

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2021

Domestic primary aluminum production in June 2021 was 72,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in June 2021 was 2,390 t, essentially unchanged from that in May 2021, 20% less than that in June 2020, and 21% less than that in June 2019 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in June 2021 was 267,000 t, 4% more than that in May 2021, 12% more than that in June 2020, but 9% less than that in May 2019. Of this, 141,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 127,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

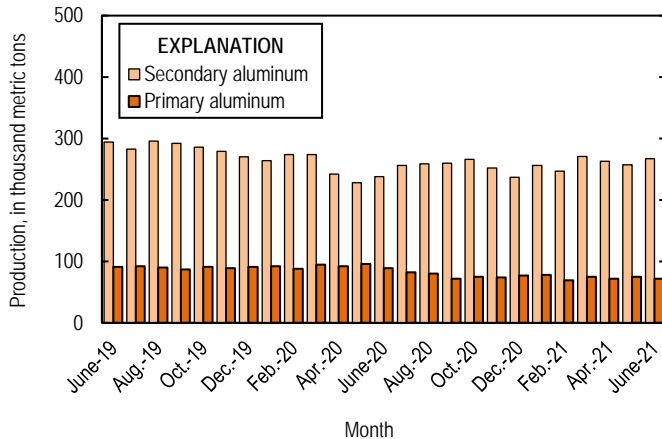


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from June 2019 through June 2021.

Prices and Stocks

The June 2021 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$1.38 per pound, slightly more than that in May 2021, 74% more than that in June 2020, and 40% more than that in June 2019. The average cash price in June 2021 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$1.11 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in May 2021, 56% more than that in June 2020, and 39% more than that in June 2019 (fig. 2, table 6).

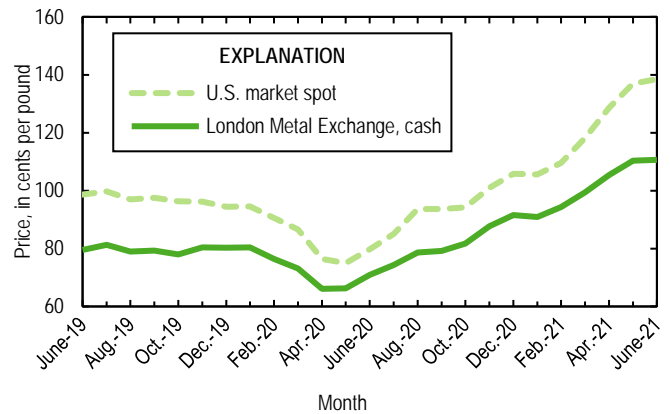


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from June 2019 through June 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 110,133 t at the end of June 2021 from 121,200 t at the end of May 2021. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 12,299 t at the end of June 2021 from 13,959 t at the end of May 2021 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2021a, b, c, d).

U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in the first 6 months of 2021 (table 8) were 5% more than those in the same period in 2020. Imports of crude metal and alloys decreased by 5% but imports of semifabricated products and scrap increased by 27% and 39%, respectively. Canada continued to be the leading source of imported aluminum materials, supplying 57% of all aluminum imports during the first 6 months of 2021, followed by the United Arab Emirates (7%) and Mexico (5%). Canada accounted for 71% of crude metal, 19% of semifabricated products, and 58% of scrap imports in the first

half of 2021 The United Arab Emirates and Russia accounted for 10% and 5%, respectively, of crude metal imports. China accounted for 11% of semifabricated product imports. Mexico was the source of 4% of semifabricated products and 30% of scrap imports.

Total exports of aluminum (table 9) increased by 11% during the first 6 months of 2021 compared with those of the same period in the previous year. Exports of crude metal, and scrap increased by 13% and 15%, respectively, but exports of semifabricated products decreased slightly compared with those in the same period of 2020. The leading destinations for total aluminum products during the first 6 months of 2021, in descending order of quantity, were Mexico (20%), Canada (17%), Malaysia (17%), and India (12%). Mexico received 60% of crude metal, 42% of semifabricated products, and 9% of scrap exports. Canada received 34% of crude metal, 45% of semifabricated products, and 5% of scrap exports. Malaysia and India received 24% and 17%, respectively of scrap exports.

