

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JULY 2021

Domestic primary aluminum production in July 2021 was 73,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in July 2021 was 2,350 t, slightly less than that in June 2021, 11% less than that in July 2020, and 21% less than that in July 2019 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in July 2021 was 268,000 t, essentially unchanged from that in June 2021, 4% more than that in July 2020, but 5% less than that in July 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).

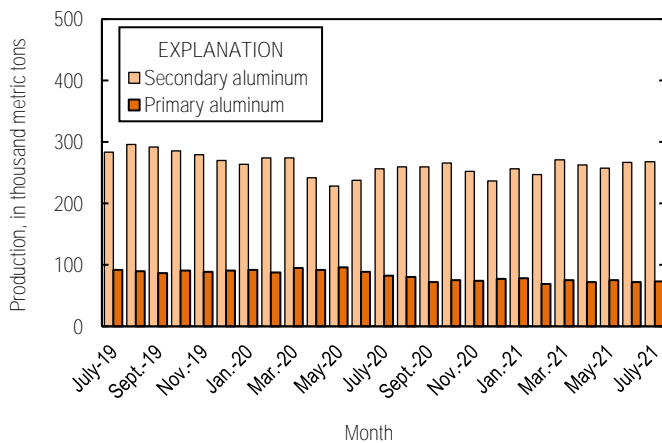


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from July 2019 through July 2021.

Prices and Stocks

The July 2021 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$1.44 per pound, 4% more than that in June 2021, 70% more than that in July 2020, and 45% more than that in July 2019. The average cash price in July 2021 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$1.13 per pound, slightly more than that in June 2021, 52% more than that in July 2020, and 39% more than that in July 2019 (fig. 2, table 6).

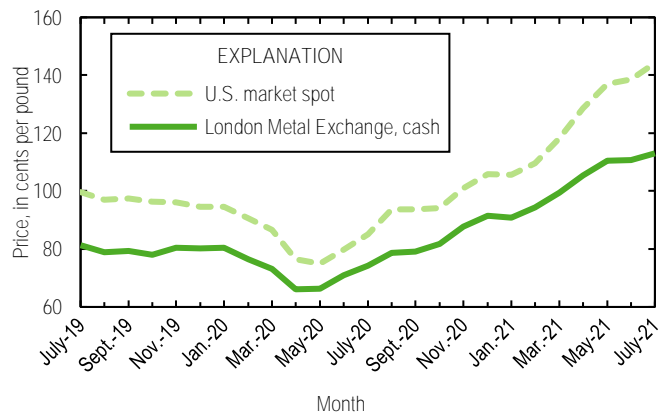


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from July 2019 through July 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 99,745 t at the end of July 2021 from 110,133 t at the end of June 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 10,904 t at the end of July 2021 from 12,299 t at the end of June 2021 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2021a, b, c, d).

Update

A labor dispute continued in September at Rio Tinto plc’s smelter at Kitimat, British Columbia, Canada. About 65% of the smelter’s 432,000 metric-ton-per-year capacity was shut down July when the dispute started on July 25. (See Aluminum in May 2021.) Negotiations between the union, representing nearly 900 employees involved in the dispute, and Rio Tinto resumed at the end of August (Esmen, 2021; Rio Tinto plc, 2021).

Prices for aluminum have generally trended upward throughout 2021 in the United States and in world markets. High power prices attributed to higher coal prices and

shutdowns of powerplants complying with environmental regulations have been cited for increased aluminum prices in China, the world's leading producer. Additionally, higher prices for alumina amid shutdowns of alumina refineries in Brazil and China in July added pressure to production costs for smelters. (See Bauxite and Alumina in the Second Quarter 2021.) There were further shutdowns of alumina refining capacity that were expected to support higher aluminum prices. On August 22, a fire at the 1.42 million-metric-ton-per-year (Mt/yr) Jamalco refinery in Jamaica forced it to stop production until repairs can be completed. Noranda Alumina LLC stopped production at the 1.2-Mt/yr refinery in Gramercy, LA, for six days in August and September owing to Hurricane Ida. The continued labor dispute at the Kitimat smelter and constrained shipping options were also cited for tight supplies in the United States, especially for extrusion billet, supporting increased prices. A coup in Guinea, a major producer of bauxite, was cited for aluminum prices increasing slightly in early September although mining and exports were not interrupted amid the political unrest (Ong, 2021; S&P Global Platts Metals Daily, 2021a, b, c).

