

# Mineral Industry Surveys

## For information, contact:

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

Linda M. Barnes (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7986  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
Email: lbarnes@usgs.gov

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

## BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2014

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the fourth quarter of 2014 were 2.78 million metric tons (Mt), 12% less than those in the third quarter of 2014 but 4% greater than those in the fourth quarter of 2013. Jamaica (43%), Brazil (27%), and Guinea (25%) were the leading sources of crude dry bauxite imports in the fourth quarter of 2014. Imports of crude and dried bauxite from Guinea during the fourth quarter of 2014 increased by 291,000 metric tons (t) (74%) compared with those in the third quarter of 2014 but were still 14% less than those in the first quarter of the year. Imports of crude and dried bauxite in 2014 were 9% more than those in 2013. Imports in 2014 from Brazil increased by 22% compared with those in 2013.

Imports of alumina during the fourth quarter of 2014 were 343,000 t, 15% less than those in the third quarter of 2014 and 28% less than those in the fourth quarter of 2013. Decreased alumina imports from Brazil and Suriname of 50,900 t and 56,100 t, respectively, compared with those in the third quarter, were partially offset by increased imports from Australia (45,700 t) and Venezuela (17,800 t). The leading sources of imported alumina during the fourth quarter were Australia (41%), Suriname (28%), and Venezuela (13%). Alumina imports in 2014 were 20% less than those in 2013. Decreased imports from Australia (19%), Jamaica (93%), and Suriname (26%) accounted for most of the decline of imports in 2014.

Exports of alumina during the fourth quarter of 2014 were 522,000 t, 4% more than those in the third quarter of 2014 but 10% less than those in the fourth quarter of 2013. The leading destinations of alumina exported during the fourth quarter of 2014 were Canada (30%), Egypt (24%), Norway (19%), and Iceland (6%). Alumina exports in 2014 were 5% less than those in 2013. Leading destinations for alumina exports during 2014 were Canada (28%), Egypt (19%), Norway (17%), and Iceland (13%).

## Update

The labor dispute between Sherwin Alumina Co. LLC, a subsidiary of Glencore International Ltd., and 450 employees represented by the United Steelworkers union continued at the alumina refinery in Gregory, TX. On October 11, 2014, a

lockout started after the employees rejected a contract offer on October 10. Production from the 1.65-million-metric-ton-per-year (Mt/yr) alumina refinery continued by management employees and temporary workers (Fitzgerald, 2015). (See Bauxite and Alumina in the Third Quarter 2014.) Glencore reported that alumina production from the refinery in the fourth quarter of 2014 was 8% less than that in the third quarter and 31% less than that of the same quarter in 2013. Decreased demand was cited for the temporary shutdown of one of the five production units in June, ahead of the lockout, and the decrease in production (Glencore International Ltd., 2015).

In December 2014, Alcoa Inc. and Saudi Arabian Mining Co. started production at their joint venture alumina refinery at Ras Al Khair, Saudi Arabia. Rampup was expected to be complete in late 2015 or early 2016. The 1.8-Mt/yr refinery uses bauxite from a 4-Mt/yr mine at Al Ba'itha, Saudi Arabia. Alumina from the refinery will supply an adjacent 740,000-metric-ton-per-year smelter (Alcoa Inc., 2014; Lim, 2015).

*List services and Web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>.*

## References Cited

- Alcoa Inc., 2014, Refinery at Ma'aden-Alcoa joint venture produces first alumina from Saudi bauxite: New York, NY, Alcoa Inc. press release, December 21. (Accessed March 4, 2015, at [http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news\\_detail.asp?pageID=20141221000250en&newsYear=2014](http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20141221000250en&newsYear=2014).)
- Fitzgerald, Daniel, 2015, Safety remains a core value at Texas plant, Sherwin says: American Metal Market, v. 123, no. 7-3, February 19, p. 6.
- Glencore International Ltd., 2015, Preliminary results 2014: Baar, Switzerland, Glencore International Ltd. news release, March 3. (Accessed March 4, 2015, at [http://www.glencore.com/assets/investors/doc/reports\\_and\\_results/2014/GLEN-2014-Preliminary-Results.pdf](http://www.glencore.com/assets/investors/doc/reports_and_results/2014/GLEN-2014-Preliminary-Results.pdf).)
- Lim, Joanna, 2015, Ma'aden-Alcoa alumina refinery eyes full runs in late 2015: Platts Metals Daily, v. 4, no. 31, February 13, p. 6.

