

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN MAY 2014

Domestic primary aluminum production in May 2014 was 147,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 4,740 t, essentially the same as the revised daily production during the previous month but 14% less than that in May 2013.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in May 2014 was 307,000 t, essentially the same as the amount recovered in April and 8% more than the amount recovered in May 2013. Of this, 164,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, slightly more than that during the previous month and 11% more than the amount recovered in May 2013, and 142,000 t was recovered from old scrap, slightly less than the amount in April but 4% more than the amount in May 2013.

Update

Emirates Aluminium Co. Ltd. (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates) completed expanding the Al Taweelah smelter to 1.32 million metric tons per year (Mt/yr) from 0.8 Mt/yr. The new capacity started producing in June (Wookey, 2014).

In June, BHP Billiton Ltd. (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia) shut down the Bayside smelter in Richards Bay, South Africa. BHP Billiton placed the 95,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) smelter under review in September 2012 citing financial pressures. The casthouse would continue to operate using molten aluminum produced at the nearby Hillside smelter (BHP Billiton Ltd., 2014, p. 13; Smart, 2014).

In June, Rio Tinto plc (London, United Kingdom) shut down one 24,000-t/yr potline at the Kitimat, British Columbia, Canada, smelter as part of a modernization and expansion project. The shutdown leaves the smelter with 186,000 t/yr of capacity. The smelter would have a capacity of 420,000 t/yr

when the project is completed in the first half of 2015. On July 3, Rio Tinto agreed to sell its 50% share of the 180,000-t/yr Soral smelter at Husnes, Norway, to Norsk Hydro ASA (Oslo, Norway). Hydro would be the sole owner of the smelter when the sale is completed in the second half of the year (Rio Tinto plc, 2014, p. 5).

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to \$0.977 per pound in May from \$0.999 per pound in April. The monthly average price increased in June to \$1.020 per pound.

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- Rio Tinto plc, 2014, Rio Tinto delivers very strong first half production: London, United Kingdom, Rio Tinto plc media release, July 16, 26 p. (Accessed July 23, 2014, at http://www.riotinto.com/documents/140716_Rio_Tinto_delivers_very_strong_first_half_production.pdf.)
- Smart, Greg, 2014, BHP Billiton in talks over Bayside smelter closure: Platts Metals Daily, v. 3, no. 13, January 20, p. 1–2.
- Wookey, Jethro, 2014, Emal's 2d-phase expansion of potline done: American Metal Market, v. 122, no. 26-4, June 26, 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:									
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–May	836	755	681	1,440	1,520	343	1,860	4,140	1,200
2014:									
January	153	154	132	285	253	67	321	759	1,150
February	139 ^r	148	132	280	221	57	278	697	1,230
March	153 ^r	161	135	296	439	71	511	961	1,240 ^r
April	143 ^r	162	146	308	291	78	369	820	1,290
May	147	164	142	307	290	80	370	824	1,270
January–May	735	789	687	1,480	1,500	353	1,850	4,060	1,270

^pPreliminary. ^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
	2013 ^P	2,520	1,920	1,610	1,460	117	103	7	7	4,250
2013:										
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–May	1,040	788	664	601	49	43	3	3	1,750	1,440
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
April	206	158	155	141	10	9	1	1	372	308
May	210	160	152	138	10	9	1	1	372	307
January–May	1,040	792	703	638	49	43	3	3	1,790	1,480

^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 MAY 2014¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	175,000	210,000	133,000
Independent mill fabricators	137,000	152,000	124,000	138,000
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	486	583	486	583
Total	320,000	372,000	265,000	307,000

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 MAY 2014¹

(Metric tons)

	May			January–May ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,300	49,300	49,500	20,100	240,000	240,000
Can stock clippings	6,160	21,900	21,300	6,800	109,000	109,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	9,270	46,100	46,400	8,980	208,000	212,000
Casting	2,100	5,590	5,710	1,980	28,900	29,000
Borings and turnings	4,680	11,900	11,700	4,870	57,800	57,700
Dross and skimmings	13,100	44,000	44,000	13,100	214,000	214,000
Total new scrap	55,600	179,000	179,000	55,800	857,000	862,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,140	26,800	26,300	8,620	137,000	135,000
Used extrusion	9,930	17,000	18,100	8,810	90,400	90,100
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	30,800	63,300	64,400	29,700	313,000	314,000
Other wrought products	4,290	27,900	23,800	8,350	99,400	102,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,030	9,020	8,830	2,210	41,700	41,700
Total old scrap	55,200	144,000	142,000	57,700	681,000	683,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	717	717
Total all classes	111,000	323,000	320,000	114,000	1,540,000	1,550,000

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 MAY 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	May				January–May ³	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,750	3,890	4,030	2,610	21,000	21,000
380 and variations	17,100	13,300	13,300	17,100	67,000	67,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610	24,100	24,100
No. 319 and variations	2,600	6,790	6,790	2,600	34,000	34,000
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	1,930	1,930
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	866	866
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	283	283	68	1,420	1,420
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	727	727
Other ⁴	2,500	6,460	6,040	2,920	29,100	29,300
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,200	44,000	43,700	16,500	215,000	216,000
Total all alloys	43,800	80,200	79,700	44,300	395,000	397,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	10,300	XX	XX	43,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,080	XX	XX	5,140	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	598	XX	XX	3,210	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	68,200	XX	XX	344,000	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:		
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
April	99.875	82.072
May	97.650	79.327
January–May	96.973	78.756

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:					
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
April	82.43	75.00	72.00	75.00	71.00
May	79.62	75.19	71.05	74.10	71.05
January–May	77.91	74.73	70.56	73.82	70.28

