

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2012

Domestic primary aluminum production in August 2012 was 171,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production was 5,520 t, 3% less than that during the previous month but essentially the same as that in August 2011.

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in August 2012 was 301,000 t, 4% more than the amount recovered in the previous month and 11% more than the amount recovered in August 2011. Of this, 156,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, slightly more than the amount in the previous month and 5% more than the amount in August 2011. Aluminum recovered from old scrap in August 2012 totaled 145,000 t, 5% more than the amount in July and 17% more than the amount in August 2011.

Update

On September 1, Alcoa Inc. began shutting down the 150,000-metric-ton-per-year Portovesme, Italy, smelter. High

power costs and low aluminum prices were cited for the shutdown, which was expected to be completed by the end of November. (See Aluminum in February 2012.) Alcoa, which had been trying to sell the smelter prior to the shutdown, planned to keep the smelter in condition for a restart to maintain its marketability (American Metal Market, 2012).

After declining for 5 consecutive months, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$1.033 per pound in September from \$0.939 per pound in August.

Reference Cited

American Metal Market, 2012, Glencore pulls out of pursuit for Portovesme:
American Metal Market, v. 119, no. 40-2, October 2, p. 4.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2011	1,986	1,650 ^r	1,450 ^r	3,110 ^r	2,830	880	3,710	8,800	1,060
2011:									
January–August	1,294	1,120 ^r	979 ^r	2,100 ^r	1,890	572	2,460	5,850	1,090
August	172	148	123	271	241	85	327	770	1,090
September	169	138	122	260	263	86	349	778	1,080
October	175	141	123	263	243	78	321	759	1,060
November	171	129	116	245	192	74	266	683	1,050
December	177	126	114	240	245	70	315	732	1,060
2012:									
January	178	146	125	272	281	70	351	801	1,090
February	167	147	131	278	284	77	360	805	1,060
March	179	155	139	293	248	83	332	804	1,060
April	174	151	133	284	231	78	309	767	1,090
May	179	156	143	298	293	82	376	853	1,110
June	173	151	138	290 ^r	240	78	318	781	1,100
July	177	153	137	291	233	80	313	781	1,140
August	171	156	145	301	234	65	300	772	NA
January–August	1,400	1,220	1,090	2,310	2,050	613	2,660	6,370	NA

^rRevised. 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.

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		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
	2011 ^f	2,250	1,650	1,560	1,410	61	49	6	6	3,880
2011:										
January–August ^f	1,500	1,090	1,090	980	41	31	4	4	2,630	2,100
August	192	144	134	122	5	4	1	1	332	271
September	187	140	127	115	5	4	1	1	320	260
October	192	143	127	115	5	4	1	1	324	263
November	186	138	113	102	5	4	1	1	304	245
December	184	136	109	99	5	4	1	1	299	240
2012:										
January	209	151	128	116	5	4	1	1	343	272
February	213	156	129	117	5	4	1	1	347	278
March	217	159	143	130	5	4	1	1	366	293
April	218	158	129	117	10	9	1	1	357	284
May	215	157	146	133	10	9	1	1	372	298
June	228	168	126	113	10	9	1	1	364	290
July	224	164	130	117	10	9	1	1	364	291
August	228	169	136	123	10	9	1	1	374	301
January–August	1,750	1,280	1,070	966	64	56	5	5	2,890	2,310

^fRevised.

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

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN AUGUST 2012¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
	Secondary smelters	190,000	228,000	141,000
Independent mill fabricators	123,000	136,000	111,000	123,000
Foundries	8,110	9,730	7,180	8,610
Other consumers	482	579	481	577
Total	321,000	374,000	259,000	301,000

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 AUGUST 2012¹

(Metric tons)

	August			January–August ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,200	41,400	42,300	19,300	324,000	324,000
Can stock clippings	23,900	24,600	25,400	23,100	188,000	189,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	9,180	37,200	37,400	8,990	300,000	305,000
Casting	2,410	5,440	5,450	2,390	44,700	44,700
Borings and turnings	4,670	12,600	12,900	4,330	94,600	94,500
Dross and skimmings	16,300	53,700	53,700	16,300	437,000	437,000
Total new scrap	76,700	175,000	177,000	74,500	1,390,000	1,390,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,100	29,200	29,100	5,200	211,000	212,000
Used extrusion	8,860	13,400	14,700	7,500	107,000	109,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	32,400	68,100	68,600	31,900	504,000	502,000
Other wrought products	11,700	24,900	24,400	12,200	205,000	203,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,630	6,930	7,010	1,550	63,500	63,400
Total old scrap	59,700	143,000	144,000	58,400	1,090,000	1,090,000
Sweated pig	55	33	33	55	260	260
Total all classes	137,000	317,000	321,000	133,000	2,480,000	2,480,000

