

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

E. Lee Bray, Aluminum Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: lbray@usgs.gov

Susan M. Weaver (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-7979
 Fax: (703) 648-7995
 Email: sweaver@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2021

Domestic primary aluminum production in October 2021 was 76,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in October 2021 was 2,460 t, 3% more than that in September 2021, slightly more than that in October 2020, but 16% less than that in October 2019 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in October 2021 was 269,000 t, slightly less than that in September 2021, slightly more than that in October 2020, but 6% less than that in October 2019. Of this, 141,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 128,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

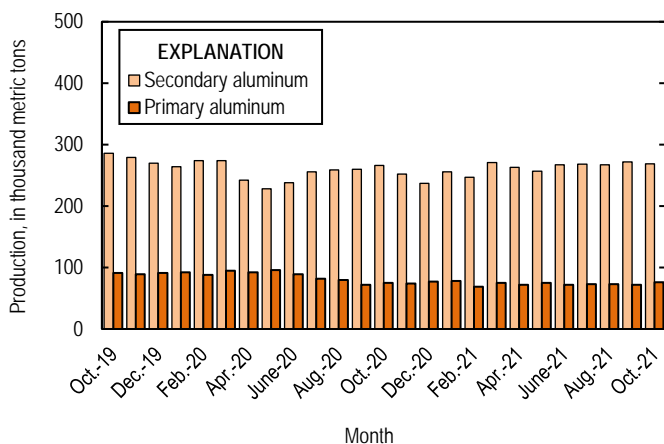


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from October 2019 through October 2021.

Prices and Stocks

The October 2021 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$1.68 per pound, 3% more than that in September 2021, 78% more than that in October 2020, and 75% more than that in October 2019. The average cash price in October 2021 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$1.34 per pound, 4% more than that in September 2021, 64% more than that in October 2020, and 72% more than that in October 2019 (fig. 2, table 6).

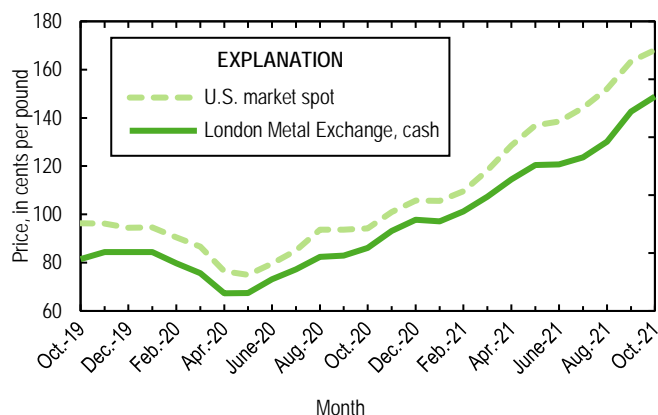


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from October 2019 through October 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 70,971 t at the end of October 2021 from 82,588 t at the end of September 2021. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States increased to 9,413 t at the end of October 2021 from 9,257 t at the end of September 2021 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2021a, b, c, d).

Update

On December 13, Alcoa Corp. announced that the temporary shutdown of the Wenatchee, WA, would be permanent. Alcoa idled the 146,000-metric-ton-per-year smelter in 2015, citing high power prices. The site would be redeveloped for other uses (Alcoa Corp., 2021).

References Cited

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[data/Reports-and-data/Warehouse-and-stocks-reports/Off-warrant-stock-reporting](https://www.lme.com/en/Market-data/Reports-and-data/Warehouse-and-stocks-reports/Off-warrant-stock-reporting).)

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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:									
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–October	861	1,380 ^r	1,190 ^r	2,560 ^r	2,800	889	3,690	7,110 ^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 ^r	1,680
June	72	141	127	267	294	113	407	746	1,680
July	73	141	127	268	298	105	403	744	1,730
August	73	142	125	267	319	126	445	785	1,710
September	72	144	129	272	285	106	391	735	1,710
October	76	141	128	269	339	107	446	791	NA
January–October	734	1,410	1,230	2,640	2,970	1,070	4,040	7,410	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	1,550	1,410	91	84	4	4	3,650	3,050
2020:										
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–October	1,670 [†]	1,290 [†]	1,310	1,200 [†]	74	68	3	3	3,060 [†]	2,560 [†]
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
September	179	139	138	126	8	8	(2)	(2)	326	272
October	181	140	133	122	8	8	(2)	(2)	324	269
January–October	1,750	1,340	1,330	1,210	84	77	3	3	3,160	2,640

[†]Revised.