References Cited

- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2021a, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., May 28, 3 p.
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- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2021c, Off-warrant stock reporting—May 2021: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., July 12, 1 p. (Accessed July 28, 2021, at <https://www.lme.com/-/media/Files/Market-data/Off-warrant-stock-reports/2021/Off-Warrant-Stock-Reporting-May-2021.xlsx>.)
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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		
2020 ^p	1,012	1,630	1,420	3,050	3,270	1,050	4,320	8,380	1,490
2020:									
June	89	125	113	238	262	88	350	677	1,430
July	82	139	118	256	253	84	337	675	1,410
August	80	137	122	259	270	85	355	694	1,410
September	72	140	120	260	214	79	293	625	1,400
October	75	142	123	266	231	80	311	652	1,450
November	74	134	119	252	241	80	321	647	1,430
December	77	124	113	237	229	78	307	621	1,490
January–June	552	818 ^r	701 ^r	1,520 ^r	1,570 ^r	473 ^r	2,040 ^r	4,120 ^r	1,490
2021:									
January	78	134	123	256	250	84	334	668	1,470
February	69	131	116	247	243	81	324	640	1,480
March	75	154	117	271	308	121	429	775	1,470
April	72	144	118	263	324	109	433	768	1,660
May	75	138	119	257	313	114	427	759	1,680
June	72	141	127	267	294	113	407	746	NA
January–June	441	842	720	1,560	1,730	622	2,350	4,360	NA

^pPreliminary. ^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 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
2020 ^p	2,010	1,550	1,540 ^r	1,410	91	84	4	4	3,650	3,050
2020:										
June	159	124	118	108	6	5	(2)	(2)	283	238
July	165	128	132	121	8	8	(2)	(2)	306	256
August	166	129	133	121	8	8	(2)	(2)	308	259
September	170	131	132	121	8	8	(2)	(2)	311	260
October	172	133	136	125	8	8	(2)	(2)	317	266
November	169	129	126	115	8	8	(2)	(2)	303	252
December	168	129	111	101	8	8	(2)	(2)	288	237
January–June	999 ^r	773 ^r	774 ^r	708 ^r	41	37	2	2	1,820 ^r	1,520 ^r
2021:										
January	173	132	128	117	8	8	(2)	(2)	310	256
February	166	129	120	110	8	8	(2)	(2)	295	247
March	176	134	141	129	8	8	(2)	(2)	325	272
April	175	135	131	120	8	8	(2)	(2)	315	263
May	172	133	127	116	8	8	(2)	(2)	308	257
June	175	135	137	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	320	267
January–June	1,040	797	784	716	48	48	2	2	1,870	1,560

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
 CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
 NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JUNE 2021¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	145,000	175,000	112,000	135,000
Independent mill fabricators	122,000	137,000	111,000	124,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	275,000	320,000	230,000	267,000

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 IN JUNE 2021¹

(Metric tons)

	June			January–June ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	19,500	36,700	36,900	19,400	231,000	231,000
Can stock clippings	7,540	28,600	28,900	7,270	169,000	167,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	9,070	32,300	32,100	9,260	194,000	199,000
Casting	4,490	7,730	7,730	4,490	40,000	40,000
Borings and turnings	4,370	12,500	12,500	4,390	68,500	70,200
Dross and skimmings	13,300	33,300	33,300	13,300	203,000	203,000
Total new scrap	58,300	151,000	151,000	58,100	905,000	910,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,150	27,400	27,400	8,150	164,000	164,000
Used extrusion	7,680	16,700	16,700	7,680	98,600	100,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	8,470	44,900	44,700	8,660	233,000	233,000
Other wrought products	17,200	22,200	22,800	16,700	137,000	133,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,220	11,500	11,700	5,000	69,700	69,500
Total old scrap	46,800	123,000	123,000	46,200	702,000	699,000
Total all classes	105,000	274,000	275,000	104,000	1,610,000	1,610,000

