

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2013

Domestic primary aluminum production in October 2013 was 154,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 4,980 t, 5% less than that during the previous month and 9% less than that in October 2012. The decline was attributed to the shutdown of two potlines at Ormet Corp.'s smelter in Hannibal, OH. (See Aluminum in August 2013.)

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in October 2013 was 326,000 t, 13% more than the amount recovered in September and 11% more than the amount recovered in October 2012. Of this, 171,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 11% more than that during the previous month and 11% more than the amount recovered in October 2012, and 155,000 t was recovered from old scrap, 15% more than the amount in September and 12% more than the amount in October 2012. The secondary aluminum production increases were attributed to increased demand for wrought products. Consumption of scrap and production of metal increased by more than 30% at mill fabricators compared with consumption and production in September 2013 and October 2012 (table 2).

Update

In December, Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) and its partner Saudi Arabian Mining Co. (Ma'aden) (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) restarted production from one of the two potlines at their 740,000-metric-ton-year smelter in Ras al Khair, Saudi Arabia. The restart was expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2014 (Al Arabiya News, 2013). Potline instability during the rampup of the new smelter was cited for the temporary shutdown in October. (See Aluminum in August 2013.)

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$0.916 per pound in October from \$0.892 per pound in September and then decreased to \$0.89 per pound in November.

Reference Cited

Al Arabiya News, 2013, Saudi Maaden restarts aluminum plant production line: Al Arabiya News, December 29. (Accessed January 7, 2014, at <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/business/energy/2013/12/29/Saudi-Ma-aden-restarts-aluminum-plant-production-line.html>.)

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:									
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–October	1,733	1,530 ^r	1,180 ^r	2,710 ^r	2,460	734	3,200	7,640 ^r	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
July	168	158	142	300	273	71	344	811	1,170
August	163	159	133	292	271	73	344	799	1,210
September	157	155 ^r	135 ^r	290 ^r	242	72	314	761 ^r	1,190
October	154	171	155	326	220	79	298	779	NA
January–October	1,643	1,560	1,390	2,950	2,790	707	3,500	8,090	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
2012:										
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–October	2,190	1,600	1,320	1,190	83	74	6	6	3,600 ^r	2,870
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	123	10	9	1	1	365	300
August	207	158	137	125	10	9	1	1	355	292
September	211	162	131 ^r	119 ^r	10	9	1	1	353 ^r	290 ^r
October	209	159	174	158	10	9	1	1	394	326
January–October	2,110	1,600	1,380	1,250	97	86	6	6	3,590	2,950

^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 OCTOBER 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	174,000	209,000	133,000
Independent mill fabricators	163,000	174,000	147,000	158,000
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	475	570	475	570
Total	346,000	394,000	288,000	326,000

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 OCTOBER 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	October			January–October ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,600	47,800	47,600	20,700	453,000	454,000
Can stock clippings	7,170	40,500	39,400	8,260	235,000	236,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	12,000	39,700	39,700	12,100	408,000	408,000
Casting	2,110	5,220	5,200	2,140	52,700	52,600
Borings and turnings	5,560	11,800	11,900	5,460	123,000	122,000
Dross and skimmings	13,600	43,700	43,700	13,600	441,000	441,000
Total new scrap	61,000	189,000	187,000	62,200	1,710,000	1,710,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	6,780	26,600	26,000	7,380	263,000	263,000
Used extrusion	6,720	20,300	19,600	7,520	175,000	176,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	31,500	83,800	85,100	30,200	665,000	665,000
Other wrought products	10,500	19,500	19,400	10,500	196,000	201,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,810	8,050	8,180	2,680	81,500	80,900
Total old scrap	58,300	158,000	158,000	58,300	1,380,000	1,390,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	1,430	1,430
Total all classes	119,000	347,000	346,000	121,000	3,090,000	3,100,000

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 OCTOBER 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	October				January–October ³	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,590	4,110	3,810	2,890	38,300	37,600
380 and variations	7,280	12,900	12,900	7,280	137,000	137,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610	48,500	48,500
No. 319 and variations	2,580	6,730	6,730	2,580	68,700	68,700
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	3,870	3,870
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	1,880	1,880
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68	2,850	2,850
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	1,600	1,600
Other ⁴	2,790	7,000	6,510	3,290	61,700	65,600
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	17,000	43,200	43,200	17,000	431,000	431,000
Total all alloys	34,900	79,700	79,000	35,700	795,000	799,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,470	XX	XX	96,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,110	XX	XX	10,900	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	731	XX	XX	7,290	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	68,400	XX	XX	681,000	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:		
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
October	91.550	82.192
January–October	95.208	84.642

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:					
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
October	69.74	71.00	66.50	70.00	66.17
January–October	74.04	73.79	69.89	72.43	69.96