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES IN AUGUST 2012^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	August			January–August ³		
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,630	4,840	3,960	3,520	33,400	32,700
380 and variations	10,500	15,100	15,100	10,500	146,000	146,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,900	4,240	4,240	1,900	34,300	34,300
No. 319 and variations	3,580	5,730	5,670	3,640	46,600	46,400
F-132 alloy and variations	450	439	439	450	3,550	3,550
Al-Zn alloys	99	143	143	99	1,380	1,380
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	111	292	292	111	2,390	2,390
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	170	162	162	170	1,620	1,620
Other ⁴	4,890	7,150	7,800	4,240	72,200	70,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,000	43,400	42,900	16,500	340,000	339,000
Total all alloys	40,400	81,400	80,700	41,100	681,000	677,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	10,700	XX	XX	92,300	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,800	XX	XX	15,900	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,150	XX	XX	11,200	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	67,700	XX	XX	562,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

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

³May include revisions to previously published data.

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
AVERAGE PRICE OF ALUMINUM IN THE UNITED STATES
AND ON THE LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Cents per pound)

Period	Midwest U.S. market price	LME cash price Grade A
2011:		
August	116.563	108.508
September	112.400	104.160
October	105.875	98.515
November	102.563	94.038
December	98.150	91.694
January–December	116.121	108.768
2012:		
January	103.375	97.244
February	107.000	99.953
March	107.900	99.002
April	101.563	92.815
May	100.100	90.727
June	95.375	85.481
July	95.125	84.997
August	93.850	83.359
January–August	100.536	91.697

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 7
AVERAGE BUYING PRICES FOR ALUMINUM SCRAP

(Cents per pound)

Month	Used beverage cans	Mixed low copper clips	Old sheet	Old cast	Turnings (clean and dry)
2011:					
August	86.54	83.91	76.52	78.59	76.87
September	83.07	80.64	73.14	75.40	73.64
October	78.07	74.88	69.19	71.07	68.90
November	76.63	73.85	67.90	70.30	68.60
December	73.18	73.03	67.76	70.26	68.13
January–December	86.68	81.94	74.96 ¹	76.80 ¹	75.68
2012:					
January	77.30	75.60	70.98	72.28	69.88
February	79.83	77.93	73.60	75.85	72.88
March	79.86	78.41	74.14	76.36	73.66
April	75.65	76.65	73.50	76.05 ^r	72.65 ^r
May	74.27	76.41 ^r	72.91	75.73 ^r	73.25 ^r
June	69.76	74.02	69.48	71.43	70.14
July	70.81	71.02	66.83	69.74	68.10
August	70.35	70.59	65.37	69.39	66.74
January–August	74.73	75.08	70.85	73.35	70.91

^rRevised.

¹Average price for April–December; prices for January through March were not available.

