

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2014

Domestic primary aluminum production in August 2014 was 143,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 4,630 t, essentially the same as the daily production during the previous month and 12% less than that in August 2013.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in August 2014 was 315,000 t, slightly more than the amount recovered in July and 8% more than the amount recovered in August 2013. Of this, 165,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 3% more than the amount during the previous month and 4% more than the amount recovered in August 2013, and 150,000 t was recovered from old scrap, slightly more than the amount in the previous month and 12% more than in August 2013.

Update

Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA) temporarily shut down a 54,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) potline at the Warrick smelter in Evansville, IN, citing damage from an electrical fire on September 28. The other four potlines at the 269,000-t/yr smelter were not affected by the fire and were continuing to produce (Laliberte, 2014a).

In October, Alcoa opened its aluminum-lithium plant in Lafayette, IN. Demand for lighter, stronger aluminum-lithium alloys by the aerospace industry was cited as the reason for building the plant. The alloys produced at the plant are less expensive than titanium and composite materials yet provide for better fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs than other aluminum alloys used in the aerospace industry. The plant has a capacity of 20,000 t/yr (Alcoa Inc., 2014).

Niagara Worldwide LLC permanently shut down the 260,000-t/yr primary aluminum smelter in Hannibal, OH, that

had been temporarily shut down in October 2013, citing a lack of interested buyers able to reopen it and high power prices. In June, Niagara Worldwide had purchased the closed smelter from Ormet Corp, which was under Chapter 10 bankruptcy protection (Laliberte, 2014b; Matyi, 2014).

Prices

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$1.122 per pound in August from \$1.073 per pound in July. The monthly average price declined slightly to \$1.116 per pound in September.

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References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2014, Alcoa opens world's largest aluminum-lithium aerospace plant in Indiana: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. news release, October 2. (Accessed October 15, 2014, at http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=2014100200232en&newsYear=2014.)
- Laliberte, Nathan, 2014a, Fire idles one potline at Alcoa's Warrick smelter: American Metal Market, v. 122, no. 41-4, October 9, p. 1.
- Laliberte, Nathan, 2014b, Niagara pulls plug, sets auction plans for Ormet: American Metal Market, v. 122, no. 39-4, September 25, p. 1.
- Matyi, Bob 2014, Ormet's old aluminum smelter won't restart—New owner: Platts Metals Daily, v. 3, no. 193, October 1, p. 3.

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:									
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–August	1,332	1,230	1,100	2,330	2,330	557	2,890	6,550	1,200
2014:									
January	153	154	132	285	253	67	321	759	1,150
February	139	148	132	280	221	57	278	697	1,230
March	153	161	135	297 ^r	439	71	511	961	1,240
April	143	162	146	308	291	78	369	820	1,290
May	147	164	142	307	290	80	370	824	1,270
June	140	164	143	306	294	104	398	844	1,270
July	143	161	147	307	237	83	320	770	NA
August	143	165	150	315	270	82	352	810	NA
January–August	1,161	1,280	1,130	2,410	2,300	622	2,920	6,480	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	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2013 ^p	2,520	1,920	1,610	1,460	117	103	7	7	4,250	3,480
2013:										
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	323	264
December	201	154	118	107	10	9	1	1	330	270
January–August	1,690	1,280	1,080	976	78	69	5	5	2,850	2,330
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	297
April	206	158	155	141	10	9	1	1	372	308
May	210	160	152	138	10	9	1	1	372	307
June	206	157	154	140	10	9	1	1	371	306
July	208	159	153	139	10	9	1	1	371	307
August	214	163	156	142	10	9	1	1	380	315
January–August	1,660	1,270	1,170	1,060	78	69	5	5	2,910	2,410

^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 AUGUST 2014¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	178,000	214,000	136,000	163,000
Independent mill fabricators	140,000	156,000	127,000	142,000
Foundries	8,100	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	486	583	486	583
Total	327,000	380,000	271,000	315,000

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 AUGUST 2014¹

(Metric tons)

