

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 APRIL 2013

Domestic primary aluminum production in April 2013 was 167,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,560 t, unchanged from that during the previous month but 4% less than that in April 2012.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in April 2013 was 282,000 t, 4% less than the amount recovered in March but unchanged from the amount recovered in April 2012. Of this, 148,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 5% less than the amount in March and slightly less than the amount in April 2012, and 134,000 t was recovered from old scrap, slightly less than the amount in March but slightly more than the amount in April 2012.

Update

Aleris International Inc. (Cleveland, OH) announced that it would close its secondary smelter in Saginaw, MI, at yearend owing to a change in customer demand. The smelter has supplied molten aluminum alloys to nearby customers in the automobile industry since 2000 (Cowden, 2013).

Century Aluminum Co. (Chicago, IL) completed the purchase of the 205,000-metric-tons-per-year (t/yr) aluminum smelter in Sebree, KY, from Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) on June 3 (Century Aluminum Co., 2013).

In Venezuela, production of primary aluminum in April from Corporación Venezolana de Guayana's (CVG) Venalum smelter in Puerto Ordaz was 23% lower than production in April 2012. The 430,000-t/yr smelter was producing at a rate of about 130,000 t/yr during April 2013. The smelter shut down about 45% of its capacity in 2010, citing power shortages, and has continued to experience shortages of raw materials such as aluminum fluoride, cryolite, and petroleum coke owing to financial problems. CVG planned to restart 20 to 30 smelting pots per month this year (Soules, 2013).

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Aluminij d.d. Mostar announced that it was shutting down the 130,000-t/yr Mostar smelter on

June 17, citing high power prices and low aluminum prices. The smelter was producing at 87.5% of its capacity after shutting down 12.5% of its capacity in August 2012 (Blamey, 2013).

In India, National Aluminum Co. of India (Nalco) announced that it had shut down 115,000 t/yr of its 460,000-t/yr Angul smelter in early May. A shortage of coal for its captive powerplant was cited for the shutdown, which was expected to last through August (McBeth, 2013).

In the United Arab Emirates, Emirates Aluminium Co. Ltd. (Emal) and Dubai Aluminium Co. Ltd. (Dubal) merged to form Emirates Global Aluminium Co. Ltd. Emal had an 800,000-t/yr smelter at Jebel Ali, which had a 500,000-t/yr expansion under construction. The capacity of Dubal's smelter at Taweelah was 1 million metric tons per year. The new company also included interests in exploration and development projects for bauxite and alumina in Cameroon and Guinea (Guerra, 2013).

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to \$0.951 per pound in April from \$0.976 per pound in March and continued to decline to \$0.941 per pound in May.

References Cited

- Blamey, Andy, 2013, Aluminij Mostar to halt aluminum smelting from June 17: *Platts Metals Daily*, v. 2, no. 111, June 10, p. 2.
- Century Aluminum Co., 2013, Century Aluminum completes acquisition of Sebree, KY smelter: Chicago, IL, Century Aluminum Co. press release, June 3. (Accessed June 12, 2013, at <http://investor.shareholder.com/cenx/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=768660>.)
- Cowden, Michael, 2013, Aleris to close Saginaw alloy plant by year-end: *American Metal Market*, v. 121, no. 22-3, May 30, p. 1.
- Guerra, Carolina, 2013, Emal, Dubal join to create Emirates Global Aluminium: *American Metal Market*, v. 121, no. 23-3, June 5, p. 4.
- McBeth, Karen, 2013, May calcined petroleum coke for aluminum sees price pressure, support from oil refineries: *Platts Metals Daily*, v. 2, no. 105, May 31, p. 1, 6.
- Soules, George, 2013, Venezuela's Venalum sees output sink 23% on year in April: *Platts Metals Daily*, v. 2, no. 104, May 30, p. 6.

