

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2016

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the fourth quarter of 2016 were 952,000 metric tons (t), 17% less than those in the third quarter of 2016 and 59% less than those in the fourth quarter of 2015 (fig. 1). Jamaica (70%) and Brazil (22%) were the leading sources of crude and dried bauxite imports in the fourth quarter of 2016 (table 1). Imports from Jamaica in the fourth quarter were 13% less than those in the third quarter, and 37% less than those in the second quarter, which was attributed to the shutdown of Sherwin Alumina Co. LLC’s 1.65-million-metric-ton-per-year (Mt/yr) alumina refinery in Gregory, TX, on September 30. (See Bauxite and Alumina in the Third Quarter 2016).

during the third quarter of 2016 were Brazil (38%), Australia (30%), and Jamaica (18%).

Exports of alumina during the fourth quarter of 2016 were 178,000 t, 51% less than those in the third quarter and 71% less than those in the fourth quarter of 2015 (fig. 2). Decreased alumina exports were attributed to the shutdown of the alumina refinery in Gregory, TX, by Sherwin Alumina. The leading destinations for alumina exported during the fourth quarter of 2016 were the United Arab Emirates (35%), and the Netherlands (26%). Alumina exports in 2016 were 40% less than those in 2015.

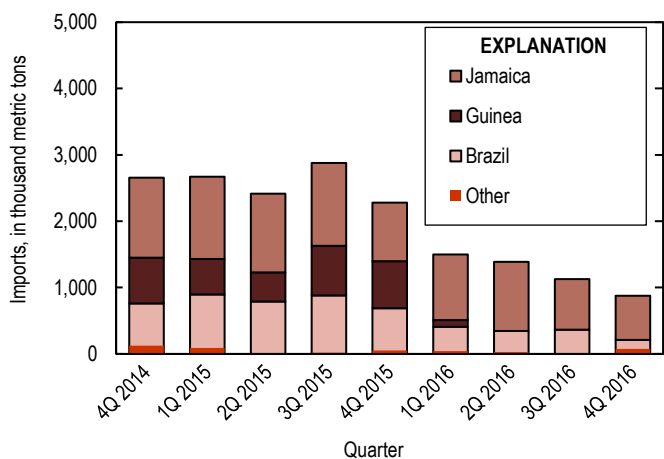


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of crude and dried bauxite from the fourth quarter of 2014 through the fourth quarter of 2016. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Imports of alumina during the fourth quarter of 2016 were 265,000 metric tons (t), 15% less than the revised amount in the third quarter and 6% less than those in the fourth quarter of 2015 (fig. 2). The leading sources of imported alumina during the fourth quarter of 2016 were Australia (36%), Brazil (25%), and Jamaica (22%). Alumina imports in 2016 were 27% less than those in 2015. The leading sources of imported alumina

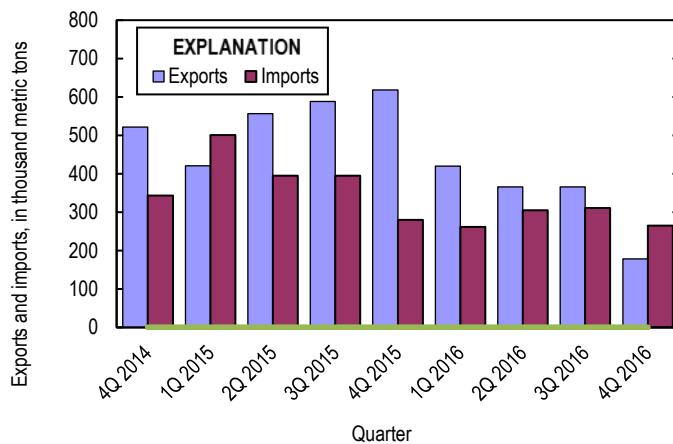


Figure 2. Alumina exports and imports from the fourth quarter of 2014 through the fourth quarter of 2016. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Update

Orbite Technologies Inc. started trial production of high-purity alumina in January. Orbite uses high-alumina clay as the raw material for its 3-metric-ton-per-day refinery at Cap-Chat, Quebec, Canada. Construction on the plant started in 2014 (Maltais, 2017; Orbite Technologies Inc., 2017).

