

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2010

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the fourth quarter of 2010 were 1.98 million metric tons (Mt), 10% lower than those in the third quarter of 2010 and slightly higher than those in the fourth quarter of 2009. Jamaica (50%), Guinea (31%), and Brazil (19%) were the leading sources of crude dry bauxite imports in the fourth quarter of 2010. Most of the decline in imports of crude and dried bauxite during the fourth quarter of 2010 was attributable to declines in imports from Brazil (27%) and Jamaica (20%). These declines in imports were partially offset by increased imports from Guinea (46%). Imports of crude and dried bauxite decreased by 17% in 2010 compared with those in 2009.

Imports of alumina during the fourth quarter of 2010 were 454,000 metric tons (t), 5% higher than those in the third quarter of 2010 and 37% higher than those in the fourth quarter of 2009. The leading sources of imported alumina during the fourth quarter of 2010 were Suriname (40%) and Australia (32%). Increased alumina imports from Suriname of 38,200 t (+27%) and Jamaica of 25,800 t (from 3,340 t) accounted for most of the increase in alumina imports during the fourth quarter of 2010. These increases were partially offset by decreases in alumina imports from several minor sources of 40,800 t compared with those during the prior quarter. Imports of alumina in 2010 were 7% lower than those in 2009.

Exports of alumina during the fourth quarter of 2010 were 339,000 t, slightly more than those in the third quarter of 2010 and 41% lower than those in the fourth quarter of 2009. The leading destinations of alumina exported during the fourth quarter of 2010 were Canada (52%) and Iceland (16%). Exports of alumina in 2010 were 61% higher than those in 2009. The increase in alumina exports in 2010 was mainly attributable to increases of exports to Canada of 387,000 t (+116%), and

Netherlands of 180,000 t, Ukraine of 86,300 t, and Georgia of 77,500 t (which were not significant export destinations in 2009). These increases in exports were partially offset by decreases in alumina exports to Norway of 79,100 t (-100%), France of 67,200 t (-54%), and Iceland of 59,500 t (-22%).

### Update

In February 2011, the board of directors of Ormet Corp. (Hannibal, OH) authorized the restart of the 600,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) Burnside, LA, refinery pending available financing. Earlier in the month, the Louisiana Bond Commission had allocated tax-free bonds for Ormet to sell to enable the restart of the refinery. If a decision to restart the refinery is finalized, production would begin sometime in the second quarter of 2011. The refinery had been closed in the fourth quarter of 2006 because of low alumina prices (Ormet Corp., 2011, p. 2; Platts Metals Week, 2011).

United Company Rusal (Moscow, Russia) announced that the 600,000-t/yr Kirkvine, Jamaica, refinery would be restarted in July 2011. The refinery had been shut down since April 2009 as alumina prices declined (United Company Rusal, 2011).

### References Cited

- Ormet Corp., 2011, Rule 15c2-11—Information and disclosure statement for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010: Hannibal, OH, Ormet Corp. news release, March 21, 86 p.
- Platts Metals Week, 2011, Ormet restarts sixth potline at Hannibal: Platts Metals Week, v. 82, no. 9, February 28, p. 11.
- United Company Rusal, 2011, UC Rusal decides to restart operations at Kirkvine plant: Moscow, Russia, United Company Rusal news release, February 14, 1 p.

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

(Metric tons)

