

# 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

Annie Hwang (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7952  
Fax: (703) 648-7995  
E-mail: ahwang@usgs.gov

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

## ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2013

Domestic primary aluminum production in February 2013 was 155,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,550 t, essentially the same as that during the previous month but 4% less than that in February 2012.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in February 2013 was 283,000 t, 4% less than the revised amount recovered in January but slightly more than the amount recovered in February 2012. Of this, 148,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 3% less than the revised amount in January but slightly more than the amount in February 2012, and 135,000 t was recovered from old scrap, 5% less than the amount in January but 3% more than the amount in February 2012.

### Update

Since February, several secondary smelters have temporarily shut down capacity citing high prices for scrap while aluminum alloy ingot prices have remained unchanged. In April, Beck Aluminum Alloys Inc. (Lebanon, PA) shut down one of its two 16,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) furnaces in Racine, WI. Bermco Aluminum Co. (Birmingham, AL), Spectro Alloys (Rosemount, MN), and two other smelters shut down an undisclosed amount of capacity at their secondary smelters (Baltic, 2013).

On February 25, Ormet Corp. (Hannibal, OH) filed for bankruptcy protection and Wayzata Investment Partners LLC (Wayzata, MN) made an offer to acquire Ormet's assets pending court approval. (See Aluminum in January 2013.) Meanwhile, employees of Ormet represented by the United Steelworkers union ratified a new contract with Smelter Acquisition, LLC (a subsidiary of Wayzata Investment Partners) on March 28. The contract, which covers approximately 800 employees at the

260,000-t/yr primary aluminum smelter in Hannibal, replaces the defined benefit pension plan with a defined contribution retirement plan and has the same expiration date of June 1, 2016, as the contract it replaces. The contract did not cover employees at Ormet's 540,000-t/yr alumina refinery at Burnside, LA, which was also part of the bankruptcy proceedings (Cowden, 2013).

Following an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Record of Decision on cleanup of the Grasse River in New York, Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) announced that it planned to start work in June to modernize the East Plant at the Massena, NY, smelter. The project would increase capacity to approximately 150,000 t/yr from 125,000 t/yr. The project would also include cleanup of the Grasse River near the smelter. A project schedule was not available (Alcoa Inc., 2013).

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$1.039 per pound in February from \$1.031 per pound in January before decreasing to \$0.976 per pound in March.

### References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2013, EPA issues record of decision on Grasse River remediation: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. press release, April 5, (Accessed April 19, 2013, at [http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news\\_detail.asp?pageID=20130405005807en&newsYear=2013](http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20130405005807en&newsYear=2013).)
- Baltic, Sarah, 2013, US secondary aluminum alloy maker Beck shuts furnace: *Platts Metals Daily*, v. 2, no. 72, April 15, p. 1, 3.
- Cowden, Michael, 2013, USW oks labor pact with suitor for bankrupt Ormet: *American Metal Market*, v. 121, no. 14-5, April 5, p. 4.

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery <sup>2</sup>			Imports for consumption			Total new supply <sup>3</sup>	Stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2012	2,070	1,810 <sup>P</sup>	1,620 <sup>P</sup>	3,430 <sup>P</sup>	2,900	855	3,760	9,260 <sup>P</sup>	1,140 <sup>r</sup>
2012:									
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	137	277	214	60	273	715	1,110
October	170	155	138	293	204	62	265	728	1,130
November	166	151	132	284	196	62	258	707	1,100
December	171	153 <sup>r</sup>	127	280 <sup>r</sup>	244	59	303	754 <sup>r</sup>	1,140 <sup>r</sup>
January–February	346	296 <sup>r</sup>	251 <sup>r</sup>	547 <sup>r</sup>	565	146	711	1,600	1,060
2013:									
January	171	153 <sup>r</sup>	142	295 <sup>r</sup>	248	70	318	784 <sup>r</sup>	1,130
February	155	148	135	283	220	58	278	716	NA
January–February	326	302	276	578	468	129	596	1,500	NA

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

<sup>3</sup>Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

<sup>4</sup>Inventories 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<sup>1</sup>

(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
	2012 <sup>P</sup>	2,640	1,940	1,550	1,400	103	91	7	7	4,300 <sup>r</sup>
2012:										
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	164	116	104	10	9	1	1	351	277
October	222	163	133	121	10	9	1	1	366	293
November	225	164	121	110	10	9	1	1	357	284
December	222 <sup>r</sup>	173 <sup>r</sup>	108	98	10	9	1	1	341 <sup>r</sup>	280 <sup>r</sup>
January–February	424 <sup>r</sup>	304 <sup>r</sup>	257 <sup>r</sup>	233 <sup>r</sup>	10	9	1	1	692 <sup>r</sup>	547 <sup>r</sup>
2013:										
January	211 <sup>r</sup>	161 <sup>r</sup>	137	124	10	9	1	1	359 <sup>r</sup>	295 <sup>r</sup>
February	205	156	130	118	10	9	1	1	345	283
January–February	416	317	268	242	19	17	1	1	704	578

