

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2022

Domestic primary aluminum production in February 2022 was 75,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in February 2022 was 2,670 t, slightly more than that in January 2022, 8% more than that in February 2021, but 12% less than that in February 2020 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in February 2022 was 284,000 t, 7% more than the amount in January 2022, 10% more than the amount in February 2021, but 3% less than that in February 2020. Of this, 158,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 126,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

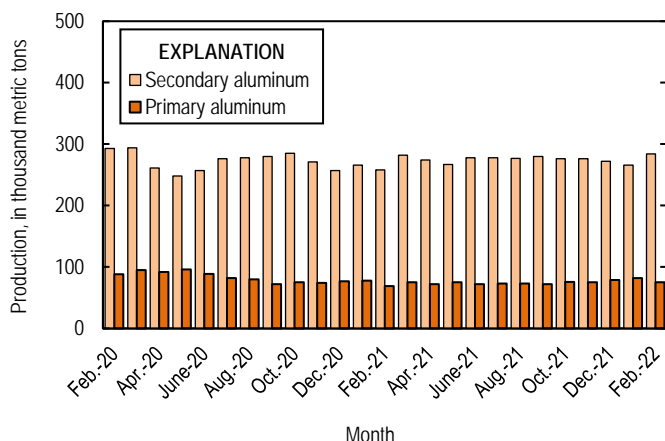


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from February 2020 through February 2022.

Prices and Stocks

The February 2022 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$1.83 per pound, 8% more than that in January 2022, 67% more than that in February 2021, and 102% more than that in February 2020. The average cash price in February 2022 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$1.48 per pound, 9% more than that in January 2022, 57% more than that in February 2021, and 93% more than that in February 2020 (fig. 2, table 6).

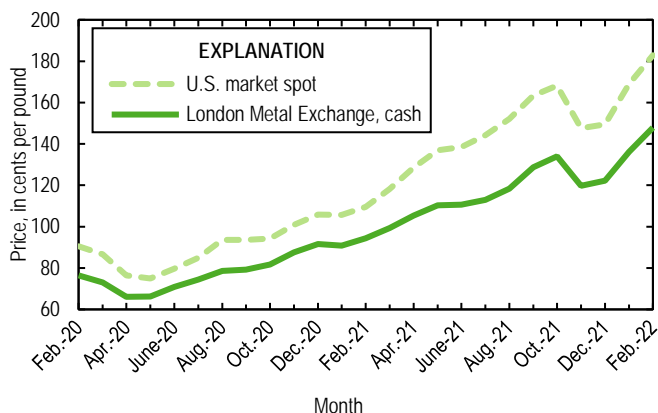


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from February 2020 through February 2022. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 48,647 t at the end of February 2022 from 51,496 t at the end of January 2022. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 9,464 t at the end of February 2022 from 10,748 t at the end of January 2022 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2022a, b, c, d).

Update

On April 13, Alcoa Corp. announced the restart of production from the Alumar smelter in São Luís, Brazil. The primary aluminum smelter capacity was 447,000 metric tons per year, and full production was scheduled by yearend. Alcoa shut down the smelter in 2015 citing high power prices and low aluminum prices. Alcoa owned 60% of the smelter, and South32 plc owned 40% (Alcoa Corp., 2022; Lazzaro, 2022).

References Cited

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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		
2021 ^P	889 ^r	1,770	1,510	3,280 ^r	3,630	1,290	4,920	9,090	1,860
2021:									
February	69	137	121	258	243	81	324	651	1,480
March	75	161	121	282	308	121	429	786 ^r	1,470
April	72	151	123	274	324	109	433	779	1,660
May	75	144	123	267	313	114	427	770	1,680
June	72	147	131	278	294	113	407	757	1,680
July	73	147	131	278	298	105	403	754	1,730
August	73	148	129	277	319	126	445	795 ^r	1,710
September	72	151	128	280	285	106	391	743	1,710
October	76	149	127	276	339	107	446	798	1,780
November	75	150	126	276	338	119	457	808	1,820
December	79	145	127	272	316	109	425	776	1,870
January–February	147	277 ^r	248 ^r	525 ^r	493	165	658	1,330 ^r	1,860
2022:									
January	82	151	115	266	343	112	455	803	1,880
February	75	158	126	284	262	107	369	728	NA
January–February	157	309	241	550	605	219	824	1,530	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
2021 ^P	2,310	1,730	1,590	1,450	101	93	4	4	4,010	3,280
2021:										
February	185	140	120	109 ^r	8	8	(2)	(2)	313	258
March	195	145	140	129	8	8	(2)	(2)	344	283
April	194	145	131	120	8	8	(2)	(2)	334	274
May	191	144	126	115	8	8	(2)	(2)	326	267
June	193	146	137	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	339	278
July	191	144	139	127	8	8	(2)	(2)	339	278
August	195	146	136	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	340	277
September	193	145	139	127	8	8	(2)	(2)	340	280
October	194	145	134	122	8	8	(2)	(2)	337	276
November	195	146	133	122	8	8	(2)	(2)	337	276
December	193	145	130	119	8	8	(2)	(2)	332	272
January–February	377 ^r	283 ^r	247 ^r	226	17	15	1	1	642 ^r	525 ^r
2022:										
January	194	145	123	113	8	8	(2)	(2)	326	266
February	192	144	144	132	8	8	(2)	(2)	344	284
January–February	386	288	267	245	17	15	1	1	671	550

