

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2022

Domestic primary aluminum production in March 2022 was 84,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in March 2022 was 2,730 t, slightly more than that in February 2022, 13% more than that in March 2021, but 11% less than that in March 2020 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in March 2022 was 290,000 t, slightly more than the revised amount in February 2022, 3% more than the amount in March 2021, and 5% more than that in March 2020. Of this, 159,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 132,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

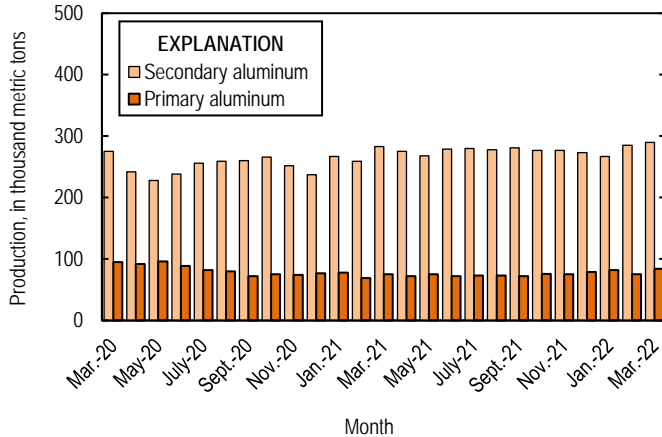


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from March 2020 through March 2022.

Prices and Stocks

The March 2022 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$1.98 per pound, 8% more than that in February 2022, 68% more than that in March 2021, and 129% more than that in March 2020. The average cash price in March 2022 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$1.60 per pound, 8% more than that in February 2022, 61% more than that in March 2021, and 120% more than that in March 2020 (fig. 2, table 6).

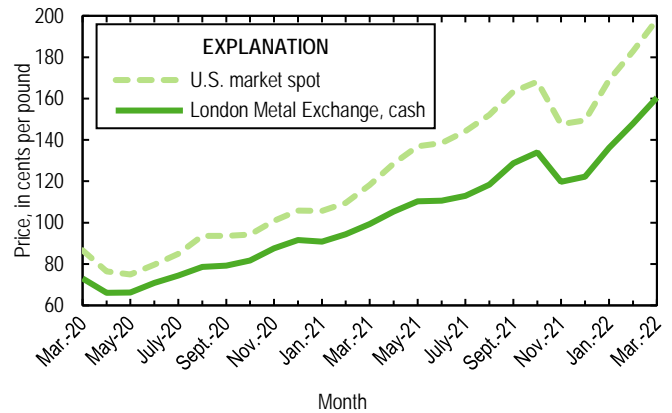


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from March 2020 through March 2022. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 43,871 t at the end of March 2022 from 48,647 t at the end of February 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 8,499 t at the end of March 2022 from 9,464 t at the end of February 2022 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2022a, b, c, d).

U.S. Trade

Total imports of aluminum for consumption in the first quarter of 2022 increased by 15% compared with those in the same period of 2021. Imports of crude metal and alloys, and semifabricated products increased by 18% and 22%, respectively, but scrap imports decreased by 10%. Canada continued to be the leading source of aluminum imports, supplying 47% of all aluminum imports, followed by Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (7% each), and Mexico (5%). Canada accounted for 58% of crude metal and alloys, 14% of semifabricated products, and 57% of scrap imports. The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Russia accounted for 10%, 9%,

and 7%, respectively, of crude metal and alloy imports in the first three months of 2022. China (including Hong Kong) was the leading supplier of semifabricated products with 15%; the Republic of Korea and Thailand each supplied 8% of semifabricated product imports in the first quarter of 2022. Mexico supplied 35% of scrap imports in the first quarter of 2022 (table 8).

