

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 NOVEMBER 2013

Domestic primary aluminum production in November 2013 was 149,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 4,970 t, essentially the same as that during the previous month and 10% less than that in November 2012. Primary aluminum production through November 2013 was 6% less than the total for the same period of 2012.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in November 2013 was 264,000 t, 19% less than the amount recovered in October and 7% less than the amount recovered in November 2012. Of this, 143,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 17% less than that during the previous month and 6% less than the amount recovered in November 2012, and 121,000 t was recovered from old scrap, 22% less than the amount in October and 8% less than the amount in November 2012. The secondary aluminum production decreases were attributed to decreased demand for wrought products. Consumption of scrap and recovery of metal decreased by 39% at mill fabricators compared with consumption and recovery in October 2013 (table 2).

Update

In January 2014, Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) announced that it will permanently shut down the two remaining potlines at the Massena East smelter in New York, citing high operating costs. The two potlines had a combined capacity of 84,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) and the shutdown was to be completed by the end of March 2014. One other potline at the smelter with a capacity of 42,000 t/yr was permanently shut down in August 2013 (Alcoa Inc., 2014c).

Alcoa also announced that it would permanently shut down the 190,000-t/yr Henry Point primary smelter and an adjacent rolling mill in Geelong, Victoria, Australia. Another rolling mill and a 55,000-t/yr secondary smelter in Yennora, New South Wales, Australia, also were to be shut down permanently by yearend. High power prices and obsolete technology were cited for the closures of the primary smelter which first started

producing aluminum in 1963 and the secondary smelter which opened prior to 1974 (Alcoa Inc., 2014a, b).

In December 2013, production from the Arvida Aluminium Smelter in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Quebec, reached full capacity. Rio Tinto plc (London, United Kingdom) started production from the new 60,000-t/yr smelter on September 7, 2013 (Rio Tinto plc, 2014, p. 4).

The Kentucky Public Service Commission approved power supply agreements between Century Aluminum Co. (Chicago, IL) and Big Rivers Electric Corp. and Kenergy Corp. The agreements were for Century to purchase power for the 205,000-t/yr Sebree, KY, smelter at spot market rates from the energy suppliers starting February 1, 2014, when the prior contracts expired (Century Aluminum Co., 2014).

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to \$0.89 per pound in November 2013 from \$0.916 per pound in October 2013 but then increased to \$0.894 per pound in December 2013. In January 2014, the price increased to \$0.959 per pound.

References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2014a, About Yennora, Alcoa Inc. (Accessed February 18, 2014, at http://www.alcoa.com/australia/en/info_page/yennora_overview.asp#.)
- Alcoa Inc., 2014b, Alcoa to close Point Henry smelter and rolling mills in Australia: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. press release, February 17. (Accessed February 18, 2014, at http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20140217000194en&newsYear=2014.)
- Alcoa Inc., 2014c, Alcoa to permanently close remaining potlines at Massena East smelter: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. press release, January 15. (Accessed January 22, 2014, at http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20140115000185en&newsYear=2014.)
- Century Aluminum Co., 2014, Century receives positive ruling from Kentucky Public Service Commission on market-priced power for Sebree, KY smelter: Chicago, IL, Century Aluminum Co. press release, January 30, 1 p. (Accessed February 12, 2014, at <http://investor.shareholder.com/cenx/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=822255>.)
- Rio Tinto plc, 2014, Rio Tinto announces record production for iron ore, bauxite and thermal coal in 2013: London, United Kingdom, Rio Tinto plc media release, January 16, 26 p. (Accessed January 22, 2014, at http://www.riotinto.com/documents/PR828g2_Rio_Tinto_announces_record_production_for_iron_ore_bauxite_and_thermal_coal_in_2013.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	1,830	1,440	3,270	2,900	855	3,760	9,100	1,140
2012:									
November	166	151	132	284	196	62	258	707	1,100
December	171	153	127	280	244	59	303	754	1,140
January–November	1,899	1,680 ^r	1,310 ^r	2,990 ^r	2,660	796	3,460	8,350	1,100
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	135	290	242	72	314	761	1,170 ^r
October	154	171	155	326	219	79	298	779	1,160
November	149	143	121	264	299	69	368	781	1,120
January–November	1,792	1,700	1,510	3,210	3,090	776	3,870	8,870	1,120

