70,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,100	43,200	42,900	16,500	426,000	425,000
Total all alloys	41,500	78,400	77,800	42,100	824,000	820,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,190	XX	XX	105,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,770	XX	XX	19,400	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,190	XX	XX	13,400	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	66,300	XX	XX	686,000	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 previously published 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
2011:		
October	105.875	98.515
November	102.563	94.038
December	98.150	91.694
January–December	116.121	108.768
2012:		
January	103.375	97.244
February	107.000	99.953
March	107.900	99.002
April	101.563	92.815
May	100.100	90.727
June	95.375	85.481
July	95.125	84.997
August	93.850	83.359
September	103.250	93.146
October	100.813	89.58
January–October	100.835	91.630

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	Old cast	Turnings (clean and dry)
2011:					
October	78.07	74.88	69.19	71.07	68.90
November	76.63	73.85	67.90	70.30	68.60
December	73.18	73.03	67.76	70.26	68.13
January–December	86.68	81.94	74.96 ¹	76.80 ¹	75.68
2012:					
January	77.30	75.60	70.98	72.28	69.88
February	79.83	77.93	73.60	75.85	72.88
March	79.86	78.41	74.14	76.36	73.66
April	75.65	76.65	73.50	76.05	72.65
May	74.27	76.41	72.91	75.73	73.25
June	69.76	74.02	69.48	71.43	70.14
July	70.81	71.02	66.83	69.74	68.10
August	70.35	70.59	65.37	69.39	66.74
September	77.82	73.87	69.21	72.00	69.63
October	75.72	74.37	70.43	73.33	70.09
January–October	75.14	74.89	70.65	73.22	70.70

¹ Average price for April–December; prices for January through March were not available.

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2012¹

(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
Argentina	8,370	64,000	--	4	--	--	8,370	64,000
Australia	2,930	20,600	5	46	--	40	2,930	20,600
Austria	--	8	1,780	20,700	20	22	1,800	20,700
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	242	2,410	242	2,410
Bahrain	1,700	21,500	1,830	19,000	--	14	3,530	40,500
Belgium	10	702	225	1,930	1	193	236	2,830
Brazil	--	9,160	1,840	16,700	--	2,840	1,840	28,700
Canada	140,000	1,600,000	16,700	263,000	31,300	296,000	187,000	2,160,000
Chile	--	--	--	49	372	3,820	372	3,870
China	50	1,250	8,660	92,000	(2)	87	8,710	93,400
Colombia	--	949	170	1,790	313	1,260	483	4,000
Costa Rica	20	447	--	24	318	3,160	338	3,630
Egypt	--	--	335	2,800	--	--	335	2,800
El Salvador	--	201	--	43	374	2,550	374	2,790
France	175	3,450	146	3,700	1	18	322	7,160
Germany	40	502	6,510	63,800	6	164	6,560	64,500
Greece	--	--	1,130	12,000	--	18	1,130	12,100
Guatemala	--	219	--	--	1,020	11,100	1,020	11,300
Honduras	--	--	--	--	235	2,640	235	2,640
Hong Kong	--	--	377	4,040	--	--	377	4,040
India	--	2,030	1,390	13,300	--	6	1,390	15,400
Indonesia	--	--	3,960	69,700	--	43	3,960	69,700
Italy	556	5,330	567	4,530	36	492	1,160	10,400
Japan	3	31	317	3,540	140	1,080	460	4,640
Korea, Republic of	1,380	10,300	355	3,160	--	327	1,730	13,800
Malaysia	407	471	372	4,240	--	--	779	4,710
Mexico	964	34,500	3,350	25,900	12,000	109,000	16,300	169,000
New Zealand	893	16,200	7	19	18	119	918	16,300
Qatar	8,080	117,000	--	19	--	--	8,080	117,000
Romania	--	249	568	8,140	35	1,090	603	9,480
Russia	17,100	258,000	1,270	12,900	--	--	18,300	271,000
Saudi Arabia	--	312	--	--	1,560	22,700	1,560	23,000
South Africa	305	4,580	4,950	49,500	--	--	5,260	54,100
Sweden	1	98	768	4,380	--	8	769	4,490
Switzerland	36	88	448	2,590	--	--	484	2,680
Taiwan	41	44	566	5,160	--	--	607	5,210
Tajikistan	--	13,900	--	--	--	--	--	13,900
United Arab Emirates	18,200	219,000	--	12	77	936	18,300	220,000
United Kingdom	29	571	1,300	9,100	1,220	4,680	2,550	14,300
Venezuela	199	41,700	(2)	426	--	2,480	199	44,600
Other	2,870	15,900	1,660	16,000	4,430	27,900	8,960	59,800
Total	204,000	2,460,000	61,500	734,000	53,700	497,000	319,000	3,690,000

-- 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 OCTOBER 2012¹

(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	8	273	394	1,930	--	--	402	2,210
Belgium	--	42	516	3,800	--	334	516	4,170
Brazil	7	70	413	7,420	103	2,240	523	9,730
Canada	8,310	74,900	34,500	314,000	7,630	80,500	50,400	469,000
Chile	--	1,430	109	6,680	--	21	109	8,130
China	75	3,300	3,070	29,100	117,000	1,060,000	120,000	1,100,000
Colombia	1	503	112	1,300	--	65	113	1,860
France	488	2,390	1,960	14,900	--	56	2,450	17,300
Germany	429	2,860	851	8,610	38	345	1,320	11,800
Guatemala	--	6	2,180	13,300	16	73	2,190	13,300
Hong Kong	1	124	133	1,430	1,830	23,500	1,960	25,100
India	22	212	107	1,310	4,000	45,400	4,130	46,900
Indonesia	--	114	79	1,850	101	2,860	180	4,830
Ireland	--	34	32	503	--	--	32	537
Israel	1	788	739	5,690	--	18	740	6,500
Italy	--	32	287	2,770	--	20	287	2,820
Japan	177	824	1,370	13,400	793	8,050	2,340	22,300
Jordan	--	--	1,370	7,750	--	--	1,370	7,750
Korea, Republic of	8	294	1,850	15,700	14,700	143,000	16,600	159,000
Kuwait	--	1	1,020	4,920	--	--	1,020	4,920
Malaysia	--	32	162	2,250	169	4,620	331	6,900
Mexico	14,200	178,000	26,700	254,000	10,700	101,000	51,600	533,000
Netherlands	4	37	63	723	--	649	67	1,410
New Zealand	(2)	16	130	2,100	1	4	131	2,120
Norway	1	1	2	105	287	1,130	290	1,240
Pakistan	--	--	9	47	1,610	22,700	1,620	22,800
Panama	--	20	303	3,070	11	24	314	3,120
Romania	33	789	43	419	--	--	76	1,210
Saudi Arabia	3	62	8,380	51,400	--	--	8,380	51,500
Singapore	102	851	445	3,620	--	177	547	4,650
Spain	--	7	71	1,110	23	101	94	1,220
Taiwan	237	2,110	1,490	8,620	6,850	54,600	8,570	65,400
Thailand	--	9	48	898	1,470	5,050	1,510	5,960
Tunisia	17	17	307	1,630	--	--	324	1,650
Turkey	4	23	233	2,150	--	--	237	2,170
United Arab Emirates	--	1	1,390	9,240	23	294	1,420	9,540
United Kingdom	46	770	1,440	14,000	--	389	1,480	15,200
Vietnam	--	--	5	176	523	3,220	528	3,400
Other	71	940	2,250	15,300	189	3,330	2,510	19,500
Total	24,300	272,000	94,500	827,000	168,000	1,570,000	287,000	2,670,000

-- 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.