

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2003

The reported domestic primary aluminum production in December was 221,473 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 7,144 t, equivalent to that of the previous month but 8% below the rate for December 2002. Total primary metal production for the year was 2,703,328 t, slightly lower than the reported production of 2,706,582 t in 2002. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 71.75 cents per pound in November to 73.85 cents per pound in December, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) increased several times during the month of December. The price range began the month at 51–53 cents per pound. On December 2, the price range increased to 52.5–54

cents per pound. On December 9, the price range widened to 52.5–54.5 cents per pound, and, on December 16, the price range increased again to 53.5–55 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 73.850 cents per pound in December 2003 to 76.625 cents per pound in January 2004. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs continued to increase during the month of January 2004. On January 6, the price range increased to 56–57 cents per pound. On January 13, the price range increased to 57–59 cents per pound, and, on January 28, it increased again to 58.5–60 cents per pound.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2002 ⁵	2,707	1,750	1,170	2,930	2,790	804	3,600	9,230	1,320
2002:									
December	241	140	91	231	186	61	247	719	1,320
2003:									
January	242	152	96	248	215	69	284	774	1,350
February	220	153	88	241	246	64	310	771	1,390
March	238	143	89	232	350	71	421	891	1,400
April	225	143	99	242	202	69	272	739	1,350
May	228	150	106	256	265	69	335	819	1,400
June	221	139	102	240	261	66	327	789	1,360
July	226	140	97	236	233	74	307	770	1,360
August	225	153	100	253	194	67	261	739	1,340
September	217	152	98	249	215	70	284	751	1,310
October	224	154	105	259	210	72	281	765	1,290
November	215	147	99	246	233	67	301	761	1,300
December	221	140	88	228	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-December	2,703	1,770	1,170	2,930	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Includes scrap; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

⁵Includes monthly and annual data.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
	2002 ²	1,850	1,340	869	752	768	713	123	112	9	9	3,620
2002:												
December	146	107	64	55	63	59	10	9	(3)	(3)	284	231
2003:												
January	147	109	70	60	72	67	12	11	1	1	301	248
February	147	109	66	57	68	64	11	10	(3)	(3)	293	241
March	140	103	59	50	73	69	10	9	1	1	282	232
April	137	102	75	65	71	66	10	9	1	1	294	242
May	143	106	82	71	74	68	11	10	1	1	311	256
June	143	106	74	64	65	60	11	10	1	1	293	240
July	122	89	75	64	78	73	11	10	(3)	(3)	286	236
August	137	101	71	62	85	79	12	11	(3)	(3)	306	253
September	135	100	70	60	84	79	12	10	(3)	(3)	302	249
October	144	107	80	70	76	71	12	11	(3)	(3)	313	259
November	138 ^r	101 ^r	75	64	75	70	11	10	(3)	(3)	299 ^r	246
December	128	94	61	52	77	72	10	9	(3)	(3)	276	228
January-December	1,660	1,230	858	739	898	838	133	120	6	6	3,560	2,930

^rRevised.

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

²Includes monthly and annual data.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN DECEMBER 2003¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	106,000	128,000	78,500
Integrated aluminum companies	61,000	61,000	52,400	52,400
Independent mill fabricators	64,200	77,100	59,800	71,700
Foundries	8,540	10,300	7,650	9,180
Other consumers	299	359	299	359
Total	240,000	276,000	199,000	228,000

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

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN 2003¹

(Metric tons)

	December			January-December ²		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	18,200 ^r	80,300	79,700	18,900	955,000	965,000
Can stock clippings	2,280	13,600	13,800	2,060	213,000	213,000
Other clippings	4,840	7,820	7,780	4,880	105,000	106,000
Borings and turnings	4,990 ^r	16,300	16,500	4,720	203,000	203,000
Dross and skimmings	2,720	30,000	30,100	2,670	388,000	388,000
Total new scrap	33,100 ^r	148,000	148,000	33,200	1,860,000	1,880,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	12,100	31,500	31,400	12,100	389,000	390,000
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,480	1,660	1,590	1,560	20,900	21,200
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	28,300	35,200	49,400	14,200	669,000	681,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,470	9,890	9,310	3,040	131,000	129,000
Total old scrap	44,400	78,200	91,700	30,900	1,210,000	1,220,000
Sweated pig	137	878	878	137	10,700	10,800
Total all classes	77,600 ^r	227,000	240,000	64,200	3,090,000	3,110,000

^rRevised.

