

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 JULY 2013

Domestic primary aluminum production in July 2013 was 168,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,410 t, slightly less than that during the previous month and 5% less than that in July 2012.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in July 2013 was 297,000 t, slightly less than the amount recovered in June but 3% more than the amount recovered in July 2012. Of this, 158,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 3% less than that during the previous month but 4% more than the amount recovered in July 2012, and 139,000 t was recovered from old scrap, slightly less than the amount in June but slightly more than the amount in July 2012.

Update

The Kentucky Public Service Commission approved an agreement reached in April between Century Aluminum Co. (Chicago, IL), Big Rivers Electric Corp., and Kenergy Corp. enabling Century to purchase power at spot market rates. Power purchased on the open market by Big Rivers and Kenergy would be resold to Century for use at the 252,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) Hawesville, KY, smelter. (See Aluminum in March 2013.) The agreement took effect in August when the prior contract expired. Century was seeking a similar agreement to replace the power supply contract for its 205,000-t/yr Sebree, KY, smelter that expires January 31, 2014 (Century Aluminum Co., 2013).

In September, Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) started production from the new Arvida Aluminium Smelter, AP60 Technology Centre in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Quebec. The 60,000-t/yr smelter uses a new pot design which

would increase production by 40% compared with that of prior smelting pots, reduce emissions, and increase energy efficiency (Rio Tinto Alcan Inc., 2013).

On September 15, Emirates Aluminium Ltd. (EMAL) started production from new capacity at its smelter in Al Taweelah, United Arab Emirates. EMAL was expanding capacity of the smelter to 1.3 million metric tons per year from 800,000 t/yr. The expansion was expected to be completed in 2014 and would be ramped up as pots were ready prior to the completion of the entire project (Emirates Aluminium Ltd., 2013).

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to \$0.918 per pound in July from \$0.934 per pound in June but increased to \$0.926 per pound in August.

References Cited

- Century Aluminum Co., 2013, Century receives positive ruling on Hawesville power from Kentucky Public Service Commission: Chicago, IL, Century Aluminum Co. press release, August 14, 2 p. (Accessed September 23, 2013, at http://files.shareholder.com/downloads/CENX/2077684524x0x684972/0f127f0f-3267-419b-ad74-69caebd93344/CENX_News_2013_8_14_General.pdf.)
- Emirates Aluminium Ltd., 2013, EMAL celebrates phase II first hot metal record: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Emirates Aluminium Ltd. press release, September 15. (Accessed September 23, 2013, via <http://www.emal.ae/>.)
- Rio Tinto Alcan Inc., 2013, Rio Tinto Alcan celebrates the first metal produced from its leading-edge AP60 aluminium smelter in Quebec, Canada: Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. media release, September 7, 2 p. (Accessed September 23, 2013, at http://www.riotintoalcan.com/documents/09-07-13_AP60_First_Metal_FINAL_Eng.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:									
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–July	1,228	1,060	945 ^r	2,000 ^r	1,810	548	2,360	5,590	1,140
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
May	171	148	137	285	314	67	380	836	1,150 ^r
June	165	162	142	304	267	70	336	806	1,180
July	168	158	139	297	273	71	344	809	NA
January–July	1,169	1,080	962	2,040	2,060	484	2,540	5,750	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:										
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–July	1,520	1,100 ^r	932	843	54	48	4	4	2,510	2,000 ^r
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
July	219	168	132	120	10	9	1	1	361	297
January–July	1,480	1,120	937	849	68	60	4	4	2,490	2,040

^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 JULY 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	183,000	219,000	140,000
Independent mill fabricators	119,000	132,000	108,000	120,000
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	475	570	475	570
Total	310,000	361,000	256,000	297,000

