

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

E. Lee Bray, Bauxite and Alumina 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 FIRST QUARTER 2016

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the first quarter of 2016 were 1.51 million metric tons (Mt), 35% less than those in the fourth quarter of 2015 and 45% less than those in the first quarter of 2015 (fig. 1). Jamaica (65%) and Brazil (25%) were the leading sources of crude and dried bauxite imports in the first quarter of 2016. Imports of crude and dried bauxite from Brazil and Guinea during the first quarter of 2016 decreased by 46% and 86%, respectively, compared with those in the fourth quarter of 2015. The decrease in bauxite imports was attributed to the temporary shutdown of Alcoa Inc.'s 2.3-million-metric-ton-per-year alumina refinery in Point Comfort, TX. The shutdown started in November 2015 and was expected to continue until the end of the second quarter of 2016. (See Bauxite and Alumina in the Fourth Quarter 2015.)

quarter of 2016 were Brazil (27%), Australia (34%), and Jamaica (19%). Decreased imports of alumina during the last 2 quarters were attributed to the shutdowns of several aluminum smelters in the United States. (See Aluminum in September 2015, October 2015, November 2015, and January 2016.)

Exports of alumina during the first quarter of 2016 were 420,000 t, 32% less than those in the fourth quarter of 2015 and the same as those in the first quarter of 2015 (fig. 2). The leading destinations for alumina exported during the first quarter of 2016 were Iceland (28%), the United Arab Emirates (15%), and Canada (14%). Decreased alumina exports were attributed to the shutdown of capacity at the Point Comfort refinery.

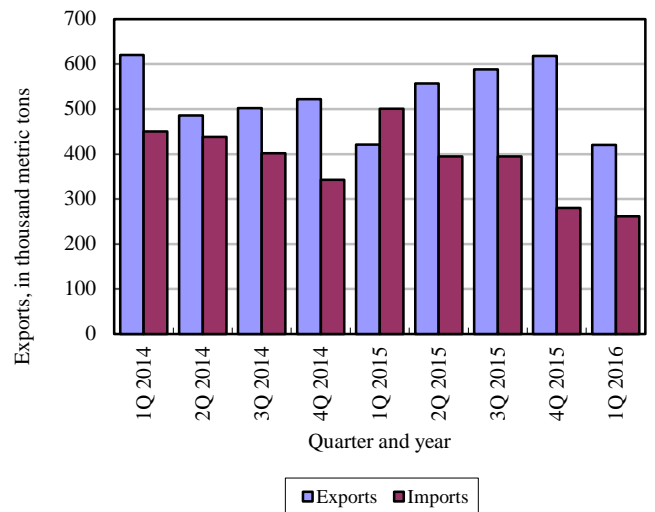
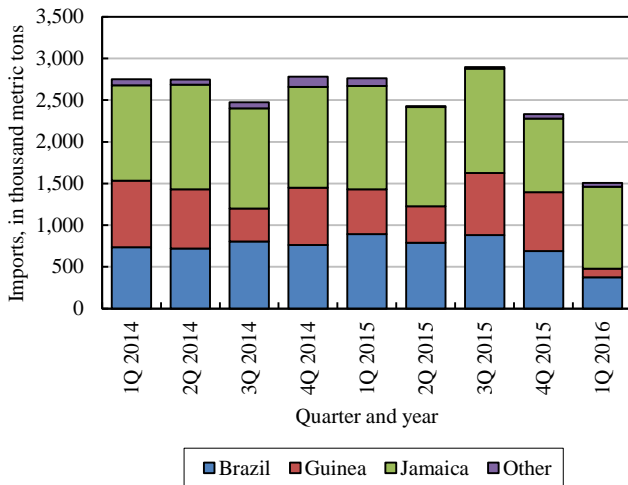


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of crude and dried bauxite from the first quarter 2014 through the first quarter 2016. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Figure 2. Alumina exports and imports from the first quarter 2014 through the first quarter 2016. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Imports of alumina during the first quarter of 2016 were 262,000 metric tons (t), 6% less than those in the fourth quarter of 2015 and 48% less than those in the first quarter of 2015 (fig. 2). The leading sources of imported alumina during the first

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

(Metric tons)

| Country | 2015 | | | | 1st quarter– 4th quarter | 2016 1st quarter |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| | 1st quarter | 2d quarter | 3d quarter | 4th quarter | | |
| Imports (for consumption): | | | | | | |
| Brazil | 894,000 | 788,000 | 881,000 | 691,000 | 3,250,000 | 376,000 |
| Guinea | 536,000 | 439,000 | 747,000 | 705,000 | 2,430,000 | 101,000 |
| Jamaica ² | 1,240,000 | 1,190,000 | 1,250,000 | 884,000 | 4,560,000 | 985,000 |
| Other | 91,100 | 10,200 | 17,100 | 51,000 | 169,000 | 44,100 |
| Total | 2,760,000 | 2,420,000 | 2,900,000 | 2,330,000 | 10,400,000 | 1,510,000 |
| Exports: | | | | | | |
| Canada | 1,030 | 545 | 629 | 531 | 2,740 | 750 |
| Mexico | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 19 |
| Other | 51 | 28 | 327 | 226 | 632 | 171 |
| Total | 1,080 | 573 | 956 | 757 | 3,370 | 940 |

-- Zero.

