

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 AUGUST 2013

Domestic primary aluminum production in August 2013 was 163,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,250 t, 3% less than that during the previous month and 5% less than that in August 2012.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in August 2013 was 292,000 t, slightly less than the amount recovered in July and slightly less than the amount recovered in August 2012. Of this, 159,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, slightly more than that during the previous month and slightly more than the amount recovered in August 2012, and 133,000 t was recovered from old scrap, 4% less than the amount in July and 8% less than the amount in August 2012.

Update

In mid-October, Ormet Corp. (Hannibal, OH) shut down the only two operating potlines with a combined capacity of 90,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) at its 270,000-t/yr Hannibal smelter. A decision by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio denying a request for lower power rates until Ormet could construct its own powerplant was cited for the shutdown (Cowden, 2013; Ormet Corp., 2013). Ormet shut down two other potlines in August 2012 and another two potlines in August 2013. (See Aluminum in June 2013.) In February, Ormet had filed for bankruptcy protection citing high power prices, low aluminum prices, high debt levels, and legacy costs. (See Aluminum in January 2013.)

In October, Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) and its partner Saudi Arabian Mining Co. (Ma'aden) (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) temporarily shut down production from one of the two potlines at their 740,000-t/yr smelter in Ras al Khair, Saudi Arabia. Potline instability was cited as the reason for the shutdown. The rampup of the other potline was to be accelerated while operation of the first potline was being restored (Alcoa Inc., 2013).

During the year, United Company RUSAL (Moscow, Russia) decreased production from its least efficient smelters in Russia, citing high costs. The Ural, Volgograd, and Volkhov smelters were shut down. In addition, four potlines at the Bogoslovsk smelter, two potlines at the Nadvoitsy smelter, and one potline at the Novokuznetsk smelter have been shut down since the beginning of the year. In March, RUSAL shut down the Alcon smelter in Nigeria, citing an ownership dispute. (See Aluminum in January 2013.) The shutdowns were projected to decrease RUSAL's production by 247,000 t in 2013 and by 547,000 t in 2014 from production in 2012. Incremental measures such as reducing pot amperage at four other smelters in Russia were projected to decrease production by an additional 78,000 t in 2013 and 130,000 t in 2014 from production in 2012 (United Company RUSAL, 2013).

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$0.926 per pound in August from \$0.918 per pound in July but decreased to \$0.892 per pound in September and then increased to \$0.916 per pound in October.

References Cited

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- Ormet Corp., 2013, Full curtailment of Hannibal operations: Hannibal, OH, Ormet Corp. press release, October 4, 2 p. (Accessed October 18, 2013, at [http://www.ormet.com/News/PDF/Full Curtailment PR FINAL.pdf](http://www.ormet.com/News/PDF/Full%20Curtailment%20PR%20FINAL.pdf).)
- United Company RUSAL, 2013, UC RUSAL announces interim results of the aluminium output reduction programme: Moscow, Russia, United Company RUSAL press release, October 17. (Accessed October 31, 2013, at http://www.rusal.ru/en/press-center/news_details.aspx?id=9446&ibt=13&at=0.)

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	1,830 ^r	1,440 ^r	3,270 ^r	2,900	855	3,760	9,100	1,140
2012:									
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–August	1,400	1,230 ^r	906 ^r	2,140 ^r	2,050	613	2,660	6,200	1,130
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
June	165	162	142	304	267	70	336	806	1,170 ^r
July	168	158	139	297	273	71	344	809	1,170
August	163	159	133	292	271	73	344	799	NA
January–August	1,332	1,230	1,100	2,330	2,330	557	2,890	6,550	NA

^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:	2,640	1,940	1,550	1,400	103	91	7	7	4,300	3,430
2012:										
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–August	1,740 ^r	1,270 ^r	1,070	966	64	56	5	5	2,880 ^r	2,300 ^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
August	207	158	137	125	10	9	1	1	355	292
January–August	1,690	1,280	1,080	976	78	69	5	5	2,850	2,330