Country	2009	2010				Year to date
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
<b>Imports (for consumption):</b>						
Brazil	1,410,000	375,000	388,000	507,000	369,000	1,640,000
Guinea	1,910,000	552,000	537,000	424,000	618,000	2,130,000
Guyana	80,400	--	--	6,010	6,320	12,300
Honduras	--	--	--	32,500	--	32,500
Jamaica	3,200,000	1,020,000	1,060,000	1,240,000	991,000	4,300,000
Sierra Leone	308,000	--	--	--	--	--
Other	71,600	278	--	--	--	278
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,970,000</b>	<b>1,940,000</b>	<b>1,980,000</b>	<b>2,210,000</b>	<b>1,980,000</b>	<b>8,120,000</b>
<b>Exports:</b>						
Canada	5,830	1,440	1,270	6,760	5,630	15,100
Colombia	714	45	24	2,950	110	3,120
Germany	198	109	49	67	63	288
Mexico	461	64	89	--	64	217
Netherlands	73	82	--	260	--	342
Nigeria	224	--	--	--	--	--
South Africa	617	--	462	335	--	797
Venezuela	123	--	40	122	404	566
Other	1,160	79	115	233	148	575
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,410</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>6,420</b>	<b>21,000</b>

-- 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	2010											
	2009		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
<b>Imports (for consumption):</b>												
Australia	114,000	17,400	--	5,800	--	38,400	--	--	--	40,700	--	84,800
Brazil	--	45,700	45,800	52,500	41,900	3,740	34,600	11,800	44,800	1,680	167,000	69,700
China	11,800	11,500	10,500	190	5,830	672	18,300	986	39,500	1,100	74,200	2,950
Greece	74,200	--	--	--	27,200	--	26,800	--	50,400	--	104,000	--
Guyana	21,000	164,000	3,170	36,700	9,040	62,300	13,000	43,800	12,200	5,060	37,300	148,000
India	70	778	145	155	--	945	--	314	363	268	508	1,680
Other	44	--	102	--	--	--	--	20	--	--	102	20
Total	222,000	239,000	59,700	95,300	84,000	106,000	92,700	57,000	147,000	48,800	384,000	307,000
<b>Exports:</b>												
Canada	7,140	547	2,260	--	2,080	197	1,190	330	2,030	--	7,550	527
Korea, Republic of	10,800	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
India	117	--	1	--	--	233	--	20	5	348	6	601
Mexico	1,240	549	178	--	103	4,570	65	2,480	306	1,030	652	8,070
Thailand	252	--	5	--	15	--	15	--	12	--	47	--
Other	71	34	--	--	34	158	34	190	123	232	191	580
Total	19,700	1,130	2,440	--	2,240	5,160	1,300	3,020	2,470	1,610	8,450	9,780

-- 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	2009	2010				Year to date
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
<b>Imports (for consumption):<sup>2</sup></b>						
Australia	700,000	190,000	90,000	146,000	145,000	572,000
Brazil	367,000	110,000	70,700	26,200	26,200	233,000
Jamaica	248,000	22,600	28,800	3,340	29,100	83,900
Suriname	381,000	90,500	74,400	143,000	181,000	488,000
Other	158,000	45,800	110,000	113,000	72,400	342,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,850,000</b>	<b>459,000</b>	<b>374,000</b>	<b>432,000</b>	<b>454,000</b>	<b>1,720,000</b>
<b>Exports:<sup>3</sup></b>						
Canada	332,000	170,000	221,000	153,000	175,000	719,000
France	125,000	30,400	418	26,500	315	57,700
Georgia	--	31,500	30,600	2	15,400	77,500
Iceland	277,000	62,600	79,400	22,400	52,700	217,000
Mexico	57,200	21,700	21,500	19,300	20,700	83,200
Netherlands	2,330	51,700	26,800	77,300	26,600	182,000
Norway	79,300	41	62	21	98	222
Ukraine	461	57,900	--	--	28,900	86,800
Other	73,200	22,600	19,400	38,500	19,700	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>946,000</b>	<b>448,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>337,000</b>	<b>339,000</b>	<b>1,520,000</b>

-- 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: 187,000 tons in 2009; 45,100 tons in the first quarter of 2010; 63,600 tons in the second quarter of 2010; 53,700 tons in the third quarter of 2010; 49,400 tons in the fourth quarter of 2010.

<sup>3</sup>Includes 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; 28,700 tons in the second quarter of 2010; 26,400 tons in the third quarter of 2010; 24,300 tons in the fourth quarter of 2010.

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