

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN MAY 2009

Domestic primary aluminum production in May was 147,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 4,740 t, slightly lower than that for the previous month and 38% lower than that for May 2008.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in May 2009 was 249,000 t, 4% higher than the total in the previous month and 12% lower than the total in May 2008. Of this, 150,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 4% higher than the amount in the previous month and 14% lower than the amount in May 2008. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in May 2009 totaled 99,000 t, which was 3% higher than the amount in April 2009 and 10% lower than the amount in May 2008.

In May, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$0.700 per pound from \$0.679 per pound in April, and in June it rose to \$0.746 per pound.

In May, Century Aluminum Co. (Monterey, CA) closed 31 pots in addition to the potline shuttered in March at its 244,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) smelter at Hawesville, KY (See Aluminum in January 2009) (Platts Metals Week, 2009a).

Update

In June, Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. (CFAC) (Columbia Falls, MT) announced it would curtail all production at the end of July from its 168,000-t/yr smelter in Columbia Falls, MT. CFAC had previously announced that the smelter would be closed in February as a result of a court order that nullified a power contract with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). CFAC and BPA then entered into a new contract for power to enable the smelter to keep one-half of one potline in operation (See Aluminum in January 2009). However, continued low aluminum prices and the cost of power made the smelter unprofitable. CFAC was looking for options to reopen the smelter in the future but the chances of a restart reportedly were slim (Platts Metals Week, 2009b).

References Cited

Platts Metals Week, 2009a, Century cuts Hawesville another 8%: Platts Metals Week, v. 80, no. 22, June 1, p. 4.
Platts Metals Week, 2009b, Columbia Falls to fully curtail output: Platts Metals Week, v. 80, no. 24, June 15, p. 9-10.

Used beverage can prices, cents per pound¹

May 1	45-47
May 8	48-50
May 15	47-49
May 22	45-47
May 29	43-45
June 5	47-49
June 12	52-54
June 19	51-53
June 26	52-54

¹Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY⁴

(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		
2008 ^p	2,658	2,020	1,190	3,210	2,790	914	3,710	9,580	1,400
2008:									
May	236	174	110	284	237	81	318	838	1,320
June	224	171	102	273	263	80	343	840	1,310
July	225	175	104	279	227	82	309	813	1,310
August	222	173	98	272	204	77	281	775	1,330
September	214	166	96	262	229	78	307	784	1,290
October	217	168	99	268	249	75	324	808	1,270
November	202	142	80	221	219	69	289	712	1,260
December	204	138	89	227	233	65	297	729	1,220
January-May	1,149	887	523	1,410	1,170	387	1,560	4,120	XX
2009:									
January	193	149	102	251	270	64	334	777	1,210
February	149	145	95	240	204	39	244	633	1,150
March	154	154	98	252	333	54	387	794	1,020
April	145	144	96	240	233	55	288	673	952
May	147	150	99	249	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-May	788	742	491	1,230	NA	NA	NA	NA	XX

^pPreliminary. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Independent mill fabricators ²		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
	2008 ^p	1,600	1,240	2,130	1,880	93	81	9	8	3,830
2008:										
May	135	105	194	172	8	7	(3)	(3)	338	284
June	134	103	183	162	8	7	(3)	(3)	325	273
July	134	104	189	168	7	7	(3)	(3)	332	279
August	133	103	182	162	7	7	(3)	(3)	323	272
September	130	100	175	155	7	7	(3)	(3)	313	262
October	131	101	180	160	7	7	(3)	(3)	319	268
November	126	97	134	117	7	7	(3)	(3)	268	221
December	122	92	148	128	7	7	(3)	(3)	278	227
January-May	692	538	940	833	40	35	4	4	1,680	1,410
2009:										
January	124	94	174	150	7	7	(3)	(3)	306	251
February	123	93	161	139	7	7	(3)	(3)	293	240
March	125	95	174	150	7	7	(3)	(3)	307	252
April	116	91	165	142	7	7	(3)	(3)	290	240
May	116	90	175	152	7	7	(3)	(3)	299	249
January-May	603	462	849	734	37	33	4	4	1,490	1,230

^pPreliminary.

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

²Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."

³Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MAY 2009¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	96,400	116,000	75,000
Independent mill fabricators ²	158,000	175,000	137,000	152,000
Foundries	6,240	7,490	5,450	6,540
Other consumers	693	831	612	735
Total	262,000	299,000	219,000	249,000

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

²Includes plants previously categorized as "Integrated aluminum companies."