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 JULY 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	July			January–July ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	21,700	48,700	48,700	21,700	309,000	309,000
Can stock clippings	7,400	23,300	22,300	8,460	152,000	152,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	12,700	39,400	40,200	11,900	288,000	288,000
Casting	2,080	5,170	5,150	2,090	36,900	36,900
Borings and turnings	6,720	12,200	12,200	6,670	86,100	85,300
Dross and skimmings	13,600	44,100	44,100	13,600	312,000	312,000
Total new scrap	64,200	173,000	173,000	64,400	1,180,000	1,180,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	7,710	25,700	26,800	6,540	183,000	184,000
Used extrusion	10,700	23,000	23,600	10,100	120,000	122,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	32,800	61,600	59,300	35,100	453,000	449,000
Other wrought products	7,900	19,500	18,800	8,700	138,000	145,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,810	9,150	9,140	2,820	56,200	56,200
Total old scrap	62,000	139,000	138,000	63,300	951,000	957,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	1,000	1,000
Total all classes	126,000	312,000	310,000	128,000	2,140,000	2,140,000

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 JULY 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	July			January–July ³		
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,050	3,620	3,630	2,040	26,400	26,500
380 and variations	10,800	16,900	16,900	10,800	94,500	91,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610	34,000	34,000
No. 319 and variations	2,700	6,730	6,770	2,660	48,500	48,500
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	2,710	2,710
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	1,360	1,360
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68	2,000	2,000
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	1,160	1,160
Other ⁴	3,200	5,540	6,140	2,600	42,700	47,200
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,200	50,600	51,000	17,700	301,000	300,000
Total all alloys	39,500	89,100	90,200	38,400	554,000	555,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	11,600	XX	XX	67,400	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,200	XX	XX	7,600	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	825	XX	XX	5,050	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	75,500	XX	XX	474,000	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:		
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
July	91.750	80.167
January–July	96.970	86.012

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:					
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
July	71.07	71.68	67.84	70.00	68.00
January–July	75.64	74.78	71.04	73.48	71.14

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	July	January– July	July	January– July	July	January– July	July	January– July
Argentina	13,800	66,300	10	16	--	--	13,800	66,300
Australia	3,150	16,600	5	18	--	--	3,150	16,600
Austria	1,000	2,030	2,220	12,000	--	18	3,220	14,000
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	224	1,600	224	1,600
Bahrain	2,010	18,200	2,700	15,300	--	--	4,700	33,500
Belgium	278	696	238	1,510	--	363	516	2,570
Brazil	--	23,200	327	7,260	--	38	327	30,500
Canada	208,000	1,500,000	17,500	124,000	33,100	207,000	259,000	1,830,000
Chile	--	19	--	13	832	5,130	832	5,160
China	185	9,850	17,400	97,400	510	743	18,100	108,000
Colombia	305	1,040	227	1,430	232	2,900	764	5,370
Costa Rica	--	--	2	16	241	2,190	243	2,210
Egypt	--	--	488	2,260	--	--	488	2,260
El Salvador	--	--	--	28	244	2,380	244	2,410
France	448	2,440	345	1,950	--	19	793	4,400
Germany	6	781	6,530	45,100	42	168	6,580	46,100
Greece	--	--	2,180	12,300	--	100	2,180	12,400
Guatemala	--	57	--	--	1,410	8,990	1,410	9,050
Honduras	--	--	--	(2)	379	2,350	379	2,350
Hong Kong	(2)	(2)	334	2,490	--	--	334	2,490
India	--	7	1,550	11,900	--	7	1,550	11,900
Indonesia	--	3	4,960	39,700	--	85	4,960	39,800
Italy	--	2	634	4,130	54	1,090	688	5,220
Japan	--	45	579	2,930	38	443	617	3,410
Korea, Republic of	1,680	8,290	298	2,330	--	102	1,980	10,700
Malaysia	--	--	529	2,970	--	55	529	3,020
Mexico	449	5,270	3,180	19,100	12,500	77,600	16,100	102,000
New Zealand	931	5,200	(2)	29	--	24	931	5,250
Norway	1,270	12,300	6	24	--	--	1,280	12,300
Qatar	6,800	58,000	--	--	--	--	6,800	58,000
Romania	--	--	683	3,170	--	162	683	3,330
Russia	11,200	129,000	878	9,070	--	--	12,100	138,000
Saudi Arabia	--	273	--	--	235	5,680	235	5,960
South Africa	--	9,330	3,580	33,900	--	39	3,580	43,300
Sweden	--	--	167	2,670	--	--	167	2,670
Switzerland	21	21	540	4,870	--	--	561	4,890
Taiwan	33	123	506	3,620	--	40	539	3,780
United Arab Emirates	20,600	148,000	--	243	43	1,220	20,600	149,000
United Kingdom	75	284	1,260	9,800	982	8,690	2,320	18,800
Venezuela	--	40,300	2	2	--	1,570	2	41,900
Other	293	3,110	1,470	10,200	3,650	18,900	5,410	32,200
Total	273,000	2,060,000	71,300	484,000	54,700	350,000	399,000	2,890,000

