

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2014

Domestic primary aluminum production in January 2014 was 153,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 4,950 t, essentially the same as that during the previous month and 10% less than that in January 2013.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in January 2014 was 285,000 t, 5% more than the amount recovered in December 2013 but 3% less than the amount recovered in January 2013. Of this, 154,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 4% more than that during the previous month and the same as the amount recovered in January 2013, and 132,000 t was recovered from old scrap, 7% more than the amount in December 2013 but 6% less than the amount in January 2013.

Update

Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) announced that it would permanently shut down the remaining 62,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of capacity at its smelter in Pocos de Calda, Brazil. In 2013, 34,000 t/yr of capacity was permanently shut down at the 96,000-t/yr smelter. Alcoa also announced that it would permanently shutdown 85,000 t/yr of capacity at the Sao Luis, Brazil, smelter in addition to the 97,000 t/yr of capacity that was permanently shut down in 2013. The capacity of the potlines remaining at the Sao Luis smelter was 265,000 t/yr. Challenging market conditions including high power prices and low prices for aluminum were cited for the shutdowns (Alcoa Inc., 2014).

In India, Hindalco Industries Ltd. (Mumbai, India) started production from the 360,000-t/yr Aditya smelter in January. Hindalco was continuing to ramp up the 360,000-t/yr Mahan smelter, which started production during the first quarter of 2013. Both smelters had 900-megawatt captive power plants and would be supplied with alumina from Hindalco's 1.5 million-metric-tons-per-year Utkal alumina refinery which was commissioned in the second quarter of 2013 (Hindalco Industries Ltd., 2013; 2014).

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$0.959 per pound in January 2014 from \$0.894 per pound in December 2013. The upward trend continued in February 2014, with the monthly average price increasing to \$0.962 per pound.

References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2014, Alcoa to curtail 147,000 metric tons of aluminum smelting capacity in Brazil: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. press release, March 28. (Accessed March 28, 2014, at http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20140328000202en&newsYear=2014.)
- Hindalco Industries Ltd., 2013, reports standalone and consolidated audited results for year ended 31 March 2013: Mumbai, India, Hindalco Industries Ltd. news release, May 28. (Accessed March 13, 2014, at <http://www.hindalco.com/News/newsid/241>.)
- Hindalco Industries Ltd., 2014, Hindalco announces Q3 FY2013-14 standalone results: Mumbai, India, Hindalco Industries Ltd. news release, February 13. (Accessed March 13, 2014, at <http://www.hindalco.com/News/newsid/1332>.)

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		
2013 ^p	1,946	1,850	1,630	3,480	3,310	845	4,160	9,580	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	135	290	242	72	314	761	1,170
October	154	171	155	326	219	79	298	779	1,160
November	149	143	121	264	299	69	368	781	1,140
December	154	147	123	270	220	68	288	713	1,130
2014, January	153	154	132	285	253	67	321	759	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
	2013 ^p	2,520	1,920	1,610	1,460	117	103	7	7	4,250
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
December	201	154	118	107	10	9	1	1	330	270
2014, January	206	158	130	118	10	9	1	1	346	285

^pPreliminary.

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 JANUARY 2014¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	172,000	206,000	132,000	158,000
Independent mill fabricators	118,000	130,000	107,000	118,000
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	486	583	486	583
Total	298,000	346,000	247,000	285,000

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 JANUARY 2014¹

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Extrusion	20,700	45,000	45,100	20,600
Can stock clippings	6,660	21,400	22,400	5,740
Other wrought sheet/clippings	13,200	39,400	40,400	12,200
Casting	2,020	5,450	5,440	2,040
Borings and turnings	4,860	11,500	11,700	4,670
Dross and skimmings	13,100	41,400	41,400	13,100
Total new scrap	60,600	165,000	167,000	58,300
Old scrap:				
Used castings	6,960	24,400	25,000	6,370
Used extrusion	8,530	19,900	18,300	10,100
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	30,600	59,600	61,000	29,200
Other wrought products	11,400	14,400	18,700	7,090
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,210	7,710	7,920	1,990
Total old scrap	59,600	126,000	131,000	54,700
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183
Total all classes	120,000	291,000	298,000	113,000

