

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 JUNE 2013

Domestic primary aluminum production in June 2013 was 165,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,510 t, essentially unchanged from that during the previous month but 4% less than that in June 2012. Primary aluminum production during the first half of 2013 was 5% less than that of the first half of 2012.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in June 2013 was 304,000 t, 7% more than the amount recovered in May and 5% more than the amount recovered in June 2012. Of this, 162,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 10% more than that during the previous month and 8% more than the amount recovered in June 2012, and 142,000 t was recovered from old scrap, 4% more than the amount in May and slightly more than the amount in June 2012.

U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption (table 8) for the first 6 months of 2013 increased by 7% compared with those for the same period in 2012. Imports of metal and alloys increased by 13%, and imports of scrap increased slightly, whereas imports of semifabricated materials decreased by 12%. Canada remained the leading shipper of materials to the United States, supplying 63% of total U.S. imports in the first 6 months of the year, followed by the United Arab Emirates and Russia, each supplying 5%.

Total aluminum exports (table 9) for the first half of 2013 decreased by 5% compared with those for the first 6 months of 2012. Exports of metal and alloys decreased slightly, exports of semifabricated material increased by 9%, and aluminum scrap exports decreased by 13%. China, Mexico, and Canada were, in descending order of shipments, the major recipients of U.S. exports in the first 6 months of 2012.

Update

Ormet Corp. (Hannibal, OH) shut down two potlines with a combined capacity of 90,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) at its 270,000-t/yr Hannibal smelter in August. A decision by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio denying a request for lower power rates was cited for the shutdown (Ormet Corp., 2013). Ormet shut down two other potlines in August 2012.

(See Aluminum in July 2012.) In February, Ormet filed for bankruptcy protection citing high power prices, low aluminum prices, high debt levels, and legacy costs. (See Aluminum in January 2013.)

Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) announced that it would permanently shut down a 40,000-t/yr potline at the Massena, NY, East plant. Alcoa also planned to temporarily shut down 124,000 t/yr of capacity at smelters in Brazil. Low aluminum prices were cited for the shutdowns which would be completed by the end of September (Alcoa Inc., 2013). Alcoa was modernizing the Massena East plant and planned to add new capacity to replace the potline being shut down. (See Aluminum in February 2013.)

Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) shutdown 50,000 t/yr of capacity at the 100,000-t/yr Shawinigan, Quebec, smelter in August and planned to permanently shut down the remaining capacity by the end of November. Low aluminum prices and obsolete technology were cited for the shutdown of the smelter, which was commissioned in 1942 (Rio Tinto Alcan Inc., 2013).

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to \$0.934 per pound in June from \$0.941 per pound in May and continued to decline to \$0.918 per pound in July.

References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2013, Alcoa to close or curtail 164,000 metric tons of smelting capacity: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. press release, August 14, (Accessed August 19, 2013, at http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20130814005548en&newsYear=2013.)
- Ormet Corp., 2013, Partial curtailment of operations: Hannibal, OH, Ormet Corp. press release, July 31, 2 p. (Accessed August 19, 2013, at http://www.ormet.com/News/PDF/Ormet_Sale_Press_Releasewithmftquote.pdf.)
- Rio Tinto Alcan Inc., 2013, Rio Tinto Alcan to immediately curtail 50,000 tonnes of aluminum production at its Shawinigan smelter in Quebec: Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. media release, August 7, 2 p. (Accessed August 8, 2013, at http://www.riotintoalcan.com/documents/07-08-13_Press_release_-_Rio_Tinto_Alcan_-_Shawinigan_smelter.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:									
June	173	150	139	289	240	78	318	780	1,110
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–June	1,051	904 ^r	804 ^r	1,710	1,580	468	2,050	4,810	1,110
2013:									
January	171	154	140	294	248	70	318	783	1,170
February	155	149	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	1,200 ^r
May	171	148	137	285	314	67	380	836	1,160
June	165	162	142	304	267	70	336	806	NA
January–June	1,002	917	823	1,740	1,790	412	2,200	4,940	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	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2012 ^p	2,640	1,940	1,550	1,400	103	91	7	7	4,300	3,430
2012:										
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–June	1,300 ^r	940 ^r	802 ^r	726 ^r	44	39	3	3	2,150	1,710
2013:										
January	210	160	138	125	10	9	1	1	358	294
February	203	154	130	118	10	9	1	1	344	282
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
June	223	167	141	128	10	9	1	1	374	304
January–June	1,260	956	805	729	58	52	3	3	2,130	1,740