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 JUNE 2021^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	June				January–June	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,760	2,600	2,600	2,760	15,600	15,600
380 and variations	6,350	18,300	18,300	6,350	110,000	110,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,120	2,850	2,850	2,120	17,100	17,100
No. 319 and variations	2,110	2,210	2,210	2,110	13,300	13,300
F-132 alloy and variations	128	198	198	128	1,190	1,190
Al-Zn alloys	37	29	29	37	172	172
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	143	186	186	143	1,120	1,120
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	423	297	297	423	1,780	1,780
Other ⁴	7,630	7,870	7,870	7,630	47,200	47,200
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,100	53,100	53,100	10,100	319,000	319,000
Total all alloys	31,900	87,700	87,700	31,900	526,000	526,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,600	XX	XX	93,500	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,630	XX	XX	9,800	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	733	XX	XX	4,400	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵						
	XX	69,700	XX	XX	418,000	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-Zn, Al-Cu, 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
2020:		
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
2021:		
January	105.638	90.891
February	109.548	94.329
March	118.185	99.409
April	128.563	105.404
May	136.947	110.397
June	138.489	110.635
January–June	122.895	101.844

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:					
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	64.50	61.50	63.00	59.00
February	67.50	65.63	64.50	65.50	64.00
March	73.00	68.50	66.50	68.50	68.75
April	75.50	72.10	68.90	70.50	69.20
May	74.13	74.50	70.50	71.00	69.50
June	70.88	73.75	68.75	68.75	68.00
January–June	71.00	69.83	66.78	67.88	66.41

Source: Fastmarket-AMM.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2021¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc		Scrap		Total	
	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June
Argentina	3,990	39,700	--	6	--	--	3,990	39,700
Australia	6,400	51,400	(2)	209	--	--	6,400	51,600
Austria	--	(2)	2,580	13,800	41	42	2,620	13,800
Bahrain	598	62,600	791	9,510	--	--	1,390	72,100
Belgium	59	181	920	6,300	--	--	979	6,490
Brazil	--	(2)	36	108	937	10,100	973	10,200
Canada	217,000	1,230,000	19,700	121,000	36,900	203,000	273,000	1,550,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	473	1,560	473	1,560
China	46	1,160	10,900	65,900	27	131	11,000	67,200
Colombia	--	--	501	3,140	379	3,040	880	6,190
Costa Rica	--	--	--	41	133	1,190	133	1,230
France	219	1,100	1,270	4,350	84	178	1,570	5,620
Germany	52	1,170	3,720	21,300	428	1,810	4,200	24,300
Greece	--	--	1,580	9,910	40	50	1,620	9,960
Guatemala	--	--	--	14	1,030	6,040	1,030	6,050
Honduras	--	--	504	2,780	30	101	534	2,880
Hong Kong	24	24	385	1,820	--	--	409	1,850
India	6,690	32,700	1,380	6,060	--	--	8,070	38,800
Indonesia	--	--	2,140	10,900	--	--	2,140	10,900
Italy	--	300	1,760	8,280	(2)	(2)	1,760	8,580
Japan	9	9	4,980	22,900	16	2,230	5,010	25,200
Korea, Republic of	1,210	6,750	3,170	16,900	1	94	4,380	23,700
Malaysia	2	6	1,560	7,350	--	--	1,570	7,350
Mexico	592	7,940	5,560	27,200	18,800	105,000	25,000	140,000
Netherlands	55	267	164	1,380	52	697	271	2,350
New Zealand	197	594	--	5	--	--	197	599
Norway	6	103	918	5,860	--	--	924	5,970
Oman	--	3,460	7,620	42,500	--	--	7,620	45,900
Qatar	3,810	34,600	--	--	--	--	3,810	34,600
Romania	--	--	454	2,640	--	--	454	2,640
Russia	15,500	79,600	1,320	7,020	--	--	16,800	86,600
Saudi Arabia	--	--	6,240	32,300	511	707	6,750	33,000
South Africa	507	1,040	1,380	14,300	--	--	1,880	15,400
Spain	149	563	2,110	13,300	190	2,190	2,450	16,100
Sweden	--	--	563	4,640	--	--	563	4,640
Switzerland	12	13	1,150	4,660	--	2	1,160	4,670
Taiwan	(2)	32	397	3,790	1	7	398	3,830
Thailand	69	361	6,270	32,000	24	259	6,370	32,600
Turkey	--	1	8,070	31,000	--	--	8,070	31,000
United Arab Emirates	36,700	178,000	370	1,140	--	--	37,100	179,000
United Kingdom	15	56	539	2,440	127	3,170	681	5,660
Vietnam	--	1	3,850	18,500	--	1	3,850	18,500
Other	2	171	8,260	44,900	2,270	10,400	10,500	55,400
Total	294,000	1,730,000	113,000	622,000	62,500	352,000	469,000	2,710,000