-- 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 JULY 2013¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–
		July		July		July		July
Australia	--	45	149	1,400	--	--	149	1,440
Belgium	--	15	108	1,350	--	152	108	1,520
Brazil	1	20	1,090	8,830	--	118	1,090	8,970
Canada	7,940	60,900	32,200	242,000	8,170	57,000	48,300	360,000
Chile	--	7	642	5,950	--	121	642	6,080
China	297	3,800	3,330	20,800	109,000	716,000	113,000	740,000
Colombia	501	3,220	610	2,690	--	5	1,110	5,910
France	337	2,330	720	8,450	187	1,150	1,240	11,900
Germany	261	2,070	723	5,470	251	358	1,240	7,900
Guatemala	--	2	1,820	10,400	3	18	1,820	10,500
Hong Kong	--	84	247	1,130	1,930	17,500	2,170	18,700
India	1	17	127	740	5,050	33,400	5,180	34,100
Indonesia	--	13	65	1,130	1,200	9,790	1,270	10,900
Ireland	--	86	1,360	5,830	--	--	1,360	5,910
Israel	99	772	610	5,190	--	19	709	5,980
Italy	1	11	471	2,300	--	18	472	2,330
Japan	84	573	1,410	10,200	1,420	7,800	2,920	18,600
Jordan	--	--	214	3,880	--	--	214	3,880
Korea, Republic of	11	217	2,450	15,000	7,050	81,600	9,510	96,800
Kuwait	--	--	1,470	7,870	--	--	1,470	7,870
Malaysia	9	16	216	1,450	75	406	300	1,870
Mexico	15,900	127,000	34,300	228,000	11,300	65,300	61,500	421,000
Netherlands	4	93	861	7,350	--	371	865	7,820
New Zealand	(2)	(2)	132	1,250	1	22	133	1,270
Norway	--	1	141	266	121	1,530	262	1,790
Pakistan	--	--	4	50	629	7,410	633	7,460
Panama	--	29	442	2,560	--	26	442	2,620
Romania	461	826	45	364	--	--	506	1,190
Saudi Arabia	--	108	4,700	44,100	--	--	4,700	44,200
Singapore	183	841	284	2,100	10	99	477	3,040
Spain	(2)	10	68	472	8	277	76	759
Taiwan	282	1,910	452	3,950	4,910	43,700	5,640	49,600
Thailand	--	19	43	711	267	5,890	310	6,620
Tunisia	--	--	235	2,980	--	--	235	2,980
Turkey	1	18	277	2,770	--	152	278	2,940
United Arab Emirates	--	(2)	721	6,150	160	317	881	6,470
United Kingdom	95	696	1,210	8,270	154	655	1,460	9,620
Vietnam	--	--	23	88	2,800	9,520	2,820	9,610
Other	43	1,090	2,860	10,500	519	3,320	3,420	14,900
Total	26,500	207,000	96,800	684,000	156,000	1,060,000	279,000	1,960,000

-- 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.