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data 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 2013<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	171,000	205,000	130,000
Independent mill fabricators	118,000	130,000	107,000	118,000
Foundries	8,110	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	475	570	475	570
Total	298,000	345,000	244,000	283,000

<sup>1</sup>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 2013<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	February			January–February <sup>2</sup>		
	Stocks, opening <sup>2</sup>	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
<b>New scrap:</b>						
Extrusion	20,400	42,500	42,000	20,800	85,000	84,700
Can stock clippings	7,000	22,300	22,300	7,000	45,100	46,800
Other wrought sheet/clippings	10,700	41,800	38,800	13,800	81,400	78,900
Casting	2,010	5,440	5,390	2,050	10,700	10,700
Borings and turnings	4,580	11,800	11,700	4,730	23,200	23,100
Dross and skimmings	13,000	42,800	42,800	13,000	86,700	86,700
Total new scrap	57,700	167,000	163,000	61,400	332,000	331,000
<b>Old scrap:</b>						
Used castings	6,030	26,700	26,800	5,900	54,300	56,200
Used extrusion	9,300	13,500	12,500	10,300	28,200	26,400
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	31,300	66,400	65,000	32,800	129,000	127,000
Other wrought products	16,800	20,300	21,800	15,300	45,500	48,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,980	8,200	8,430	1,760	16,900	17,300
Total old scrap	65,400	135,000	134,000	66,000	274,000	275,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	287	287
Total all classes	123,000	302,000	298,000	128,000	607,000	606,000

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES IN FEBRUARY 2013<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	February			January–February <sup>3</sup>		
	Stocks, opening <sup>3</sup>	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
<b>Die-cast alloys:</b>						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,480	4,390	3,970	2,890	8,270	7,990
380 and variations	10,300	13,200	13,200	10,300	26,500	26,500
<b>Sand and permanent mold:</b>						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,690	4,470	4,470	1,690	8,930	8,930
No. 319 and variations	3,380	7,110	7,050	3,430	14,100	14,100
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	771	771
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	346	346
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68	566	566
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	291	291
Other <sup>4</sup>	7,320	6,520	7,590	6,250	13,700	14,600
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	17,100	43,000	43,100	17,000	77,600	77,800
Total all alloys	43,200	79,700	80,400	42,500	151,000	152,000
<b>Less:</b>						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,100	XX	XX	16,800	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,610	XX	XX	3,230	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	874	XX	XX	1,710	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>5</sup>	XX	68,100	XX	XX	129,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

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

<sup>3</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

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

<sup>5</sup>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
2012:		
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	89.580
November	98.300	88.123
December	105.125	94.635
January–December	100.981	91.589
2013:		
January	103.050	92.430
February	103.875	93.130
January–February	103.463	92.780

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)
2012:					
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
November	74.33	73.35	69.50	73.00	69.10
December	80.08	75.72	72.44	74.72	70.44
January–December	75.48	74.83	70.70	73.32	70.55
2013:					
January	79.02	77.12	73.05	75.00	71.10
February	79.18	78.32	73.95	75.47	73.63
January–February	79.10	77.72	73.50	75.24	72.37