^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:										
November	225	164	121	110	10	9	1	1	357	284
December	222	173	108	98	10	9	1	1	341	280
January–November	2,420	1,760	1,440	1,300	93	82	6	5	3,960 ^r	3,150
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	119	10	9	1	1	353	290
October	209	159	174	158	10	9	1	1	394	326
November	207	159	106	96	10	9	1	1	322	264
January–November	2,310	1,760	1,490	1,350	107	95	6	6	3,920	3,210

^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 NOVEMBER 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	172,000	207,000	132,000
Independent mill fabricators	95,600	106,000	86,700	95,900
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	475	570	475	570
Total	276,000	322,000	227,000	264,000

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 NOVEMBER 2013¹

(Metric tons)

	November			January–November ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,700	40,500	40,300	20,900	494,000	494,000
Can stock clippings	7,760	20,800	21,300	7,320	256,000	257,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	12,100	35,900	36,000	12,100	444,000	444,000
Casting	2,140	5,280	5,280	2,130	57,900	57,900
Borings and turnings	5,460	12,000	12,400	5,030	135,000	134,000
Dross and skimmings	13,600	41,300	41,300	13,600	483,000	483,000
Total new scrap	61,700	156,000	156,000	61,000	1,870,000	1,870,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	7,380	25,900	25,600	7,720	289,000	289,000
Used extrusion	7,520	17,700	17,400	7,850	192,000	193,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	30,100	51,200	51,200	30,200	716,000	717,000
Other wrought products	10,500	17,500	17,700	10,300	213,000	219,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,680	7,610	7,790	2,510	89,100	88,700
Total old scrap	58,300	120,000	120,000	58,600	1,500,000	1,510,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	1,580	1,580
Total all classes	120,000	276,000	276,000	120,000	3,370,000	3,380,000

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 NOVEMBER 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	November			January–November ³		
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,890	3,620	3,820	2,700	41,900	41,400
380 and variations	7,280	12,900	12,900	7,280	150,000	150,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610	53,300	53,300
No. 319 and variations	2,580	6,730	6,730	2,580	75,400	75,500
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	4,250	4,250
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	2,050	2,050
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68	3,130	3,130
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	1,750	1,750
Other ⁴	3,290	6,760	6,740	3,310	68,500	72,300
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	17,000	43,000	42,000	18,000	474,000	473,000
Total all alloys	35,700	78,800	78,000	36,500	874,000	877,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,590	XX	XX	106,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,030	XX	XX	12,000	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	773	XX	XX	8,070	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	67,400	XX	XX	748,000	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:		
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
November	89.000	79.331
January–November	94.643	84.159

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:					
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
November	68.16	70.14	66.11	68.92	66.00
January–November	73.51	73.46	69.55	72.11	69.60

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January– November	November	January– November	November	January– November	November	January– November
Argentina	3,420	89,700	--	31	--	--	3,420	89,700
Australia	--	25,400	6	45	--	--	6	25,500
Austria	--	2,030	1,680	19,100	--	18	1,680	21,200
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	25	1,940	25	1,940
Bahrain	2,170	26,800	1,990	22,800	--	--	4,160	49,600
Belgium	203	1,170	215	2,470	73	457	491	4,100
Brazil	--	33,900	48	8,040	95	531	143	42,500
Canada	247,000	2,280,000	17,800	197,000	26,800	321,000	292,000	2,800,000
Chile	--	195	--	13	355	7,860	355	8,070
China	173	10,300	16,300	175,000	34	933	16,500	186,000
Colombia	78	2,640	140	2,330	116	3,430	334	8,410
Costa Rica	--	--	(2)	16	127	2,900	127	2,920
Egypt	--	--	189	3,170	--	--	189	3,170
El Salvador	--	--	--	58	164	3,360	164	3,420
France	537	4,160	430	3,110	1	32	968	7,300
Germany	166	1,280	8,050	74,700	48	275	8,270	76,200
Greece	--	--	1,090	17,900	--	100	1,090	18,000
Guatemala	--	57	--	--	966	13,300	966	13,300
Honduras	--	--	--	(2)	209	3,180	209	3,180
Hong Kong	--	(2)	332	3,960	--	--	332	3,960
India	--	7	1,870	19,500	--	7	1,870	19,600
Indonesia	--	4	5,300	56,600	--	180	5,300	56,800
Italy	2	4	507	5,910	54	1,420	563	7,330
Japan	43	210	418	4,760	20	552	481	5,520
Korea, Republic of	996	13,500	341	3,900	--	156	1,340	17,600
Malaysia	--	--	331	4,760	4	59	335	4,820
Mexico	793	7,700	2,840	31,400	8,590	119,000	12,200	158,000
New Zealand	1,200	9,120	(2)	30	--	24	1,200	9,180
Norway	1,150	16,800	1	48	--	--	1,150	16,800
Qatar	7,780	87,900	--	--	--	--	7,780	87,900
Romania	--	--	502	5,110	--	162	502	5,270
Russia	10,600	183,000	983	14,200	--	--	11,600	197,000
Saudi Arabia	--	469	1	1	97	6,420	98	6,890
South Africa	1,010	12,400	4,150	54,500	--	84	5,170	67,000
Sweden	--	--	200	3,810	--	--	200	3,810
Switzerland	(2)	35	77	5,690	--	--	77	5,730
Taiwan	65	382	651	5,620	--	82	716	6,080
United Arab Emirates	19,100	231,000	--	402	112	1,980	19,200	233,000
United Kingdom	34	455	1,210	14,300	318	10,500	1,560	25,300
Venezuela	2,000	45,400	--	2	--	1,600	2,000	47,000
Other	205	6,820	1,490	16,300	1,640	26,300	3,330	49,400
Total	299,000	3,090,000	69,100	776,000	39,800	528,000	408,000	4,400,000