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References Cited

Maltais, Kirk, 2017, Orbite confirms first commercial alumina orders: American Metal Market, v. 125, no. 4-2, January 24, p. 9.
Orbite Technologies Inc., 2017, Orbite HPA production update: Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Orbite Technologies Inc. press release, January 23.
(Accessed February 16, 2017, at <http://www.orbitetech.com/English/investors/news/news-details/2017/Orbite-HPA-Production-Update-1232017/default.aspx>.)

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

(Metric tons)

Country	2015	2016				
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Imports (for consumption):						
Brazil	3,480,000 ^r	411,000	348,000	364,000	213,000	1,340,000
Guinea	2,480,000 ^r	101,000	--	--	--	101,000
Jamaica ²	4,560,000	985,000	1,040,000	763,000	663,000	3,460,000
Other	156,000 ^r	-- ^r	28,500	13,400	76,100	118,000
Total	10,700,000 ^r	1,500,000 ^r	1,420,000	1,140,000	952,000	5,010,000
Exports:						
Canada	2,740	750	1,210	912	1,140	4,000
Mexico	--	19	--	--	--	19
Other	632	171	226	201	303	901
Total	3,370	940	1,430	1,110	1,440	4,920

^rRevised. -- 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	2016											
	2015		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
Imports (for consumption):												
Australia	--	117,000	--	48,000	--	49,500	--	49,500	--	22,800	--	170,000
Brazil	40	--	547	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	547	--
China	56,100	14,700	11,300	2,210	13,800	3,390	27,500	3,410	353	4,320	53,000	13,300
Greece	--	26,400	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Guyana	35,500	260,000	11,100	58,500	5,330	98,500	5,890	41,300	6,230	43,600	28,500	242,000
India	--	--	--	--	--	300	2,720	--	565	--	3,290	300
Turkey	15,500	--	--	--	--	25,000	--	--	--	--	--	25,000
Other	165	1,080	461	50	25	23 ^r	516	70	206	55,000	1,210	55,200
Total	107,000	419,000	23,400	109,000	19,100	177,000	36,600^r	94,200	7,360	126,000	86,500	506,000
Exports:												
Canada	5,580	--	1,110	--	1,230	--	384	--	266	--	2,990	--
China	2,040	--	3,510	--	3,810	--	1,700	--	4,460	--	13,500	--
Mexico	135	555	20	27	2,740	--	46	--	19	13	2,830	40
Other	548	90	157	26	56	46	38	--	222	10	473	82
Total	8,310	645	4,800	53	7,840	46	2,170	--	4,970	23	19,800	122

^rRevised. -- 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	2016					1st quarter– 4th quarter
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		
Imports (for consumption):²							
Australia	672,000	88,100	95,800	95,000	94,900	374,000	
Brazil	401,000	72,000	142,000	120,000	65,300	400,000	
Jamaica ³	37,700	48,600	4,270	52,500 ^r	58,900	164,000	
Suriname	244,000	15,000	19,900	--	--	34,900	
Venezuela	53,100	--	--	--	--	--	
Other	165,000	38,600	43,400	43,000	45,600	171,000	
Total	1,570,000	262,000	305,000	311,000^r	265,000	1,140,000	
Exports:⁴							
Canada	809,000	59,500	8,710	9,660	7,730	85,700	
China	107,000	37,200	986	26,400	9,070	73,700	
Egypt	422,000	30,000	5	29,900	9	59,900	
Iceland	121,000	118,000	119,000	158,000	--	395,000	
Mexico	87,400	27,400	30,000	11,000	8,650	77,000	
Netherlands	98,000	20,700	27,500	24,800	47,200	120,000	
Norway	367,000	19	53	56	72	200	
Russia	840	21	62,900	7	42	63,000	
Sweden	1,430	251	31,600	173	244	32,300	
United Arab Emirates	1,460	62,500	62,200	94,000	62,900	282,000	
Other	207,000	64,200	22,500	11,700	42,400	141,000	
Total	2,220,000	420,000	366,000	366,000	178,000	1,330,000	

^rRevised. -- 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; 63,400 t in the second quarter of 2016; 71,400 t in the third quarter of 2016; 52,500 t in the fourth quarter of 2016.

³Source: Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

⁴Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 105,000 t (revised) in 2015; 32,400 t (revised) in the first quarter of 2016; 36,500 t (revised) in the second quarter of 2016; 20,500 t (revised) in the third quarter of 2016; 16,000 t in the fourth quarter of 2016.

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