^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 AUGUST 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	173,000	207,000	132,000	158,000
Independent mill fabricators	125,000	137,000	114,000	125,000
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	475	570	475	570
Total	306,000	355,000	253,000	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 AUGUST 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	August			January–August ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	21,000	48,300	48,200	21,100	357,000	357,000
Can stock clippings	8,460	23,400	24,000	7,860	175,000	176,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	11,800	41,100	41,500	11,400	330,000	329,000
Casting	2,070	5,210	5,010	2,270	42,200	41,900
Borings and turnings	5,550	11,700	11,700	5,560	97,800	97,000
Dross and skimmings	13,600	42,800	42,800	13,600	355,000	355,000
Total new scrap	62,400	172,000	173,000	61,700	1,360,000	1,360,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	6,270	27,600	27,700	6,190	210,000	212,000
Used extrusion	7,320	18,000	18,000	7,390	138,000	140,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	31,600	64,000	63,800	31,800	517,000	517,000
Other wrought products	8,680	18,300	16,500	10,500	156,000	162,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,070	7,890	7,180	2,780	64,000	63,400
Total old scrap	56,000	136,000	133,000	58,700	1,090,000	1,090,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	1,150	1,150
Total all classes	119,000	308,000	306,000	121,000	2,440,000	2,450,000

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 AUGUST 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	August			January–August ³		
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,040	3,620	3,640	2,030	30,000	30,100
380 and variations	7,280	12,900	12,900	7,280	107,000	107,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610	38,800	38,800
No. 319 and variations	2,660	6,730	6,780	2,610	55,200	55,200
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	3,100	3,100
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	1,530	1,530
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68	2,280	2,280
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	1,310	1,310
Other ⁴	2,600	5,750	6,130	2,220	48,400	53,300
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,700	43,600	43,300	17,000	344,000	345,000
Total all alloys	33,900	78,400	78,600	33,700	632,000	638,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,640	XX	XX	77,100	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	936	XX	XX	8,540	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	703	XX	XX	5,750	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	67,100	XX	XX	541,000	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:		
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
August	92.550	82.304
January–August	96.417	85.549

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:					
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
August	72.27	72.00	68.00	70.00	68.00
January–August	75.22	74.43	70.66	73.04	70.75

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August
Argentina	2,070	68,400	16	31	--	--	2,090	68,400
Australia	3	16,600	(2)	18	--	--	3	16,600
Austria	--	2,030	1,780	13,800	--	18	1,780	15,800
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	89	1,690	89	1,690
Bahrain	3,170	21,300	2,560	17,900	--	--	5,730	39,200
Belgium	212	908	288	1,800	--	363	500	3,070
Brazil	10,700	33,900	325	7,590	120	158	11,200	41,700
Canada	190,000	1,690,000	16,800	141,000	28,500	236,000	236,000	2,070,000
Chile	--	19	--	13	547	5,680	547	5,710
China	96	9,950	18,200	116,000	49	792	18,300	126,000
Colombia	830	1,870	329	1,760	168	3,070	1,330	6,700
Costa Rica	--	--	--	16	242	2,430	242	2,450
Egypt	--	--	156	2,410	--	--	156	2,410
El Salvador	--	--	--	28	229	2,610	229	2,640
France	275	2,710	249	2,190	12	31	536	4,940
Germany	281	1,060	7,600	52,700	19	187	7,900	54,000
Greece	--	--	718	13,000	--	100	718	13,100
Guatemala	--	57	--	--	999	9,990	999	10,000
Honduras	--	--	--	(2)	249	2,590	249	2,590
Hong Kong	--	(2)	473	2,960	--	--	473	2,960
India	--	7	2,210	14,100	--	7	2,210	14,100
Indonesia	--	3	3,850	43,500	95	180	3,950	43,700
Italy	--	2	586	4,720	125	1,210	711	5,930
Japan	52	97	463	3,390	40	483	555	3,970
Korea, Republic of	1,890	10,200	406	2,740	--	102	2,300	13,000
Malaysia	--	--	531	3,500	--	55	531	3,550
Mexico	571	5,840	3,460	22,500	11,700	89,300	15,700	118,000
New Zealand	1,150	6,360	(2)	29	--	24	1,150	6,410
Norway	995	13,300	11	34	--	--	1,010	13,300
Qatar	7,080	65,100	--	--	--	--	7,080	65,100
Romania	--	--	508	3,680	--	162	508	3,840
Russia	19,800	149,000	1,260	10,300	--	--	21,100	159,000
Saudi Arabia	--	273	--	--	48	5,730	48	6,010
South Africa	--	9,330	5,620	39,500	45	84	5,660	48,900
Sweden	--	--	285	2,950	--	--	285	2,950
Switzerland	(2)	21	416	5,290	--	--	416	5,310
Taiwan	94	217	468	4,080	42	82	604	4,380
United Arab Emirates	29,300	177,000	159	402	181	1,400	29,600	179,000
United Kingdom	22	306	1,420	11,200	731	9,430	2,170	20,900
Venezuela	1,060	41,300	--	2	--	1,570	1,060	42,900
Other	1,090	5,660	1,680	11,900	1,640	20,400	4,400	37,900
Total	271,000	2,330,000	72,800	557,000	45,800	396,000	390,000	3,280,000

