

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN MAY 2013

Domestic primary aluminum production in May 2013 was 171,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,520 t, slightly less than that during the previous month and 5% less than that in May 2012.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in May 2013 was 285,000 t, slightly more than the amount recovered in April but 4% less than the amount recovered in May 2012. Of this, 148,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, unchanged from that during the previous month and 4% less than the amount recovered in May 2012, and 137,000 t was recovered from old scrap, slightly more than the amount in April but 4% less than the amount in May 2012.

Update

Aleris International Inc. (Cleveland, OH) announced that it would close its secondary smelter in Hammond, IN, at the end of July and increase production at its secondary smelter in Elyria, OH. Both smelters supplied deoxidation aluminum to the steel industry. Streamlining of operations and better meeting customer needs were cited for the actions (Cowden, 2013b).

In July, Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) started a modernization project at the East Plant at the Massena, NY, smelter that was scheduled to be completed in 2015. The project would increase capacity to 150,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) from 125,000 t/yr (Cowden, 2013a). (See Aluminum in February 2013.)

Trimet Aluminum S.E. (Essen, Germany) offered to purchase the St. Jean-de-Maurienne smelter and Castelsarrasin casthouse in France from Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. (Montreal, Quebec, Canada). Alcan had been seeking to divest these properties as part of its restructuring strategy. The smelter capacity was 138,000 t/yr, and the casthouse capacity was 8,000 t/yr. The transaction was subject to regulatory approval (Rio Tinto Alcan Inc., 2013).

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to \$0.941 per pound in May from \$0.951 per pound in April and continued to decline to \$0.934 per pound in June.

References Cited

- Cowden, Michael, 2013a, Alcoa breaks ground on Massena modernization: American Metal Market, v. 121, no. 27-3, July 3, p. 3.
- Cowden, Michael, 2013b, Aleris closing Ind. plant, moving output to Ohio: American Metal Market, v. 121, no. 28-2, July 9, p. 1, 7.
- Rio Tinto Alcan Inc., 2013, Rio Tinto Alcan receives binding offer for its St. Jean-de-Maurienne aluminium smelter and Castelsarrasin casting facility in France: Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. media release, July 13, 2 p. (Accessed July 18, 2013, at http://www.riotintoalcan.com/documents/13-07-13_St_Jean_binding_offer_FINAL_EN_2.pdf.)

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:									
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–May	878	753 ^r	665 ^r	1,420 ^r	1,340	390	1,730	4,030	1,110
2013:									
January	171	154 ^r	140	294	248	70	318	783	1,170
February	155	149 ^r	133	282	220	58	278	715	1,200
March	172	156	137	293	283	70	352	817	1,190
April	167	148	134	282	457	78	535	984	1,190
May	171	148	137	285	314	67	380	836	NA
January–May	836	755	681	1,440	1,520	343	1,860	4,140	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	3,430
2012:										
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–May	1,070	774 ^r	676	612	35	31	3	3	1,780 ^r	1,420 ^r
2013:										
January	210	160	138	125	10	9	1	1	358	294
February	203	154	130	118	10	9	1	1	344	281
March	208	158	138	125	10	10	1	1	357	293
April	209	159	127	115	10	9	1	1	345	282
May	207	157	131	118	10	9	1	1	348	285
January–May	1,040	788	664	601	49	43	3	2	1,750	1,440

^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 MAY 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated	Estimated	Tabulated	Estimated
	reports	full coverage	reports	full coverage
Secondary smelters	173,000	207,000	131,000	157,000
Independent mill fabricators	119,000	131,000	107,000	118,000
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	475	570	475	570
Total	300,000	348,000	246,000	285,000