^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 FEBRUARY 2022¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	160,000	192,000	120,000	144,000
Independent mill fabricators	129,000	144,000	118,000	132,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	296,000	344,000	245,000	284,000

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 FEBRUARY 2022¹

(Metric tons)

	February			January–February ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	18,700	43,000	43,000	18,700	85,400	85,900
Can stock clippings	11,100	30,200	30,200	11,100	60,200	60,200
Other wrought sheet/clippings	7,680	37,600	37,500	7,790	68,500	68,500
Casting	6,130	7,580	7,580	6,130	15,000	15,000
Borings and turnings	5,200	13,100	13,100	5,200	26,700	26,700
Dross and skimmings ⁴	18,400	42,800	42,800	18,400	86,800	86,800
Total new scrap	67,200	174,000	174,000	67,300	343,000	343,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,010	27,000	27,000	8,010	53,900	53,900
Used extrusion	7,840	16,700	16,700	7,840	33,300	33,300
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	7,850	37,500	37,500	7,850	76,000	76,000
Other wrought products	19,200	28,800	28,800	19,200	46,500	46,500
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,870	12,000	12,000	5,870	23,900	23,900
Total old scrap	48,800	122,000	122,000	48,800	234,000	234,000
Total all classes	116,000	296,000	296,000	116,000	576,000	577,000

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.

⁴Gross volume of dross and skimmings. Recoverable aluminum content ranges from 15% to 50% of gross weight.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED
STATES IN FEBRUARY 2022^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	February				January–February	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,570	2,870	2,870	2,570	5,740	5,740
380 and variations	6,370	18,900	18,900	6,370	37,900	37,900
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,950	2,830	2,830	1,950	5,670	5,670
No. 319 and variations	1,990	2,040	2,040	1,990	4,080	4,080
F-132 alloy and variations	143	221	221	143	441	441
Al-Zn alloys	172	85	85	172	170	170
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	101	166	166	101	331	331
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	405	564	564	405	1,130	1,130
Other ⁴	7,250	8,250	8,250	7,250	16,500	16,500
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,700	54,800	54,800	10,700	110,000	110,000
Total all alloys	31,600	90,800	90,800	31,600	181,000	181,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	16,600	XX	XX	33,200	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,680	XX	XX	3,360	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	791	XX	XX	1,580	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	71,700	XX	XX	143,000	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
2021:		
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
November	147.557	119.796
December	149.417	122.237
January–December	138.511	112.281
2022:		
January	169.020	136.197
February	182.873	147.883
January–February	175.947	142.040

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)
2021:					
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
November	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
December	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January–December ¹	71.81	70.80	66.74	67.67	66.56
2022:					
January	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
February	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.