Total exports of aluminum decreased by 63% during the first quarter of 2022 compared with those of the same period in the previous year. Exports of crude metal and alloys increased by 8% but semifabricated product and scrap exports decreased by 39% and 78%, respectively compared with exports in the first quarter of 2022. Exports of scrap decreased by 378,000 t and accounted for 86% of the decreased total aluminum exports compared with those of the same period in the previous year. The leading destinations for total aluminum products during the first quarter of 2022, in descending order of quantity, were Mexico (34%), Canada (31%), and India (13%). Scrap accounted for 40% of all aluminum exports in the first quarter of 2022 (table 9).

References Cited

- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2022a, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., February 28, 3 p.
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2022b, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., March 31, 3 p.
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2022c, Off-warrant stock reporting—February 2022: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., April 10, 1 p. (Accessed April 15, 2022, via <https://www.lme.com/en/Market-data/Reports-and-data/Warehouse-and-stocks-reports/Off-warrant-stock-reporting>.)
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2022d, Off-warrant stock reporting—March 2022: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., May 10, 1 p. (Accessed May 24, 2022, via <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		
2021 ^P	889	1,780 ^r	1,520 ^r	3,300 ^r	3,630	1,290	4,920	9,110 ^r	1,860
2021:									
March	75	161	121	283 ^r	308	121	429	787 ^r	1,470
April	72	152 ^r	123	275 ^r	324	109	433	780 ^r	1,660
May	75	145 ^r	123	268 ^r	313	114	427	771 ^r	1,680
June	72	148 ^r	131	279 ^r	294	113	407	758 ^r	1,680
July	73	148 ^r	131	280 ^r	298	105	403	756 ^r	1,730
August	73	149 ^r	129	278 ^r	319	126	445	796 ^r	1,710
September	72	152 ^r	129 ^r	281 ^r	285	106	391	744 ^r	1,710
October	76	149	127	277 ^r	339	107	446	799 ^r	1,780
November	75	151 ^r	126	277 ^r	338	119	457	809 ^r	1,820
December	79	146 ^r	127	273 ^r	316	109	425	777 ^r	1,870
January–March	221 ^r	440 ^r	369 ^r	809 ^r	801	286	1,090	2,120 ^r	1,860
2022:									
January	82	152 ^r	115	267 ^r	343	112	455	804 ^r	1,880
February	75	159 ^r	126	285 ^r	262	107	369	729 ^r	1,900
March	84	159	132	290	341	129	470	844	1,910
January–March	241	470	373	842	946	348	1,290	2,380	1,910

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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	2,320 ^r	1,750 ^r	1,590	1,450	101	93	4	4	4,020 ^r
2021:										
March	196 ^r	146 ^r	140	129	8	8	(2)	(2)	345 ^r	284 ^r
April	195 ^r	146 ^r	131	120	8	8	(2)	(2)	335 ^r	275 ^r
May	192 ^r	145 ^r	126	115	8	8	(2)	(2)	327 ^r	268 ^r
June	194 ^r	147 ^r	137	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	340 ^r	279 ^r
July	192 ^r	145 ^r	139	127	8	8	(2)	(2)	340 ^r	280 ^r
August	196 ^r	147 ^r	136	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	341 ^r	278 ^r
September	194 ^r	146 ^r	139	127	8	8	(2)	(2)	341 ^r	281 ^r
October	195 ^r	146 ^r	134	122	8	8	(2)	(2)	338 ^r	277 ^r
November	196 ^r	147 ^r	133	122	8	8	(2)	(2)	338 ^r	277 ^r
December	194 ^r	146 ^r	130	119	8	8	(2)	(2)	333 ^r	273 ^r
January–March	575 ^r	431 ^r	388	355	25	23	1	1	989 ^r	810 ^r
2022:										
January	195 ^r	146 ^r	123	113	8	8	(2)	(2)	327 ^r	267 ^r
February	193 ^r	145 ^r	144	132	8	8	(2)	(2)	346 ^r	285 ^r
March	200	149	145	133	8	8	(2)	(2)	354	290
January–March	589	440	412	377	25	23	1	1	1,030	842