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 MAY 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	May			January–May ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,600	43,400	43,200	20,800	212,000	212,000
Can stock clippings	6,390	21,000	20,200	7,200	104,000	106,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	11,400	38,200	38,200	11,400	207,000	207,000
Casting	2,100	5,090	5,140	2,060	25,700	25,700
Borings and turnings	4,700	13,400	13,100	5,010	60,600	60,300
Dross and skimmings	13,600	43,400	43,400	13,600	218,000	218,000
Total new scrap	58,700	164,000	163,000	60,000	828,000	829,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	6,130	25,600	23,800	7,930	132,000	131,000
Used extrusion	7,640	17,700	17,600	7,790	78,700	79,300
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	31,100	73,100	69,600	34,600	325,000	321,000
Other wrought products	9,440	18,500	18,600	9,280	101,000	107,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,860	7,280	7,250	1,890	38,700	39,000
Total old scrap	56,200	142,000	137,000	61,500	674,000	678,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	717	717
Total all classes	115,000	307,000	300,000	122,000	1,500,000	1,510,000

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 MAY 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	May				January–May ³	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,190	3,620	3,740	2,070	18,600	18,700
380 and variations	7,280	12,900	12,900	7,280	64,300	64,300
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610	24,100	24,100
No. 319 and variations	2,750	6,790	6,780	2,760	33,900	33,800
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	1,930	1,930
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	866	866
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68	1,420	1,420
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	727	727
Other ⁴	5,180	5,600	6,810	3,970	30,700	33,800
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	17,000	42,700	43,200	16,500	207,000	208,000
Total all alloys	37,000	77,400	79,200	35,200	384,000	388,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,670	XX	XX	45,900	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	926	XX	XX	5,320	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	663	XX	XX	3,480	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	66,100	XX	XX	329,000	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:		
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
May	94.050	83.021
January–May	98.733	87.909

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:					
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
May	75.18	73.09	70.00	72.68	70.41
January–May	77.06	75.79	72.29	74.72	72.18

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	May	January–	May	January–	May	January–	May	January–
		May		May		May		May
Argentina	17,200	49,000	3	4	--	--	17,200	49,000
Australia	1,970	10,700	2	8	--	--	1,970	10,700
Austria	6	9	1,810	8,000	--	18	1,820	8,020
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	189	1,230	189	1,230
Bahrain	2,510	12,900	3,300	11,600	--	--	5,810	24,500
Belgium	35	316	101	978	50	314	186	1,610
Brazil	4,230	17,100	451	6,660	--	38	4,680	23,800
Canada	211,000	1,110,000	18,900	89,300	30,800	142,000	261,000	1,340,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	1,000	3,530	1,000	3,530
China	109	9,520	13,300	64,000	40	188	13,500	73,700
Colombia	149	427	261	996	573	2,300	983	3,730
Costa Rica	--	--	--	13	479	1,660	479	1,680
Egypt	--	--	289	1,590	--	--	289	1,590
El Salvador	--	--	16	28	449	1,810	465	1,840
France	211	1,790	338	1,240	19	19	568	3,040
Germany	35	508	7,470	31,700	40	83	7,550	32,300
Greece	--	--	1,110	8,280	--	100	1,110	8,380
Guatemala	--	57	--	--	1,440	6,170	1,440	6,220
Honduras	--	--	--	(2)	459	1,620	459	1,620
Hong Kong	--	(2)	377	1,760	--	--	377	1,760
India	--	7	1,480	8,510	--	7	1,480	8,530
Indonesia	--	3	3,000	29,400	--	41	3,000	29,400
Italy	--	2	504	2,870	93	887	597	3,760
Japan	1	44	336	2,090	233	380	570	2,520
Korea, Republic of	1,380	5,680	235	1,640	36	102	1,650	7,420
Malaysia	--	--	302	2,090	--	55	302	2,140
Mexico	1,070	4,070	2,780	13,000	12,300	54,100	16,200	71,200
New Zealand	514	3,810	--	16	--	24	514	3,850
Norway	619	9,900	2	14	--	--	621	9,910
Qatar	8,580	44,800	--	--	--	--	8,580	44,800
Romania	--	--	221	1,880	--	162	221	2,040
Russia	29,800	95,800	1,320	6,760	--	--	31,100	103,000
Saudi Arabia	127	273	--	--	793	4,780	920	5,050
South Africa	1,030	5,280	3,940	25,100	23	39	4,990	30,400
Sweden	--	--	309	2,290	--	--	309	2,290
Switzerland	(2)	(2)	449	3,880	--	--	449	3,880
Taiwan	16	58	526	2,550	--	40	542	2,650
United Arab Emirates	18,000	111,000	140	240	38	909	18,200	112,000
United Kingdom	50	205	2,100	7,270	914	6,830	3,060	14,300
Venezuela	13,300	26,700	--	--	--	1,570	13,300	28,300
Other	1,450	4,040	1,390	6,950	2,440	11,400	5,270	22,400
Total	314,000	1,520,000	66,800	343,000	52,500	242,000	433,000	2,110,000