-- 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 NOVEMBER 2013¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January– November	November	January– November	November	January– November	November	January– November
Australia	38	110	174	1,990	--	--	212	2,100
Belgium	(2)	25	52	1,680	--	275	52	1,980
Brazil	301	397	1,660	14,600	186	651	2,150	15,700
Canada	10,100	101,000	33,200	379,000	8,450	92,500	51,800	572,000
Chile	(2)	18	329	6,940	21	185	350	7,140
China	630	6,090	3,280	33,400	116,000	1,170,000	120,000	1,210,000
Colombia	601	5,590	351	3,980	--	7	952	9,580
France	1,020	7,500	1,300	14,400	37	1,350	2,350	23,200
Germany	358	3,350	1,810	11,100	472	1,150	2,640	15,600
Guatemala	(2)	7	1,370	16,800	--	103	1,370	16,900
Hong Kong	--	190	179	1,840	2,780	30,700	2,960	32,800
India	--	21	130	1,300	4,440	47,900	4,570	49,200
Indonesia	--	13	78	1,350	852	13,800	930	15,200
Ireland	--	86	465	9,550	--	--	465	9,630
Israel	(2)	1,160	938	8,540	--	144	938	9,840
Italy	--	13	305	3,810	42	61	347	3,890
Japan	358	1,100	1,860	18,000	1,850	14,300	4,070	33,400
Jordan	--	--	88	4,450	--	--	88	4,450
Korea, Republic of	21	311	2,110	23,500	16,500	134,000	18,600	158,000
Kuwait	--	--	1,420	13,400	--	--	1,420	13,400
Malaysia	--	17	516	2,810	66	1,040	582	3,860
Mexico	18,200	200,000	32,100	361,000	9,350	108,000	59,700	669,000
Netherlands	9	285	77	9,630	--	441	86	10,400
New Zealand	(2)	1	114	2,020	--	24	114	2,050
Norway	--	1	219	1,240	--	1,540	219	2,790
Pakistan	--	--	6	57	403	9,190	409	9,250
Panama	3	34	470	4,140	--	61	473	4,240
Romania	103	1,230	4	405	--	--	107	1,630
Saudi Arabia	3	112	3,380	64,700	--	--	3,380	64,800
Singapore	172	1,330	307	3,260	5	118	484	4,700
Spain	2	15	107	865	--	310	109	1,190
Taiwan	281	3,530	284	5,210	6,940	67,100	7,500	75,800
Thailand	--	19	193	1,160	316	7,470	509	8,660
Tunisia	--	--	263	4,090	--	--	263	4,090
Turkey	--	55	215	3,910	18	226	233	4,190
United Arab Emirates	14	15	881	9,640	46	540	941	10,200
United Kingdom	27	1,020	1,360	13,300	174	1,060	1,560	15,300
Vietnam	--	(2)	52	251	--	12,800	52	13,100
Other	67	1,680	2,400	17,000	161	4,900	2,630	23,600
Total	32,300	337,000	94,100	1,070,000	170,000	1,720,000	296,000	3,130,000

-- 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.