

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2009

Domestic primary aluminum production in June was 132,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 4,400 t, 7% lower than that for the previous month and 41% lower than that for June 2008. Primary aluminum production for the first 6 months of 2009 was down by 33% from that of the comparable period in 2008.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in June 2009 was 263,000 t, 8% higher than the total of the previous month and 4% lower than the total in June 2008. Of this, 156,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, 7% higher than the amount in the previous month and 9% lower than the amount in June 2008. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in June 2009 totaled 107,000 t, which was 9% higher than the amount in May 2009 and 5% higher than the amount in June 2008. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in the first half of 2009 was 11% less than the total for the same period of the previous year. Aluminum recovered from new scrap was down by 15% and from old scrap was down by 4% over the same period.

In June, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$0.746 per pound from \$0.700 per pound in May, and in July it rose to \$0.797 per pound.

At the end of July, Century Aluminum Co. (Monterey, CA) restarted 21 pots that had been idled in May at its 244,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) smelter in Hawesville, KY (See Aluminum in May 2009) (Platts Metals Week, 2009a).

Ormet Corp. (Hannibal, OH) announced that it had secured enough alumina and a power contract with American Electric Power Co. Inc. to operate four potlines at its 265,000-t/yr smelter in Hannibal through yearend. Ormet had closed one of six potlines in May and stated that further production cuts would be necessary as a result of alumina supply issues (See Aluminum in April 2009) (Ormet Corp., 2009).

Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. (CFAC) (Columbia Falls, MT) announced that it would continue to operate one-half of one potline at its 168,000-t/yr smelter in Columbia Falls. Previously CFAC had announced that the smelter would stop all production at the end of July (See Aluminum in May 2009). A short-term power supply contract was obtained with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) that enables the smelter to operate through September, and negotiations with BPA for a new power contract starting in October were underway (Platts Metals Week, 2009b).

References Cited

- Ormet Corp., 2009, Ormet to run four potlines through 2009: Hannibal, OH, Ormet Corp. news release, August 17, 2 p.
Platts Metals Week, 2009a, Century brings workers back: Platts Metals Week, v. 80, no. 31, August 3, p. 5.
Platts Metals Week, 2009b, CFAC to stay open: Platts Metals Week, v. 80, no. 34, August 24, p. 15.

Used beverage can prices, cents per pound¹

June 5	47-49
June 12	52-54
June 19	51-53
June 26	52-54
July 2	52-54
July 10	49-51
July 17	53-55
July 24	57-59
July 31	58-60

¹Source: American Metal Market.

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		
2008 ^p	2,658	2,020	1,190	3,210	2,790	914	3,710	9,580	1,400
2008:									
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-June	1,374	1,060	625	1,680	1,430	467	1,900	4,960	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	146 ^r	98 ^r	244 ^r	292	68	361	755	997
June	132	156	107	263	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-June	920	897	597	1,490	NA	NA	NA	NA	XX

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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:										
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-June	825	642	1,120	995	48	42	5	4	2,000	1,680
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	90 ^r	165	142	7	7	(3)	(3)	289 ^r	240
May	115 ^r	89 ^r	174 ^r	151 ^r	7	7	(3)	(3)	297 ^r	247 ^r
June	115	89	191	166	7	7	(3)	(3)	315	263
January-June	717	550	1,040	899	45	39	5	4	1,810	1,490

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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 JUNE 2009¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	95,800	115,000	74,400
Independent mill fabricators ²	172,000	191,000	150,000	166,000
Foundries	6,240	7,490	5,450	6,540
Other consumers	693	831	612	735
Total	275,000	315,000	231,000	263,000

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 JUNE 2009¹

(Metric tons)

	June			January-June ²		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	22,800 ^r	78,900	75,000	26,700	431,000	429,000
Can stock clippings	4,250	22,900	22,700	4,450	112,000	112,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,010	18,000	18,000	5,010	110,000	111,000
Casting	1,030	5,000	4,910	1,120	29,900	29,800
Borings and turnings	2,980	8,960	8,990	2,940	54,300	54,000
Dross and skimmings	6,200	34,300	34,300	6,200	220,000	220,000
Total new scrap	42,300 ^r	168,000	164,000	46,500	958,000	955,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	7,070 ^r	18,100	18,100	7,070	101,000	104,000
Used extrusion	2,760	5,490	5,490	2,760	34,000	34,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	6,900	63,900	63,000	7,870	333,000	331,000
Other wrought products	4,680	20,600	20,600	4,680	124,000	124,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,140	3,680	3,820	1,000	22,400	22,600
Total old scrap	22,600 ^r	112,000	111,000	23,400	614,000	616,000
Sweated pig	96	151	151	96	909	909
Total all classes	64,900 ^r	280,000	275,000	69,900	1,570,000	1,570,000

^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)