^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 JUNE 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	186,000	223,000	140,000	167,000
Independent mill fabricators	128,000	141,000	116,000	128,000
Foundries	8,110	9,730	7,180	8,620
Other consumers	475	570	475	570
Total	322,000	374,000	263,000	304,000

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 JUNE 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	June			January–June ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	21,100	48,000	48,300	20,900	260,000	260,000
Can stock clippings	9,070	23,900	23,700	9,270	128,000	130,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	14,400	41,700	40,400	15,700	249,000	248,000
Casting	2,900	6,050	5,990	2,950	31,800	31,700
Borings and turnings	6,400	13,300	12,700	6,980	74,000	73,100
Dross and skimmings	19,300	49,700	49,700	19,300	268,000	268,000
Total new scrap	73,300	183,000	181,000	75,100	1,010,000	1,010,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,710	25,600	26,100	8,200	157,000	158,000
Used extrusion	8,370	18,700	18,800	8,190	97,300	98,100
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	57,400	67,300	69,100	55,600	392,000	390,000
Other wrought products	10,000	18,000	19,400	8,610	119,000	126,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,270	8,310	8,140	2,440	47,000	47,100
Total old scrap	86,800	138,000	142,000	83,100	812,000	819,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	861	861
Total all classes	160,000	321,000	322,000	158,000	1,820,000	1,830,000

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 JUNE 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	June			January–June ³		
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,460	4,120	4,140	2,440	22,700	22,500
380 and variations	7,450	13,300	13,300	7,450	77,600	77,500
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,130	5,040	5,040	2,130	29,200	28,600
No. 319 and variations	3,020	7,820	7,880	2,960	41,700	41,400
F-132 alloy and variations	624	400	400	624	2,330	2,310
Al-Zn alloys	613	320	320	613	1,190	880
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	84	302	302	84	1,720	1,700
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	51	291	291	51	1,020	993
Other ⁴	4,900	6,420	7,200	4,120	37,100	40,100
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,500	42,900	42,400	17,000	250,000	250,000
Total all alloys	37,800	80,900	81,300	37,400	465,000	466,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,980	XX	XX	55,900	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,090	XX	XX	6,410	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	743	XX	XX	4,220	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	69,100	XX	XX	398,000	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:		
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
June	93.375	82.374
January–June	97.840	86.986

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:					
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
June	73.08	72.85	67.95	70.75	69.10
January–June	76.40	75.30	71.57	74.06	71.67

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June
Argentina	3,500	52,500	2	6	--	--	3,500	52,500
Australia	2,760	13,500	5	13	--	--	2,770	13,500
Austria	1,030	1,030	1,760	9,760	--	18	2,790	10,800
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	147	1,380	147	1,380
Bahrain	3,270	16,100	1,020	12,600	--	--	4,290	28,800
Belgium	102	418	293	1,270	49	363	444	2,050
Brazil	6,150	23,200	279	6,930	--	38	6,430	30,200
Canada	184,000	1,290,000	17,400	107,000	32,500	174,000	234,000	1,570,000
Chile	19	19	13	13	765	4,300	797	4,330
China	150	9,670	16,000	80,000	45	233	16,200	89,900
Colombia	305	731	210	1,210	365	2,670	880	4,610
Costa Rica	--	--	--	13	286	1,950	286	1,960
Egypt	--	--	183	1,770	--	--	183	1,770
El Salvador	--	--	--	28	322	2,140	322	2,160
France	205	1,990	362	1,600	--	19	567	3,610
Germany	267	775	6,910	38,600	42	126	7,220	39,500
Greece	--	--	1,870	10,100	--	100	1,870	10,200
Guatemala	--	57	--	--	1,420	7,580	1,420	7,640
Honduras	--	--	--	(2)	344	1,970	344	1,970
Hong Kong	--	(2)	401	2,160	--	--	401	2,160
India	--	7	1,810	10,300	--	7	1,810	10,300
Indonesia	--	3	5,370	34,700	45	85	5,410	34,800
Italy	--	2	622	3,500	146	1,030	768	4,530
Japan	(2)	45	254	2,350	26	405	280	2,800
Korea, Republic of	928	6,610	399	2,040	--	102	1,330	8,750
Malaysia	--	--	348	2,440	--	55	348	2,490
Mexico	743	4,820	2,860	15,900	11,000	65,200	14,600	85,900
New Zealand	459	4,270	13	29	--	24	472	4,330
Norway	1,090	11,000	4	18	--	--	1,090	11,000
Qatar	6,410	51,200	--	--	--	--	6,410	51,200
Romania	--	--	607	2,490	--	162	607	2,650
Russia	21,900	118,000	1,430	8,190	--	--	23,300	126,000
Saudi Arabia	--	273	--	--	669	5,450	669	5,720
South Africa	4,050	9,330	5,240	30,300	--	39	9,290	39,700
Sweden	--	--	205	2,500	--	--	205	2,500
Switzerland	(2)	(2)	458	4,330	--	--	458	4,330
Taiwan	33	91	559	3,110	--	40	592	3,240
United Arab Emirates	15,700	127,000	3	243	264	1,170	16,000	128,000
United Kingdom	4	209	1,270	8,540	883	7,710	2,160	16,500
Venezuela	13,600	40,300	--	--	--	1,570	13,600	41,800
Other	191	4,230	1,700	8,650	3,640	15,000	5,530	27,900
Total	267,000	1,790,000	69,800	412,000	53,000	295,000	389,000	2,490,000

