



Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2021

Domestic primary aluminum production in August 2021 was 73,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in August 2021 was 2,360 t, essentially unchanged from that in July 2021, 9% less than that in August 2020, and 19% less than that in August 2019 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in August 2021 was 267,000 t, essentially unchanged from that in July 2021, 3% more than that in August 2020, but 10% less than that in August 2019. Of this, 142,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 125,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

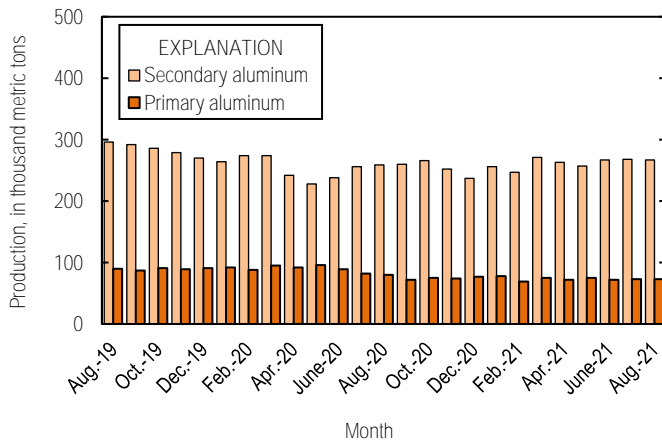


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from August 2019 through August 2021.

Prices and Stocks

The August 2021 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$1.52 per pound, 5% more than that in July 2021, 62% more than that in August 2020, and 57% more than that in August 2019. The average cash price in August 2021 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$1.18 per pound, 5% more than that in July 2021, 51% more than that in August 2020, and 46% more than that in August 2019 (fig. 2, table 6).

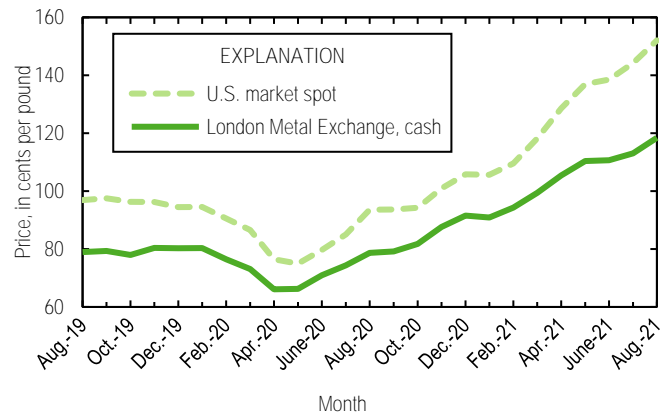


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from August 2019 through August 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 91,860 t at the end of August 2021 from 99,745 t at the end of July 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 9,625 t at the end of August 2021 from 10,904 t at the end of July 2021 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2021a, b, c, d).

Update

On September 17, the U.S. Commerce Department announced its final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty investigations of aluminum foil imports from five countries. Antidumping and countervailing duty rates were set at 29.11% for Armenia, 13.93-63.05% for Brazil, 5.82% for Oman, 62.18% for Russia, and 4.88% for Turkey. The U.S. International Trade Commission issued its final determinations in the case on October 19, finding that imports of aluminum foil from the five countries harmed producers in the United States. Final implementation of the antidumping and

countervailing duties was expected by the end of October (Coyne, 2021b, Lazzaro, 2021b).

In September, Alcoa Corp. announced that it was restarting 268,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of capacity at the 447,000-t/yr Alumar smelter in São Luís, Brazil. The Alumar smelter, a joint venture between Alcoa (60%) and South32 Ltd. (40%) has been idle since 2015. High power prices and low aluminum prices were cited when the smelter was shut down, but an Alcoa spokesperson stated that a new power supply agreement made the restart possible. The smelter is located adjacent to an alumina refinery that would supply it with alumina. The first metal would be produced in the second quarter of 2022 and the restart process was expected to be completed by yearend 2022 (Alcoa Corp., 2021, p. 1, 3; Coyne, 2021a).

On October 4, Rio Tinto plc reached an agreement on a labor contract with the union that represents workers at the smelter at Kitimat, British Columbia, Canada. About 65% of the smelter's 432,000 t/yr capacity was shut down when the dispute started on July 25. (See Aluminum in May 2021.) Nearly 900 employees were involved in the dispute. Rio Tinto was restarting production from the affected capacity but a schedule for the full restart was not available (Ong, 2021b; Rio Tinto plc, 2021).

Damco Aluminium Delfzijl Coöperatir U.A. (ALDEL) shut down production from its primary aluminum smelter in Delfzijl, Netherlands. An increase in power prices in Europe was cited for shutting down the 110,000-t/yr smelter. ALDEL continued producing extrusion billet and other value-added products using scrap and remelting primary aluminum from other sources in the casthouse which has 50,000 t/yr of capacity (Ong, 2021a).

