

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2009

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the third quarter of 2009 were 1.87 million metric tons (Mt), 34% higher than those in the second quarter of 2009. The increase in bauxite imports during the quarter was attributed to the restart of capacity at Noranda Aluminum Corp.'s (Franklin, TN) 1.2-million-metric-ton-per-year alumina refinery at Gramercy, LA. (See Bauxite and Alumina in the Second Quarter 2009.) Imports for the first three quarters of 2009, however, remained 36% below those for the same period in 2008. Jamaica (48%), Guinea (29%), and Brazil (16%) were the principal sources of imports in the third quarter of 2009. Imports from Jamaica, Sierra Leone, and Guinea increased by 66%, 48%, and 11%, respectively, compared with the amount imported during the prior quarter.

Imports of alumina during the third quarter of 2009 were 387,000 metric tons (t), 11% lower than those in the second quarter 2009 and 39% lower than those in the third quarter of 2008. The leading sources of imported alumina during the third quarter of 2009 were Australia (47%), Brazil (23%), and Suriname (15%). Imports from Suriname decreased by 60%

compared with those of the prior quarter but were partially offset by imports from Australia and Brazil, which increased during the quarter by 22% and 13%, respectively.

Exports of alumina during the third quarter of 2009 were 273,000 t, 13% higher than those in the second quarter of 2009 and 8% lower than those in the third quarter of 2008. The leading destinations of alumina exported during the third quarter of 2009 were Iceland (25%), France (23%), Canada (17%), and Norway (19%). Exports of alumina to Canada decreased by 31% during the third quarter of 2009 but were more than offset by exports to Norway and Iceland, which increased by 94% and 20%, respectively, compared with exports during the prior quarter.

The net supply of alumina increased in the third quarter as the increased production of alumina from domestic refineries offset the 80,000-t decline in alumina imports. Domestic primary aluminum production was relatively stable during the third quarter compared with production during the first half of 2009. (See Aluminum in September 2009.)

TABLE 1  
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	2008	2009			Year to date
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	
<b>Imports (for consumption):</b>					
Brazil	1,940,000	456,000	288,000	309,000	1,050,000
Guinea	2,350,000	298,000	488,000	543,000	1,330,000
Guyana	723,000	62,700	5,890	6,000	74,600
Jamaica	4,430,000	755,000	540,000	895,000	2,190,000
Sierra Leone	779,000	115,000	77,800	115,000	308,000
Other	260,000	64,900	2,270	3,470	70,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,500,000</b>	<b>1,750,000</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>1,870,000</b>	<b>5,030,000</b>
<b>Exports:</b>					
Canada	8,140	1,160	2,170	1,480	4,810
Colombia	24	26	--	319	345
Ireland	2,880	--	--	--	--
Mexico	5	5	161	257	423
Nigeria	--	--	224	--	224
South Africa	--	--	617	--	617
Other	3,190 <sup>r</sup>	330 <sup>r</sup>	447 <sup>r</sup>	263	1,040
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,200</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>3,620</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>7,460</b>

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CALCINED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	2009									
	2008		First quarter		Second quarter		Third quarter		Year to date	
	Refractory	Other	Refractory	Other	Refractory	Other	Refractory	Other	Refractory	Other
<b>Imports (for consumption):</b>										
Australia	--	162,000	--	--	--	--	--	17,400	--	17,400
Brazil	125,000	27,000	39,100	--	29,900	1,380	18,000	43,300	87,000	44,600
China	177,000	66,100	10,200	9,240	--	--	20	177	10,200	9,420
Guyana	38,600	305,000	2,850	41,700	7,310	46,400	4,620	38,700	14,800	127,000
Jamaica	--	95,300	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	29,500 <sup>r</sup>	82,500 <sup>r</sup>	--	122	--	479	--	177	--	778
<b>Total</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>738,000</b>	<b>52,200</b>	<b>51,100</b>	<b>37,200</b>	<b>48,300</b>	<b>22,600</b>	<b>99,700</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>199,000</b>
<b>Exports:</b>										
Canada	6,530	129	2,530	--	784	463	1,640	84	4,960	547
Italy	--	177	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	1,240	378	713	528	148	--	119	2	980	530
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	242	--	242	--
Other	809	119	154	1	31	--	--	--	185	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,580</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>1,080</b>

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF ALUMINA<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

Country	2008	2009			Year to date
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	
<b>Imports (for consumption):<sup>2</sup></b>					
Australia	930,000	283,000	150,000	182,000	615,000
Brazil	523,000	111,000	77,100	87,100	276,000
Jamaica	468,000	163,000	26,300	26,000	215,000
Suriname	264,000	105,000	146,000	58,400	309,000
Venezuela	154,000	--	--	--	--
Other	195,000	40,200	36,900	33,100	110,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,530,000</b>	<b>702,000</b>	<b>435,000</b>	<b>387,000</b>	<b>1,520,000</b>
<b>Exports:<sup>3</sup></b>					
Canada	629,000	73,500	69,100	47,700	190,000
France	2,120	446	60,500	63,500	124,000
Iceland	311,000	92,400	56,400	67,800	217,000
Mexico	54,400	9,940	13,100	16,400	39,400
Netherlands	27,700	1,070	333	302	1,700
Norway	34,500	54	26,900	52,300	79,200
Other	91,400 <sup>†</sup>	15,200	14,400	24,500	54,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>193,000</b>	<b>241,000</b>	<b>273,000</b>	<b>706,000</b>

<sup>†</sup>Revised. --Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes imports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 201,000 tons in 2008; 48,300 tons in the first quarter of 2009; 46,600 tons in the second quarter of 2009; 34,400 tons in the third quarter of 2009.

<sup>3</sup>Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 76,600 tons in 2008; 13,700 tons in the first quarter of 2009; 17,400 tons in the second quarter of 2009; 23,700 tons in the third quarter of 2009.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.