-- 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 JUNE 2021¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June
Australia	20	523	82	719	--	235	102	1,480
Belgium	--	1	9	143	181	797	190	941
Brazil	4	30	152	706	143	3,260	299	4,000
Canada	6,040	35,000	24,500	156,000	8,200	45,200	38,700	236,000
China	164	874	633	5,330	950	10,500	1,750	16,700
Colombia	29	73	91	394	19	136	139	603
Dominican Republic	--	10	4	184	254	939	258	1,130
France	7	69	456	2,700	92	388	555	3,160
Germany	5	44	513	2,200	363	1,880	881	4,130
Guatemala	--	--	18	59	--	--	18	59
Hong Kong	--	245	74	528	18,900	142,000	19,000	143,000
India	2	455	160	487	28,100	169,000	28,300	170,000
Indonesia	--	--	1	6	5,890	35,000	5,890	35,000
Ireland	--	13	64	273	116	116	180	402
Israel	(2)	12	943	6,260	--	--	943	6,270
Italy	(2)	(2)	86	385	238	1,060	324	1,440
Jamaica	2	3	12	31	--	1	14	35
Japan	97	155	248	1,590	1,240	10,300	1,590	12,100
Korea, Republic of	--	385	595	6,920	15,900	121,000	16,500	129,000
Malaysia	41	43	422	2,210	47,600	236,000	48,100	238,000
Mexico	11,500	61,600	24,700	143,000	12,200	86,000	48,300	290,000
Netherlands	8	50	22	180	224	1,320	254	1,550
New Zealand	--	3	40	274	--	--	40	277
Norway	--	--	16	22	--	--	16	22
Pakistan	2	2	(2)	17	744	8,130	746	8,150
Panama	2	5	5	48	--	--	7	53
Philippines	6	6	15	46	702	2,580	723	2,630
Poland	(2)	(2)	13	168	--	--	13	168
Romania	10	58	85	282	--	--	95	340
Russia	--	--	2	32	5,520	26,400	5,520	26,500
Saudi Arabia	1	1	28	175	--	187	29	363
Singapore	(2)	73	222	1,620	20	539	242	2,240
Spain	5	28	18	129	2	1,050	25	1,210
Taiwan	150	1,070	324	2,660	2,000	14,700	2,470	18,400
Thailand	--	(2)	102	392	4,340	36,200	4,440	36,600
Turkey	--	1	75	907	372	3,640	447	4,550
United Arab Emirates	--	--	252	1,340	499	4,270	751	5,620
United Kingdom	(2)	65	426	2,660	--	1,420	426	4,150
Vietnam	--	1	166	388	683	7,500	849	7,880
Other	264	1,670	278	1,800	1,170	8,650	1,710	12,100
Total	18,300	103,000	55,800	343,000	157,000	981,000	231,000	1,430,000

-- 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.