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October
Argentina	7,670	86,300	--	31	--	--	7,670	86,300
Australia	3,590	25,400	9	39	--	--	3,600	25,500
Austria	--	2,030	2,010	17,400	--	18	2,010	19,500
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	149	1,910	149	1,910
Bahrain	1,550	24,600	1,590	20,800	--	--	3,150	45,400
Belgium	23	969	195	2,250	20	383	238	3,600
Brazil	--	33,900	265	7,990	65	436	330	42,300
Canada	165,000	2,030,000	19,200	179,000	29,900	294,000	214,000	2,500,000
Chile	176	195	--	13	601	7,500	777	7,710
China	129	10,200	21,500	159,000	38	899	21,600	170,000
Colombia	303	2,570	229	2,190	152	3,320	684	8,070
Costa Rica	--	--	(2)	16	200	2,780	200	2,790
Egypt	--	--	559	2,980	--	--	559	2,980
El Salvador	--	--	13	58	317	3,200	330	3,250
France	578	3,620	255	2,680	--	31	833	6,340
Germany	6	1,110	8,070	66,600	19	228	8,100	68,000
Greece	--	--	2,120	16,800	--	100	2,120	16,900
Guatemala	--	57	--	--	1,080	12,300	1,080	12,400
Honduras	--	--	--	(2)	467	2,970	467	2,970
Hong Kong	--	(2)	320	3,630	--	--	320	3,630
India	--	7	1,650	17,700	--	7	1,650	17,700
Indonesia	--	4	4,930	51,300	--	180	4,930	51,500
Italy	--	2	461	5,410	54	1,360	515	6,770
Japan	--	168	591	4,340	20	532	611	5,040
Korea, Republic of	1,550	12,500	442	3,560	54	156	2,050	16,200
Malaysia	--	--	424	4,430	--	55	424	4,490
Mexico	569	6,900	3,110	28,500	11,000	111,000	14,700	146,000
New Zealand	860	7,930	1	29	--	24	861	7,980
Norway	843	15,600	12	47	--	--	855	15,700
Qatar	6,740	80,100	--	--	--	--	6,740	80,100
Romania	--	--	479	4,600	--	162	479	4,770
Russia	9,540	172,000	1,430	13,200	--	--	11,000	185,000
Saudi Arabia	98	469	--	--	246	6,320	344	6,790
South Africa	--	11,400	5,150	50,400	--	84	5,150	61,800
Sweden	--	--	318	3,610	--	--	318	3,610
Switzerland	(2)	35	185	5,620	--	--	185	5,650
Taiwan	33	317	448	4,970	--	82	481	5,360
United Arab Emirates	19,300	212,000	--	402	262	1,870	19,600	214,000
United Kingdom	43	421	1,370	13,100	551	10,200	1,960	23,700
Venezuela	59	43,400	--	2	20	1,600	79	45,000
Other	610	6,620	1,520	14,800	2,590	24,600	4,720	46,000
Total	219,000	2,790,000	78,800	707,000	47,900	488,000	346,000	3,990,000

-- 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 OCTOBER 2013¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October
Australia	--	71	130	1,810	--	--	130	1,880
Belgium	11	25	57	1,620	--	275	68	1,920
Brazil	1	96	1,520	13,000	33	466	1,550	13,500
Canada	10,500	90,800	38,300	345,000	9,310	84,100	58,100	520,000
Chile	--	18	238	6,610	22	164	260	6,790
China	621	5,460	2,890	30,200	120,000	1,050,000	123,000	1,090,000
Colombia	619	4,990	301	3,630	2	7	922	8,630
France	1,310	6,480	2,380	13,100	78	1,310	3,760	20,900
Germany	205	2,990	1,710	9,290	227	675	2,150	13,000
Guatemala	4	7	1,870	15,400	--	103	1,880	15,500
Hong Kong	--	190	336	1,660	3,650	27,900	3,990	29,800
India	4	21	128	1,170	3,500	43,500	3,630	44,700
Indonesia	--	13	68	1,270	1,540	13,000	1,600	14,300
Ireland	--	86	939	9,080	--	--	939	9,170
Israel	18	1,160	864	7,600	125	144	1,010	8,900
Italy	2	13	332	3,510	--	19	334	3,540
Japan	51	739	1,830	16,200	1,860	12,500	3,730	29,400
Jordan	--	--	(2)	4,360	--	--	(2)	4,360
Korea, Republic of	56	290	2,210	21,400	14,200	117,000	16,400	139,000
Kuwait	--	--	1,240	11,900	--	--	1,240	11,900
Malaysia	--	17	270	2,290	91	971	361	3,280
Mexico	18,000	182,000	31,100	329,000	12,400	98,500	61,500	609,000
Netherlands	6	276	61	9,560	21	441	88	10,300
New Zealand	(2)	1	174	1,910	1	24	175	1,930
Norway	--	1	323	1,020	--	1,540	323	2,570
Pakistan	--	--	--	51	623	8,790	623	8,840
Panama	--	31	341	3,670	24	61	365	3,760
Romania	121	1,130	11	401	--	--	132	1,530
Saudi Arabia	--	108	4,030	61,300	--	--	4,030	61,400
Singapore	68	1,160	251	2,950	11	113	330	4,220
Spain	2	13	102	758	18	310	122	1,080
Taiwan	639	3,250	260	4,930	6,460	60,100	7,360	68,300
Thailand	--	19	196	970	446	7,160	642	8,150
Tunisia	--	--	316	3,830	--	--	316	3,830
Turkey	16	55	299	3,690	--	208	315	3,960
United Arab Emirates	(2)	(2)	1,060	8,760	22	495	1,080	9,250
United Kingdom	50	992	1,190	11,900	192	884	1,430	13,800
Vietnam	--	(2)	6	199	250	12,800	256	13,000
Other	23	1,620	1,160	14,600	173	4,740	1,360	20,900
Total	32,300	304,000	98,500	980,000	175,000	1,550,000	306,000	2,840,000

-- 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.