

# Mineral Industry Surveys

## For information, contact:

Adam Merrill, Aluminum Commodity Specialist  
National Minerals Information Center  
Telephone: (703) 648-7715  
Email: amerrill@usgs.gov

Susan M. Weaver (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-7979

Email: sweaver@usgs.gov

**Internet:** <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys>

## ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2023

Domestic primary aluminum production in August 2023 was 62,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in August 2023 was 2,000 t, 3% less than that in July 2023, essentially unchanged from that in August 2022, and 14% less than that in August 2021 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in August 2023 was 280,000 t, slightly more than that in July 2023, 4% more than that in August 2022, and unchanged from that in August 2021. Of this, 147,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 132,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

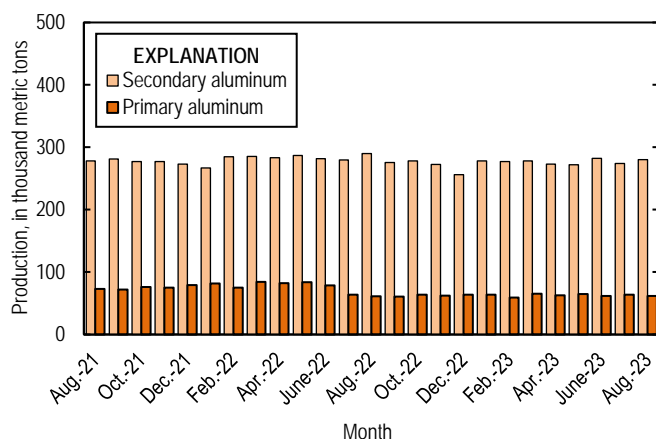


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from August 2021 through August 2023.

## Prices and Stocks

The August 2023 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$1.19 per pound, slightly less than that in July 2023, 13% less than that in August 2022, and 22% less than that in August 2021. The average cash price in August 2023 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$0.97 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in July 2023, 12% less than that in August 2022, and 18% less than that in August 2021 (fig. 2, table 6).

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States were 3,627 t at the end of August 2023, 13% more than that at the end of July 2023. Inventories of secondary aluminum

(North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States were 620 t at the end of August 2023, 6% less than that at the end of July 2023 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2023a–d).

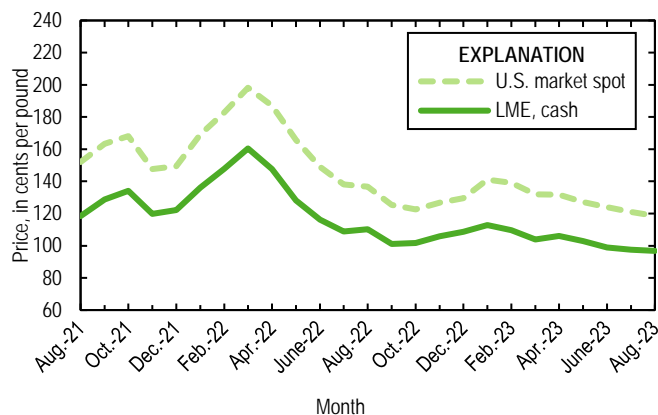


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from August 2021 through August 2023. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

## Updates

On October 23, Century Aluminum Co. (Chicago, IL) announced a 3-year power deal with the South Carolina Public Service Authority to supply 295 megawatts of electric power to Century's Mt. Holly primary aluminum smelter located in South Carolina. The contract is scheduled to remain in effect through 2026, facilitating uninterrupted operation of the 229,000 ton-per-year smelter at its existing capacity (Century Aluminum Co., 2023; Nicoll, 2023)

Rio Tinto Group (United Kingdom) announced that the Kitimat primary aluminum smelter has returned to full production. Situated in British Columbia, Canada, the 432,000 ton-per-year smelter has been operating at reduced production levels since 2018, with its capacity decreasing to just 25% following a two-month labor strike in 2021 (Bender, 2023; Rio Tinto Group, 2023)

On October 6, global extruded aluminum manufacturer Metra S.p.A. (Italy) announced the acquisition of Michigan based

Extruded Aluminum Corp. (EAC) comprising of Belding Machinery and Equipment Leasing, LLC and its subsidiaries. EAC is a Michigan based manufacturer of extruded aluminum profiles serving multiple markets including construction, military, solar energy, and transportation. Facilities acquired in the deal include five aluminum extrusion press lines (Metra S.p.A., 2023).