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 OCTOBER 2021¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	151,000	181,000	116,000	140,000
Independent mill fabricators	119,000	133,000	109,000	122,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	278,000	324,000	232,000	269,000

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 OCTOBER 2021¹

(Metric tons)

	October			January–October ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	19,700	38,700	38,600	19,800	395,000	394,000
Can stock clippings	6,900	28,800	28,800	6,900	281,000	280,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	9,990	30,700	30,700	9,990	317,000	321,000
Casting	4,490	7,920	7,920	4,490	71,900	71,900
Borings and turnings	4,390	12,300	12,300	4,390	117,000	118,000
Dross and skimmings	13,300	34,900	34,900	13,300	341,000	341,000
Total new scrap	58,800	153,000	153,000	58,900	1,520,000	1,530,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,150	26,400	26,400	8,150	270,000	270,000
Used extrusion	7,680	16,700	16,700	7,680	165,000	167,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	8,700	47,200	47,200	8,700	416,000	415,000
Other wrought products	16,300	23,400	23,400	16,300	230,000	226,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,310	10,900	10,900	5,310	115,000	114,000
Total old scrap	46,100	125,000	125,000	46,100	1,200,000	1,190,000
Total all classes	105,000	278,000	278,000	105,000	2,720,000	2,720,000

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 OCTOBER 2021^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	October				January–October	
	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	26,000	26,000
380 and variations	6,350	18,300	18,300	6,350	183,000	183,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,120	2,850	2,850	2,120	28,500	28,500
No. 319 and variations	2,110	2,210	2,210	2,110	22,100	22,100
F-132 alloy and variations	128	198	198	128	1,980	1,980
Al-Zn alloys	37	29	29	37	286	286
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	143	186	186	143	1,860	1,860
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	423	297	297	423	2,970	2,970
Other ⁴	7,630	7,870	7,870	7,630	78,600	78,600
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,100	53,100	53,100	10,100	531,000	531,000
Total all alloys	31,900	87,700	87,700	31,900	877,000	877,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,600	XX	XX	156,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,630	XX	XX	16,300	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	733	XX	XX	7,330	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum						
scrap consumed in production of						
secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	69,700	XX	XX	697,000	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:		
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
September	163.420	128.794
October	168.110	134.028
January–October	136.516	110.534

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:					
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
September	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
October	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January–October ¹	71.81	70.80	66.74	67.67	66.56

NA Not available.

¹September–October 2021 data are not available. January–August YTD average.

Source: Fastmarket-AMM.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc		Scrap		Total	
	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October
Argentina	10,300	95,100	--	175	--	--	10,300	95,300
Australia	7,950	90,800	29	383	39	39	8,010	91,300
Austria	--	1,500	3,320	25,100	--	51	3,320	26,700
Bahrain	17,200	101,000	3,430	19,100	--	--	20,600	120,000
Belgium	--	243	896	10,100	--	--	896	10,400
Brazil	--	(2)	98	287	--	10,600	98	10,800
Canada	233,000	2,090,000	19,500	199,000	33,800	343,000	287,000	2,640,000
Chile	--	--	(2)	(2)	100	2,130	100	2,130
China ³	133	1,530	10,200	124,000	43	247	10,300	125,000
Colombia	--	--	670	6,220	186	4,700	856	10,900
Costa Rica	--	--	34	179	238	2,000	272	2,180
France	110	1,990	233	7,020	6	216	349	9,230
Germany	245	2,290	2,440	32,400	125	2,520	2,810	37,200
Greece	--	--	1,400	16,900	--	50	1,400	17,000
Guatemala	--	--	--	14	746	9,240	746	9,250
Honduras	--	--	546	4,750	15	196	561	4,940
India	4,160	46,800	1,590	12,000	--	(2)	5,750	58,800
Indonesia	--	--	1,790	17,600	--	4	1,790	17,700
Italy	24	326	1,420	13,600	(2)	(2)	1,450	13,900
Japan	(2)	9	3,290	38,900	14	2,250	3,300	41,100
Korea, Republic of	898	11,300	1,840	28,900	--	118	2,740	40,400
Malaysia	118	243	975	10,800	--	--	1,090	11,000
Mexico	1,100	12,600	5,800	50,100	17,800	175,000	24,700	237,000
Netherlands	37	458	635	2,570	211	2,030	883	5,060
New Zealand	--	817	--	9	--	--	--	826
Norway	--	143	936	8,750	--	--	936	8,900
Oman	--	3,460	7,370	74,000	--	--	7,370	77,500
Qatar	6,500	56,700	--	(2)	--	--	6,500	56,700
Romania	--	--	352	4,500	--	--	352	4,500
Russia	23,600	161,000	904	12,200	--	--	24,500	173,000
Saudi Arabia	--	--	4,020	51,900	--	726	4,020	52,600
South Africa	498	2,040	5,670	31,800	--	--	6,160	33,900
Spain	108	944	1,350	20,200	--	3,300	1,460	24,500
Sweden	--	--	731	7,940	--	--	731	7,940
Switzerland	--	77	709	7,880	--	2	709	7,960
Taiwan	--	91	447	5,120	5	23	452	5,240
Thailand	157	1,010	7,290	56,200	--	297	7,440	57,500
Turkey	872	915	5,280	51,500	--	--	6,160	52,400
United Arab Emirates	31,900	285,000	479	3,160	--	70	32,400	288,000
United Kingdom	10	124	444	4,550	23	3,510	477	8,180
Vietnam	--	1	4,360	33,200	4	5	4,370	33,200
Other	61	336	6,480	72,300	1,770	19,100	8,310	91,700
Total	339,000	2,970,000	107,000	1,070,000	55,100	581,000	501,000	4,620,000

