

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2013

Domestic primary aluminum production in March 2013 was 172,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,550 t, unchanged from that during the previous month but 4% less than that in March 2012.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in March 2013 was 292,000 t, 4% more than the amount recovered in February but the same as the amount recovered in March 2012. Of this, 156,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 5% more than the amount in February and slightly more than the amount in March 2012, and 137,000 t was recovered from old scrap, 3% more than the amount in February but slightly less than the amount in March 2012.

Century Aluminum Co. (Monterey, CA) entered an agreement to purchase the aluminum smelter in Sebree, KY, from Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. (Montreal, Quebec, Canada), pending regulatory approval. The smelter had a capacity of 196,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) (Century Aluminum Co., 2013a). Century reached a power supply agreement with Big Rivers Electric Corp. and Kenergy Corp. for the 244,000-t/yr Hawesville, KY, smelter. Under the agreement, Big Rivers and Kenergy would purchase power on the open market and supply it to the smelter. Century anticipated that the open market price would be lower than that paid under the current contract that expires August 20, 2013 (Century Aluminum Co., 2013b).

Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) announced it would permanently shut down two potlines with 105,000 t/yr of capacity at the 385,000-t/yr Baie-Comeau, Quebec, Canada, smelter. The two potlines, using Soderberg technology, would be shut down by the end of August. High operating costs were cited for the

closure. Alcoa was planning to modernize the smelter by building a new potline using prebaked technology to comply with environmental regulations and upgrading the cast house and port facilities at the smelter. Completion of the project had been planned for 2016 but was rescheduled to 2019 owing to financial considerations (Alcoa Inc., 2013).

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased by 6% to \$0.976 per pound in March from \$1.039 per pound in February and continued to decline to \$0.951 per pound in April.

References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2013, Alcoa revises schedule for modernization of Baie-Comeau smelter: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. press release, May 16, (Accessed May 22, 2013, at http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20130516005682en&newsYear=2013.)
- Century Aluminum Co., 2013a, Century Aluminum announces agreement to acquire Sebree, KY smelter: Monterey, CA, Century Aluminum Co. press release, April 29, (Accessed May 17, 2013, at <http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/century-aluminum-announces-agreement-to-acquire-sebree-ky-smelter-nasdaq-cenx-1783867.htm>.)
- Century Aluminum Co., 2013b, Century, Big Rivers and Kenergy reach tentative agreement on framework for market priced power for Hawesville smelter: Monterey, CA, Century Aluminum Co. press release, April 29, (Accessed May 17, 2013, at <http://news.morningstar.com/all/marketwire/MWR1011468/century-big-rivers-and-kenergy-reach-tentative-agreement-on-framework-for-market-priced-power-for-hawesville-smelter.aspx>.)

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		
2012	2,070	1,810 ^p	1,620 ^p	3,430 ^p	2,900	855	3,760	9,260 ^p	1,140
2012:									
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	139 ^r	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	127	280	244	59	303	754	1,140
January–March	525	449 ^r	389 ^r	839 ^r	813	230	1,040	2,410	1,060
2013:									
January	171	153	140 ^r	293 ^r	248	70	318	782 ^r	1,170 ^r
February	155	148	133 ^r	281 ^r	220	58	278	715 ^r	1,190
March	172	156	137	292	283	70	352	817	NA
January–March	498	457	410	867	750	198	949	2,310	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

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
	2012 ^p	2,640	1,940	1,550	1,400	103	91	7	7	4,300
2012:										
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	173	108	98	10	9	1	1	341	280
January–March	635 ^r	462 ^r	401	363	15	13	2	2	1,050	839 ^r
2013:										
January	210 ^r	160 ^r	137	124	10	9	1	1	357 ^r	293 ^r
February	203 ^r	154 ^r	130	118	10	9	1	1	344 ^r	281 ^r
March	208	158	137	125	10	10	1	1	356	292
January–March	621	472	405	367	29	26	2	2	1,060	867