## References Cited

- Bender, Quinn, 2023, Rio Tinto's Kitimat smelter returns to full capacity: Northern Sentinel [Kitimat, British Columbia, Canada], October 4. (Accessed October 26, 2023, at <https://www.northernsentinel.com/local-business/rio-tintos-kitimat-smelter-returns-to-full-capacity/>.)
- Century Aluminum Co., 2023, Century Aluminum reaches agreement on new three-year Mt. Holly power contract: Chicago, IL, Century Aluminum Co press release, October 23. (Accessed October 26, 2023, at <https://centuryaluminum.com/investors/press-releases/press-release-details/2023/Century-Aluminum-Reaches-Agreement-on-New-Three-Year-Mt.-Holly-Power-Contract/default.aspx>.)
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2023a, Off-warrant stock reporting—August 2023: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., September 10. (Accessed October 25, 2023, via <https://www.lme.com/en/Market-data/Reports-and-data/Warehouse-and-stocks-reports/Off-warrant-stock-reporting>.)
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2023b, Off-warrant stock reporting—July 2023: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., August 10. (Accessed September 22, 2023, via <https://www.lme.com/en/Market-data/Reports-and-data/Warehouse-and-stocks-reports/Off-warrant-stock-reporting>.)
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2023c, Stocks breakdown report: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., August 31. (Accessed

- October 25, 2023, via <https://www.lme.com/Market-data/Reports-and-data/Warehouse-and-stocks-reports/Stock-breakdown-report>.)
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2023d, Stocks breakdown report: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., July 31. (Accessed September 22, 2023, via <https://www.lme.com/Market-data/Reports-and-data/Warehouse-and-stocks-reports/Stock-breakdown-report>.)
- Metra S.p.A., 2023, Metra completes acquisition of Extruded Aluminum Corporation, acquisition of leading North American manufacturer of custom, extruded aluminum profiles: Rodengo-Saiano, Italy, Metra S.p.A. press release, October 6. (Accessed October 26, 2023, at <https://www.metra.eu/en/metra-completes-acquisition-of-extruded-aluminum-corporation-acquisition-of-leading-north-american-manufacturer-of-custom-extruded-aluminum-profiles/>.)
- Nicoll, Alex, 2023, Century Al finalizes power deal for smelter: Argus Media group, Argus Metals International, October 24. (Accessed August 24, 2023, via <http://www.argusmedia.com/metals/>.)
- Rio Tinto Group, 2023, Rio Tinto releases third quarter production results: London, United Kingdom, Rio Tinto Group press release, October 17. (Accessed October 26, 2022, at <https://www.riotinto.com/en/news/releases/2023/rio-tinto-releases-third-quarter-production-results>.)

*List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.*

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery <sup>2</sup>			Imports for consumption			Total new supply <sup>3</sup>	Stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2022 <sup>p</sup>	861	1,890	1,450	3,330	4,150	1,460	5,610	9,810	2,050
2022:									
August	61	165	125	290	360	130	491	842 <sup>r</sup>	1,980
September	61	155	120	276	317	128	445	782	2,000
October	64	156	122	278	322	125	447	789	2,060
November	62	154	119	273	279	115	394	729	2,050
December	64	143	113	256	388	96	484	804	2,050
January–August	611	1,280 <sup>r</sup>	973 <sup>r</sup>	2,250 <sup>r</sup>	2,850	1,000	3,850	6,710 <sup>r</sup>	1,910
2023:									
January	64	159	118	278	307	99	406	748	1,950
February	59	147	130	277	238	73	311	647	2,000
March	65	149	129	278	316	89	405	748	1,960
April	63	147	126	273	375	90	465	801	1,990
May	65	148	125	272	407	86	493	830	1,930
June	62	150	131	282	345	87	432	776	1,910
July	64	143	131	274	331	79	410	748	1,860
August	62	147	132	280	283	87	370	712	NA
January–August	505	1,190	1,020	2,210	2,600	691	3,290	6,010	NA