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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	1,012	1,630	1,420	3,050	3,270	1,050	4,320	8,380	1,490
2020:									
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–July	634	957 ^r	819 ^r	1,780 ^r	2,090	645	2,730	5,140 ^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	1,690
July	73	141	127	268	298	105	403	744	NA
January–July	514	982	846	1,830	2,030	727	2,760	5,100	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 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	2,010	1,550	1,540	1,410	91	84	4	4	3,650
2020:										
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–July	1,160 ^r	900 ^r	906 ^r	829 ^r	49	45	2	2	2,120 ^r	1,780 ^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
July	172	133	139	127	8	8	(2)	(2)	321	268
January–July	1,210	931	922	842	59	54	2	2	2,190	1,830

^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 JULY 2021¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	144,000	172,000	111,000	133,000
Independent mill fabricators	125,000	139,000	114,000	127,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	276,000	321,000	231,000	268,000

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 JULY 2021¹

(Metric tons)

	July			January–July ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	19,400	40,700	40,600	19,400	272,000	272,000
Can stock clippings	7,270	27,500	27,900	6,900	196,000	195,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	9,260	31,400	31,000	9,600	225,000	230,000
Casting	4,490	8,160	8,160	4,490	48,200	48,200
Borings and turnings	4,390	11,100	11,100	4,390	79,700	81,400
Dross and skimmings	13,300	33,800	33,800	13,300	236,000	236,000
Total new scrap	58,100	153,000	153,000	58,100	1,060,000	1,060,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,150	26,700	26,700	8,150	190,000	190,000
Used extrusion	7,680	16,700	16,700	7,680	115,000	117,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	8,660	45,400	45,400	8,700	279,000	278,000
Other wrought products	16,700	23,000	23,400	16,300	160,000	156,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,000	11,600	11,300	5,310	81,300	80,800
Total old scrap	46,200	123,000	123,000	46,100	826,000	822,000
Total all classes	104,000	276,000	276,000	104,000	1,880,000	1,890,000

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 JULY 2021^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	July				January–July	
	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	18,200	18,200
380 and variations	6,350	18,300	18,300	6,350	128,000	128,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,120	2,850	2,850	2,120	20,000	20,000
No. 319 and variations	2,110	2,210	2,210	2,110	15,500	15,500
F-132 alloy and variations	128	198	198	128	1,390	1,390
Al-Zn alloys	37	29	29	37	200	200
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	143	186	186	143	1,300	1,300
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	423	297	297	423	2,080	2,080
Other ⁴	7,630	7,870	7,870	7,630	55,100	55,100
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,100	53,100	53,100	10,100	372,000	372,000
Total all alloys	31,900	87,700	87,700	31,900	614,000	614,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,600	XX	XX	109,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,630	XX	XX	11,400	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	733	XX	XX	5,130	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot⁵						
	XX	69,700	XX	XX	488,000	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:		
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
July	144.205	113.033
January–July	125.939	103.443

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:					
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
July	71.40	73.90	67.20	67.40	67.60
January–July	71.06	70.41	66.84	67.81	66.58