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

(Metric tons)

Country	2013	2014				1st quarter– 4th quarter
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	
<b>Imports (for consumption):</b>						
Brazil	2,480,000	736,000	722,000	805,000	762,000	3,030,000
Guinea	2,510,000	798,000	707,000	396,000	687,000	2,590,000
Jamaica <sup>2</sup>	4,710,000	1,140,000	1,260,000	1,200,000	1,210,000	4,810,000
Other	126,000	74,700	58,800	71,200	123,000	327,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,830,000</b>	<b>2,750,000</b>	<b>2,750,000</b>	<b>2,470,000</b>	<b>2,780,000</b>	<b>10,800,000</b>
<b>Exports:</b>						
Canada	3,560	478	686	559	593	2,320
Mexico	14	21	651	--	--	672
Other	779	119	116	78	159	472
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,350</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>3,460</b>

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Source: Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

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	2014											
	2013		1st quarter		2d quarter		3d quarter		4th quarter		1st quarter– 4th quarter	
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
<b>Imports (for consumption):</b>												
Australia	--	128,000	--	50,800	--	31,400	--	72,000	--	23,900	--	178,000
Brazil	9,590	88,900	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	45,000	--	45,000
China	64,300	13,000	7,780	1,540	21,900	4,280	17,300	3,870	31,500	4,830	78,500	14,500
Greece	--	50,500	--	39,800	--	45,700	-- <sup>r</sup>	24,000 <sup>r</sup>	--	--	--	109,000
Guyana	56,900	169,000	--	5,270	--	5,630	11,300	58,000	6,300	59,200	17,600	128,000
Other	109	2,410	40	221	122	320	--	185	28,100	376	28,200	1,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,000</b>	<b>453,000</b>	<b>7,820</b>	<b>97,600</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>87,300</b>	<b>28,600<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>158,000<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>65,800</b>	<b>133,000</b>	<b>124,000</b>	<b>476,000</b>
<b>Exports:</b>												
Canada	6,630	--	2,000	--	1,400	--	1,320	--	777	--	5,490	--
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Malaysia	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	631	--	171	140	133	--	67	498	159	64	530	702
United Arab Emirates	228	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	895	55	401	67	144	--	258	1	480	3	1,280	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,390</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>7,310</b>	<b>773</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	2014					
	2013	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
<b>Imports (for consumption):<sup>2</sup></b>						
Australia	760,000	189,000	191,000	96,200	142,000	617,000
Brazil	241,000	62,300	62,800	70,900	19,900	216,000
Jamaica <sup>3</sup>	162,000	8,520	--	--	2,230	10,700
Suriname	724,000	150,000	136,000	154,000	97,600	536,000
Venezuela	--	--	--	26,200	44,000	70,300
Other	160,000	40,800	49,200	54,600	37,600	182,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,050,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>438,000</b>	<b>402,000</b>	<b>343,000</b>	<b>1,630,000</b>
<b>Exports:<sup>4</sup></b>						
Canada	792,000	134,000	110,000	204,000	159,000	607,000
China	6,230	46,200	13,500	1,970	11,200	72,900
Egypt	391,000	123,000	94,000	60,500	123,000	400,000
Georgia	156,000	31,100	55,200	( <sup>5</sup> )	65	86,300
Iceland	292,000	117,000	65,700	58,000	32,000	273,000
Mexico	79,100	27,100	25,300	26,600	22,800	102,000
Norway	223,000	95,000	71,200	91,300	99,600	357,000
Russia	215,000	31,800	559	30,500	23,900	86,800
Other	92,800	15,200	50,600	28,800	51,000	146,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,250,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>	<b>486,000</b>	<b>502,000</b>	<b>522,000</b>	<b>2,130,000</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: 188,000 (revised) metric tons (t) in 2013; 51,000 (revised) t in the first quarter of 2014; 45,000 t in the second quarter of 2014 and 52,500 t in the third quarter of 2014 and 62,800 t in the fourth quarter of 2014.

<sup>3</sup>Source: Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

<sup>4</sup>Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 113,000 t in 2013; 36,400 t in the first quarter of 2014; 31,000 t in the second quarter of 2014; 32,700 t in the third quarter of 2014 and 28,400 t in the fourth quarter of 2014.

<sup>5</sup>Less than ½ unit.

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