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not Available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except “Primary production”; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

<sup>3</sup>Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

<sup>4</sup>Inventory 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 SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(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
2022 <sup>p</sup>	2,330	1,730	1,650	1,500	101	93	4	4	4,080	3,330
2022:										
August	197	147	148	135	8	8	(2)	(2)	353	290
September	196	144	137	125	8	8	(2)	(2)	341	277
October	199	147	136	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	344	279
November	197	147	130	118	8	8	(2)	(2)	336	273
December	192	141	118	107	8	8	(2)	(2)	318	256
January–August	1,550 <sup>r</sup>	1,150 <sup>r</sup>	1,130	1,030	68	62	3	3	2,750 <sup>r</sup>	2,250 <sup>r</sup>
2023:										
January	201	151	130	119	8	8	(2)	(2)	340	278
February	196	146	135	123	8	8	(2)	(2)	339	277
March	199	147	134	122	8	8	(2)	(2)	342	278
April	194	144	133	121	8	8	(2)	(2)	335	273
May	199	148	129	118	8	8	(2)	(2)	337	273
June	197	148	141	128	8	8	(2)	(2)	347	284
July	197	148	133	120	8	8	(2)	(2)	339 <sup>r</sup>	276 <sup>r</sup>
August	199	150	137	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	345	281
January–August	1,580	1,180	1,070	974	68	62	2	2	2,720	2,220

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN AUGUST 2023<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	166,000	199,000	125,000	150,000
Independent mill fabricators	123,000	137,000	111,000	123,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	242	290	242	290
Total	297,000	344,000	243,000	281,000

<sup>1</sup>Data 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 2023<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	August				January–August	
	Stocks, opening <sup>2</sup>	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	61,900	38,500	38,500	61,900	312,000	313,000
Can stock clippings	10,600	27,400	27,400	10,600	229,000	229,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	11,500	37,900	37,600	11,800	286,000	284,000
Casting	3,740	4,450	4,450	3,740	44,500	44,500
Borings and turnings	5,620	12,400	12,400	5,620	102,000	102,000
Dross and skimmings <sup>4</sup>	18,400	44,000	44,000	18,400	358,000	358,000
Total new scrap	112,000	165,000	164,000	112,000	1,330,000	1,330,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,690	27,000	27,000	8,690	213,000	213,000
Used extrusion	8,210	12,700	12,700	8,210	102,000	102,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	5,890	54,800	54,800	5,890	400,000	400,000
Other wrought products	20,500	24,800	24,800	20,500	200,000	200,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,150	11,100	11,100	5,150	91,800	91,800
Total old scrap	48,400	130,000	130,000	48,400	1,010,000	1,010,000
Total all classes	160,000	295,000	295,000	160,000	2,340,000	2,340,000

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

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

TABLE 5  
ESTIMATED ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED  
STATES IN AUGUST 2023<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	August				January–August	
	Stocks, opening <sup>3</sup>	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,830	2,700	2,700	2,830	21,600	21,600
380 and variations	7,310	20,300	20,300	7,310	156,000	153,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,940	3,100	3,100	1,940	24,800	24,800
No. 319 and variations	1,420	1,390	1,390	1,420	11,100	11,100
F-132 alloy and variations	89	233	233	89	1,870	1,870
Al-Zn alloys	339	71	71	339	567	567
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	230	195	195	230	1,560	1,560
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	139	724	724	139	5,800	5,800
Other <sup>4</sup>	3,380	4,900	4,900	3,380	45,600	48,400
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,000	61,200	61,200	16,000	490,000	490,000
Total all alloys	33,600	94,800	94,800	33,600	759,000	759,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	14,400	XX	XX	115,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,750	XX	XX	14,000	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	851	XX	XX	6,810	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>5</sup>	XX	77,800	XX	XX	623,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>4</sup>Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Zn, Al-Cu, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

