Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JANAURY 2021

Domestic primary aluminum production in January 2021 was 78,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in January 2021 was 2,500 t, essentially unchanged from that in December 2020, 16% less than that in January 2020, and 18% less than that in January 2019 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in January 2021 was 258,000 t, 8% more than the revised total in December 2020, 3% less than that in January 2020, and 14% less than that in January 2019. Of this, 135,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 123,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

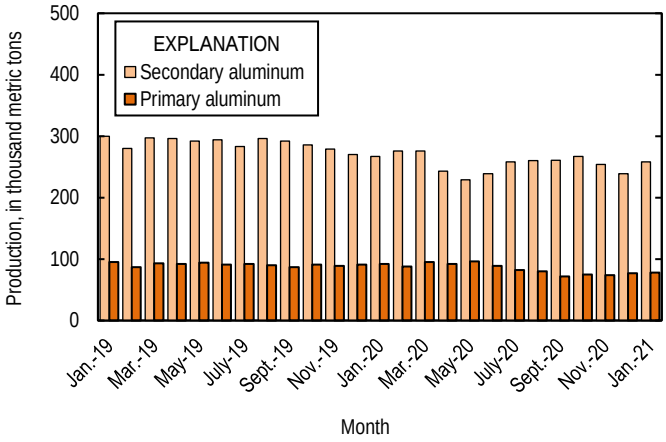

Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from January 2019 through January 2021.

Prices and Stocks

The January 2021 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was $1.07 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in December 2020, 13% more than that in January 2020, and 3% more than that in January 2019. The average cash price in January 2021 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was $0.909 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in December 2020, 13% more than that in January 2020, and 9% more than that in January 2019 (fig. 2, table 6).

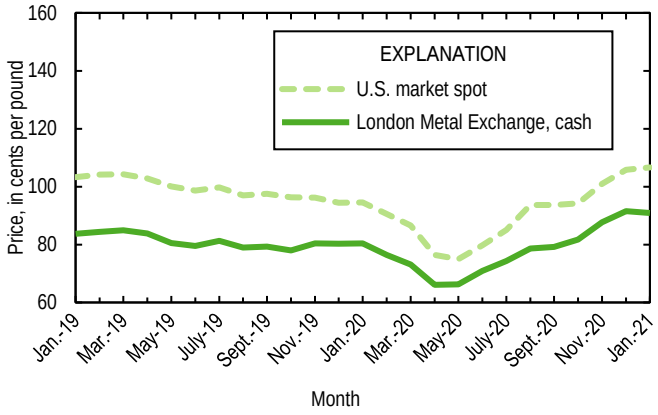

Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from January 2019 through January 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 204,948 t at the end of January 2021 from 209,251 t at the end of December 2020. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 23,183 t at the end of January 2021 from 25,403 t at the end of December 2020 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2020; 2021a-c).

Update

In February, the U.S. Department of Commerce issued its final determinations of antidumping and countervailing duty investigations of aluminum foil imports from China between August 14, 2017 and December 31, 2018. Antidumping duty rates ranging from 23.62% to 47.57% and countervailing duty rates ranging from 17.05% to 48.36% were set on foil imports from China (Coyne, 2021a).

On March 4, the U.S. Department of Commerce issued its final determinations of an antidumping investigation of common alloy aluminum sheet imports from 18 countries and a

countervailing duty investigation of the imports from four countries. The antidumping investigation determined that imports of common alloy aluminum sheet produced in Bahrain, Brazil, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Oman, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, and Turkey were sold below fair market value and antidumping duty rates were set on those imports. The antidumping investigation determined that sheet produced in Greece and the Republic of Korea were not sold below fair market value and antidumping duties were not set on those imports. The countervailing duty investigation determined that common alloy aluminum sheet producers in Bahrain, India, and Turkey also benefited from government subsidy programs, and final countervailing duty rates were set. Producers in Brazil received only de minimis government benefits and no countervailing duty rate was assigned. The Aluminum Association Inc. filed a complaint in March 2020 alleging that the imports from these countries were sold in the United States below market values. (See Aluminum in February 2020.) Final implementation of the antidumping and countervailing duty rates would be determined by the US International Trade Commission, which was expected to issue its rulings in April (Roh, 2021; U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, 2021).

On March 1, the U.S. Department of Commerce issued preliminary determinations of countervailing duty investigations of aluminum foil imports from Oman and Turkey in 2019. Preliminary countervailing duty rates were set at 2.15% for imports from Oman and at 2.79% for imports from Turkey. The countervailing duty investigations were announced in October 2020. Antidumping investigations on aluminum foil from Armenia, Brazil, Oman, Russia, and Turkey were also initiated in October 2020. (See Aluminum in September 2020.) Final determinations were scheduled to be made by the end of April (Coyne, 2021b).