On September 27, employees at Alcoa's 228,000-t/yr smelter in San Ciprian, Spain went on strike. The employees continued producing aluminum from the potlines but were blocking shipments of finished product from the smelter. Alcoa was seeking to sell the smelter citing the high price of power for the smelter being unprofitable but has not been able to close a deal with potential buyers. In October 2020, Alcoa announced plans to curtail the smelter but in January 2021, Alcoa announced plans to sell the smelter and that production would continue. Alcoa cited increasing power prices in Spain for difficulties finding a buyer for the smelter (Alcoa Corp., 2021, p. 3; Lazzaro, 2021a).

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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:									
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–August	714	1,090 ^r	941 ^r	2,030 ^r	2,360	730	3,090	5,830 ^r	1,490 ^r
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	1,680 ^r
July	73	141	127	268	298	105	403	744	1,730
August	73	142	125	267	319	126	445	785	NA
January–August	586	1,120	971	2,100	2,350	852	3,200	5,880	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:										
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–August	1,330 ^r	1,030 ^r	1,040	950 ^r	58	53	3	3	2,430 ^r	2,040 ^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
August	176	135	136	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	321	267
January–August	1,390	1,070	1,060	966	68	62	3	3	2,510	2,100

^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 AUGUST 2021¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	147,000	176,000	112,000	135,000
Independent mill fabricators	122,000	136,000	111,000	124,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	276,000	321,000	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 AUGUST 2021¹

(Metric tons)

	August			January–August ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	19,400	41,300	41,100	19,600	313,000	313,000
Can stock clippings	6,900	27,900	27,900	6,900	224,000	223,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	9,600	31,100	30,600	10,100	256,000	260,000
Casting	4,490	7,800	7,800	4,490	56,000	56,000
Borings and turnings	4,390	11,500	11,500	4,390	91,200	92,900
Dross and skimmings	13,300	36,000	36,000	13,300	272,000	272,000
Total new scrap	58,100	156,000	155,000	58,700	1,210,000	1,220,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,150	26,800	26,800	8,150	217,000	217,000
Used extrusion	7,680	16,700	16,700	7,680	132,000	133,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	8,700	42,900	42,900	8,700	322,000	321,000
Other wrought products	16,300	23,400	23,400	16,300	183,000	180,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,310	11,300	11,300	5,310	92,700	92,100
Total old scrap	46,100	121,000	121,000	46,100	947,000	944,000
Total all classes	104,000	277,000	276,000	105,000	2,160,000	2,160,000

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 AUGUST 2021^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	August				January–August	
	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	20,800	20,800
380 and variations	6,350	18,300	18,300	6,350	147,000	147,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,120	2,850	2,850	2,120	22,800	22,800
No. 319 and variations	2,110	2,210	2,210	2,110	17,700	17,700
F-132 alloy and variations	128	198	198	128	1,580	1,580
Al-Zn alloys	37	29	29	37	229	229
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	143	186	186	143	1,490	1,490
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	423	297	297	423	2,380	2,380
Other ⁴	7,630	7,870	7,870	7,630	62,900	62,900
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,100	53,100	53,100	10,100	425,000	425,000
Total all alloys	31,900	87,700	87,700	31,900	702,000	702,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,600	XX	XX	125,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,630	XX	XX	13,100	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	733	XX	XX	5,860	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵						
	XX	69,700	XX	XX	558,000	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:		
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
August	152.055	118.417
January–August	129.204	105.314

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:					
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
August	77.10	73.50	66.10	66.70	66.40
January–August	71.81	70.80	66.74	67.67	66.56

