

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2010

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the first quarter of 2010 were 1.94 million metric tons, the same as those in the fourth quarter of 2009 but 11% higher than those in the first quarter of 2009. Jamaica (52%), Guinea (28%), and Brazil (19%) were the principal sources of crude dry bauxite imports in the first quarter of 2010. Imports of crude and dried bauxite during the first quarter of 2010 from Brazil and Jamaica increased by 6% and 1% respectively compared with the amounts imported during the previous quarter. These gains were offset by declines in imports received from Guinea and Guyana. No imports of crude dry bauxite were received during the first quarter from Guyana, mainly because United Company RUSAL had reduced production at its Kwakwani Mine in Guyana by 23% (United Company RUSAL, 2010).

Imports of alumina during the first quarter of 2010 were 459,000 metric tons (t), 38% higher than those in the fourth quarter 2009 and 35% lower than those in the first quarter of 2009. The leading sources of imported alumina during the first quarter of 2010 were Australia (41%), Brazil (24%), and Suriname (20%). Imports of alumina from Australia increased by 104,000 t (120%) compared with those of the prior quarter, accounting for most of the increase in alumina imports during the first quarter of 2010.

Exports of alumina during the first quarter of 2010 were 448,000 t, 86% higher than those in the fourth quarter of 2009 and 133% higher than those in the first quarter of 2009. The

leading destinations of alumina exported during the first quarter of 2010 were Canada (38%), Iceland (14%), Ukraine (13%), and the Netherlands (12%). Exports of alumina to Canada continued to increase compared with exports during the prior two quarters, and France, Georgia, the Netherlands, and Ukraine, which had not been significant recipients in the prior quarter, received significant amounts of alumina during the first quarter of 2010.

Update

Workers represented by the United Steelworkers union ratified a 4-year contract with Alcoa Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA). The contract addressed issues including health care and pay increases. The contract covered 5,400 hourly workers at 10 locations in the United States, including the 2.3-million-metric-ton-per-year alumina refinery at Pt. Comfort, TX, and 6 primary smelters (Alcoa Inc., 2010; United Steelworkers, 2010).

References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2010, Alcoa master agreement ratified: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. news release, June 25, 1 p.
- United Company RUSAL, 2010, Rusal announces full year production results for 2009: Moscow, Russia, United Company RUSAL news release, February 22, 4 p.
- United Steelworkers, 2010, Steelworkers ratify 4-year contract with Alcoa: Pittsburgh, PA, United Steelworkers news release, June 25, 1 p.

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

(Metric tons)

Country	2009					2010
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Year to date	First quarter
Imports (for consumption):						
Brazil	456,000	288,000	309,000	353,000	1,410,000	375,000
Guinea	298,000	488,000	543,000	576,000	1,910,000	552,000
Guyana	62,700	5,890	6,000	5,790	80,400	--
Jamaica	755,000	540,000	895,000	1,010,000	3,200,000	1,020,000
Sierra Leone	115,000	77,800	115,000	--	308,000	--
Other	64,900	2,270	3,470	950	71,600	278
Total	1,750,000	1,400,000	1,870,000	1,940,000	6,970,000	1,940,000
Exports:						
Canada	1,160	2,170	1,480	1,020	5,830	1,440
Colombia	26	--	319	369	714	45
Germany	--	--	--	--	--	109
Mexico	5	161	257	38	461	64
Nigeria	--	224	--	--	224	--
South Africa	--	617	--	--	617	--
Other	330	447	263	517	1,560	161
Total	1,520	3,620	2,320	1,950	9,410	1,820

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

(Metric tons)

Country	2009										2010	
	First quarter		Second quarter		Third quarter		Fourth quarter		Year to date		First quarter	
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other								
Imports (for consumption):												
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	17,400	--	--	--	17,400	--	5,800
Brazil	39,100	--	29,900	1,380	18,000	43,300	27,400	1,080	114,000	45,700	45,800	52,500
China	10,200	9,240	--	--	20	177	1,620	2,050	11,800	11,500	10,500	190
Greece	--	--	--	--	--	--	74,200	--	74,200	--	--	--
Guyana	2,850	41,700	7,310	46,400	4,620	38,700	6,190	37,000	21,000	164,000	3,170	36,700
Other	--	122	--	479	--	177	114	--	114	778	247	155
Total	52,200	51,100	37,200	48,300	22,600	99,700	110,000	40,100	222,000	239,000	59,700	95,300
Exports:												
Canada	2,530	--	784	463	1,640	84	2,180	--	7,140	547	2,260	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	10,800	--	10,800	--	--	--
Mexico	713	528	148	--	119	2	255	19	1,240	549	178	--
Thailand	--	--	--	--	242	--	10	--	252	--	5	--
Other	154	1	31	--	--	--	3	33	188	34	1	--
Total	3,400	529	963	463	2,000	86	13,300	52	19,700	1,130	2,440	--

-- 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	2009					2010
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Year to date	First quarter
Imports (for consumption):²						
Australia	283,000	152,000 ^r	182,000	86,700 ^r	703,000 ^r	190,000
Brazil	111,000	77,100	87,100	91,400	367,000	110,000
Jamaica	163,000	26,300	26,200	32,400	248,000	22,600
Suriname	105,000	146,000	58,400	72,800	381,000	90,500
Other	40,200	36,900	33,100	47,600	158,000	45,800
Total	702,000	437,000 ^r	387,000	332,000 ^r	1,860,000 ^r	459,000
Exports:³						
Canada	73,500	69,100	47,700	142,000	332,000	170,000
France	446	60,500	63,500	512	125,000	30,500
Georgia	--	--	--	--	--	31,500
Iceland	92,400	56,400	67,800	60,000	277,000	62,600
Mexico	9,940	13,100	16,400	17,800	57,200	28,500
Netherlands	1,070	333	302	628 ^r	2,330	51,700
Norway	54	26,900	52,300	61	79,300	41
Ukraine	--	74	148	238	461	57,800
Other	15,200	14,300	24,500	19,300	73,300 ^r	15,300
Total	193,000	241,000	273,000	241,000 ^r	946,000	448,000

^r Revised. -- Zero.

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: 187,000 tons in 2009; 45,100 tons in the first quarter of 2010.

³Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 80,000 tons in 2009; 29,500 tons in the first quarter of 2010.

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