^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 MARCH 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	174,000	208,000	132,000
Independent mill fabricators	124,000	137,000	112,000	125,000
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	475	570	475	570
Total	306,000	356,000	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 MARCH 2013¹

(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	20,800	42,500	42,700	20,700	128,000	127,000
Can stock clippings	7,000	17,000	17,300	6,710	62,100	64,100
Other wrought sheet/clippings	13,800	47,800	49,300	12,200	129,000	128,000
Casting	2,040	5,000	4,950	2,100	15,500	15,500
Borings and turnings	4,730	11,900	11,900	4,710	35,100	35,100
Dross and skimmings	13,600	44,000	44,000	13,600	131,000	131,000
Total new scrap	62,000	168,000	170,000	60,000	500,000	501,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,900	25,500	26,300	5,120	79,800	82,500
Used extrusion	10,200	16,600	18,400	8,460	43,100	43,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	33,100	59,700	61,900	31,000	188,000	188,000
Other wrought products	13,300	17,900	21,500	9,730	63,900	70,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,780	7,520	7,450	1,840	24,000	24,300
Total old scrap	64,300	127,000	136,000	56,100	399,000	408,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	430	430
Total all classes	126,000	296,000	306,000	116,000	899,000	909,000

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 MARCH 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	March				January–March ³	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,470	3,620	3,750	2,340	11,400	11,200
380 and variations	7,280	12,900	12,900	7,280	38,600	38,600
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610	14,500	14,500
No. 319 and variations	2,700	6,790	6,740	2,750	20,300	20,200
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	1,160	1,160
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	520	520
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68	850	850
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	436	436
Other ⁴	6,250	5,520	6,270	5,490	19,200	20,800
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	17,000	43,500	43,600	16,900	121,000	121,000
Total all alloys	38,300	78,100	79,000	37,400	228,000	230,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,590	XX	XX	26,400	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,040	XX	XX	3,320	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	684	XX	XX	2,090	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	66,800	XX	XX	196,000	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
2012:		
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
March	97.625	86.763
January–March	101.517	90.774

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:					
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
March	75.69	76.08	72.05	75.03	73.00
January–March	77.96	77.17	73.02	75.17	72.58

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2013¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January– March	March	January– March	March	January– March	March	January– March
Argentina	14,400	31,600	(2)	(2)	--	--	14,400	31,600
Australia	2,500	5,240	1	1	--	--	2,500	5,250
Austria	--	3	1,630	4,170	--	18	1,630	4,190
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	265	748	265	748
Bahrain	2,640	8,560	2,910	5,660	--	--	5,560	14,200
Belgium	84	225	292	626	99	206	475	1,060
Brazil	453	8,820	1,690	6,060	--	38	2,150	14,900
Canada	214,000	514,000	17,100	50,100	27,100	79,600	258,000	644,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	515	1,840	515	1,840
China	63	9,310	11,500	33,900	67	106	11,600	43,400
Colombia	36	278	204	489	407	1,420	647	2,190
Costa Rica	--	--	(2)	13	286	906	286	919
Egypt	--	--	445	1,030	--	--	445	1,030
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	334	1,070	334	1,070
France	214	1,220	302	685	--	--	516	1,910
Germany	298	327	5,830	17,300	23	43	6,150	17,700
Greece	--	--	2,530	5,010	--	100	2,530	5,110
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	1,200	3,870	1,200	3,870
Honduras	--	--	--	(2)	420	1,000	420	1,000
Hong Kong	--	--	318	1,080	--	--	318	1,080
India	--	3	1,620	4,580	--	7	1,620	4,590
Indonesia	--	3	7,240	19,300	--	--	7,240	19,300
Italy	--	2	684	1,470	184	757	868	2,230
Japan	21	21	364	1,310	33	110	418	1,440
Korea, Republic of	347	3,270	400	986	67	67	814	4,330
Malaysia	--	--	328	1,390	--	55	328	1,450
Mexico	745	2,380	2,420	7,610	9,610	29,400	12,800	39,300
New Zealand	565	2,360	10	16	--	24	575	2,400
Norway	796	8,500	7	8	--	--	803	8,500
Qatar	5,190	26,200	--	--	--	--	5,190	26,200
Romania	--	--	336	1,150	24	162	360	1,310
Russia	19,900	47,300	1,790	4,180	--	--	21,600	51,500
Saudi Arabia	49	145	--	--	483	3,030	532	3,180
South Africa	202	2,220	5,300	16,200	--	16	5,500	18,400
Sweden	--	--	383	1,700	--	--	383	1,700
Switzerland	--	(2)	662	2,840	--	--	662	2,840
Taiwan	16	20	552	1,540	--	--	568	1,560
United Arab Emirates	19,600	70,300	--	(2)	146	624	19,700	71,000
United Kingdom	25	128	1,310	3,860	1,980	4,590	3,310	8,570
Venezuela	199	5,040	--	--	--	1,570	199	6,620
Other	224	2,300	1,520	3,870	1,920	5,980	3,660	12,100
Total	283,000	750,000	69,700	198,000	45,200	137,000	397,000	1,090,000