<sup>5</sup>No 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
2022:		
August	136.691	110.264
September	125.275	101.129
October	122.548	101.737
November	126.830	105.909
December	129.488	108.612
January–December	152.572	122.767
2023:		
January	141.000	112.881
February	139.175	109.624
March	131.935	103.858
April	131.764	106.168
May	127.088	102.837
June	124.000	98.917
July	121.012	97.614
August	118.557	96.787
January–August	129.316	103.586

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)
2022:					
August	77.50	67.13	61.88	62.63	56.88
September	72.80	65.60	63.30	63.20	52.40
October	73.00	65.75	61.25	61.00	48.50
November	72.38	66.00	62.00	61.75	48.00
December	79.30	66.80	64.50	64.40	48.80
January–December	92.88	74.05	70.83	70.33	63.28
2023:					
January	83.25	68.75	68.25	67.63	51.88
February	88.50	69.38	70.00	70.25	57.38
March	83.30	69.50	70.90	72.30	59.40
April	77.25	70.75	70.75	74.25	62.25
May	73.13	69.50	69.88	73.63	64.00
June	69.20	67.30	68.70	70.60	60.30
July	68.00	68.38	68.50	70.00	57.88
August	67.80	67.40	67.00	69.40	59.60
January–August	76.30	68.87	69.25	71.01	59.09

Source: Fastmarkets–AMM.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2023<sup>1</sup>

(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	9,870	93,500	--	90	--	--	9,870	93,600
Australia	13,200	182,000	16	103	--	--	13,200	183,000
Austria	--	(2)	2,300	20,700	5	85	2,310	20,800
Bahrain	8,410	58,900	2,650	10,900	--	--	11,100	69,800
Belgium	20	1,040	1,590	10,900	--	--	1,610	11,900
Brazil	--	--	1,960	10,100	369	4,070	2,330	14,200
Canada	221,000	1,750,000	19,500	144,000	35,900	274,000	276,000	2,170,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	20	1,060	20	1,060
China <sup>3</sup>	31	542	8,510	92,700	21	170	8,560	93,500
Colombia	--	--	240	1,710	602	5,410	842	7,120
Costa Rica	--	--	50	214	128	1,400	178	1,610
France	772	4,860	465	4,740	11	94	1,250	9,700
Germany	144	1,130	2,550	18,100	557	4,710	3,250	23,900
Greece	--	--	4,310	18,200	14	82	4,330	18,200
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	673	6,520	673	6,520
Honduras	--	--	335	1,650	49	1,320	385	2,970
India	1,080	29,600	1,130	9,950	(2)	10	2,210	39,500
Indonesia	(2)	119	622	6,430	--	--	622	6,540
Italy	197	2,130	1,020	8,510	--	(2)	1,220	10,600
Japan	--	22	722	20,900	6	81	728	21,000
Korea, Republic of	1,280	12,700	10,200	58,200	--	741	11,500	71,600
Malaysia	--	1,090	522	3,350	--	95	522	4,530
Mexico	1,370	10,600	4,670	40,100	21,400	157,000	27,500	207,000
Netherlands	57	896	132	1,180	24	495	213	2,570
New Zealand	699	9,070	--	1	--	--	699	9,080
Norway	389	3,430	888	3,140	--	--	1,280	6,570
Oman	--	325	3,130	46,200	--	--	3,130	46,500
Qatar	807	56,200	(2)	105	--	--	807	56,300
Romania	--	--	57	167	--	111	57	278
Russia	--	7,960	--	26	--	--	--	7,990
Saudi Arabia	--	2,090	1,030	6,860	--	--	1,030	8,950
South Africa	--	846	3,550	32,300	1,000	6,530	4,550	39,700
Spain	288	3,410	616	6,580	--	620	904	10,600
Sweden	--	2,500	1,220	8,100	--	--	1,220	10,600
Switzerland	--	19	608	5,970	--	--	608	5,990
Taiwan	115	987	245	2,720	--	(2)	361	3,710
Thailand	139	590	3,290	24,600	11	187	3,440	25,400
Turkey	144	1,390	1,770	24,800	--	852	1,920	27,000
United Arab Emirates	23,100	357,000	146	1,300	--	627	23,200	359,000
United Kingdom	20	141	660	4,340	24	326	704	4,800
Vietnam	--	--	2,330	14,500	--	--	2,330	14,500
Other	19	271	4,170	26,600	1,300	11,500	5,490	38,400
Total	283,000	2,600,000	87,200	691,000	62,100	478,000	432,000	3,770,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>3</sup>Includes Hong Kong.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2023<sup>1</sup>