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	May	January– May	May	January– May	May	January– May	May	January– May
Argentina	5,660	35,300	--	--	--	--	5,660	35,300
Australia	--	12,600	24	43	--	--	24	12,600
Austria	--	250	2,090	10,200	45	134	2,140	10,600
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	203	940	203	940
Bahrain	5,620	26,700	2,060	11,000	--	--	7,690	37,700
Belgium	116	507	210	1,520	20	30	346	2,050
Brazil	--	13,100	604	2,970	515	1,360	1,120	17,500
Canada	203,000	981,000	20,200	98,100	27,400	131,000	251,000	1,210,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	780	3,340	780	3,340
China	163	726	22,800	80,100	50	490	23,000	81,300
Colombia	--	94	208	730	318	1,400	526	2,220
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	273	1,330	273	1,330
Egypt	--	--	283	1,640	--	--	283	1,640
El Salvador	--	--	--	44	307	1,240	307	1,280
France	870	3,930	1,210	3,600	32	947	2,110	8,480
Germany	210	334	5,150	24,800	138	546	5,500	25,600
Greece	--	--	1,330	5,810	40	40	1,370	5,850
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	1,830	7,160	1,830	7,160
Honduras	--	--	--	--	177	599	177	599
Hong Kong	--	--	316	1,090	--	--	316	1,090
India	--	11	2,950	12,200	1	1	2,950	12,200
Indonesia	--	--	5,260	22,800	32	32	5,290	22,900
Italy	24	127	621	3,170	18	163	663	3,460
Japan	(2)	(2)	639	3,050	52	205	691	3,250
Korea, Republic of	1,250	7,290	775	3,650	--	--	2,030	10,900
Malaysia	199	416	393	2,000	--	--	592	2,410
Mexico	1,090	5,970	3,140	14,400	10,400	50,500	14,600	70,900
New Zealand	661	3,720	1	29	--	--	662	3,750
Norway	1,630	4,060	2	56	--	--	1,630	4,110
Qatar	6,890	44,100	--	--	--	--	6,890	44,100
Romania	--	2	437	2,190	--	--	437	2,200
Russia	30,200	193,000	1,180	6,330	139	332	31,500	200,000
Saudi Arabia	467	1,660	(2)	1	353	1,220	820	2,880
South Africa	1,010	19,100	4,420	22,900	--	--	5,440	42,000
Sweden	--	--	371	1,190	--	22	371	1,220
Switzerland	--	1,010	206	890	--	--	206	1,900
Taiwan	77	281	431	2,550	39	79	547	2,910
United Arab Emirates	26,700	113,000	--	--	296	315	27,000	114,000
United Kingdom	16	193	679	4,340	155	1,030	850	5,560
Venezuela	2,990	19,200	--	204	2,820	4,770	5,810	24,100
Other	1,330	7,060	1,970	9,850	2,440	11,800	5,740	28,700
Total	290,000	1,500,000	80,000	353,000	48,800	221,000	419,000	2,070,000

-- 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 MAY 2014¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	May	January–	May	January–	May	January–	May	January–
		May		May		May		May
Australia	10	97	192	751	--	--	202	848
Belgium	71	160	61	451	221	375	353	986
Brazil	587	3,190	551	4,700	58	321	1,200	8,210
Canada	10,400	51,700	36,800	178,000	8,630	42,800	55,800	273,000
Chile	--	12	1	93	21	87	22	192
China	3	387	2,420	15,400	87,800	416,000	90,200	431,000
Colombia	--	37	123	1,870	--	27	123	1,940
France	765	2,570	1,740	7,240	312	918	2,820	10,700
Germany	365	1,140	1,160	5,010	295	1,860	1,820	8,010
Guatemala	--	3	1,340	7,160	--	--	1,340	7,160
Hong Kong	18	58	258	806	1,730	11,900	2,010	12,700
India	8	19	107	613	6,740	23,300	6,860	23,900
Indonesia	--	2	23	308	944	3,580	967	3,890
Ireland	--	--	62	461	--	--	62	461
Israel	33	82	714	4,060	--	--	747	4,140
Italy	23	40	448	1,610	--	75	471	1,730
Japan	163	444	1,630	7,570	1,310	5,100	3,100	13,100
Jordan	--	--	569	2,580	--	--	569	2,580
Korea, Republic of	9	93	2,540	12,100	15,200	73,100	17,700	85,300
Kuwait	--	--	640	2,400	--	--	640	2,400
Malaysia	21	25	504	1,540	522	1,090	1,050	2,660
Mexico	19,800	88,500	38,100	183,000	13,600	60,400	71,600	332,000
Netherlands	7	19	60	365	25	165	92	549
New Zealand	(2)	(2)	62	562	--	3	62	565
Norway	(2)	(2)	347	1,070	--	--	347	1,070
Pakistan	--	(2)	--	1	428	2,500	428	2,510
Panama	7	12	267	1,930	--	93	274	2,040
Romania	6	100	44	131	--	--	50	231
Saudi Arabia	--	(2)	4,600	19,200	--	--	4,600	19,200
Singapore	106	738	296	1,730	4	4	406	2,470
Spain	1	10	119	419	21	35	141	464
Taiwan	430	926	305	1,700	5,510	33,200	6,250	35,800
Thailand	6	6	110	312	651	1,670	767	1,990
Tunisia	--	--	247	1,360	--	--	247	1,360
Turkey	--	6	234	1,010	--	--	234	1,020
United Arab Emirates	--	2	831	5,880	44	108	875	5,990
United Kingdom	58	310	1,500	7,860	184	526	1,740	8,700
Vietnam	--	--	445	2,050	--	472	445	2,530
Other	52	275	2,050	6,810	500	2,530	2,600	9,610
Total	33,000	151,000	101,000	490,000	145,000	682,000	279,000	1,320,000

-- 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.