

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2012

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the third quarter of 2012 were 2.66 million metric tons (Mt), slightly more than those in the second quarter of 2012 and 12% more than those in the third quarter of 2011. Jamaica (48%), Brazil (30%), and Guinea (18%) were the leading sources of crude dry bauxite imports in the third quarter of 2012. Imports of crude and dried bauxite during the third quarter of 2012 from Brazil and Jamaica increased by 5% and 9%, respectively, from those in the second quarter of 2012. These increases were partially offset by a 17% decrease in imports of crude and dried bauxite from Guinea.

Imports of alumina during the third quarter of 2012 were 565,000 metric tons (t), 22% more than those in the second quarter of 2012 but 7% less than those in the third quarter of 2011. The leading sources of imported alumina during the third quarter of 2012 were Australia (34%), Suriname (34%), and Brazil (14%). Alumina imports increased from Suriname by 34,100 t, from Jamaica by 24,300 t, and from Brazil by 23,000 t.

Exports of alumina during the third quarter of 2012 were 471,000 t, 35% more than those in the second quarter of 2012 and 12% more than those in the third quarter of 2011. The leading destinations of alumina exported during the third quarter of 2012 were Canada (40%), Georgia (18%), and Iceland (14%). Compared with exports in the second quarter of 2012, increased

alumina exports to Georgia of 57,100 t, to the Netherlands of 27,000 t, and to Canada of 24,800 t accounted for most of the increase in alumina exports.

### Update

Vedanta Resources plc shut down the Lanjigarh, India, alumina refinery in the first week of December. Permits to mine the nearby Niyamgiri Hills bauxite deposit had not been issued, and the refinery was unable to purchase bauxite from other sources. Since midyear, the refinery had been producing at about 25% of its 1.4-million-metric-ton-per-year capacity and closed for a week in October because of the bauxite shortage. Vedanta planned to keep the refinery shut down until it is able to purchase bauxite equivalent to a 2-month supply (Satapathy, 2012).

### Reference Cited

Satapathy, Dilip, 2012, VAL to shut down Lanjigarh refinery from today: Mumbai, India, Business Standard, December 4. (Accessed December 6, 2012, at <http://business-standard.com/india/news/val-to-shut-down-lanjigarh-refinerytoday/198316/on>.)

TABLE 1  
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	2012				
	2011	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
<b>Imports (for consumption):</b>					
Brazil	1,760,000	580,000	776,000	812,000	2,170,000
Guinea	2,340,000	842,000	589,000	491,000	1,920,000
India	161,000	--	--	--	--
Jamaica	5,140,000	1,140,000	1,160,000	1,270,000	3,570,000
Venezuela	110,000	--	--	--	--
Other	29,500	6,570	90,700	94,100	191,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,540,000</b>	<b>2,570,000</b>	<b>2,620,000</b>	<b>2,660,000</b>	<b>7,860,000</b>
<b>Exports:</b>					
Canada	12,800	573	848	2,650	4,070
Colombia	236	--	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	2,200	--	--	--	--
Mexico	6,020	797	--	--	797
Venezuela	160	--	--	--	--
Other	978	139	319	397	855
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,400</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>5,720</b>

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data 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 COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	2011		2012							
			1st quarter		2d quarter		3d quarter		1st quarter-3d quarter	
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
Imports (for consumption):										
Australia	--	87,500	--	49,400	--	43,300	--	--	--	92,600
Brazil	1,320	5,570	--	1,180	--	620	--	482	--	2,280
China	41,000	17,100	12,600	3,820	3,290	3,020	8,830	--	24,700	6,840
Greece	--	26,000	--	--	--	26,800	--	27,400	--	54,200
Guyana	49,000 <sup>†</sup>	121,000	17,700	28,400	12,600	19,400	9,970	54,200	40,300	102,000
Other	172	4,480	45	2,270	52	3,890	65	26,000	162	32,100
Total	91,400 <sup>†</sup>	262,000	30,400	85,000	15,900	97,100	18,900	108,000	65,200	290,000
Exports:										
Argentina	--	1,880	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Canada	9,070	826	1,140	--	1,410	--	1,000	--	3,560	--
China	9,920	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
India	--	1,280	--	20	--	--	--	--	--	20
Malaysia	--	159	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	522	3,710	121	12,200	363	--	121	--	605	12,200
United Arab Emirates	--	2,740	250	--	--	--	--	--	250	--
Other	916	329	296	--	144	447	376	2	816	449
Total	20,400	10,900	1,810	12,200	1,920	447	1,500	2	5,230	12,700

<sup>†</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data 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 ALUMINA<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

Country	2011	2012			
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
<b>Imports (for consumption):<sup>2</sup></b>					
Australia	662,000	138,000	190,000	191,000	518,000
Brazil	268,000	60,300	55,800	78,800	195,000
Jamaica	418,000	14,200 <sup>r</sup>	2,000 <sup>r</sup>	26,300	42,500
Suriname	736,000	212,000	156,000	190,000	557,000
Other	196,000	47,700	57,600	79,700	185,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,280,000</b>	<b>471,000<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>461,000<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>565,000</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>
<b>Exports:<sup>3</sup></b>					
Canada	848,000	209,000	164,000	189,000	561,000
China	11,400	29,400	25,400	2,340	57,200
France	59,200	373	260	175	808
Georgia	56,800	114,000	28,500	85,600	228,000
Iceland	500,000	61,500	58,400	63,600	183,000
Mexico	80,700	26,200	25,400	23,500	75,100
Netherlands	75,800	1,240	1,420	28,500	31,100
Norway	29,600	50	43	41	134
Other	71,200	16,400	45,700	78,900	141,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,730,000</b>	<b>457,000</b>	<b>349,000</b>	<b>471,000</b>	<b>1,280,000</b>

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes imports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 191,000 metric tons (t) (revised) in 2011; 46,400 t (revised) in the first quarter of 2012; 40,600 t (revised) in the second quarter of 2012; 51,700 in the third quarter of 2012.

<sup>3</sup>Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 108,000 in 2011; 34,700 t in the first quarter of 2012; 37,000 t in the second quarter of 2012; 33,100 t in the third quarter of 2012.

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