-- 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 MARCH 2013¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January–	March	January–	March	January–	March	January–
		March		March		March		March
Australia	21	39	145	714	--	--	166	753
Belgium	1	11	241	624	51	71	293	706
Brazil	2	8	1,230	3,610	107	118	1,340	3,730
Canada	9,060	26,400	37,200	101,000	8,820	23,700	55,100	151,000
Chile	--	6	1,590	3,410	22	42	1,610	3,460
China	454	1,720	3,290	9,570	105,000	310,000	109,000	321,000
Colombia	545	1,330	575	1,290	5	5	1,130	2,620
France	227	691	1,210	4,540	54	63	1,490	5,300
Germany	346	948	971	2,490	55	55	1,370	3,490
Guatemala	--	--	1,960	4,560	--	15	1,960	4,570
Hong Kong	8	10	155	409	2,920	9,040	3,080	9,460
India	14	14	174	300	6,040	13,400	6,230	13,700
Indonesia	--	--	133	470	1,230	4,360	1,360	4,830
Ireland	--	74	1,360	2,260	--	--	1,360	2,340
Israel	104	213	1,020	2,590	--	--	1,130	2,800
Italy	1	4	330	794	--	18	331	816
Japan	108	268	1,420	4,820	1,620	3,200	3,150	8,290
Jordan	--	--	655	2,350	--	--	655	2,350
Korea, Republic of	56	133	2,430	5,740	13,200	38,400	15,700	44,300
Kuwait	--	--	1,590	3,310	--	--	1,590	3,310
Malaysia	--	--	295	635	24	130	319	765
Mexico	18,900	54,100	29,900	88,300	8,130	25,200	57,000	168,000
Netherlands	7	19	1,740	3,420	158	177	1,910	3,610
New Zealand	(2)	(2)	157	565	--	18	157	583
Norway	(2)	1	12	22	228	795	240	818
Pakistan	--	--	2	33	381	2,820	383	2,850
Panama	--	--	322	916	5	20	327	936
Romania	14	28	11	154	--	--	25	182
Saudi Arabia	(2)	(2)	10,300	21,200	--	--	10,300	21,200
Singapore	163	239	255	735	--	--	418	974
Spain	--	7	84	242	39	249	123	498
Taiwan	411	842	968	2,070	7,440	22,500	8,820	25,400
Thailand	--	19	48	433	1,680	2,470	1,730	2,920
Tunisia	--	--	890	1,890	--	--	890	1,890
Turkey	--	10	401	1,180	--	19	401	1,210
United Arab Emirates	--	--	425	2,460	--	21	425	2,480
United Kingdom	133	406	1,190	3,480	140	243	1,460	4,130
Vietnam	--	--	14	16	19	21	33	37
Other	437	473	1,220	3,230	472	1,160	2,130	4,870
Total	31,100	88,000	106,000	286,000	158,000	458,000	295,000	832,000

-- 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.