

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

Linda M. White (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7986
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: lwhite@usgs.gov

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

BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2012

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the second quarter of 2012 were 2.62 million metric tons (Mt), slightly more than those in the first quarter of 2012 and 16% more than those in the second quarter of 2011. Jamaica (44%), Brazil (30%), and Guinea (22%) were the leading sources of crude dry bauxite imports in the second quarter of 2012. Imports of crude and dried bauxite during the second quarter of 2012 from Brazil increased by 34% from those in the first quarter of 2012. This increase was offset by a 30% decrease in imports of crude and dried bauxite from Guinea. Imports of crude and dried bauxite during the first half of 2012 were 14% more than those in the first half of 2011.

Imports of alumina during the second quarter of 2012 were 463,000 metric tons (t), slightly less than those in the first quarter of 2012 and 19% less than those in the second quarter of 2011. The leading sources of imported alumina during the fourth quarter of 2011 were Australia (41%), Suriname (34%), and Brazil (12%). Decreased alumina imports from Suriname of 56,000 t were partially offset by an increase in alumina imports from Australia of 52,700 t. Imports of alumina during the first half of 2012 were 16% less than those in the first half of 2011.

Exports of alumina during the second quarter of 2012 were 349,000 t, 24% less than those in the first quarter of 2012 and

29% less than those in the second quarter of 2011. The leading destinations of alumina exported during the second quarter of 2012 were Canada (47%) and Iceland (17%). Compared with exports in the first quarter of 2012, decreased alumina exports to Georgia of 85,200 t and to Canada of 44,700 t accounted for most of the decrease in alumina exports. Exports of alumina during the first half of 2012 were 13% less than those in the first half of 2011.

Update

During the second quarter of 2012, Rio Tinto plc completed an expansion of the Yarwun alumina refinery in Queensland, Australia, and began ramping up production in July. The capacity of the refinery increased to 3.4 million metric tons per year (Mt/yr) of alumina from 1.4 Mt/yr (Rio Tinto plc, 2012, p. 1, 5).

Reference Cited

Rio Tinto plc, 2012, Second quarter 2012 operations review: London, United Kingdom, Rio Tinto plc media release, July 17, 25 p. (Accessed August 9, 2012, at http://www.riotinto.com/documents/PR969g_Second_quarter_2012_operations_review.pdf.)

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

(Metric tons)

Country	2012			
	2011	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
Imports (for consumption):				
Brazil	1,760,000	580,000	776,000	1,360,000
Guinea	2,340,000	842,000	589,000	1,430,000
India	161,000	--	--	--
Jamaica	5,140,000	1,140,000	1,160,000	2,310,000
Venezuela	110,000	--	--	--
Other	29,500	6,570	90,700	97,200
Total	9,540,000	2,570,000	2,620,000	5,190,000
Exports:				
Canada	12,800	573	848	1,420
Colombia	236	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	2,200	--	--	--
Mexico	6,020	797	--	797
Venezuela	160	--	--	--
Other	978	139	319	458
Total	22,400	1,510	1,170	2,680

-- 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	2011		2012					
			1st quarter		2d quarter		1st quarter–2d quarter	
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
Imports (for consumption):								
Australia	--	87,500	--	49,400	--	43,300	--	92,600
Brazil	1,320	5,570	--	1,180	--	620	--	1,800
China	41,000	17,100	12,600	3,820	3,290	3,020	15,900	6,840
Greece	--	26,000	--	--	--	26,800	--	26,800
Guyana	48,800	121,000	17,700	28,400	12,600	19,400	30,300	47,800
Other	172	4,480	45	2,270	52	3,890	97	6,160
Total	91,200	262,000	30,400	85,000	15,900	97,100	46,300	182,000
Exports:								
Argentina	--	1,880	--	--	--	--	--	--
Canada	9,070	826	1,140	--	1,410	--	2,550	--
China	9,920	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
India	--	1,280	--	20	--	--	--	20
Malaysia	--	159	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	522	3,710	121	12,200	363	--	484	12,200
United Arab Emirates	--	2,740	250	--	--	--	250	--
Other	916	329	296	--	144	447	440	447
Total	20,400	10,900	1,810	12,200	1,920	447	3,730	12,700

-- 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	2011	2012		1st quarter– 2d quarter
		1st quarter	2d quarter	
Imports (for consumption):²				
Australia	662,000	138,000	190,000	328,000
Brazil	268,000	60,300	55,800	116,000
Jamaica	418,000 ^r	16,200 ^r	3,070	19,300
Suriname	736,000	212,000	156,000	367,000
Other	196,000	47,700	57,600	105,000
Total	2,280,000^r	473,000^r	463,000	936,000
Exports:³				
Canada	848,000	209,000	164,000	373,000
China	11,400	29,400	25,400	54,900
France	59,200	373	260	633
Georgia	56,800	114,000	28,500	142,000
Iceland	500,000	61,500	58,400	120,000
Mexico	80,700	26,200	25,400	51,600
Netherlands	75,800	1,240	1,420	2,660
Norway	29,600	50	43	93
Other	71,200	16,400	45,700	62,000
Total	1,730,000	457,000	349,000	806,000

^rRevised.

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: 195,000 metric tons (t) in 2011; 48,100 t in the first quarter of 2012; 42,600 t in the second quarter of 2012.

³Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 108,000 t in 2011; 34,700 t in the first quarter of 2012; 37,000 t in the second quarter of 2012.

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