-- 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 JUNE 2013¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January–	June	January–	June	January–	June	January–
		June		June		June		June
Australia	3	45	77	1,250	--	--	80	1,290
Belgium	(2)	15	206	1,240	--	152	206	1,410
Brazil	1	19	1,640	7,740	--	118	1,640	7,880
Canada	8,570	52,900	31,800	210,000	8,210	48,800	48,500	312,000
Chile	1	7	263	5,310	39	121	303	5,430
China	284	3,500	2,720	17,500	104,000	606,000	107,000	627,000
Colombia	535	2,710	103	2,080	--	5	638	4,800
France	459	2,000	1,040	7,730	397	967	1,900	10,700
Germany	265	1,810	697	4,750	35	107	997	6,660
Guatemala	2	2	1,320	8,620	--	15	1,320	8,640
Hong Kong	26	84	186	882	2,040	15,600	2,250	16,600
India	2	16	98	613	5,380	28,300	5,480	28,900
Indonesia	7	13	223	1,060	2,010	8,590	2,240	9,660
Ireland	--	86	789	4,470	--	--	789	4,550
Israel	219	673	740	4,580	--	19	959	5,270
Italy	5	10	313	1,830	--	18	318	1,860
Japan	87	489	1,510	8,770	1,170	6,370	2,760	15,600
Jordan	--	--	367	3,670	--	--	367	3,670
Korea, Republic of	38	206	2,230	12,500	8,690	74,600	10,900	87,300
Kuwait	--	--	1,580	6,400	--	--	1,580	6,400
Malaysia	--	7	155	1,240	100	330	255	1,570
Mexico	18,200	112,000	32,500	194,000	10,400	54,000	61,100	359,000
Netherlands	--	89	647	6,490	39	371	686	6,950
New Zealand	(2)	(2)	238	1,110	1	21	239	1,140
Norway	(2)	1	95	125	143	1,410	238	1,530
Pakistan	--	--	4	46	789	6,780	793	6,820
Panama	5	29	396	2,120	--	26	401	2,180
Romania	204	366	18	319	--	--	222	685
Saudi Arabia	--	108	6,490	39,400	--	--	6,490	39,500
Singapore	175	659	503	1,820	5	88	683	2,560
Spain	--	10	56	404	--	270	56	684
Taiwan	365	1,630	483	3,500	5,370	38,800	6,210	43,900
Thailand	--	19	52	668	977	5,620	1,030	6,310
Tunisia	--	--	352	2,740	--	--	352	2,740
Turkey	1	18	243	2,500	18	152	262	2,670
United Arab Emirates	--	(2)	816	5,430	65	156	881	5,590
United Kingdom	65	601	1,110	7,070	7	501	1,190	8,170
Vietnam	--	--	4	65	2,970	6,720	2,970	6,790
Other	322	1,040	1,250	7,640	488	2,810	2,060	11,500
Total	29,800	181,000	93,300	588,000	153,000	908,000	276,000	1,680,000

-- 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.