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TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY[1]

(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		
2020[p]	1,012	1,650 [r]	1,420 [r]	3,070 [r]	3,270	1,050	4,320	8,400 [r]	1,490
2020:									
January	92	145 [r]	122 [r]	267 [r]	347	111	458	817 [r]	1,650
February	88	155 [r]	121 [r]	276 [r]	261	93	354	718 [r]	1,580
March	95	152 [r]	124 [r]	276 [r]	308	102	410	780 [r]	1,590
April	92	127 [r]	117 [r]	243 [r]	338	87	425	760 [r]	1,590
May	96	122 [r]	107 [r]	229 [r]	316	80	396	721 [r]	1,530
June	89	126 [r]	113 [r]	239 [r]	262	88	350	679 [r]	1,430
July	82	139 [r]	118 [r]	258 [r]	253	84	337	677 [r]	1,410
August	80	138 [r]	122 [r]	260 [r]	270	85	355	695 [r]	1,410
September	72	141 [r]	120 [r]	261 [r]	214	79	293	627 [r]	1,400
October	75	143 [r]	124 [r]	267 [r]	231	80	311	654 [r]	1,450
November	74	135 [r]	119 [r]	254 [r]	241	80	321	648 [r]	1,430
December	77	125 [r]	114 [r]	239 [r]	229	78	307	623 [r]	1,490
2021, January	78	135	123	258	250	84	334	669	NA

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised. NA Not available.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

[3]Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

[4]Inventory levels reflect total for 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 SCRAP[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2020[p]	2,030 [r]	1,570 [r]	1,540	1,410	91 [r]	84	4	4	3,670 [r]	3,070 [r]
2020:										
January	174 [r]	135 [r]	135	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	319 [r]	267 [r]
February	174 [r]	134 [r]	145	134	8	8	(2)	(2)	328 [r]	276 [r]
March	176 [r]	135 [r]	147	135	6	5	(2)	(2)	330 [r]	276 [r]
April	167 [r]	130 [r]	119	108	6	5	(2)	(2)	292 [r]	243 [r]
May	159 [r]	125 [r]	108	98	6	5	(2)	(2)	274 [r]	229 [r]
June	161 [r]	126 [r]	118	108 [r]	6	5	(2)	(2)	285 [r]	239 [r]
July	167 [r]	129 [r]	132	120	8	8	(2)	(2)	308 [r]	258 [r]
August	168 [r]	131 [r]	133	121	8	8	(2)	(2)	310 [r]	260 [r]
September	172 [r]	133 [r]	132	121	8	8	(2)	(2)	313 [r]	261 [r]
October	174 [r]	135 [r]	136	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	319 [r]	267 [r]
November	171 [r]	131 [r]	126	114	8	8	(2)	(2)	305 [r]	254 [r]
December	170 [r]	131 [r]	111	100	8	8	(2)	(2)	290 [r]	239 [r]
2021, January	175	133	128	116	8	8	(2)	(2)	312	258

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised.

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

[2]Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JANUARY 2021[1]

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	146,000	175,000	111,000	133,000
Independent mill fabricators	114,000	128,000	104,000	116,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	268,000	312,000	222,000	258,000

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

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP IN JANUARY 2021[1]

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening[2]	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Extrusion	19,100	33,800	33,700	19,200
Can stock clippings	4,750	23,400	23,700	4,460
Other wrought sheet/clippings	9,540	31,300	33,600	7,270
Casting	3,410	5,650	5,650	3,410
Borings and turnings	5,650	15,000	15,000	5,720
Dross and skimmings	13,300	36,300	36,300	13,300
Total new scrap	55,800	146,000	148,000	53,400
Old scrap:				
Used castings	8,160	26,900	26,900	8,160
Used extrusion	7,860	16,900	16,900	7,860
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	8,390	40,500	40,900	8,030
Other wrought products	11,000	19,500	23,000	7,500
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	4,620	11,900	12,000	4,490
Total old scrap	40,000	116,000	120,000	36,000
Total all classes	95,800	261,000	268,000	89,400

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]May include revisions to previously published data.
[3]Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES IN JANUARY 2021[1, 2]

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening[3]	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die-cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,270	2,440	2,440	3,270
380 and variations	7,160	19,000	19,000	7,160
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,180	3,020	3,020	2,180
No. 319 and variations	2,700	2,550	2,550	2,700
F-132 alloy and variations	182	249	249	182
Al-Zn alloys	467	81	81	467
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	219	133	133	219
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	318	245	245	318
Other[4]	9,350	7,970	7,970	9,350
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,100	53,100	53,100	10,100
Total all alloys	36,000	88,800	88,800	36,000
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,400	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,690	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	755	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot[5]	XX	71,000	XX	XX

XX Not applicable.