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

Source: Fastmarket-AMM.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2022¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January– February	February	January– February	February	January– February	February	January– February
Argentina	9,740	22,300	--	--	--	--	9,740	22,300
Australia	27,100	36,700	36	38	--	--	27,200	36,700
Austria	--	--	1,970	3,950	(2)	(2)	1,970	3,950
Bahrain	9,740	68,000	2,170	7,970	--	--	11,900	75,900
Belgium	32	46	838	1,530	--	--	870	1,580
Brazil	--	1,760	2	2	--	--	2	1,760
Canada	169,000	362,000	15,700	31,000	25,200	52,200	210,000	446,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	21	580	21	580
China ³	242	395	16,400	34,000	16	26	16,700	34,400
Colombia	--	--	198	468	644	1,030	842	1,500
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	236	389	236	389
France	195	254	216	467	9	45	420	766
Germany	102	554	2,170	4,240	72	348	2,340	5,150
Greece	--	--	2,030	4,330	--	20	2,030	4,350
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	664	1,650	664	1,650
Honduras	--	--	335	587	--	72	335	659
India	9,280	13,300	1,650	3,220	--	--	10,900	16,500
Indonesia	--	--	1,140	2,500	--	--	1,140	2,500
Italy	--	--	1,000	1,720	--	--	1,000	1,720
Japan	--	--	3,930	6,850	4	4	3,930	6,860
Korea, Republic of	--	1,700	11,700	19,300	--	--	11,700	21,000
Malaysia	--	20	548	1,690	--	--	548	1,710
Mexico	1,560	3,260	6,310	12,000	17,100	32,500	24,900	47,700
Netherlands	19	128	104	291	149	151	272	570
Norway	38	461	769	1,640	--	--	807	2,100
Oman	--	--	7,010	14,000	--	--	7,010	14,000
Qatar	2,200	9,800	--	--	--	--	2,200	9,800
Romania	--	--	282	462	--	--	282	462
Russia	7,350	25,500	630	1,640	--	--	7,980	27,100
Saudi Arabia	--	--	207	2,450	--	--	207	2,450
South Africa	40	40	4,270	11,000	--	--	4,310	11,100
Spain	38	163	676	1,460	--	--	714	1,620
Sweden	--	--	392	1,030	--	--	392	1,030
Switzerland	1	3	72	273	--	--	73	276
Taiwan	27	27	354	789	--	3	381	819
Thailand	161	353	10,100	17,700	--	--	10,200	18,100
Turkey	952	2,430	4,350	8,370	--	(2)	5,300	10,800
United Arab Emirates	24,100	55,700	512	1,400	--	97	24,600	57,200
United Kingdom	(2)	19	812	2,670	47	47	859	2,740
Vietnam	--	--	3,190	5,750	--	19	3,190	5,770
Other	--	--	4,820	11,700	2,060	3,770	6,880	15,500
Total	262,000	605,000	107,000	219,000	46,200	92,900	415,000	917,000

-- 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 FEBRUARY 2022¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January– February	February	January– February	February	January– February	February	January– February
Australia	90	245	11	27	--	--	101	272
Belgium	--	(2)	25	40	737	1,080	762	1,120
Brazil	15	21	99	217	15	214	129	452
Canada	4,740	10,800	19,800	39,200	952	1,740	25,500	51,800
China ³	301	402	346	537	2,510	4,780	3,160	5,720
Colombia	--	(2)	13	60	--	--	13	60
Dominican Republic	--	--	55	63	--	--	55	63
France	20	21	120	228	80	80	220	329
Germany	5	8	172	226	102	102	279	336
Guatemala	--	--	2	7	--	--	2	7
India	34	56	36	65	11,600	22,900	11,700	23,000
Indonesia	--	--	14	14	1,860	3,420	1,870	3,430
Ireland	(2)	(2)	3	3	--	--	3	3
Israel	(2)	(2)	124	151	--	--	124	151
Italy	(2)	1	13	27	253	549	266	577
Jamaica	(2)	(2)	1	5	--	--	1	5
Japan	33	53	132	235	155	780	320	1,070
Korea, Republic of	86	104	96	313	3,620	6,370	3,800	6,780
Malaysia	585	1,030	20	32	1,870	5,270	2,470	6,330
Mexico	11,500	21,700	10,900	22,900	7,230	12,400	29,600	57,000
Netherlands	5	6	40	53	81	122	126	181
New Zealand	--	--	26	46	--	--	26	46
Norway	--	--	1	1	--	--	1	1
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	272	566	272	566
Panama	--	--	2	4	--	--	2	4
Philippines	--	--	7	20	--	--	7	20
Poland	13	13	29	63	--	--	42	76
Romania	(2)	(2)	1	1	--	--	1	1
Russia	--	--	(2)	5	96	202	96	207
Saudi Arabia	--	--	1	5	--	--	1	5
Singapore	(2)	37	36	58	106	106	142	201
Spain	--	--	4	8	35	55	39	63
Taiwan	223	264	99	155	277	732	599	1,150
Thailand	(2)	(2)	19	27	1,760	3,510	1,770	3,540
Turkey	--	--	23	42	389	538	412	580
United Arab Emirates	40	40	536	782	160	162	736	984
United Kingdom	(2)	(2)	99	220	--	--	99	220
Vietnam	--	--	11	14	342	634	353	648
Other	164	291	193	343	253	719	610	1,350
Total	17,800	35,100	33,100	66,200	34,700	67,100	85,700	168,000

-- 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.