	June			January-June ³		
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,130	892	1,100	1,930	7,410	6,890
380 and variations	1,890	5,020	5,020	1,890	30,100	30,100
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,490	1,300	1,300	1,490	7,780	7,780
No. 319 and variations	1,760	2,810	2,830	1,740	17,000	16,900
F-132 alloy and variations	341	404	404	341	2,420	2,420
Al-Zn alloys	209	136	136	209	813	813
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	141	1,570	1,570	141	9,400	9,400
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	11	43	43	11	260	260
Other ³	10,900	29,800	30,800	9,920	178,000	176,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	18,800	53,300	53,300	18,800	322,000	323,000
Total all alloys	37,600 ^r	95,200	96,500	36,400	576,000	573,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	17,000	XX	XX	109,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	802	XX	XX	5,090	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	558	XX	XX	3,580	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	76,800	XX	XX	458,000	XX

^rRevised. 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 MAY 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	May	January- May	May	January- May	May	January- May	May	January- May
Argentina	17,900	57,200	--	1	--	--	17,900	57,200
Australia	273	6,720	6	38	--	--	278	6,760
Bahrain	--	1,690	501	6,060	--	--	501	7,750
Belgium	--	133	122	1,110	5	7	127	1,250
Brazil	7,620	61,900	1,690	3,450	--	--	9,310	65,300
Canada	164,000	850,000	21,800	97,900	21,600	100,000	207,000	1,050,000
China	85	1,170	24,700	75,700	4	4	24,800	76,800
France	176	848	136	1,070	--	17	312	1,930
Germany	13	173	7,040	27,400	47	128	7,100	27,700
Hungary	--	--	8	26	--	--	8	26
Italy	(2)	(2)	332	2,010	--	11	332	2,020
Japan	70	126	1,410	4,490	28	111	1,510	4,730
Korea, Republic of	207	2,080	87	670	33	33	327	2,780
Mexico	1,710	6,020	1,070	4,850	6,350	36,600	9,120	47,400
Netherlands	--	77	127	604	--	1,030	127	1,710
Norway	7	49	2	9	--	--	9	58
Russia	81,100	221,000	1,360	7,830	260	630	82,800	230,000
South Africa	15,000	49,000	3,190	10,900	--	27	18,200	60,000
Spain	10	38	11	52	--	--	21	90
Sweden	--	1,050	31	314	--	--	31	1,370
Switzerland	--	4	144	1,730	--	--	144	1,730
Tajikistan	--	6,590	--	--	--	--	--	6,590
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Arab Emirates	2,140	17,800	--	--	--	16	2,140	17,800
United Kingdom	2	161	139	1,760	738	3,250	879	5,160
Venezuela	1,890	35,200	--	676	16	628	1,910	36,500
Other	522	13,900	4,400	31,800	1,280	5,890	6,210	51,600
Total	292,000	1,330,000	68,300	281,000	30,400	149,000	391,000	1,760,000

-- 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 MAY 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	May	January- May	May	January- May	May	January- May	May	January- May
Australia	1	64	99	657	--	21	100	742
Belgium	37	46	45	341	--	--	81	387
Brazil	12	43	661	5,650	381	687	1,060	6,380
Canada	3,630	23,500	22,600	119,000	9,520	44,600	35,800	187,000
China	7,280	12,500	2,630	12,600	85,000	368,000	94,900	393,000
Czech Republic	--	--	9	45	--	--	9	45
Dominican Republic	--	118	28	181	--	--	28	299
France	166	373	867	4,130	--	--	1,030	4,500
Germany	355	2,160	632	3,610	(2)	20	987	5,790
Hong Kong	1,610	1,610	648	3,170	7,690	32,700	9,950	37,500
India	9	99	89	349	2,880	15,200	2,980	15,700
Israel	--	40	292	1,330	--	--	292	1,370
Italy	60	69	343	1,120	--	--	403	1,190
Japan	949	1,420	968	3,640	1,470	4,650	3,390	9,710
Korea, Republic of	5	37	826	4,390	16,700	52,100	17,500	56,500
Malaysia	--	2	263	522	141	420	404	944
Mexico	8,820	38,700	19,100	93,000	4,660	21,500	32,500	153,000
Netherlands	3	24	65	344	68	242	135	610
Russia	--	2	3	54	--	--	3	57
Saudi Arabia	118	238	3,290	13,300	--	--	3,410	13,500
Singapore	11	138	163	365	--	156	174	658
Spain	--	--	102	756	--	--	102	756
Sweden	--	6	10	64	--	--	10	70
Taiwan	616	620	169	778	6,310	21,500	7,090	22,900
Thailand	101	107	633	3,120	258	1,130	992	4,360
Ukraine	--	--	1	5	--	--	1	5
United Kingdom	60	378	888	5,490	28	247	976	6,120
Venezuela	(2)	33	21	140	--	304	21	477
Other	815	1,630	6,610	28,100	5,430	19,100	12,900	48,800
Total	24,700	83,900	62,100	306,000	141,000	583,000	227,000	973,000

-- 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.