^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 MARCH 2022¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	167,000	200,000	125,000	149,000
Independent mill fabricators	130,000	145,000	118,000	133,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	304,000	354,000	250,000	290,000

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 MARCH 2022¹

(Metric tons)

	March			January–March ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	18,700	37,400	37,200	18,800	123,000	123,000
Can stock clippings	10,500	32,300	32,300	10,500	91,400	91,400
Other wrought sheet/clippings	8,450	38,900	38,900	8,480	108,000	108,000
Casting	5,920	8,620	8,620	5,920	25,000	25,000
Borings and turnings	5,270	12,800	12,800	5,270	39,700	39,700
Dross and skimmings ⁴	18,500	45,700	45,700	18,500	132,000	132,000
Total new scrap	67,300	176,000	176,000	67,400	520,000	520,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,160	27,700	27,700	8,160	81,600	81,600
Used extrusion	7,840	16,700	16,700	7,840	50,000	50,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	7,850	43,000	43,000	7,850	119,000	119,000
Other wrought products	19,100	28,800	28,800	19,100	75,300	75,300
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,970	12,100	12,100	5,970	36,400	36,400
Total old scrap	48,900	128,000	128,000	48,900	362,000	362,000
Total all classes	116,000	304,000	304,000	116,000	882,000	882,000

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 MARCH 2022^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	March				January–March	
	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	8,610	8,610
380 and variations	7,970	18,900	18,900	7,970	56,800	56,800
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,950	2,830	2,830	1,950	8,500	8,500
No. 319 and variations	2,230	2,000	2,000	2,230	6,000	6,000
F-132 alloy and variations	143	221	221	143	662	662
Al-Zn alloys	172	85	85	172	255	255
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	101	166	166	101	497	497
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	405	564	564	405	1,690	1,690
Other ⁴	7,250	8,250	8,250	7,250	24,800	24,800
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,700	54,800	54,800	10,700	164,000	164,000
Total all alloys	33,400	90,700	90,700	33,400	272,000	272,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	16,600	XX	XX	49,800	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,680	XX	XX	5,040	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	791	XX	XX	2,370	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	71,600	XX	XX	215,000	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:		
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
March	198.185	160.448
January–March	183.359	148.176

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:					
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
March	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 MARCH 2022¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January– March	March	January– March	March	January– March	March	January– March
Argentina	23,300	45,600	--	--	--	--	23,300	45,600
Australia	19,300	56,000	17	54	--	--	19,300	56,000
Austria	25	25	3,090	7,040	--	(2)	3,110	7,070
Bahrain	17,600	85,600	3,320	11,300	--	--	20,900	96,800
Belgium	82	128	981	2,510	--	--	1,060	2,640
Brazil	4,030	5,790	122	124	--	--	4,160	5,910
Canada	183,000	545,000	18,600	49,600	33,000	85,200	235,000	680,000
Chile	--	--	(2)	(2)	20	600	20	600
China ³	37	432	16,800	50,800	14	41	16,800	51,300
Colombia	--	--	392	860	364	1,400	756	2,260
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	200	589	200	589
France	411	666	423	890	29	75	863	1,630
Germany	408	962	2,250	6,490	18	366	2,670	7,820
Greece	--	--	2,640	6,980	23	43	2,670	7,020
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	495	2,140	495	2,140
Honduras	--	--	209	796	288	360	497	1,160
India	4,580	17,800	1,450	4,670	--	--	6,030	22,500
Indonesia	--	--	1,200	3,700	--	--	1,200	3,700
Italy	--	--	1,290	3,010	--	--	1,290	3,010
Japan	1	1	4,200	11,100	--	4	4,200	11,100
Korea, Republic of	3,020	4,720	10,100	29,300	29	29	13,100	34,100
Malaysia	64	84	1,380	3,070	--	--	1,440	3,160
Mexico	918	4,180	7,530	19,500	20,800	53,200	29,200	76,900
Netherlands	108	237	269	560	199	350	576	1,150
Norway	36	497	970	2,610	--	--	1,010	3,110
Oman	624	624	10,400	24,400	--	--	11,000	25,000
Qatar	5,410	15,200	--	--	--	--	5,410	15,200
Romania	--	--	140	602	--	--	140	602
Russia	36,100	61,600	1,240	2,880	--	--	37,400	64,500
Saudi Arabia	--	--	4,440	6,890	--	--	4,440	6,890
South Africa	1,910	1,950	3,350	14,400	--	--	5,260	16,300
Spain	274	437	997	2,460	1	1	1,270	2,900
Sweden	--	--	708	1,740	--	--	708	1,740
Switzerland	--	3	367	640	--	--	367	643
Taiwan	27	54	350	1,140	--	3	377	1,200
Thailand	249	602	10,500	28,300	--	--	10,800	28,900
Turkey	1,520	3,950	4,650	13,000	--	(2)	6,170	17,000
United Arab Emirates	37,600	93,300	577	1,980	--	97	38,200	95,400
United Kingdom	(2)	19	3,640	6,310	--	47	3,640	6,380
Vietnam	--	--	4,230	9,980	--	19	4,230	10,000
Other	--	--	6,340	18,100	2,320	6,090	8,660	24,200
Total	341,000	946,000	129,000	348,000	57,800	151,000	527,000	1,440,000

