

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2017

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the second quarter of 2017 were 945,000 metric tons (t), 20% more than those in the first quarter of 2017 but 33% less than those in the second quarter of 2016 and 61% less than those in the second quarter of 2015 (fig. 1). Jamaica (78%) and Brazil (17%) were the leading sources of crude and dried bauxite imports in the second quarter of 2017 (table 1).

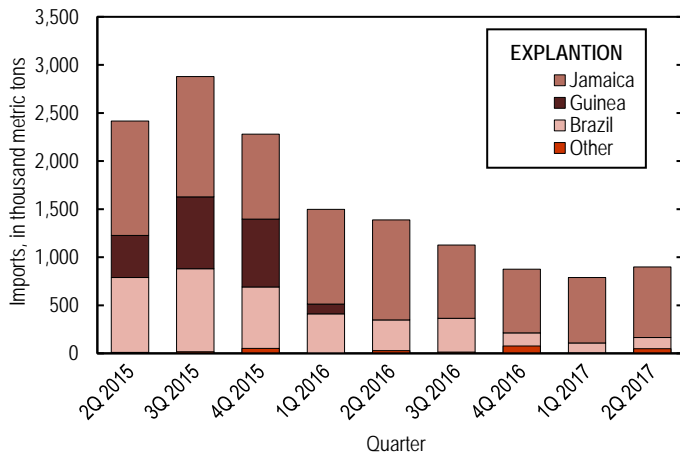


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of crude and dried bauxite from the second quarter of 2015 through the second quarter of 2017. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Imports of alumina during the second quarter of 2017 were 307,000 t, essentially unchanged from the amount in the first quarter of 2017 and in the second quarter of 2016, but 22% less than the amount in the second quarter of 2015 (fig. 2). The leading sources of imported alumina in the second quarter of 2017 were Brazil (40%), Australia (31%), and Jamaica (11%).

Exports of alumina during the second quarter of 2017 were 151,000 t, 44% more than those in the first quarter of 2017 but 59% less than those in the second quarter of 2016 and 73% less than those in the second quarter of 2015 (fig. 2). The leading destinations for alumina exported in the second quarter of 2017 were Russia (39%), Iceland (21%), and the Netherlands (17%).

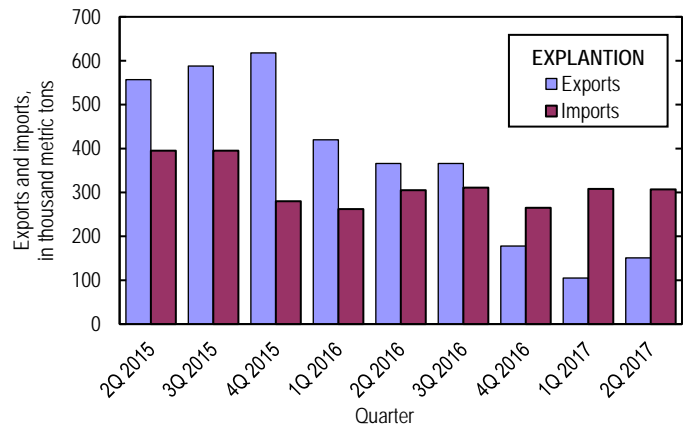


Figure 2. Alumina exports and imports from the second quarter of 2015 through the second quarter of 2017. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

### Update

Jiuquan Iron and Steel Group started trial production at the Aluminum Partners of Jamaica (Alpart) alumina refinery in Jamaica in July. Commercial production was expected to start in September with rampup to be completed by yearend. The 1.67-million-metric-ton-per-year (Mt/yr) alumina refinery and adjacent 4.9-Mt/yr bauxite mine were shut down in 2009 by the previous owner, United Company Rusal Plc., amid a period of low demand and alumina prices following the global financial crisis (Lim, 2017).

Bauxite exports from Indonesia to China resumed in July, with the first shipment between the two countries since mid-2014 (Mok, 2017). In January, the Government of Indonesia modified its ban on exports of bauxite, which went into force in January 2014 as part of a mining law designed to increase investment in mineral processing facilities. (See Bauxite and Alumina in the First Quarter 2017.)