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:									
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	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–April	699	599	522 ^r	1,120 ^r	1,040	308	1,350	3,170 ^r	1,090
2013:									
January	171	153	140	294 ^r	248	70	318	783 ^r	1,170
February	155	148	133	282 ^r	220	58	278	715	1,200 ^r
March	172	156	137	293 ^r	283	70	352	817	1,190
April	167	148	134	282	457	78	535	984	NA
January–April	665	607	544	1,150	1,210	276	1,480	3,300	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:										
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–April	856	618 ^r	530	480	25	22	2	2	1,410	1,120 ^r
2013:										
January	210	160	138 ^r	125 ^r	10	9	1	1	358 ^r	294 ^r
February	203	154	130	118	10	9	1	1	344	281
March	208	158	138 ^r	125	10	10	1	1	357 ^r	293 ^r
April	209	159	127	115	10	9	1	1	345	282
January–April	830	631	534	483	39	34	2	2	1,400	1,150

^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 APRIL 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	174,000	209,000	132,000
Independent mill fabricators	114,000	127,000	103,000	115,000
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	475	570	475	570
Total	297,000	345,000	243,000	282,000

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 APRIL 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	April			January–April ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,700	41,500	41,700	20,600	169,000	169,000
Can stock clippings	6,710	21,300	21,600	6,390	83,400	85,700
Other wrought sheet/clippings	12,200	38,300	39,100	11,400	169,000	169,000
Casting	2,100	5,140	5,130	2,100	20,600	20,600
Borings and turnings	4,710	12,200	12,200	4,700	47,200	47,200
Dross and skimmings	13,600	43,800	43,800	13,600	174,000	174,000
Total new scrap	60,000	162,000	163,000	58,700	664,000	666,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,120	26,200	25,200	6,130	106,000	108,000
Used extrusion	8,460	17,800	18,700	7,640	61,000	61,700
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	31,000	63,400	63,300	31,100	251,000	251,000
Other wrought products	9,730	18,200	18,500	9,440	82,100	88,500
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,840	7,460	7,450	1,860	31,400	31,700
Total old scrap	56,100	133,000	133,000	56,200	532,000	541,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	574	574
Total all classes	116,000	295,000	297,000	115,000	1,200,000	1,210,000

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 APRIL 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	April			January–April ³		
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,340	3,620	3,770	2,190	15,000	15,000
380 and variations	7,280	12,900	12,900	7,280	51,500	51,500
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610	19,300	19,300
No. 319 and variations	2,750	6,790	6,790	2,750	27,100	27,000
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	1,540	1,540
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	693	693
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68	1,130	1,130
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	582	582
Other ⁴	5,490	5,900	6,210	5,180	25,100	27,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,900	43,500	43,400	17,000	165,000	165,000
Total all alloys	37,400	78,500	78,900	37,000	306,000	309,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,800	XX	XX	36,200	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,080	XX	XX	4,390	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	727	XX	XX	2,810	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	66,900	XX	XX	263,000	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:		
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
April	95.063	84.199
January–April	99.903	89.131

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:					
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
April	76.25	74.32	72.41	75.41	72.77
January–April	77.54	76.46	72.87	75.23	72.63

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January–April	April	January–April	April	January–April	April	January–April
Argentina	203	31,800	1	1	--	--	204	31,800
Australia	3,490	8,730	4	6	--	--	3,490	8,740
Austria	(2)	3	2,020	6,180	--	18	2,020	6,210
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	294	1,040	294	1,040
Bahrain	1,800	10,400	2,630	8,290	--	--	4,430	18,600
Belgium	57	282	250	877	59	264	366	1,420
Brazil	4,010	12,800	141	6,200	--	38	4,160	19,100
Canada	381,000	896,000	20,200	70,400	31,100	111,000	432,000	1,080,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	694	2,530	694	2,530
China	96	9,410	16,800	50,700	41	148	16,900	60,300
Colombia	--	278	247	735	310	1,730	557	2,740
Costa Rica	--	--	--	13	279	1,180	279	1,200
Egypt	--	--	272	1,300	--	--	272	1,300
El Salvador	--	--	12	12	295	1,360	307	1,380
France	355	1,580	216	901	--	--	571	2,480
Germany	146	474	6,900	24,200	--	43	7,040	24,700
Greece	--	--	2,160	7,170	--	100	2,160	7,270
Guatemala	57	57	--	--	861	4,730	918	4,780
Honduras	--	--	--	(2)	159	1,160	159	1,160
Hong Kong	(2)	(2)	302	1,380	--	--	302	1,380
India	5	7	2,460	7,040	--	7	2,460	7,050
Indonesia	--	3	7,020	26,400	41	41	7,060	26,400
Italy	--	2	897	2,370	36	793	933	3,160
Japan	23	44	447	1,760	37	146	507	1,950
Korea, Republic of	1,030	4,300	415	1,400	--	67	1,440	5,770
Malaysia	--	--	393	1,790	--	55	393	1,840
Mexico	629	3,010	2,650	10,300	12,400	41,800	15,700	55,100
New Zealand	942	3,300	--	16	--	24	942	3,340
Norway	782	9,280	4	12	--	--	786	9,290
Qatar	9,970	36,200	--	--	--	--	9,970	36,200
Romania	--	--	514	1,660	--	162	514	1,820
Russia	18,700	66,000	1,260	5,440	--	--	20,000	71,500
Saudi Arabia	--	145	--	--	958	3,990	958	4,130
South Africa	2,020	4,250	4,950	21,100	--	16	6,970	25,400
Sweden	--	--	286	1,990	--	--	286	1,990
Switzerland	--	(2)	582	3,430	--	--	582	3,430
Taiwan	21	41	490	2,030	40	40	551	2,110
United Arab Emirates	22,900	93,200	100	100	246	871	23,200	94,200
United Kingdom	25	128	1,310	3,860	1,980	4,590	3,310	8,570
Venezuela	8,350	13,400	--	--	--	1,570	8,350	15,000
Other	290	2,620	1,700	6,870	2,330	10,300	4,310	19,800
Total	457,000	1,210,000	77,600	276,000	52,200	190,000	587,000	1,670,000