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

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2003^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	December				January-December ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,430	2,010	1,920	3,520	20,700	20,600
380 and variations	6,610 ^r	20,600	20,200	7,060	329,000	331,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,340 ^r	4,050	4,320	2,070	48,700	48,700
No. 319 and variations	4,100 ^r	8,670	7,840	4,940	119,000	120,000
F-132 alloy and variations	1,460	2,280	2,350	1,390	26,000	26,600
Al-Zn alloys	39	75	73	40	978	971
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	168	168	91	2,020	2,020
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	191	191	--	2,290	2,290
Other ⁴	5,200 ^r	6,390	6,770	4,820	85,900	86,600
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,300 ^r	16,700	16,900	10,100	208,000	209,000
Total all alloys	33,500 ^r	61,200	60,700	34,000	844,000	847,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	6,950	XX	XX	81,600	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,110	XX	XX	38,800	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	541	XX	XX	7,190	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	50,600	XX	XX	716,000	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous month(s).

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2003¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November
Argentina	4,530	61,400	40	968	--	495	4,570	62,800
Australia	530	73,800	1	116	--	9	531	73,900
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
Bahrain	--	2,930	1,260	14,100	--	--	1,260	17,100
Belgium	--	7	1,180	8,660	(2)	(2)	1,180	8,660
Brazil	2,060	68,400	839	15,600	102	3,880	3,000	87,900
Canada	145,000	1,570,000	35,300	407,000	31,500	279,000	212,000	2,250,000
China	67	515	2,540	22,700	--	328	2,610	23,600
France	123	697	468	5,530	33	476	623	6,710
Germany	2,300	10,100	5,820	62,300	26	704	8,140	73,100
Ghana	--	--	--	--	--	592	--	592
Hungary	--	--	660	2,810	--	--	660	2,810
Italy	--	(2)	179	1,910	--	--	179	1,910
Japan	22	259	711	7,270	16	392	749	7,920
Korea, Republic of	--	12	726	6,170	--	--	726	6,180
Mexico	98	3,570	1,670	15,500	4,970	65,300	6,730	84,500
Netherlands	55	595	178	2,260	--	289	233	3,150
Norway	83	349	30	156	--	--	113	505
Russia	60,800	587,000	3,090	42,400	--	5,160	63,900	635,000
South Africa	--	5,610	4,190	33,400	--	--	4,190	39,000
Spain	1	114	287	630	--	21	288	765
Sweden	--	(2)	277	2,760	19	295	296	3,050
Switzerland	(2)	2,090	387	4,070	(2)	(2)	387	6,160
United Arab Emirates	3,850	46,100	--	3	--	719	3,850	46,800
United Kingdom	193	4,030	222	2,690	115	3,720	529	10,400
Venezuela	12,100	171,000	895	22,200	743	6,820	13,800	200,000
Other	1,680	17,700	6,170	77,800	2,620	33,900	10,500	129,000
Total	233,000	2,620,000	67,100	759,000	40,200	402,000	341,000	3,790,000

-- Zero.

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

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2003¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January-	November	January-	November	January-	November	January-
		November		November		November		November
Australia	39	155	141	1,620	--	126	180	1,900
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	4
Belgium	11	271	468	3,920	--	40	479	4,230
Brazil	1	88	1,050	15,700	--	(2)	1,050	15,800
Canada	10,200	111,000	38,700	446,000	9,750	131,000	58,700	688,000
China	16	172	3,380	22,300	23,800	223,000	27,200	246,000
Czech Republic	--	--	6	207	--	--	6	207
Dominican Republic	--	60	9	841	--	--	9	901
France	--	107	482	4,350	--	5	482	4,460
Germany	83	947	444	4,670	114	372	641	5,990
Hong Kong	8	101	345	4,810	3,190	21,200	3,540	26,100
India	--	11	8	270	257	3,900	265	4,180
Israel	1	16	152	2,270	--	3	154	2,280
Italy	--	9	159	2,140	--	3	159	2,160
Japan	508	3,590	657	6,200	2,400	25,000	3,560	34,800
Korea, Republic of	13	296	1,900	15,000	3,290	41,200	5,210	56,500
Malaysia	--	87	80	1,140	22	1,310	102	2,540
Mexico	9,200	75,800	11,300	107,000	4,060	47,300	24,600	230,000
Netherlands	17	271	74	603	--	55	91	929
Russia	(2)	5	16	87	--	--	16	92
Saudi Arabia	--	1	52	9,730	--	--	52	9,730
Singapore	30	150	114	1,350	--	71	144	1,570
Spain	14	83	60	1,400	--	149	74	1,630
Sweden	--	3	18	360	--	--	18	363
Taiwan	8	170	377	9,860	1,860	25,600	2,240	35,700
Thailand	4	25	250	5,480	76	1,880	331	7,390
Ukraine	--	(2)	2	31	--	--	2	31
United Kingdom	37	383	724	9,150	18	464	779	10,000
Venezuela	7	7	98	2,000	--	19	104	2,020
Other	208	555	1,760	16,300	1,080	7,900	3,050	24,700
Total	20,400	194,000	62,800	694,000	49,900	531,000	133,000	1,420,000

-- Zero.

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

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.