-- 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.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	May	January–	May	January–	May	January–	May	January–
		May		May		May		
Australia	3	42	324	1,170	--	--	327	1,210
Belgium	1	14	205	1,040	82	152	288	1,200
Brazil	9	18	1,140	6,100	--	118	1,150	6,240
Canada	9,190	44,400	37,400	178,000	8,390	40,600	55,000	263,000
Chile	--	6	399	5,040	20	82	419	5,130
China	812	3,220	2,650	14,800	103,000	503,000	106,000	521,000
Colombia	491	2,180	276	1,980	--	5	767	4,160
France	398	1,540	1,250	6,680	508	570	2,160	8,790
Germany	463	1,540	790	4,050	17	73	1,270	5,670
Guatemala	--	--	1,640	7,310	--	15	1,640	7,320
Hong Kong	42	58	116	696	2,610	13,600	2,760	14,300
India	(2)	14	75	515	5,350	22,900	5,430	23,500
Indonesia	2	6	59	839	1,430	6,580	1,490	7,430
Ireland	12	86	928	3,680	--	--	940	3,760
Israel	203	454	342	3,840	19	19	564	4,310
Italy	--	5	381	1,520	--	18	381	1,540
Japan	95	401	1,400	7,270	955	5,200	2,450	12,900
Jordan	--	--	485	3,300	--	--	485	3,300
Korea, Republic of	8	168	2,300	10,300	13,300	65,900	15,600	76,400
Kuwait	--	--	922	4,820	--	--	922	4,820
Malaysia	1	7	256	1,080	62	231	319	1,320
Mexico	17,300	93,400	36,600	161,000	9,840	43,600	63,700	298,000
Netherlands	70	89	1,340	5,850	94	332	1,510	6,270
New Zealand	(2)	(2)	178	877	--	20	178	897
Norway	--	1	3	30	253	1,260	256	1,290
Pakistan	--	--	(2)	42	1,630	5,990	1,630	6,030
Panama	12	24	490	1,730	--	26	502	1,780
Romania	128	162	54	301	--	--	182	463
Saudi Arabia	108	108	6,570	32,900	--	--	6,680	33,000
Singapore	177	483	299	1,310	66	83	542	1,880
Spain	(2)	10	62	348	21	270	83	628
Taiwan	201	1,270	360	3,010	5,530	33,400	6,090	37,700
Thailand	(2)	19	58	616	1,040	4,650	1,100	5,280
Tunisia	--	--	92	2,390	--	--	92	2,390
Turkey	6	16	626	2,250	77	134	709	2,400
United Arab Emirates	--	(2)	1,280	4,610	--	91	1,280	4,710
United Kingdom	53	535	1,470	5,950	103	494	1,620	6,980
Vietnam	--	--	25	61	2,250	3,750	2,270	3,810
Other	200	723	1,490	6,390	890	2,310	2,580	9,420
Total	30,000	151,000	104,000	494,000	157,000	755,000	291,000	1,400,000

-- 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.