(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	26	175	191	1,130	--	--	217	1,310
Belgium	133	134	133	1,690	409	4,990	675	6,810
Brazil	--	45	381	3,160	491	3,890	872	7,100
Canada	6,630	46,300	30,800	237,000	11,500	82,400	49,000	365,000
China <sup>2</sup>	87	1,040	1,110	7,860	18,500	147,000	19,700	156,000
Colombia	--	12	63	324	105	803	168	1,140
Dominican Republic	--	17	32	264	221	1,430	253	1,710
France	664	3,020	1,070	6,310	195	1,160	1,930	10,500
Germany	305	2,900	555	4,300	304	2,650	1,160	9,850
Guatemala	--	--	(3)	80	--	--	(3)	80
India	45	543	288	2,980	45,200	319,000	45,500	323,000
Indonesia	(3)	(3)	1	204	3,650	26,100	3,650	26,300
Ireland	--	15	60	582	140	278	200	875
Israel	(3)	31	618	4,610	--	--	619	4,640
Italy	23	89	133	1,480	1,640	8,140	1,790	9,700
Jamaica	13	23	1	55	--	--	14	78
Japan	75	716	962	6,690	2,520	23,000	3,550	30,400
Korea, Republic of	(3)	314	1,910	16,600	23,400	185,000	25,300	202,000
Malaysia	18,000	114,000	364	3,550	26,400	244,000	44,800	361,000
Mexico	16,900	112,000	25,800	201,000	14,900	119,000	57,700	432,000
Netherlands	7	607	23	329	500	5,200	530	6,130
New Zealand	--	19	85	503	--	--	85	522
Norway	(3)	1	5	10	97	1,170	102	1,180
Pakistan	--	120	5	225	1,550	11,000	1,550	11,300
Panama	(3)	7	14	58	--	(3)	14	65
Philippines	--	96	22	210	311	2,490	333	2,790
Poland	(3)	8	84	826	--	21	85	855
Romania	(3)	(3)	99	958	--	--	99	959
Saudi Arabia	--	4	9	93	--	123	9	220
Singapore	17	47	89	1,330	40	1,090	146	2,470
Spain	2	8	294	1,340	292	3,000	588	4,350
Taiwan	12	380	232	3,030	3,790	32,200	4,030	35,600
Thailand	277	1,180	97	2,060	19,400	139,000	19,700	142,000
Turkey	(3)	1	702	5,260	146	1,530	848	6,780
United Arab Emirates	--	37	56	1,180	315	3,620	371	4,840
United Kingdom	17	153	783	7,020	211	1,860	1,010	9,040
Vietnam	--	(3)	173	786	1,840	14,400	2,010	15,200
Other	160	1,300	284	3,350	962	5,560	1,410	10,200
Total	43,500	286,000	67,600	528,000	179,000	1,390,000	290,000	2,210,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes Hong Kong.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.