

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2011

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the third quarter of 2011 were 2.39 million metric tons, 6% higher than those in the second quarter of 2011 and 8% higher than those in the third quarter of 2010. Jamaica (57%), Guinea (22%), and Brazil (18%) were the leading sources of crude dry bauxite imports in the third quarter of 2011. Imports of crude and dried bauxite during the third quarter of 2011 from Brazil and Jamaica increased by 32% and 12%, respectively, from those in the second quarter. These increases were partially offset by a slight decline in imports of crude and dried bauxite from Guinea.

Imports of alumina during the third quarter of 2011 were 601,000 metric tons (t), 5% higher than those in the second quarter and 39% higher than those in the third quarter of 2010. The leading sources of imported alumina during the third quarter of 2011 were Suriname (35%), Australia (31%), Jamaica (18%), and Brazil (9%). Increased alumina imports from Jamaica of 28,300 t and Suriname of 19,300 t accounted for most of the increase in alumina imports during the third quarter of 2011. These increases were partially offset by slight decreases in alumina imports from Australia of 6,200 t and from Brazil of 2,300 t compared with those during the prior quarter.

Exports of alumina during the third quarter of 2011 were 420,000 t, 15% less than those in the second quarter of 2011 but 25% higher than those in the third quarter of 2010. The leading

destinations of alumina exported during the third quarter of 2011 were Canada (56%) and Iceland (22%). Decreased alumina exports to Iceland of 81,200 t (-47%) and Norway of 29,400 t (Norway received only nominal U.S. alumina exports during the third quarter) accounted for most of the decrease in alumina exports during the third quarter of 2011 compared with those in the second quarter. These decreases were partially offset by increases in alumina exports to Canada of 14,800 t (7%) and Georgia of 25,900 t (Georgia received only nominal U.S. alumina exports during the second quarter).

Update

Ormet Corp. (Hannibal, OH) restarted approximately 40% of its 540,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) production capacity at its alumina refinery in Burnside, LA, on November 1. (See Bauxite and Alumina in the Second Quarter 2011.) The refinery had been closed in the fourth quarter of 2006 because of low alumina prices and high natural gas prices (Ormet Corp., 2011).

Reference Cited

Ormet Corp., 2011, Ormet reports 3rd quarter 2011 results: Hannibal, OH, Ormet Corp. press release, December 1, 11 p.

TABLE 1
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE¹

(Metric tons)

Country	2010	2011			
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	First-third quarter
Imports (for consumption):					
Brazil	1,640,000	354,000	324,000	430,000	1,110,000
Guinea	2,130,000	667,000	537,000	533,000	1,740,000
India	--	--	161,000	--	161,000
Jamaica	4,300,000	1,280,000	1,230,000	1,370,000	3,870,000
Venezuela	--	--	--	37,000	37,000
Other	45,100	2,520	10,800	16,000	29,400
Total	8,120,000	2,300,000	2,260,000	2,390,000	6,950,000
Exports:					
Canada	15,100	4,050	5,170	2,310	11,500
Colombia	3,120	4	15	175	194
Korea, Republic of	--	2,200	--	--	2,200
Mexico	217	7	765	2,130	2,900
South Africa	797	--	--	--	--
Venezuela	566	37	41	--	78
Other	1,210	208	361	254	823
Total	21,000	6,500	6,350	4,870	17,700

-- Zero.

¹Data 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 2
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CALCINED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons)

Country	2010		2011							
	Refrac- tory	Other	First quarter		Second quarter		Third quarter		First-third quarter	
			Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
Imports (for consumption):										
Australia	--	84,800	--	--	--	44,800	--	--	--	44,800
Brazil	167,000	69,700	1,320	2,940	--	784	--	378	1,320	4,110
China	74,200	2,950	10,600	321	4,450	217	11,200	7,730	26,300	8,270
Greece	104,000	--	--	--	26,000	--	--	--	26,000	--
Guyana	37,300	148,000	12,700	42,800	10,300	15,500	14,200	45,000	37,200	103,000
Jamaica	--	--	--	--	--	401,000	--	833,000	--	1,230,000
Other	610	1,700	30	215	2	795	--	1,660	32	2,670
Total	384,000	307,000	24,700	46,300	40,800	463,000	25,400	887,000	90,900	1,400,000
Exports:										
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,880	--	1,880
Canada	7,550	527	1,410	--	1,010	--	3,280	--	5,700	--
India	25	601	--	--	--	--	--	80	--	80
Malaysia	--	500	--	59	--	100	--	--	--	159
Mexico	652	8,070	88	2,780	149	656	164	160	401	3,590
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	--	2,740	--	--	--	2,740
Other	219	80	108	317	207	12	127	--	442	329
Total	8,450	9,780	1,610	3,150	1,360	3,510	3,570	2,120	6,540	8,780

-- Zero.

¹Data 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 ALUMINA¹

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

Country	2010	2011			
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	First-third quarter
Imports (for consumption):²					
Australia	572,000	144,000	192,000	185,000	521,000
Brazil	233,000	86,200	54,900	52,500	194,000
Jamaica	83,900	95,800	80,700	109,000	286,000
Suriname	488,000	167,000	191,000	211,000	569,000
Other	342,000	46,800	53,900	42,900	144,000
Total	1,720,000	539,000	572,000	601,000	1,710,000
Exports:³					
Canada	719,000	204,000	221,000	236,000	661,000
France	57,700	31,800	528	242	32,500
Georgia	77,500	30,900	(4)	25,900	56,800
Iceland	217,000	121,000	173,000	91,500	385,000
Mexico	83,200	19,900	19,400	19,600	59,000
Netherlands	182,000	974	28,800	27,200	56,900
Norway	221	75	29,400	41	29,500
Ukraine	86,800	272	99	74	445
Other	100,000	24,400	21,400	19,600	65,400
Total	1,520,000	433,000	493,000	420,000	1,350,000

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

²Includes imports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 233,000 tons in 2010; 51,000 tons in the first quarter of 2011; 60,200 tons in the second quarter of 2011; 49,800 tons in the third quarter of 2011.

³Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 120,000 tons in 2010; 29,300 tons in the first quarter of 2011; 30,000 tons in the second quarter of 2011; 27,500 tons in the third quarter of 2011.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

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