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2012¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August
Argentina	10,800	41,100	--	4	--	--	10,800	41,100
Australia	--	15,000	4	39	--	40	4	15,100
Austria	8	8	2,590	16,900	--	2	2,600	17,000
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	236	1,940	236	1,940
Bahrain	4,330	16,600	1,560	15,200	--	14	5,880	31,800
Belgium	62	673	284	1,650	--	192	346	2,510
Brazil	1,960	6,570	2,500	13,600	100	2,840	4,570	23,000
Canada	163,000	1,330,000	19,500	228,000	31,000	235,000	213,000	1,790,000
Chile	--	--	(2)	49	568	2,990	568	3,030
China	103	1,120	9,100	74,300	7	87	9,210	75,500
Colombia	110	874	236	1,480	152	734	498	3,080
Costa Rica	--	387	--	1	202	2,420	202	2,800
Egypt	--	--	56	2,120	--	--	56	2,120
El Salvador	20	201	18	43	296	1,940	334	2,180
France	359	3,220	367	3,310	9	17	735	6,550
Germany	108	347	6,670	51,600	--	158	6,780	52,100
Greece	--	--	884	10,000	--	18	884	10,000
Guatemala	--	219	--	--	1,080	8,990	1,080	9,210
Honduras	--	--	--	--	256	2,130	256	2,130
Hong Kong	--	--	520	3,340	--	--	520	3,340
India	--	2,030	1,300	11,000	1	6	1,310	13,000
Indonesia	--	--	6,800	62,200	43	43	6,840	62,300
Italy	201	3,610	775	3,500	81	439	1,060	7,550
Japan	--	25	376	2,940	31	874	407	3,840
Korea, Republic of	1,700	8,490	366	2,430	16	327	2,080	11,200
Malaysia	--	63	664	3,480	--	--	664	3,540
Mexico	876	32,400	2,910	19,900	11,600	85,800	15,400	138,000
New Zealand	3,560	14,300	2	12	39	100	3,600	14,400
Qatar	7,820	102,000	19	19	--	--	7,840	102,000
Romania	46	235	710	7,020	116	893	872	8,140
Russia	21,500	219,000	1,160	10,400	--	--	22,700	229,000
Saudi Arabia	--	143	--	--	3,120	18,500	3,120	18,600
South Africa	--	3,570	2,670	39,900	--	--	2,670	43,500
Sweden	47	79	470	3,170	8	8	525	3,250
Switzerland	(2)	51	197	1,690	--	--	197	1,740
Taiwan	(2)	4	507	4,030	--	--	507	4,040
Tajikistan	--	13,900	--	--	--	--	--	13,900
United Arab Emirates	16,100	180,000	1	12	138	656	16,200	180,000
United Kingdom	91	459	635	6,930	752	3,100	1,480	10,500
Venezuela	192	41,500	1	424	25	2,480	218	44,400
Other	1,740	9,950	1,520	13,000	2,770	20,600	6,030	43,500
Total	234,000	2,050,000	65,300	613,000	52,700	393,000	352,000	3,050,000

-- 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 9
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2012¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January–	August	January–	August	January–	August	January–
		August		August		August		August
Australia	30	264	320	1,540	--	--	350	1,800
Belgium	17	42	180	3,280	62	334	259	3,660
Brazil	1	63	698	7,010	--	2,140	699	9,210
Canada	8,140	66,600	35,800	279,000	9,360	72,900	53,300	419,000
Chile	--	1,430	1,350	6,570	--	21	1,350	8,020
China	671	3,220	4,430	26,100	128,000	947,000	133,000	976,000
Colombia	--	502	107	1,180	20	65	127	1,750
France	364	1,900	1,840	12,900	--	56	2,200	14,900
Germany	362	2,430	875	7,760	38	307	1,280	10,500
Guatemala	--	6	1,630	11,100	--	58	1,630	11,100
Hong Kong	--	123	198	1,300	1,700	21,700	1,890	23,100
India	1	191	99	1,200	4,680	41,400	4,780	42,800
Indonesia	(2)	114	214	1,770	39	2,760	253	4,650
Ireland	7	34	43	471	--	--	50	505
Israel	105	786	565	4,950	--	18	670	5,760
Italy	--	32	275	2,480	--	20	275	2,530
Japan	12	646	1,260	12,000	488	7,260	1,760	19,900
Jordan	--	--	1,580	6,390	--	--	1,580	6,390
Korea, Republic of	43	286	2,110	13,800	16,300	128,000	18,400	143,000
Kuwait	--	1	505	3,900	--	--	505	3,900
Malaysia	--	32	328	2,080	85	4,450	413	6,570
Mexico	21,700	164,000	30,600	228,000	10,200	90,200	62,500	482,000
Netherlands	2	32	54	659	114	649	170	1,340
New Zealand	--	16	50	1,970	--	4	50	1,990
Norway	--	--	1	103	216	843	217	946
Pakistan	--	--	22	37	1,860	21,100	1,880	21,100
Panama	--	20	267	2,770	--	14	267	2,800
Romania	114	756	5	375	--	--	119	1,130
Saudi Arabia	(2)	60	5,030	43,000	--	--	5,030	43,100
Singapore	146	749	454	3,180	20	177	620	4,100
Spain	--	7	71	1,040	9	78	80	1,120
Taiwan	293	1,870	1,200	7,130	5,710	47,800	7,200	56,800
Thailand	--	9	199	850	392	3,580	591	4,440
Tunisia	--	--	223	1,320	--	--	223	1,320
Turkey	--	19	299	1,910	--	--	299	1,930
United Arab Emirates	--	1	1,050	7,850	95	271	1,140	8,120
United Kingdom	99	723	1,720	12,600	3	389	1,830	13,700
Vietnam	--	--	25	171	114	2,700	139	2,870
Other	59	870	2,920	13,000	844	3,130	3,830	17,000
Total	32,200	248,000	98,600	732,000	181,000	1,400,000	311,000	2,380,000

-- 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.