Source: Fastmarket-AMM.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc		Scrap		Total	
	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August
Argentina	7,140	60,500	105	112	--	--	7,250	60,600
Australia	18,400	76,500	45	311	--	--	18,500	76,800
Austria	--	(2)	2,100	18,500	--	42	2,100	18,500
Bahrain	6,320	71,000	2,150	13,600	--	--	8,470	84,500
Belgium	48	237	1,070	8,360	--	--	1,120	8,590
Brazil	--	(2)	44	153	--	10,600	44	10,700
Canada	219,000	1,660,000	21,900	160,000	36,500	274,000	278,000	2,090,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	237	1,930	237	1,930
China	65	1,270	20,000	95,600	36	193	20,100	97,000
Colombia	--	--	871	4,810	554	3,950	1,430	8,770
Costa Rica	--	--	51	125	80	1,440	131	1,560
France	281	1,460	371	5,400	8	199	660	7,070
Germany	180	1,690	3,340	27,000	67	1,960	3,580	30,600
Greece	--	--	2,230	13,800	--	50	2,230	13,800
Guatemala	--	--	--	14	811	7,700	811	7,710
Honduras	--	--	492	3,740	48	161	540	3,900
Hong Kong	25	73	240	2,400	--	--	265	2,480
India	4,140	40,000	1,810	9,290	--	--	5,950	49,300
Indonesia	--	--	1,960	14,200	--	--	1,960	14,200
Italy	2	302	1,500	11,500	--	(2)	1,500	11,800
Japan	(2)	9	3,470	31,200	--	2,240	3,470	33,400
Korea, Republic of	1,300	8,660	3,190	24,000	17	118	4,510	32,800
Malaysia	40	46	926	9,250	--	--	966	9,290
Mexico	1,470	10,500	5,860	38,200	16,300	139,000	23,700	188,000
Netherlands	37	403	244	1,830	413	1,630	694	3,860
New Zealand	25	718	1	7	--	--	26	725
Norway	40	143	534	7,510	--	--	574	7,650
Oman	--	3,460	9,050	60,300	--	--	9,050	63,700
Qatar	3,680	44,100	--	--	--	--	3,680	44,100
Romania	--	--	479	3,700	--	--	479	3,700
Russia	25,500	128,000	1,320	9,880	--	--	26,800	138,000
Saudi Arabia	--	--	4,760	43,400	19	726	4,780	44,100
South Africa	--	1,040	7,290	22,700	--	--	7,290	23,700
Spain	145	801	1,820	17,200	234	3,300	2,200	21,300
Sweden	--	--	808	6,420	--	--	808	6,420
Switzerland	--	13	1,030	6,550	--	2	1,030	6,560
Taiwan	43	91	280	4,380	5	16	328	4,490
Thailand	158	758	8,110	46,600	--	297	8,270	47,700
Turkey	21	23	5,490	40,700	--	--	5,510	40,800
United Arab Emirates	30,600	237,000	637	2,260	--	--	31,300	239,000
United Kingdom	19	113	361	3,410	52	3,480	432	7,000
Vietnam	--	1	3,440	25,400	--	1	3,440	25,400
Other	3	267	6,430	58,800	1,910	14,800	8,340	73,900
Total	319,000	2,350,000	126,000	852,000	57,300	468,000	502,000	3,670,000

-- 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 AUGUST 2021¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August
Australia	58	669	20	807	--	235	78	1,710
Belgium	--	1	16	178	552	1,530	568	1,710
Brazil	1	31	83	894	212	3,800	296	4,720
Canada	5,430	45,400	26,600	203,000	7,290	59,800	39,400	309,000
China	93	1,210	471	6,150	812	11,700	1,380	19,100
Colombia	43	115	13	424	36	173	92	712
Dominican Republic	--	10	8	227	223	1,230	231	1,460
France	28	109	142	3,080	88	543	258	3,740
Germany	8	55	120	2,460	569	2,910	697	5,430
Guatemala	1	1	3	66	--	--	4	67
Hong Kong	(2)	245	48	594	7,090	168,000	7,130	169,000
India	45	518	24	677	45,300	248,000	45,400	250,000
Indonesia	(2)	(2)	1	9	7,200	47,600	7,200	47,600
Ireland	(2)	14	10	328	--	116	10	458
Israel	--	12	572	7,890	--	--	572	7,900
Italy	(2)	15	25	470	331	1,430	356	1,910
Jamaica	(2)	5	7	43	--	1	7	49
Japan	108	282	185	1,990	2,730	15,300	3,020	17,600
Korea, Republic of	14	443	284	7,360	25,200	168,000	25,500	175,000
Malaysia	91	183	43	2,300	56,900	338,000	57,100	341,000
Mexico	7,820	78,400	20,000	182,000	13,600	114,000	41,400	375,000
Netherlands	7	74	24	414	223	1,750	254	2,240
New Zealand	--	3	28	332	--	--	28	335
Norway	--	--	(2)	33	--	--	(2)	33
Pakistan	--	2	(2)	19	1,150	10,400	1,150	10,400
Panama	--	5	12	64	--	--	12	69
Philippines	--	10	14	63	353	3,360	367	3,430
Poland	--	34	41	256	--	--	41	290
Romania	13	85	45	355	--	--	58	440
Russia	--	--	7	42	6,310	39,200	6,320	39,300
Saudi Arabia	--	1	5	185	--	208	5	394
Singapore	(2)	79	75	1,920	60	738	135	2,740
Spain	--	30	12	155	164	1,360	176	1,540
Taiwan	(2)	1,170	210	3,040	2,410	19,500	2,620	23,700
Thailand	--	3	172	611	5,100	45,600	5,270	46,200
Turkey	--	1	38	966	567	5,130	605	6,100
United Arab Emirates	119	119	282	1,780	1,820	6,960	2,220	8,860
United Kingdom	4	87	287	3,240	351	2,120	642	5,450
Vietnam	--	1	52	538	655	8,850	707	9,390
Other	316	2,180	297	2,280	836	10,800	1,450	15,300
Total	14,200	132,000	50,300	438,000	188,000	1,340,000	253,000	1,910,000

-- 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.