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN MAY 2009¹

(Metric tons)

	May			January-May ²		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	23,700 ^r	69,300	70,000	23,000	354,000	355,000
Can stock clippings	4,660 ^r	21,800	22,300	4,250	89,300	88,800
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,060	18,800	18,900	5,010	92,200	92,800
Casting	861	4,820	4,650	1,030	24,900	24,900
Borings and turnings	2,730	8,840	8,600	2,980	45,400	45,100
Dross and skimmings	6,200	34,300	34,300	6,200	186,000	186,000
Total new scrap	43,300 ^r	158,000	159,000	42,500	791,000	792,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	6,680 ^r	17,500	17,500	6,710	83,600	87,000
Used extrusion	2,760	5,490	5,490	2,760	28,500	28,500
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	6,920 ^r	55,800	55,900	6,900	269,000	268,000
Other wrought products	4,680	20,600	20,600	4,680	104,000	104,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,120	3,410	3,380	1,140	18,700	18,800
Total old scrap	22,200 ^r	103,000	103,000	22,200	503,000	506,000
Sweated pig	96	151	151	96	757	757
Total all classes	65,500 ^r	261,000	262,000	64,800	1,300,000	1,300,000

^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 2009^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	May			January-May ³		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,590	1,580	1,040	2,130	6,520	5,800
380 and variations	1,890	5,020	5,020	1,890	25,100	25,100
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,490	1,300	1,300	1,490	6,480	6,480
No. 319 and variations	1,690	2,880	2,810	1,760	14,100	14,000
F-132 alloy and variations	341	404	404	341	2,020	2,020
Al-Zn alloys	209	136	136	209	678	678
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	141	1,570	1,570	141	7,830	7,830
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	11	43	43	11	217	217
Other ³	11,400	28,900	29,300	10,900	149,000	145,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,800	53,900	53,900	18,800	270,000	270,000
Total all alloys	37,500	95,800	95,600	37,700	481,000	477,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	17,200	XX	XX	91,700	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	821	XX	XX	4,280	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	575	XX	XX	3,030	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	77,200	XX	XX	382,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

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

³Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁴No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April
Argentina	7,000	39,400	--	1	--	--	7,000	39,400
Australia	173	6,450	7	32	--	--	179	6,480
Bahrain	--	1,690	1,440	5,560	--	--	1,440	7,250
Belgium	--	133	223	983	--	2	223	1,120
Brazil	10,100	54,300	454	1,760	--	--	10,600	56,000
Canada	175,000	686,000	21,500	76,200	20,000	78,700	216,000	841,000
China	423	1,080	14,400	51,000	--	--	14,800	52,100
France	155	672	219	930	--	17	374	1,620
Germany	14	160	4,520	20,400	--	81	4,530	20,600
Hungary	--	--	4	18	--	--	4	18
Italy	--	(2)	439	1,680	--	11	439	1,690
Japan	27	55	636	3,080	4	83	668	3,220
Korea, Republic of	197	1,870	143	583	--	--	340	2,450
Mexico	1,220	4,300	977	3,780	7,560	30,200	9,750	38,300
Netherlands	12	77	113	477	78	1,030	204	1,580
Norway	12	42	4	7	--	--	16	49
Russia	13,800	140,000	1,740	6,470	19	370	15,600	147,000
South Africa	15,000	34,000	2,290	7,750	--	27	17,300	41,800
Spain	--	28	11	41	--	--	11	69
Sweden	1,050	1,050	17	283	--	--	1,070	1,340
Switzerland	--	4	346	1,580	--	--	346	1,590
Tajikistan	--	6,590	--	--	--	--	--	6,590
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Arab Emirates	2,210	15,600	--	--	--	16	2,210	15,600
United Kingdom	18	159	136	1,620	646	2,510	801	4,280
Venezuela	6,140	33,300	--	676	588	612	6,720	34,600
Other	691	13,300	5,410	27,400	1,480	4,600	7,580	45,400
Total	233,000	1,040,000	55,000	212,000	30,400	118,000	318,000	1,370,000

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April
Australia	43	63	111	558	--	21	154	642
Belgium	(2)	9	29	296	--	--	29	306
Brazil	1	30	1,380	4,990	82	306	1,460	5,330
Canada	4,050	19,800	23,000	96,200	9,350	35,100	36,400	151,000
China	2,660	5,240	2,840	9,940	96,900	283,000	102,000	289,000
Czech Republic	--	--	7	36	--	--	7	36
Dominican Republic	60	118	75	153	--	--	135	271
France	91	207	958	3,260	--	--	1,050	3,470
Germany	534	1,800	814	2,980	--	20	1,350	4,800
Hong Kong	--	--	1,190	2,530	8,100	25,000	9,280	27,500
India	10	90	77	259	2,420	12,300	2,510	12,700
Israel	1	40	372	1,040	--	--	373	1,080
Italy	--	9	205	778	--	--	205	787
Japan	344	467	709	2,670	537	3,180	1,590	6,320
Korea, Republic of	--	31	860	3,570	9,240	35,400	10,100	39,000
Malaysia	1	2	43	258	61	279	105	539
Mexico	6,940	29,900	17,000	73,900	4,220	16,800	28,200	121,000
Netherlands	6	21	100	279	--	175	106	475
Russia	--	2	12	51	--	--	12	53
Saudi Arabia	--	120	1,390	9,980	--	--	1,390	10,100
Singapore	8	127	25	201	--	156	33	484
Spain	--	--	161	654	--	--	161	654
Sweden	--	6	14	53	--	--	14	59
Taiwan	(2)	4	209	609	3,590	15,200	3,800	15,800
Thailand	--	6	557	2,490	286	871	843	3,370
Ukraine	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	5
United Kingdom	17	318	937	4,610	46	219	999	5,140
Venezuela	--	33	7	119	--	304	7	456
Other	75	814	4,700	21,500	5,310	13,700	10,100	36,000
Total	14,800	59,300	57,800	244,000	140,000	442,000	213,000	746,000

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.