

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2014

Domestic primary aluminum production in March 2014 was 135,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 4,360 t, essentially the same as that during the previous month but 21% less than that in March 2013. During the first quarter of the year, primary aluminum production was 17% less than that during the same period of 2013, and 10% less than that of the prior quarter.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in March 2014 was 296,000 t, 6% more than the amount recovered in February and slightly more than the amount recovered in March 2013. Of this, 161,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 9% more than that during the previous month and 4% more than the amount recovered in March 2013, and 135,000 t was recovered from old scrap, slightly more than the amount in February but slightly less than the amount in March 2013. Recovery from scrap on a daily basis in March compared with that in February was 4% less for total secondary production, slightly less from new scrap, and 8% less from old scrap.

Total imports of aluminum (table 8) in the first quarter of 2014 were 14% more than those in the same period of 2013. Imports of crude metal and alloys increased by 22%, imports of semifabricated aluminum products decreased slightly, and imports of aluminum scrap decreased by 10%. Canada accounted for 60% of total aluminum imported in the first quarter of 2014, 82% of which were crude metal and alloys.

Imports of crude metal and alloys from Canada accounted for 49% of all aluminum imported during the quarter.

Total exports of aluminum (table 9) during the first quarter of 2014 were 7% less than those of in the same period of 2013. Exports of crude metal and alloys decreased slightly, exports of semifabricated aluminum products were unchanged, but exports of aluminum scrap decreased by 12%. The leading destinations of total aluminum in the first quarter of 2014 were China (33%), Mexico (24%), and Canada (21%). Exports of scrap to China accounted for 32% of all aluminum exports during the quarter.

Update

In April, Aleris International Inc. restarted production at its Richmond, VA, rolling mill and remelt furnace following a fire on January 29. The plant supplied sheet used in the building and construction industry (Fitzgerald, 2014).

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to \$0.953 per pound in March from \$0.962 per pound in February. The monthly average price increased in April to \$0.999 per pound.

Reference Cited

Fitzgerald, Daniel, 2014, Aleris restarts ops at Richmond facility: American Metal Market, v. 122, no. 17-3, April 23, p. 4.

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:									
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
January–March	498	459	410	868	750	198	949	2,320	1,200
2014:									
January	153	154	132	285	253	67	321	759	1,150
February	122	148	132	280	221	57	278	681	NA
March	135	161	135	296	439	71	511	942	NA
January–March	411	463	398	862	914	196	1,110	2,380	NA

^PPreliminary. 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	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2013 ^P	2,515	1,916	1,607	1,456	117	103	7	7	4,246	3,482
2013:										
March	208	158	138	125	10	9	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
January–March	621	472	407	369	29	26	2	2	1,059	868
2014:										
January	206	158	130	118	10	9	1	1	346	285
February	203	156	127	115	10	9	1	1	341	280
March	212	161	139	126	10	9	1	1	361	296
January–March	621	475	396	359	29	26	2	2	1,048	862

^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 MARCH 2014¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	176,000	212,000	134,000	161,000
Independent mill fabricators	126,000	139,000	115,000	126,000
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	486	583	486	583
Total	311,000	361,000	256,000	296,000

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 MARCH 2014¹

(Metric tons)

	March			January–March ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,600	50,000	49,900	20,700	143,000	143,000
Can stock clippings	5,600	21,600	21,500	5,710	65,000	66,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	12,500	40,300	42,700	10,100	116,000	119,000
Casting	2,110	6,560	6,560	2,110	17,600	17,500
Borings and turnings	4,560	11,500	11,500	4,570	34,300	34,600
Dross and skimmings	13,100	44,700	44,700	13,100	128,000	128,000
Total new scrap	58,600	175,000	177,000	56,400	503,000	507,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	6,650	28,900	27,700	7,910	81,500	80,500
Used extrusion	9,920	18,400	18,400	9,940	55,000	53,600
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	29,300	63,900	63,300	29,900	184,000	185,000
Other wrought products	5,910	16,500	16,600	5,850	47,400	52,900
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,030	8,280	8,320	1,990	24,000	24,200
Total old scrap	53,900	136,000	134,000	55,600	392,000	396,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	430	430
Total all classes	113,000	311,000	311,000	112,000	896,000	904,000

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 MARCH 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	March				January–March ³	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,440	3,890	3,890	2,440	11,800	12,000
380 and variations	17,100	13,300	13,300	17,100	40,300	40,300
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610	14,500	14,500
No. 319 and variations	2,640	6,790	6,790	2,640	20,400	20,400
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	1,160	1,160
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	520	520
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68	850	850
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	436	436
Other ⁴	3,140	6,940	6,940	3,140	17,200	17,200
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,500	43,700	44,000	16,200	128,000	129,000
Total all alloys	44,400	80,500	80,800	44,100	235,000	237,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	7,750	XX	XX	24,900	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,050	XX	XX	3,060	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	635	XX	XX	2,070	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	71,000	XX	XX	205,000	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
2013:		
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
February	96.188	76.821
March	95.250	77.258
January–March	95.779	77.460

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:					
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
February	76.75	74.65	69.70	73.45	69.70
March	77.52	76.52	71.95	74.86	71.57
January–March	75.84	74.49	69.92	73.34	69.79

