

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

E. Lee Bray, Bauxite Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: lbray@usgs.gov

Monica D. Zeigler (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7981
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: mdzeigler@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2009

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the fourth quarter of 2009 were 1.94 million metric tons (Mt), 4% higher than those in the third quarter of 2009 but 25% lower than those in the fourth quarter of 2008. Jamaica (52%), Guinea (30%), and Brazil (18%) were the principal sources of crude dry bauxite imports in the fourth quarter of 2009. No imports of crude dry bauxite were received during the fourth quarter from Sierra Leone, which had been the fourth leading source in the first nine months of the year. However, the decline in crude dry bauxite imports from Sierra Leone was more than offset by increased imports from Brazil (14%), Jamaica (12%), and Guinea (6%). Imports of crude and dried bauxite for 2009 were 33% below those in 2008.

Imports of alumina during the fourth quarter of 2009 were 331,000 metric tons (t), 15% lower than those in the third quarter 2009 and 43% lower than those in the fourth quarter of 2008. The leading sources of imported alumina during the

fourth quarter of 2009 were Australia (26%), Brazil (28%), and Suriname (22%). Imports of alumina from Australia decreased by 97,000 t (53%) compared with those of the prior quarter, but were partially offset by alumina imports from Jamaica and Suriname, which increased by 7,000 t (28%) and 14,000 t (25%), respectively. Imports of alumina in 2009 were 27% lower than those in 2008.

Exports of alumina during the fourth quarter of 2009 were 240,000 t, 12% lower than those in the third quarter of 2009 and slightly higher than those in the fourth quarter of 2008. The leading destinations of alumina exported during the fourth quarter of 2009 were Canada (59%) and Iceland (25%). Exports of alumina to Canada were almost three times higher than those during the prior quarter, but were more than offset by a decline in exports to France and Norway, which did not receive significant amounts of alumina and had been significant recipients in the two prior quarters.

TABLE 1
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE¹

(Metric tons)

| Country | 2008 | 2009 | | | | Year to date |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | First quarter | Second quarter | Third quarter | Fourth quarter | |
| Imports (for consumption): | | | | | | |
| Brazil | 1,940,000 | 456,000 | 288,000 | 309,000 | 353,000 | 1,410,000 |
| Guinea | 2,350,000 | 298,000 | 488,000 | 543,000 | 576,000 | 1,910,000 |
| Guyana | 723,000 | 62,700 | 5,890 | 6,000 | 5,790 | 80,400 |
| Jamaica | 4,430,000 | 755,000 | 540,000 | 895,000 | 1,010,000 | 3,200,000 |
| Sierra Leone | 779,000 | 115,000 | 77,800 | 115,000 | -- | 308,000 |
| Other | 260,000 | 64,900 | 2,270 | 3,470 | 950 | 71,600 |
| Total | 10,500,000 | 1,750,000 | 1,400,000 | 1,870,000 | 1,940,000 | 6,970,000 |
| Exports: | | | | | | |
| Canada | 8,140 | 1,160 | 2,170 | 1,480 | 1,020 | 5,830 |
| Colombia | 24 | 26 | -- | 319 | 369 | 714 |
| Ireland | 2,880 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Mexico | 5 | 5 | 161 | 257 | 38 | 461 |
| Nigeria | -- | -- | 224 | -- | -- | 224 |
| South Africa | -- | -- | 617 | -- | -- | 617 |
| Other | 3,190 | 330 | 447 | 263 | 517 | 1,560 |
| Total | 14,200 | 1,520 | 3,620 | 2,320 | 1,950 | 9,410 |

-- Zero.