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

²Source: 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 COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons)

| Country | 2015 | | | | | | | | | | 2016 | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | 1st quarter | | 2d quarter | | 3d quarter | | 4th quarter | | 1st quarter– 4th quarter | | 1st quarter | |
| | Refrac- tory | Other | Refrac- tory | Other | Refrac- tory | Other | Refrac- tory | Other | Refrac- tory | Other | Refrac- tory | Other |
| Imports (for consumption): | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia | -- | -- | -- | 49,700 | -- | -- | -- | 66,900 | -- | 117,000 | -- | 48,000 |
| Brazil | -- | -- | 40 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 40 | -- | 547 | -- |
| China | 25,900 | 2,580 | 16,100 | 2,900 | 1,750 | 6,370 | 12,400 | 2,890 | 56,100 | 14,700 | 11,300 | 2,210 |
| Greece | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 26,400 | -- | -- | -- | 26,400 | -- | -- |
| Guyana | 12,700 | 44,700 | 10,800 | 74,300 | 6,300 | 66,900 | 5,630 | 74,600 | 35,500 | 260,000 | 11,100 | 58,500 |
| Other | 141 | 343 | 15,500 | 272 | 9 | 232 | 15 | 237 | 15,700 | 1,080 | 461 | 50 |
| Total | 38,800 | 47,600 | 42,400 | 127,000 | 8,060 | 99,800 | 18,000 | 145,000 | 107,000 | 419,000 | 23,400 | 109,000 |
| Exports: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | 1,830 | -- | 1,260 | -- | 1,940 | -- | 548 | -- | 5,580 | -- | 1,110 | -- |
| China | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2,040 | -- | 2,040 | -- | 3,510 | -- |
| Mexico | 105 | 64 | 20 | -- | 10 | 249 | -- | 242 | 135 | 555 | 20 | 27 |
| Other | 168 | 2 | 253 | 56 | 60 | -- | 67 | 32 | 548 | 90 | 43 | 26 |
| Total | 2,100 | 66 | 1,540 | 56 | 2,010 | 249 | 2,650 | 274 | 8,310 | 645 | 4,680 | 53 |

-- 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 | 2015 | | | | 1st quarter– 4th quarter | 2016 1st quarter |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| | 1st quarter | 2d quarter | 3d quarter | 4th quarter | | |
| Imports (for consumption):² | | | | | | |
| Australia | 241,000 | 145,000 | 190,000 | 96,200 | 672,000 | 88,100 |
| Brazil | 79,600 | 94,100 | 105,000 | 123,000 | 401,000 | 72,000 |
| Jamaica ³ | 9,510 | 28,200 | -- | -- | 37,700 | 48,600 |
| Suriname | 98,000 | 63,900 | 58,500 | 23,500 | 244,000 | 15,000 |
| Venezuela | 34,500 | 18,600 | (4) | (4) | 53,100 | -- |
| Other | 39,000 | 46,100 | 42,000 | 38,200 | 165,000 | 38,600 |
| Total | 501,000 | 395,000 | 395,000 | 280,000 | 1,570,000 | 262,000 |
| Exports:⁵ | | | | | | |
| Canada | 175,000 | 213,000 | 214,000 | 191,000 | 793,000 | 59,500 |
| China | 1,040 | 1,160 | 31,200 | 73,200 | 107,000 | 37,200 |
| Egypt | 90,700 | 121,000 | 90,900 | 120,000 | 422,000 | 30,000 |
| Iceland | -- | 63,000 | 28,900 | 29,100 | 121,000 | 118,000 |
| Mexico | 22,900 | 24,500 | 20,200 | 19,800 | 87,400 | 27,400 |
| Norway | 71,500 | 90,500 | 91,000 | 92,200 | 345,000 | 19 |
| United Arab Emirates | 247 | 728 | 316 | 183 | 1470 | 62500 |
| Other | 59,700 | 43,900 | 111,000 | 92,600 | 307,000 | 85,200 |
| Total | 421,000 | 557,000 | 588,000 | 618,000 | 2,180,000 | 420,000 |

-- 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: 144,000 metric tons (t) in 2015; 36,400 t in the first quarter of 2016.

³Source: Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

⁵Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 105,000 t in 2015; 36,400 t in the first quarter of 2016.

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