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2013<sup>1</sup>

(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
Argentina	12,000	17,300	--	--	--	--	12,000	17,300
Australia	2,750	2,750	(2)	(2)	--	--	2,750	2,750
Austria	3	3	1,600	2,530	--	18	1,600	2,550
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	223	483	223	483
Bahrain	1,850	5,920	940	2,750	--	--	2,790	8,660
Belgium	93	140	201	334	107	107	401	581
Brazil	952	8,370	1,640	4,370	--	38	2,590	12,800
Canada	141,000	300,000	15,800	33,000	23,300	52,500	180,000	386,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	681	1,320	681	1,320
China	131	9,250	10,800	22,400	21	40	10,900	31,700
Colombia	18	242	195	284	424	1,010	637	1,540
Costa Rica	--	--	--	13	291	619	291	632
Egypt	--	--	159	581	--	--	159	581
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	322	736	322	736
France	531	1,010	237	383	--	--	768	1,390
Germany	7	29	6,030	11,500	20	20	6,050	11,500
Greece	--	--	648	2,490	--	100	648	2,590
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	1,300	2,670	1,300	2,670
Honduras	--	--	(2)	(2)	311	584	311	584
Hong Kong	--	--	358	759	--	--	358	759
India	3	3	1,210	2,960	--	7	1,220	2,970
Indonesia	3	3	4,560	12,100	--	--	4,560	12,100
Italy	2	2	449	789	36	573	487	1,360
Japan	--	--	522	948	15	76	537	1,020
Korea, Republic of	1,300	2,930	297	586	--	--	1,600	3,510
Malaysia	--	--	498	1,070	55	55	553	1,120
Mexico	946	1,630	2,590	5,190	10,100	19,800	13,600	26,600
New Zealand	542	1,790	--	6	--	24	542	1,820
Norway	6,940	7,700	1	2	--	--	6,950	7,700
Qatar	8,460	21,000	--	--	--	--	8,460	21,000
Romania	--	--	355	811	138	138	493	949
Russia	17,600	27,400	1,120	2,400	--	--	18,700	29,800
Saudi Arabia	--	97	--	--	748	2,550	748	2,640
South Africa	--	2,020	3,390	10,900	--	16	3,390	12,900
Sweden	--	--	766	1,320	--	--	766	1,320
Switzerland	(2)	(2)	1,120	2,180	--	--	1,120	2,180
Taiwan	--	4	520	985	--	--	520	989
United Arab Emirates	24,600	50,800	--	(2)	18	478	24,600	51,200
United Kingdom	11	103	1,420	2,550	1,400	2,610	2,830	5,260
Venezuela	123	4,850	--	--	--	1,570	123	6,420
Other	251	2,080	1,030	2,350	2,050	4,060	3,330	8,490
Total	220,000	468,000	58,400	129,000	41,600	92,200	320,000	689,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2013<sup>1</sup>

(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	8	18	251	569	--	--	259	587
Belgium	10	10	176	383	20	20	206	413
Brazil	1	6	1,540	2,380	11	11	1,550	2,390
Canada	7,740	17,400	30,500	63,800	7,550	14,900	45,800	96,000
Chile	2	6	310	1,830	20	20	332	1,860
China	729	1,260	3,350	6,280	110,000	205,000	114,000	212,000
Colombia	420	781	515	715	--	--	935	1,500
France	322	464	1,490	3,330	9	9	1,820	3,810
Germany	176	602	926	1,520	--	--	1,100	2,120
Guatemala	--	--	347	2,600	--	15	347	2,610
Hong Kong	(2)	2	68	254	2,840	6,120	2,910	6,380
India	(2)	(2)	60	126	4,150	7,370	4,210	7,490
Indonesia	--	--	159	338	1,230	3,130	1,390	3,470
Ireland	1	74	732	899	--	--	733	973
Israel	9	109	877	1,560	--	--	886	1,670
Italy	3	3	248	464	18	18	269	485
Japan	58	159	1,910	3,400	683	1,580	2,650	5,140
Jordan	--	--	936	1,690	--	--	936	1,690
Korea, Republic of	24	77	1,680	3,300	12,300	25,200	14,000	28,600
Kuwait	--	--	1,690	1,720	--	--	1,690	1,720
Malaysia	--	--	134	340	66	106	200	446
Mexico	19,600	35,100	28,900	58,400	8,660	17,000	57,200	111,000
Netherlands	8	11	902	1,680	19	19	929	1,710
New Zealand	--	(2)	72	407	18	18	90	425
Norway	(2)	(2)	2	10	232	567	234	577
Pakistan	--	--	12	31	1,290	2,440	1,300	2,470
Panama	--	--	307	595	15	15	322	610
Romania	13	14	49	142	--	--	62	156
Saudi Arabia	--	--	5,540	10,900	--	--	5,540	10,900
Singapore	29	76	285	480	--	--	314	556
Spain	(2)	7	95	158	78	210	173	375
Taiwan	121	431	501	1,100	7,790	15,000	8,410	16,500
Thailand	--	19	103	385	607	783	710	1,190
Tunisia	--	--	396	1,000	--	--	396	1,000
Turkey	--	10	409	776	19	19	428	805
United Arab Emirates	--	--	1,340	2,030	--	21	1,340	2,050
United Kingdom	120	273	1,140	2,290	2	103	1,260	2,660
Vietnam	--	--	1	2	--	2	1	4
Other	17	38	689	2,020	382	695	1,090	2,750
Total	29,400	57,000	88,600	180,000	158,000	300,000	276,000	537,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.