In July, the Government of Malaysia extended its ban on bauxite mining until at least yearend. Concerns about pollution

and illegal mining were cited for the mining ban when it was imposed in January 2016. Exports were allowed to continue in order for unprotected stockpiles to be removed. However, allegations that mining has continued despite the ban have been made by residents of areas adjacent to mines and ports where bauxite is stockpiled. Government officials said that they would consider stricter enforcement of the mining ban (Chow, 2017).

### References Cited

Chow, Emily, 2017, Malaysia's bauxite exports rise despite mining ban: Thomas Reuters Online, July 5. (Accessed September 20, 2017, at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-malaysia-bauxite/malaysias-bauxite-exports-rise-despite-mining-ban-idUSKBN19Q32L>.)

Lim, Joanna, 2017, Jiuquan eyes Sep for Alpart alumina output in Jamaica: Platts Metals Daily, v. 6, no. 162, August 18, p. 3.  
Mok, Yuencheng, 2017, July sees China's first Indonesia bauxite imports since mid-2014: Platts Metals Daily, v. 6, no. 167, August 25, p. 6.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or Locality	2016	2017		
		1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
<b>Imports (for consumption):</b>				
Brazil	1,340,000	109,000	164,000	273,000
Guinea	101,000	--	--	--
Jamaica <sup>2</sup>	3,460,000	679,000	734,000	1,410,000
Other	118,000	2,550	47,600	50,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,010,000</b>	<b>790,000</b>	<b>945,000</b>	<b>1,740,000</b>
<b>Exports:</b>				
Canada	4,000	352	1,130	1,480
Mexico	19	153	40	193
Other	901	146	543	689
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,920</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>2,360</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 OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or Locality	2017							
	2016		1st quarter		2d quarter		1st quarter– 2d quarter	
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
<b>Imports (for consumption):</b>								
Australia	--	170,000	--	49,500	--	51,800	--	101,000
Brazil	547	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
China	53,000	13,300	17,300	2,900	13,300	5,550	30,600	8,450
Greece	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Guyana	28,500	242,000	11,300	24,100	11,000	64,700	22,300	88,700
India	3,290	300	--	--	--	--	--	--
Turkey	--	25,000	--	--	--	35,300	--	35,300
Other	1,210	61,200 <sup>†</sup>	--	19,100 <sup>†</sup>	--	356	--	19,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,500</b>	<b>512,000<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>28,600</b>	<b>95,500<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>24,300</b>	<b>158,000</b>	<b>52,900</b>	<b>253,000</b>
<b>Exports:</b>								
Canada	2,990	--	934	--	1,230	--	2,170	--
China	13,500	--	7,440	--	1,130	--	8,570	--
Mexico	2,830	40	53	--	55	--	108	--
Other	473	82	173	--	207	--	380	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,800</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>2,620</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>--</b>

<sup>†</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 or Locality	2016	2017		1st quarter– 2d quarter
		1st quarter	2d quarter	
<b>Imports (for consumption):<sup>2</sup></b>				
Australia	374,000	98,500	96,200	195,000
Brazil	400,000	117,000	122,000	239,000
Jamaica <sup>3</sup>	164,000	35,600	32,400	68,000
Suriname	34,900	--	--	--
Other	171,000	56,600	56,400	113,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,140,000</b>	<b>308,000</b>	<b>307,000</b>	<b>614,000</b>
<b>Exports:<sup>4</sup></b>				
Canada	85,700	11,900	9,010	20,900
China	73,700	968	1,970	2,940
Egypt	59,900	16	21	37
Iceland	395,000	--	31,100	31,100
Mexico	77,000	11,400	11,300	22,700
Netherlands	120,000	27,500	26,100	53,600
Russia	63,000	157	58,200	58,400
Sweden	32,300	218	227	445
United Arab Emirates	282,000	31,800	530	32,400
Other	141,000	21,100	12,500	33,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,330,000</b>	<b>105,000</b>	<b>151,000</b>	<b>256,000</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: 224,000 metric tons (t) in 2016; 94,400 t in the first quarter of 2017; 97,200 t in the second quarter of 2017.

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

<sup>4</sup>Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 105,000 t in 2016; 18,086 t in the first quarter of 2017; 21,000 t in the second quarter of 2017.

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