Source: Fastmarket-AMM.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc		Scrap		Total	
	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–
		July		July		July		July
Argentina	13,700	53,400	--	6	--	--	13,700	53,400
Australia	6,590	58,000	57	266	--	--	6,650	58,300
Austria	--	(2)	2,590	16,400	--	42	2,590	16,400
Bahrain	2,050	64,700	1,910	11,400	--	--	3,960	76,100
Belgium	8	189	978	7,280	--	--	986	7,470
Brazil	--	(2)	(2)	108	460	10,600	460	10,700
Canada	213,000	1,440,000	17,200	138,000	33,700	237,000	264,000	1,820,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	139	1,700	139	1,700
China	44	1,200	9,710	75,600	27	158	9,790	76,900
Colombia	--	--	799	3,940	359	3,400	1,160	7,340
Costa Rica	--	--	33	74	168	1,360	201	1,430
France	83	1,180	685	5,030	13	191	781	6,410
Germany	336	1,510	2,380	23,700	78	1,890	2,790	27,100
Greece	--	--	1,640	11,600	--	50	1,640	11,600
Guatemala	--	--	--	14	850	6,890	850	6,900
Honduras	--	--	470	3,250	12	113	482	3,360
Hong Kong	24	48	340	2,160	--	--	364	2,210
India	3,140	35,900	1,430	7,490	--	--	4,570	43,400
Indonesia	--	--	1,270	12,200	--	--	1,270	12,200
Italy	--	300	1,730	10,000	--	(2)	1,730	10,300
Japan	--	9	4,770	27,700	6	2,240	4,780	29,900
Korea, Republic of	607	7,360	3,960	20,800	7	101	4,580	28,300
Malaysia	--	6	976	8,320	--	--	976	8,330
Mexico	1,110	9,050	5,140	32,400	18,000	123,000	24,300	164,000
Netherlands	99	366	201	1,580	521	1,220	821	3,170
New Zealand	99	693	2	7	--	--	101	700
Norway	--	103	1,110	6,980	--	--	1,110	7,080
Oman	--	3,460	8,720	51,200	--	--	8,720	54,700
Qatar	5,880	40,500	--	--	--	--	5,880	40,500
Romania	--	--	575	3,220	--	--	575	3,220
Russia	22,800	102,000	1,540	8,560	--	--	24,400	111,000
Saudi Arabia	--	--	6,360	38,600	--	707	6,360	39,400
South Africa	--	1,040	1,020	15,400	--	--	1,020	16,400
Spain	93	656	2,080	15,400	873	3,070	3,050	19,100
Sweden	--	--	979	5,610	--	--	979	5,610
Switzerland	--	13	866	5,520	--	2	866	5,540
Taiwan	16	48	311	4,100	4	11	331	4,160
Thailand	238	600	6,540	38,500	38	297	6,810	39,400
Turkey	1	3	4,230	35,300	--	--	4,230	35,300
United Arab Emirates	28,200	206,000	480	1,620	--	--	28,700	208,000
United Kingdom	38	94	606	3,040	264	3,430	908	6,570
Vietnam	--	1	3,450	21,900	--	1	3,450	21,900
Other	93	263	7,490	52,400	2,520	12,900	10,100	65,600
Total	299,000	2,030,000	105,000	727,000	58,100	410,000	461,000	3,170,000

-- 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 JULY 2021¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–
		July		July		July		July
Australia	87	611	68	787	--	235	155	1,630
Belgium	--	1	18	162	181	978	199	1,140
Brazil	1	31	105	811	325	3,590	431	4,430
Canada	4,940	40,000	21,100	177,000	7,330	52,500	33,400	269,000
China	247	1,120	346	5,670	381	10,900	974	17,700
Colombia	--	73	18	412	--	136	18	621
Dominican Republic	--	10	35	219	65	1,000	100	1,230
France	12	81	237	2,940	67	455	316	3,480
Germany	3	47	137	2,340	461	2,340	601	4,730
Guatemala	--	--	5	63	--	--	5	63
Hong Kong	1	245	18	546	19,200	161,000	19,200	162,000
India	17	473	166	653	34,100	203,000	34,300	204,000
Indonesia	(2)	(2)	2	9	5,390	40,400	5,390	40,400
Ireland	1	14	45	318	--	116	46	448
Israel	(2)	12	1,050	7,310	--	--	1,050	7,330
Italy	14	15	60	445	38	1,090	112	1,550
Jamaica	1	4	5	35	--	1	6	40
Japan	19	174	207	1,800	2,300	12,600	2,530	14,600
Korea, Republic of	44	429	155	7,080	21,100	142,000	21,300	150,000
Malaysia	49	92	40	2,250	45,600	282,000	45,700	284,000
Mexico	9,030	70,600	19,300	162,000	14,500	101,000	42,800	333,000
Netherlands	17	67	210	389	204	1,530	431	1,980
New Zealand	--	3	30	304	--	--	30	307
Norway	--	--	11	33	--	--	11	33
Pakistan	--	2	2	19	1,090	9,230	1,100	9,250
Panama	--	5	3	52	--	--	3	57
Philippines	4	10	3	49	426	3,010	433	3,060
Poland	34	34	47	215	--	--	81	249
Romania	14	72	28	310	--	--	42	382
Russia	--	--	2	35	6,500	32,900	6,500	33,000
Saudi Arabia	--	1	5	180	21	208	26	389
Singapore	6	79	220	1,840	139	678	365	2,600
Spain	1	30	14	143	145	1,190	160	1,370
Taiwan	93	1,170	174	2,830	2,440	17,100	2,710	21,100
Thailand	3	3	47	440	4,220	40,500	4,270	40,900
Turkey	--	1	20	927	920	4,560	940	5,490
United Arab Emirates	--	--	160	1,500	864	5,140	1,020	6,640
United Kingdom	18	83	292	2,960	347	1,770	657	4,810
Vietnam	--	1	98	486	698	8,190	796	8,680
Other	192	1,870	177	1,980	1,330	9,980	1,700	13,800
Total	14,800	117,000	44,700	387,000	170,000	1,150,000	230,000	1,660,000

-- 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.