	August			January–August ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,500	48,400	48,300	20,600	389,000	389,000
Can stock clippings	7,420	23,100	22,500	8,070	176,000	175,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	10,200	47,400	47,000	10,600	342,000	345,000
Casting	2,020	5,760	5,710	2,070	46,800	46,700
Borings and turnings	4,880	11,400	11,400	4,930	92,700	92,700
Dross and skimmings	13,100	43,500	43,500	13,100	343,000	343,000
Total new scrap	58,100	180,000	178,000	59,400	1,390,000	1,390,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,350	26,600	26,500	8,430	214,000	213,000
Used extrusion	10,200	16,800	16,600	10,400	143,000	141,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	30,000	67,600	66,800	30,800	507,000	507,000
Other wrought products	11,200	30,700	29,100	12,700	190,000	189,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,780	9,310	9,230	2,860	69,700	69,100
Total old scrap	62,600	151,000	148,000	65,300	1,120,000	1,120,000
Sweated pig	183	143	143	183	1,150	1,150
Total all classes	121,000	331,000	327,000	125,000	2,520,000	2,510,000

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 AUGUST 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	August				January–August ³	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,270	4,330	4,040	2,570	33,100	33,200
380 and variations	17,100	13,300	13,300	17,100	107,000	107,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,610	4,820	4,820	1,610	38,600	38,600
No. 319 and variations	2,580	6,790	6,800	2,580	54,400	54,400
F-132 alloy and variations	602	385	385	602	3,080	3,080
Al-Zn alloys	306	173	173	306	1,390	1,390
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	68	158	158	68	2,140	2,140
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	25	145	145	25	1,160	1,160
Other ⁴	4,200	6,770	6,600	4,370	49,300	48,100
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	15,900	43,200	42,900	16,200	343,000	345,000
Total all alloys	44,600	80,200	79,400	45,400	633,000	634,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	10,000	XX	XX	70,600	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,140	XX	XX	8,470	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	626	XX	XX	5,070	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	68,400	XX	XX	549,000	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:		
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
June	102.000	83.196
July	107.250	88.229
August	112.188	92.074
January–August	100.788	82.160

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:					
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
June	80.40	75.38	70.74	74.48	71.90
July	83.80	76.18	71.27	75.00	72.95
August	85.33	77.33	72.00	75.00	73.48
January–August	79.89	75.32	70.85	74.20	71.22

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August
Argentina	1,790	48,000	--	1	--	--	1,790	48,000
Australia	463	20,400	1	142	--	--	464	20,500
Austria	6	256	3,050	18,100	95	423	3,150	18,800
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	124	1,380	124	1,380
Bahrain	4,130	38,200	3,700	19,400	--	--	7,830	57,600
Belgium	151	811	244	2,210	--	30	395	3,050
Brazil	1,010	22,400	697	3,980	333	2,060	2,040	28,400
Canada	176,000	1,510,000	17,800	156,000	29,500	224,000	223,000	1,890,000
Chile	18	18	(2)	(2)	387	4,760	405	4,780
China	185	1,580	23,600	167,000	53	850	23,800	169,000
Colombia	--	94	307	1,350	115	2,030	422	3,470
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(2)	285	2,270	285	2,270
Egypt	--	--	3	2,110	--	--	3	2,110
El Salvador	--	--	16	69	381	2,220	397	2,290
France	699	6,100	1,380	7,190	20	967	2,100	14,300
Germany	60	944	4,970	41,700	24	694	5,050	43,300
Greece	18	18	1,360	10,800	--	40	1,370	10,800
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	1,200	10,600	1,200	10,600
Honduras	--	--	--	--	46	891	46	891
Hong Kong	--	--	277	2,010	--	--	277	2,010
India	--	322	3,720	20,700	2	135	3,720	21,100
Indonesia	--	--	1,530	36,800	--	32	1,530	36,800
Italy	1,050	3,140	716	5,480	73	343	1,840	8,960
Japan	2	2	751	6,060	35	506	788	6,560
Korea, Republic of	706	10,100	2,230	9,050	--	54	2,940	19,200
Malaysia	99	574	302	2,870	2	2	403	3,440
Mexico	1,950	11,000	3,550	24,700	10,700	81,200	16,200	117,000
New Zealand	1,220	6,100	1	59	--	--	1,220	6,160
Norway	533	6,140	1	61	--	--	534	6,200
Qatar	7,610	64,300	--	--	--	--	7,610	64,300
Romania	--	2	368	3,950	--	--	368	3,950
Russia	27,800	266,000	1,680	11,100	234	566	29,700	278,000
Saudi Arabia	558	2,290	--	1	172	1,720	730	4,010
South Africa	1,010	22,300	4,680	37,000	--	--	5,690	59,200
Sweden	--	--	278	1,890	--	22	278	1,920
Switzerland	--	1,010	235	1,300	--	--	235	2,310
Taiwan	47	384	549	4,120	79	393	675	4,900
United Arab Emirates	23,300	179,000	--	--	--	634	23,300	180,000
United Kingdom	306	628	1,070	7,420	800	2,420	2,170	10,500
Venezuela	16,200	63,200	--	204	640	10,500	16,900	73,900
Other	2,870	13,800	3,060	17,400	1,590	17,200	7,530	48,500
Total	270,000	2,300,000	82,100	622,000	46,900	369,000	399,000	3,290,000