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

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Jamaica Bauxite Institute; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CALCINED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons)

| Country | 2009 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|---------|
| | 2008 | | First quarter | | Second quarter | | Third quarter | | Fourth quarter | | Year to date | |
| | Refrac- tory | Other | Refrac- tory | Other | Refrac- tory | Other | Refrac- tory | Other | Refrac- tory | Other | Refrac- tory | Other |
| Imports (for consumption): | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia | -- | 162,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 17,400 | -- | -- | -- | 17,400 |
| Brazil | 125,000 | 27,000 | 39,100 | -- | 29,900 | 1,380 | 18,000 | 43,300 | 27,400 | 1,080 | 114,000 | 45,700 |
| China | 177,000 | 66,100 | 10,200 | 9,240 | -- | -- | 20 | 177 | 1,620 | 2,050 | 11,800 | 11,500 |
| Greece | 28,200 ^r | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 74,200 | -- | 74,200 | -- |
| Guyana | 38,600 | 305,000 | 2,850 | 41,700 | 7,310 | 46,400 | 4,620 | 38,700 | 6,190 | 37,000 | 21,000 | 164,000 |
| Jamaica | -- | 95,300 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Other | 1,330 ^r | 82,500 | -- | 122 | -- | 479 | -- | 177 | 114 | -- | 114 | 788 |
| Total | 370,000 | 738,000 | 52,200 | 51,100 | 37,200 | 48,300 | 22,600 | 99,700 | 110,000 | 40,100 | 222,000 | 239,000 |
| Exports: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | 6,530 | 129 | 2,530 | -- | 784 | 463 | 1,640 | 84 | 2,180 | -- | 7,140 | 547 |
| Italy | -- | 177 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Korea, Republic of | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 10,800 | -- | 10,800 | -- |
| Mexico | 1,240 | 378 | 713 | 528 | 148 | -- | 119 | 2 | 255 | 19 | 1,240 | 549 |
| Thailand | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 242 | -- | 10 | -- | 252 | -- |
| Other | 809 | 131 ^r | 154 | 1 ^r | 31 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | 33 | 188 | 34 |
| Total | 8,580 | 815 ^r | 3,400 | 529 ^r | 963 | 463 | 2,000 | 86 | 13,300 | 52 | 19,700 | 1,130 |

-- Zero.

¹Data 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 ALUMINA¹

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

| Country | 2008 | 2009 | | | | Year to date |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| | | First quarter | Second quarter | Third quarter | Fourth quarter | |
| Imports (for consumption):² | | | | | | |
| Australia | 930,000 | 283,000 | 150,000 | 182,000 | 85,600 | 700,000 |
| Brazil | 523,000 | 111,000 | 77,100 | 87,100 | 91,400 | 367,000 |
| Jamaica | 468,000 | 163,000 | 26,300 | 26,000 | 33,200 | 248,000 |
| Suriname | 264,000 | 105,000 | 146,000 | 58,400 | 72,800 | 381,000 |
| Venezuela | 154,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Other | 195,000 | 40,200 | 36,900 | 33,100 | 47,600 | 158,000 |
| Total | 2,530,000 | 702,000 | 435,000 | 387,000 | 331,000 | 1,850,000 |
| Exports:³ | | | | | | |
| Canada | 629,000 | 73,500 | 69,100 | 47,700 | 142,000 | 332,000 |
| France | 2,120 | 446 | 60,500 | 63,500 | 512 | 125,000 |
| Iceland | 311,000 | 92,400 | 56,400 | 67,800 | 60,000 | 277,000 |
| Mexico | 54,400 | 9,940 | 13,100 | 16,400 | 17,800 | 57,200 |
| Netherlands | 27,700 | 1,070 | 333 | 302 | 627 | 2,330 |
| Norway | 34,500 | 54 | 26,900 | 52,300 | 61 | 79,300 |
| Other | 91,400 | 15,200 | 14,400 | 24,500 | 19,500 | 73,600 |
| Total | 1,150,000 | 193,000 | 241,000 | 273,000 | 240,000 | 946,000 |

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

²Includes 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; 58,000 tons in the fourth quarter of 2009.

³Includes 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; and 25,300 tons in the fourth quarter of 2009.

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