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 JANUARY 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die-cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,590	4,060	3,920	2,730
380 and variations	17,100	13,600	13,600	17,100
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610
No. 319 and variations	2,580	6,850	6,790	2,640
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25
Other ⁴	3,150	6,300	3,300	6,150
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	17,500	41,800	42,600	16,700
Total all alloys	45,500	78,400	76,000	47,900
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	7,750	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,030	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	720	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	68,900	XX	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
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
December	89.375	78.857
January–December	94.204	83.717
2014, January	95.900	78.301

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)
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
December	68.76	69.00	65.87	68.97	65.74
January–December	73.11	73.09	69.24	71.85	69.28
2014, January	73.24	72.29	68.10	71.71	68.10

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2014¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	10,100	--	--	10,100
Australia	2,230	6	--	2,230
Austria	40	1,440	20	1,500
Bahamas, The	--	--	110	110
Bahrain	3,500	2,730	--	6,220
Belgium	7	186	--	193
Brazil	13,000	172	112	13,300
Canada	148,000	19,900	24,700	193,000
Chile	--	--	436	436
China	114	14,900	40	15,100
Colombia	94	108	--	202
Costa Rica	--	--	181	181
Egypt	--	205	--	205
El Salvador	--	--	156	156
France	977	499	1	1,480
Germany	17	4,290	--	4,310
Greece	--	1,520	--	1,520
Guatemala	--	--	1,190	1,190
Honduras	--	--	61	61
Hong Kong	--	243	--	243
India	10	2,230	--	2,240
Indonesia	--	4,160	--	4,160
Italy	--	416	36	452
Japan	--	394	37	431
Korea, Republic of	1,520	448	--	1,960
Malaysia	20	506	--	526
Mexico	692	2,790	9,080	12,600
New Zealand	608	2	--	610
Norway	643	(2)	--	643
Qatar	12,100	--	--	12,100
Romania	--	342	--	342
Russia	28,100	1,090	17	29,200
South Africa	4,050	5,280	--	9,320
Sweden	--	190	--	190
Switzerland	(2)	285	--	285
Taiwan	33	606	--	639
United Arab Emirates	24,800	--	18	24,800
United Kingdom	66	397	39	502
Venezuela	940	204	508	1,650
Other	1,450	1,800	943	4,190
Total	253,000	67,400	37,700	358,000

-- 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 JANUARY 2014¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Australia	(2)	140	--	140
Belgium	11	37	19	67
Brazil	1,340	1,170	110	2,620
Canada	10,300	35,200	8,280	53,700
Chile	--	31	22	53
China	210	3,010	85,000	88,200
Colombia	--	777	--	777
France	420	1,570	190	2,180
Germany	185	1,020	457	1,660
Guatemala	(2)	917	--	917
Hong Kong	(2)	119	3,340	3,460
India	10	95	4,450	4,550
Indonesia	2	11	399	412
Ireland	--	178	--	178
Israel	1	1,020	--	1,020
Italy	16	175	--	191
Japan	128	1,550	1,250	2,930
Jordan	--	765	--	765
Korea, Republic of	56	1,690	12,600	14,300
Kuwait	--	428	--	428
Malaysia	2	208	70	280
Mexico	18,000	33,000	12,100	63,100
Netherlands	(2)	116	--	116
New Zealand	(2)	89	--	89
Norway	--	102	--	102
Pakistan	(2)	(2)	703	703
Panama	--	651	59	710
Romania	5	28	--	33
Saudi Arabia	--	2,690	--	2,690
Singapore	216	347	--	563
Spain	--	69	--	69
Taiwan	74	252	6,290	6,610
Thailand	--	35	5	40
Tunisia	--	421	--	421
Turkey	(2)	222	--	222
United Arab Emirates	--	1,060	42	1,100
United Kingdom	59	1,670	22	1,750
Vietnam	--	326	--	326
Other	89	1,660	432	2,180
Total	31,100	92,800	136,000	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.