[1]Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

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

[3]May include revisions to previously published data.

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

[5]No 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
2020:		
January	94.545	80.351
February	90.540	76.451
March	86.591	73.070
April	76.450	66.095
May	74.961	66.215
June	79.682	70.943
July	85.022	74.360
August	93.613	78.648
September	93.627	79.167
October	94.236	81.774
November	100.921	87.639
December	105.798	91.531
January–December	89.666	77.187
2020, January	106.638	90.891

Source: S&P Global 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)
2020:					
January	53.40	40.10	37.38	37.07	29.62
February	51.66	42.16	39.29	39.24	33.82
March	50.02	41.80	38.95	39.95	35.18
April	40.79	37.12	32.45	34.17	30.21
May	39.80	36.80	32.35	33.80	29.25
June	44.77	37.50	35.39	35.77	29.91
July	47.45	40.09	37.86	37.20	31.23
August	48.40	42.69	40.52	39.60	34.64
September	50.93	46.10	43.90	43.60	37.88
October	52.18	48.18	46.73	47.00	40.55
November	56.55	51.45	51.42	51.76	46.06
December	62.82	58.86	58.02	57.50	50.41
January–December	49.90	43.57	41.19	41.39	35.73
2021, January	65.00	65.63	64.50	65.50	64.00

Source: Fastmarket-AMM.

TABLE 8

U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2021[1]

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc	Scrap	Total
Argentina	9,300	3	--	9,300
Australia	8,620	52	--	8,670
Austria	--	1,690	1	1,690
Bahrain	12,200	--	--	12,200
Belgium	10	1,230	--	1,240
Canada	166,000	20,100	34,200	220,000
Chile	--	--	294	294
China	301	6,960	22	7,280
Colombia	--	478	435	913
Costa Rica	--	17	212	229
France	109	553	52	715
Germany	36	3,230	405	3,670
Greece	--	1,210	--	1,210
Guatemala	--	--	724	724
Honduras	--	501	12	513
Hong Kong	--	403	--	403
India	5,610	690	--	6,300
Indonesia	--	1,890	--	1,890
Italy	--	1,420	--	1,420
Japan	--	3,200	429	3,630
Korea, Republic of	989	1,610	7	2,600
Malaysia	--	1,070	--	1,070
Mexico	--	4,300	14,500	18,800
Netherlands	3	305	70	378
New Zealand	320	1	--	320
Norway	58	862	--	920
Oman	--	4,150	--	4,150
Qatar	5,510	--	--	5,510
Romania	--	633	--	633
Russia	21,100	1,660	--	22,800
Saudi Arabia	--	5,270	--	5,270
South Africa	--	2,140	--	2,140
Spain	39	3,130	223	3,390
Sweden	--	529	--	529
Switzerland	--	478	--	478
Taiwan	(2)	949	2	951
Thailand	69	2,350	--	2,420
Turkey	--	1,880	--	1,880
United Arab Emirates	20,500	382	--	20,900
United Kingdom	(2)	153	386	539
Vietnam	--	2,380	--	2,380
Other	--	6,260	1,320	7,580
Total	250,000	84,100	53,300	388,000

-- Zero.

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

[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2021[1]

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc	Scrap	Total
Australia	61	56	--	117
Belgium	1	26	157	184
Brazil	6	70	225	301
Canada	5,990	25,200	6,700	37,800
China	335	641	1,890	2,860
Colombia	--	66	19	85
Dominican Republic	--	60	262	322
France	18	342	39	399
Germany	(2)	231	540	771
Hong Kong	--	24	20,300	20,300
India	43	63	24,100	24,200
Indonesia	--	2	7,480	7,480
Ireland	--	27	--	27
Israel	(2)	706	--	706
Italy	--	51	76	127
Japan	15	252	2,240	2,510
Korea, Republic of	20	1,480	22,900	24,400
Malaysia	(2)	311	32,200	32,500
Mexico	8,470	23,900	13,100	45,500
Netherlands	17	23	101	142
Pakistan	--	2	1,320	1,320
Philippines	--	7	402	410
Poland	--	33	--	33
Romania	16	46	--	62
Russia	--	6	2,340	2,350
Saudi Arabia	--	88	76	163
Singapore	29	169	12	210
Spain	3	43	565	611
Taiwan	473	891	2,350	3,710
Thailand	--	44	7,860	7,910
Turkey	(2)	435	997	1,430
United Arab Emirates	--	69	442	511
United Kingdom	4	288	309	602
Vietnam	1	17	1,790	1,810
Other	187	260	1,780	2,220
Total	15,700	55,900	153,000	224,000

-- Zero.

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

[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.