-- 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.

TABLE 9
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2013¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January–	April	January–	April	January–	April	January–
		April		April		April		April
Australia	(2)	39	134	848	--	--	134	887
Belgium	3	14	205	830	--	71	208	915
Brazil	1	8	1,350	4,960	--	118	1,360	5,090
Canada	8,730	35,200	40,100	141,000	8,570	32,200	57,400	208,000
Chile	--	6	1,230	4,640	21	62	1,250	4,710
China	693	2,410	2,560	12,100	90,100	400,000	93,400	415,000
Colombia	363	1,690	414	1,700	--	5	777	3,400
France	448	1,140	889	5,430	--	63	1,340	6,640
Germany	132	1,080	771	3,260	--	55	903	4,400
Guatemala	--	--	1,110	5,660	--	15	1,110	5,680
Hong Kong	6	16	170	580	1,900	10,900	2,080	11,500
India	--	14	140	440	4,160	17,600	4,300	18,000
Indonesia	4	4	309	780	795	5,160	1,110	5,940
Ireland	--	74	484	2,750	--	--	484	2,820
Israel	37	251	911	3,500	--	--	948	3,750
Italy	(2)	5	345	1,140	--	18	345	1,160
Japan	38	306	1,040	5,860	1,050	4,250	2,130	10,400
Jordan	--	--	471	2,820	--	--	471	2,820
Korea, Republic of	27	160	2,260	7,990	14,200	52,600	16,500	60,800
Kuwait	--	--	596	3,900	--	--	596	3,900
Malaysia	6	6	191	826	39	168	236	1,000
Mexico	22,000	76,100	36,400	125,000	8,620	33,800	66,900	234,000
Netherlands	(2)	19	1,090	4,500	60	237	1,150	4,760
New Zealand	(2)	(2)	134	699	1	20	135	719
Norway	--	1	6	27	215	1,010	221	1,040
Pakistan	--	--	10	42	1,540	4,360	1,550	4,400
Panama	12	12	320	1,240	6	26	338	1,270
Romania	6	34	93	247	--	--	99	281
Saudi Arabia	--	(2)	5,090	26,300	--	--	5,090	26,300
Singapore	68	306	278	1,010	17	17	363	1,340
Spain	3	9	45	287	--	249	48	545
Taiwan	224	1,070	587	2,660	5,450	27,900	6,260	31,600
Thailand	--	19	125	558	1,140	3,600	1,260	4,180
Tunisia	--	--	402	2,300	--	--	402	2,300
Turkey	--	10	449	1,630	39	57	488	1,690
United Arab Emirates	(2)	(2)	880	3,340	70	91	950	3,430
United Kingdom	76	483	1,010	4,490	148	391	1,230	5,360
Vietnam	--	--	20	36	1,490	1,510	1,510	1,540
Other	49	523	1,660	4,890	262	1,430	1,970	6,840
Total	32,900	121,000	104,000	390,000	140,000	598,000	277,000	1,110,000

-- 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.