

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 SEPTEMBER 2013

Domestic primary aluminum production in September 2013 was 157,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,220 t, slightly less than that during the previous month and 5% less than that in September 2012. Primary aluminum production during the first 9 months of 2013 was 5% less than that during the same period of 2012.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in September 2013 was 292,000 t, the same as the amount recovered in August and 5% more than the amount recovered in September 2012. Of this, 156,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, slightly less than that during the previous month but 11% more than the amount recovered in September 2012, and 136,000 t was recovered from old scrap, slightly more than the amount in August but slightly less than the amount in September 2012. Total secondary aluminum production during the first 9 months of 2013 was 9% more than that during the same period of 2012. Production of secondary aluminum from new and old scrap during the first 9 months of 2013 was slightly more and 18% more, respectively, than that during the same period of 2012.

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in the first three quarters of 2013 (table 8) were 8% more than those in the same

period in 2012; imports of crude metal and alloys increased by 14%, but imports of semifabricated products decreased by 7% and imports of aluminum scrap were essentially unchanged. Canada continued to be the leading source of imported aluminum materials, supplying 63% of all aluminum imports during the first three quarters of 2013, followed by Russia and the United Arab Emirates with 5% each.

Total exports of aluminum (table 9) decreased by 5% during the first three quarters of 2013 compared with those of the same period in the previous year. Exports of crude metal and alloys were unchanged, exports of semifabricated aluminum products increased by 7%, but exports of aluminum scrap decreased by 12%. The leading destinations of total aluminum products during the first 9 months of 2013, in descending order of volume, were China (38%), Mexico (22%), and Canada (18%).

Update

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

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	1,440	3,270	2,900	855	3,760	9,100	1,140
2012:									
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–September	1,564	1,370 ^r	1,040 ^r	2,420 ^r	2,260	673	2,930	6,910 ^r	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
May	171	148	137	285	314	67	380	836	1,150
June	165	162	142	304	267	70	336	806	1,170
July	168	158	142 ^r	300 ^r	273	71	344	811 ^r	1,170
August	163	159	133	292	271	73	344	799	1,210
September	157	156	136	292	242	72	314	762	1,190
January–September	1,489	1,390	1,230	2,620	2,570	628	3,200	7,310	1,190

^rRevised.

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
2012:										
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–September	1,970	1,440 ^r	1,180	1,070	74	65	5	5	3,230	2,580 ^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	135 ^r	123 ^r	10	9	1	1	365 ^r	300 ^r
August	207	158	137	125	10	9	1	1	355	292
September	211	162	133	121	10	9	1	1	355	292
January–September	1,900	1,440	1,210	1,100	88	78	5	5	3,200	2,620

^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 SEPTEMBER 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	176,000	211,000	135,000
Independent mill fabricators	121,000	133,000	110,000	121,000
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	475	570	475	570
Total	306,000	355,000	252,000	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 SEPTEMBER 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	September			January–September ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	21,100	48,400	48,900	20,600	406,000	406,000
Can stock clippings	7,860	19,900	21,000	6,660	195,000	197,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	11,400	39,900	39,300	12,100	370,000	369,000
Casting	2,300	5,280	5,440	2,140	47,400	47,400
Borings and turnings	6,670	13,000	13,000	6,670	111,000	110,000
Dross and skimmings	13,600	43,200	43,200	13,600	398,000	398,000
Total new scrap	63,000	170,000	171,000	61,700	1,530,000	1,530,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	6,430	26,600	26,000	7,020	237,000	238,000
Used extrusion	8,640	15,900	16,600	7,970	154,000	156,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	31,800	63,300	63,700	31,400	581,000	580,000
Other wrought products	10,500	19,600	19,700	10,500	176,000	181,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,530	9,360	9,250	3,640	73,400	72,700
Total old scrap	60,900	135,000	135,000	60,500	1,220,000	1,230,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	1,290	1,290
Total all classes	124,000	305,000	306,000	122,000	2,750,000	2,760,000

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 SEPTEMBER 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	September			January–September ³		
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,030	4,210	3,650	2,590	34,200	33,800
380 and variations	10,800	16,900	16,900	10,800	124,000	121,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610	43,600	43,600
No. 319 and variations	2,610	6,730	6,770	2,580	61,900	62,000
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	3,480	3,480
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	1,710	1,710
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68	2,570	2,570
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	1,460	1,460
Other ⁴	2,220	6,320	5,750	2,790	54,700	59,100
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	17,000	43,200	43,100	17,000	388,000	388,000
Total all alloys	37,200	83,100	82,000	38,400	715,000	716,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,470	XX	XX	86,500	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,300	XX	XX	9,830	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	814	XX	XX	6,560	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	71,600	XX	XX	612,000	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:		
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
September	89.188	79.838
January–September	95.614	84.914

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:					
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
September	68.95	71.45	67.18	70.00	67.45
January–September	74.52	74.10	70.27	72.70	70.38