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

³Includes Hong Kong.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2021¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October
Australia	172	880	59	904	--	235	231	2,020
Belgium	--	1	28	235	837	3,190	865	3,430
Brazil	--	32	94	1,060	187	4,110	281	5,210
Canada	5,450	56,200	23,100	250,000	9,960	77,400	38,500	384,000
China ²	377	1,900	609	7,800	11,100	200,000	12,100	210,000
Colombia	234	363	48	532	46	310	328	1,210
Dominican Republic	49	59	29	283	256	1,570	334	1,910
France	14	135	189	3,390	49	673	252	4,200
Germany	8	71	66	2,620	361	3,590	435	6,280
Guatemala	--	1	3	72	--	--	3	73
India	18	558	92	873	56,400	351,000	56,500	352,000
Indonesia	--	(3)	1	13	6,460	61,400	6,460	61,400
Ireland	--	14	8	377	--	116	8	507
Israel	--	38	554	8,940	--	--	554	8,980
Italy	(3)	15	45	550	494	2,440	539	3,000
Jamaica	--	5	1	44	--	1	1	50
Japan	69	400	154	2,320	3,800	22,000	4,020	24,800
Korea, Republic of	3	479	231	7,860	28,400	221,000	28,700	229,000
Malaysia	244	510	71	2,390	48,700	428,000	49,000	431,000
Mexico	6,770	92,300	20,300	224,000	13,100	140,000	40,200	457,000
Netherlands	1	84	29	471	403	2,350	433	2,910
New Zealand	--	15	38	401	--	--	38	416
Norway	--	--	1	42	--	--	1	42
Pakistan	--	2	--	19	1,830	13,100	1,830	13,100
Panama	--	5	4	73	--	--	4	78
Philippines	1	17	19	95	275	4,140	295	4,260
Poland	--	53	76	367	(3)	(3)	76	420
Romania	--	91	22	446	--	--	22	537
Russia	(3)	(3)	11	61	3,300	45,900	3,310	45,900
Saudi Arabia	--	1	(3)	189	25	232	25	422
Singapore	4	91	140	2,130	215	952	359	3,170
Spain	4	38	12	184	640	2,400	656	2,620
Taiwan	38	1,280	149	3,470	3,680	25,700	3,860	30,400
Thailand	20	23	95	761	4,480	56,000	4,600	56,800
Turkey	--	1	49	1,090	800	6,630	849	7,710
United Arab Emirates	--	119	320	2,350	667	9,020	987	11,500
United Kingdom	2	90	642	4,200	649	2,950	1,290	7,240
Vietnam	--	1	11	573	606	10,000	617	10,600
Other	192	2,460	257	2,870	1,480	12,900	1,930	18,300
Total	13,700	158,000	47,500	535,000	199,000	1,710,000	260,000	2,400,000

-- Zero.

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

²Includes Hong Kong.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.