-- 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 MARCH 2022¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January– March	March	January– March	March	January– March	March	January– March
Australia	248	492	10	36	--	--	258	528
Belgium	--	(2)	50	90	668	1,750	718	1,840
Brazil	1	22	111	329	--	214	112	565
Canada	5,630	16,500	23,000	62,200	787	2,520	29,400	81,200
China ³	243	644	311	848	6,200	11,000	6,750	12,500
Colombia	2	3	85	145	--	--	87	148
Dominican Republic	2	2	12	74	17	17	31	93
France	50	72	376	603	8	88	434	763
Germany	15	23	116	342	60	162	191	527
Guatemala	--	--	1	8	--	--	1	8
India	74	130	14	80	9,990	32,900	10,100	33,100
Indonesia	--	--	6	20	288	3,710	294	3,730
Ireland	(2)	(2)	32	35	--	--	32	35
Israel	(2)	(2)	136	287	(2)	(2)	136	287
Italy	(2)	1	75	102	385	934	460	1,040
Jamaica	20	20	--	5	--	--	20	25
Japan	40	94	130	365	258	1,040	428	1,500
Korea, Republic of	88	192	159	472	3,710	10,100	3,950	10,700
Malaysia	575	1,610	35	67	2,670	7,950	3,280	9,620
Mexico	12,100	33,800	12,100	35,000	8,460	20,900	32,700	89,700
Netherlands	6	11	27	80	131	253	164	344
New Zealand	--	--	27	73	--	--	27	73
Norway	7	7	--	1	--	--	7	8
Pakistan	--	--	22	22	412	977	434	999
Panama	--	--	1	5	--	--	1	5
Philippines	3	3	13	33	--	--	16	36
Poland	--	13	31	94	--	--	31	107
Romania	--	(2)	4	5	--	--	4	5
Russia	--	--	(2)	6	--	202	(2)	208
Saudi Arabia	--	--	3	8	--	--	3	8
Singapore	1	38	61	119	--	106	62	263
Spain	--	--	4	13	164	219	168	232
Taiwan	1	264	69	224	338	1,070	408	1,560
Thailand	(2)	(2)	31	58	1,990	5,510	2,020	5,560
Turkey	(2)	(2)	58	100	366	903	424	1,000
United Arab Emirates	--	40	495	1,280	39	202	534	1,520
United Kingdom	38	38	143	363	--	--	181	401
Vietnam	--	--	8	22	163	797	171	819
Other	57	348	188	531	834	1,550	1,080	2,430
Total	19,200	54,400	37,900	104,000	37,900	105,000	95,100	263,000

-- 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.