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January– March	March	January– March	March	January– March	March	January– March
Argentina	8,820	28,300	--	--	--	--	8,820	28,300
Australia	3,350	8,870	8	15	--	--	3,360	8,890
Austria	100	220	2,480	5,620	--	20	2,580	5,860
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	227	542	227	542
Bahrain	795	12,600	1,740	6,130	--	--	2,530	18,800
Belgium	155	285	728	1,010	10	10	893	1,300
Brazil	92	13,100	762	1,040	70	182	924	14,300
Canada	329,000	606,000	21,200	59,100	27,900	75,900	378,000	741,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	755	1,520	755	1,520
China	149	376	12,800	40,300	238	411	13,200	41,100
Colombia	--	94	126	327	382	817	508	1,240
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	362	707	362	707
Egypt	--	--	397	1,040	--	--	397	1,040
El Salvador	--	--	16	29	234	653	250	682
France	923	2,460	1,030	1,780	1	4	1,950	4,240
Germany	30	90	5,480	13,800	41	73	5,550	14,000
Greece	--	--	1,010	3,310	--	--	1,010	3,310
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	1,110	4,010	1,110	4,010
Honduras	--	--	--	--	123	275	123	275
Hong Kong	--	--	128	575	--	--	128	575
India	1	11	1,730	5,550	--	--	1,730	5,560
Indonesia	--	--	4,810	11,900	--	--	4,810	11,900
Italy	--	103	805	1,690	54	127	859	1,920
Japan	--	--	765	1,560	45	126	810	1,690
Korea, Republic of	1,840	4,380	840	1,630	--	--	2,680	6,010
Malaysia	--	59	320	1,130	--	--	320	1,190
Mexico	2,210	3,880	2,700	8,270	11,300	29,800	16,200	42,000
New Zealand	764	2,990	12	16	--	--	776	3,010
Norway	630	2,020	53	54	--	--	683	2,070
Qatar	5,750	28,100	--	--	--	--	5,750	28,100
Romania	2	2	358	945	--	--	360	947
Russia	48,100	105,000	1,160	3,480	176	193	49,400	109,000
Saudi Arabia	329	368	--	--	347	420	676	788
South Africa	9,030	16,100	5,670	14,500	--	--	14,700	30,600
Sweden	--	--	234	664	--	--	234	664
Switzerland	(2)	(2)	109	437	--	--	109	437
Taiwan	52	85	590	1,550	--	--	642	1,630
United Arab Emirates	19,000	63,400	--	--	--	18	19,000	63,400
United Kingdom	41	157	1,120	2,560	244	574	1,400	3,290
Venezuela	6,780	10,900	--	204	222	848	7,000	11,900
Other	1,800	4,080	2,080	5,430	3,240	6,990	7,120	16,500
Total	439,000	914,000	71,200	196,000	47,000	124,000	558,000	1,230,000

-- 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 MARCH 2014¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January– March	March	January– March	March	January– March	March	January– March
Australia	4	30	152	398	--	--	156	428
Belgium	1	12	197	309	--	19	198	340
Brazil	340	2,050	1,450	3,630	58	263	1,850	5,940
Canada	10,900	31,300	37,100	106,000	8,470	25,100	56,500	162,000
Chile	--	12	30	89	44	65	74	166
China	23	313	3,370	9,400	81,600	248,000	85,000	258,000
Colombia	--	35	595	1,550	--	27	595	1,620
France	401	1,140	1,310	4,140	202	430	1,910	5,710
Germany	152	594	1,120	2,930	550	1,220	1,820	4,750
Guatemala	--	3	2,100	4,390	--	--	2,100	4,400
Hong Kong	--	40	90	302	1,940	7,850	2,030	8,190
India	--	10	130	347	4,270	11,900	4,400	12,300
Indonesia	--	2	139	223	668	1,970	807	2,190
Ireland	--	--	69	297	--	--	69	297
Israel	46	48	1,220	2,730	--	--	1,270	2,770
Italy	1	17	361	794	75	75	437	886
Japan	37	175	1,480	4,370	759	2,920	2,280	7,470
Jordan	--	--	384	1,740	--	--	384	1,740
Korea, Republic of	--	76	2,970	6,810	15,900	40,500	18,800	47,300
Kuwait	--	--	308	1,540	--	--	308	1,540
Malaysia	2	4	424	819	259	393	685	1,220
Mexico	18,300	50,200	40,600	103,000	11,300	34,900	70,200	189,000
Netherlands	7	7	51	231	--	--	58	238
New Zealand	(2)	(2)	131	319	1	2	132	321
Norway	--	--	222	510	--	--	222	510
Pakistan	--	(2)	--	(2)	367	1,380	367	1,380
Panama	5	5	356	1,360	2	67	363	1,440
Romania	82	91	21	69	--	--	103	160
Saudi Arabia	(2)	(2)	4,600	10,500	--	--	4,600	10,500
Singapore	134	498	399	938	--	--	533	1,440
Spain	1	8	69	222	--	--	70	230
Taiwan	61	250	425	969	8,390	22,700	8,880	24,000
Thailand	--	1	51	149	508	758	559	908
Tunisia	--	--	103	524	--	--	103	524
Turkey	--	6	230	612	--	--	230	618
United Arab Emirates	--	--	1,240	3,410	22	64	1,260	3,480
United Kingdom	55	164	1,490	4,560	119	313	1,660	5,030
Vietnam	--	--	370	700	48	66	418	766
Other	18	152	1,090	3,650	509	1,510	1,620	5,310
Total	30,500	87,200	106,000	285,000	136,000	403,000	273,000	775,000

-- 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.