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September
Argentina	10,200	78,600	--	31	--	--	10,200	78,600
Australia	5,220	21,800	11	29	--	--	5,230	21,900
Austria	--	2,030	1,670	15,400	--	18	1,670	17,500
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	73	1,770	73	1,770
Bahrain	1,750	23,100	1,340	19,200	--	--	3,090	42,300
Belgium	37	946	261	2,060	--	363	298	3,370
Brazil	--	33,900	137	7,720	213	371	350	42,000
Canada	178,000	1,870,000	18,800	160,000	28,800	264,000	225,000	2,290,000
Chile	--	19	--	13	1,220	6,900	1,220	6,940
China	86	10,000	21,700	137,000	69	861	21,900	148,000
Colombia	395	2,260	200	1,960	96	3,170	691	7,390
Costa Rica	--	--	--	16	143	2,580	143	2,590
Egypt	--	--	5	2,420	--	--	5	2,420
El Salvador	--	--	17	45	270	2,880	287	2,920
France	329	3,040	235	2,430	(2)	31	564	5,500
Germany	46	1,110	5,830	58,500	22	208	5,900	59,900
Greece	--	--	1,640	14,700	--	100	1,640	14,800
Guatemala	--	57	--	--	1,230	11,200	1,230	11,300
Honduras	--	--	--	(2)	245	2,840	245	2,840
Hong Kong	--	(2)	346	3,310	--	--	346	3,310
India	--	7	1,940	16,000	--	7	1,940	16,000
Indonesia	1	4	2,860	46,400	--	180	2,870	46,600
Italy	--	2	227	4,940	96	1,310	323	6,250
Japan	71	168	358	3,750	29	512	458	4,430
Korea, Republic of	785	11,000	381	3,120	--	102	1,170	14,200
Malaysia	--	--	512	4,010	--	55	512	4,060
Mexico	498	6,330	2,910	25,400	10,400	99,700	13,800	131,000
New Zealand	709	7,070	--	29	--	24	709	7,120
Norway	1,540	14,800	1	36	--	--	1,540	14,800
Qatar	8,300	73,400	--	--	--	--	8,300	73,400
Romania	--	--	445	4,130	--	162	445	4,290
Russia	13,900	163,000	1,460	11,800	--	--	15,400	174,000
Saudi Arabia	98	371	--	--	340	6,070	438	6,440
South Africa	2,030	11,400	5,740	45,200	--	84	7,760	56,700
Sweden	--	--	340	3,290	--	--	340	3,290
Switzerland	14	35	143	5,430	--	--	157	5,470
Taiwan	67	284	432	4,520	--	82	499	4,880
United Arab Emirates	15,800	193,000	--	402	212	1,610	16,000	195,000
United Kingdom	72	378	515	11,700	248	9,670	835	21,800
Venezuela	1,980	43,300	--	2	--	1,570	1,980	44,900
Other	349	6,010	1,390	13,300	1,310	21,700	3,050	41,000
Total	242,000	2,570,000	71,800	628,000	45,000	440,000	359,000	3,640,000

-- 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 SEPTEMBER 2013¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September
Australia	26	71	128	1,680	--	--	154	1,750
Belgium	--	15	112	1,570	29	275	141	1,860
Brazil	33	95	1,430	11,500	272	433	1,730	12,000
Canada	10,000	80,300	29,600	307,000	8,770	74,800	48,400	462,000
Chile	--	18	65	6,370	--	142	65	6,530
China	188	4,840	3,200	27,300	102,000	934,000	105,000	966,000
Colombia	587	4,370	50	3,330	--	5	637	7,710
France	1,840	5,170	1,020	10,700	61	1,240	2,920	17,100
Germany	362	2,790	986	7,580	90	448	1,440	10,800
Guatemala	--	2	1,640	13,600	--	103	1,640	13,700
Hong Kong	1	190	92	1,320	3,720	24,300	3,810	25,800
India	--	18	137	1,040	2,730	40,000	2,870	41,000
Indonesia	--	13	49	1,200	903	11,400	952	12,600
Ireland	--	86	1,130	8,140	--	--	1,130	8,230
Israel	103	1,140	637	6,730	--	19	740	7,890
Italy	(2)	11	447	3,170	--	19	447	3,200
Japan	68	688	1,910	14,400	1,430	10,600	3,400	25,600
Jordan	--	--	110	4,360	--	--	110	4,360
Korea, Republic of	3	234	1,880	19,200	11,800	103,000	13,700	123,000
Kuwait	--	--	1,810	10,700	--	--	1,810	10,700
Malaysia	--	17	346	2,020	178	880	524	2,920
Mexico	16,900	164,000	32,000	298,000	10,200	86,100	59,100	548,000
Netherlands	175	269	943	9,500	19	420	1,140	10,200
New Zealand	(2)	(2)	207	1,730	1	23	208	1,760
Norway	--	1	208	699	--	1,540	208	2,240
Pakistan	--	--	(2)	51	213	8,170	213	8,220
Panama	2	31	414	3,330	11	37	427	3,400
Romania	42	1,010	10	390	--	--	52	1,400
Saudi Arabia	--	108	6,550	57,300	--	--	6,550	57,400
Singapore	133	1,090	211	2,700	3	102	347	3,890
Spain	--	11	143	656	--	292	143	959
Taiwan	322	2,610	238	4,670	4,600	53,700	5,160	60,900
Thailand	--	19	26	774	435	6,710	461	7,510
Tunisia	--	--	520	3,510	--	--	520	3,510
Turkey	--	39	181	3,400	56	208	237	3,640
United Arab Emirates	(2)	(2)	574	7,700	48	473	622	8,170
United Kingdom	143	943	1,170	10,700	9	692	1,320	12,400
Vietnam	(2)	(2)	21	194	2,080	12,600	2,100	12,800
Other	76	1,590	1,300	13,400	380	4,570	1,750	19,600
Total	31,000	272,000	91,500	881,000	150,000	1,380,000	272,000	2,530,000

-- 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.