-- 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 AUGUST 2013¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August
Australia	(2)	45	156	1,550	--	--	156	1,600
Belgium	--	15	105	1,450	94	247	199	1,720
Brazil	42	62	1,210	10,000	42	160	1,300	10,300
Canada	9,410	70,300	35,200	278,000	8,990	66,000	53,600	414,000
Chile	11	18	360	6,310	21	142	392	6,470
China	851	4,650	3,240	24,100	116,000	832,000	121,000	861,000
Colombia	571	3,790	588	3,280	--	5	1,160	7,070
France	1,000	3,330	1,220	9,670	19	1,170	2,240	14,200
Germany	353	2,420	1,120	6,600	--	358	1,480	9,380
Guatemala	--	2	1,470	11,900	85	103	1,550	12,000
Hong Kong	106	190	101	1,230	3,060	20,600	3,270	22,000
India	(2)	18	161	901	3,910	37,300	4,070	38,200
Indonesia	--	13	26	1,150	740	10,500	766	11,700
Ireland	--	86	1,190	7,020	--	--	1,190	7,100
Israel	263	1,040	909	6,100	--	19	1,170	7,150
Italy	--	11	423	2,730	1	19	424	2,760
Japan	47	620	2,260	12,400	1,380	9,180	3,690	22,200
Jordan	--	--	364	4,250	--	--	364	4,250
Korea, Republic of	14	231	2,370	17,300	9,870	91,500	12,300	109,000
Kuwait	--	--	1,010	8,880	--	--	1,010	8,880
Malaysia	1	17	224	1,680	296	702	521	2,400
Mexico	19,800	147,000	37,700	266,000	10,500	75,900	68,000	489,000
Netherlands	1	94	1,200	8,550	31	402	1,230	9,050
New Zealand	(2)	(2)	278	1,520	1	23	279	1,550
Norway	--	1	225	491	17	1,540	242	2,040
Pakistan	--	--	(2)	51	547	7,950	547	8,000
Panama	--	29	353	2,920	--	26	353	2,970
Romania	137	963	15	379	--	--	152	1,340
Saudi Arabia	--	108	6,620	50,700	--	--	6,620	50,800
Singapore	113	954	392	2,490	--	99	505	3,540
Spain	1	11	40	512	14	292	55	815
Taiwan	378	2,290	483	4,430	5,360	49,100	6,220	55,800
Thailand	--	19	37	748	388	6,280	425	7,040
Tunisia	--	--	14	2,990	--	--	14	2,990
Turkey	21	39	442	3,210	--	152	463	3,410
United Arab Emirates	--	(2)	973	7,120	108	425	1,080	7,550
United Kingdom	104	799	1,280	9,550	28	683	1,410	11,000
Vietnam	--	--	85	173	991	10,500	1,080	10,700
Other	433	1,520	1,620	12,100	862	4,180	2,920	17,800
Total	33,700	241,000	105,000	790,000	164,000	1,230,000	303,000	2,260,000

-- 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.