-- 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 AUGUST 2014¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January–	August	January–	August	January–	August	January–
		August		August		August		
Australia	21	187	232	1,360	--	--	253	1,550
Belgium	26	207	204	895	88	745	318	1,850
Brazil	17	3,340	873	6,540	--	340	890	10,200
Canada	10,800	82,700	35,100	281,000	8,550	67,000	54,500	431,000
Chile	2	14	30	344	22	151	54	509
China	31	478	3,900	26,200	101,000	699,000	105,000	725,000
Colombia	24	102	146	2,260	--	48	170	2,410
France	354	3,780	1,690	11,300	146	1,730	2,190	16,900
Germany	516	2,280	1,050	8,300	421	2,610	1,980	13,200
Guatemala	--	3	1,550	12,200	--	--	1,550	12,200
Hong Kong	--	85	198	1,670	3,910	21,200	4,110	23,000
India	--	19	275	1,140	7,210	44,100	7,490	45,300
Indonesia	--	2	108	601	1,380	7,750	1,480	8,360
Ireland	5	5	104	662	--	--	109	667
Israel	12	106	997	6,440	--	19	1,010	6,560
Italy	(2)	49	301	2,570	--	75	301	2,690
Japan	144	751	2,140	12,800	1,370	8,920	3,660	22,500
Jordan	--	--	305	4,040	--	--	305	4,040
Korea, Republic of	32	211	2,710	20,300	14,000	112,000	16,700	133,000
Kuwait	--	1	1,330	4,930	--	--	1,330	4,940
Malaysia	4	68	189	2,270	395	2,560	588	4,900
Mexico	18,900	143,000	37,100	292,000	12,500	97,200	68,400	532,000
Netherlands	4	27	35	473	--	246	39	746
New Zealand	(2)	(2)	169	1,070	1	4	170	1,070
Norway	--	(2)	292	1,830	--	--	292	1,830
Pakistan	--	(2)	(2)	1	430	3,510	430	3,510
Panama	2	63	398	2,970	68	178	468	3,210
Romania	4	111	105	376	--	--	109	487
Saudi Arabia	--	(2)	4,470	31,200	--	--	4,470	31,200
Singapore	38	956	491	3,270	--	23	529	4,250
Spain	(2)	24	116	776	97	192	213	992
Taiwan	404	1,960	354	2,920	7,780	53,800	8,540	58,700
Thailand	1	8	129	719	314	2,930	444	3,660
Tunisia	--	--	245	2,090	--	--	245	2,090
Turkey	1	23	292	1,860	19	37	312	1,920
United Arab Emirates	--	2	1,300	10,100	22	389	1,320	10,500
United Kingdom	121	632	1,530	12,200	14	724	1,670	13,600
Vietnam	--	--	470	3,490	116	1,180	586	4,670
Other	29	569	3,900	14,100	225	3,250	4,160	18,000
Total	31,500	242,000	105,000	789,000	160,000	1,130,000	296,000	2,160,000

-- 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.