

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2023

Domestic primary aluminum production in September 2023 was 60,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in September 2023 was 1,990 t, unchanged from that in August 2023, essentially unchanged from that in September 2022, and 17% less than that in September 2021 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in September 2023 was 274,000 t, slightly less than that in August 2023, unchanged from that in September 2022, and slightly less than that in September 2021. Of this, 151,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 123,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

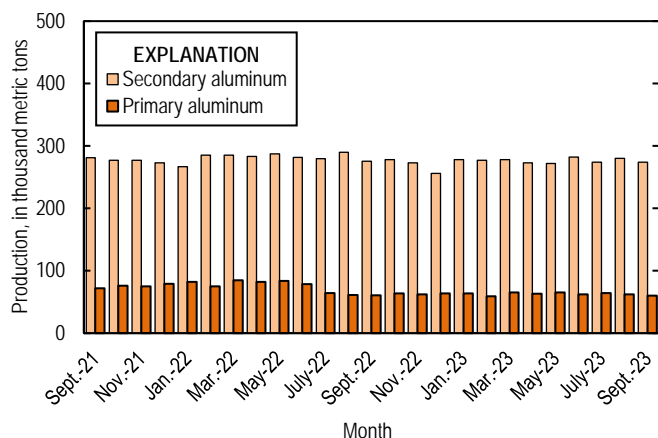


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from September 2021 through September 2023.

Prices and Stocks

The September 2023 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$1.19 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in August 2023, 5% less than that in September 2022, and 27% less than that in September 2021. The average cash price in September 2023 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$0.99 per pound, slightly more than that in August 2023, slightly less than that in September 2022, and 23% less than that in September 2021 (fig. 2, table 6).

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United

States were 8,645 t at the end of September 2023, more than double (138%) that at the end of August 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 September 2023, unchanged from that at the end of August 2023 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2023a–d).

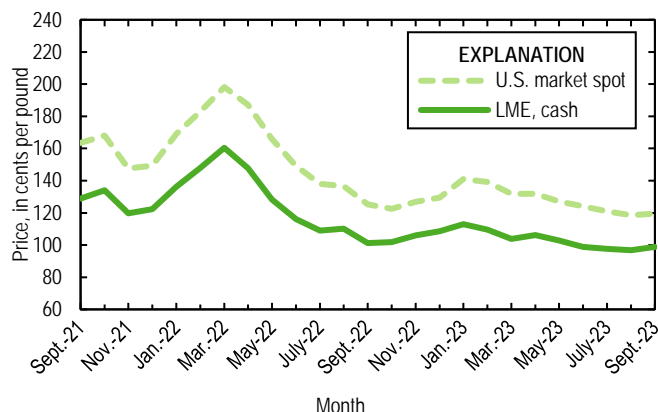


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from September 2021 through September 2023. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

U.S. Trade

Total imports of aluminum for consumption for the first 9 months of 2023 decreased by 12% compared with those in the same period of 2022. Imports of crude metal and alloys, and semi-fabricated products decreased by 8% and 32%, respectively, but scrap imports increased by 7%. The leading sources of total aluminum imports in the first nine months of 2023 were Canada (58%), the United Arab Emirates (9%), and Mexico (5%). For crude metal and alloy imports, the leading sources were Canada (68%), the United Arab Emirates (13%), and Australia (7%). For semi-fabricated products, the leading sources were Canada (21%), China, including Hong Kong (13%), and the Republic of Korea (9%). For scrap, the leading sources were Canada (58%) and Mexico (32%) (table 8).

Total exports of aluminum increased by 22% during the first 9 months of 2023 compared with those in the same period of

2022. Exports of crude metal and alloys, semi-fabricated products, and scrap increased by 67%, 74%, and 4% respectively. The leading destinations for total aluminum products during the first 9 months of 2023, in descending order of quantity, were Mexico (19%), Canada (17%), Malaysia (16%), India (15%), and the Republic of Korea (9%). For scrap, the leading destinations were India (23%), Malaysia (17%), the Republic of Korea (13%), China, including Hong Kong (11%), and Thailand (10%). Scrap accounted for 63% of all aluminum exports during the first 9 months of 2023 (table 9).

Updates

On October 27, Federal Metals Co., Inc. (Bedford, OH) opened a new aluminum-copper radiator recycling plant in Little Rock, AR. The \$17.6 million plant has the capacity to recycle 3,000 t of aluminum-copper radiators per month. Federal Metals specialized in manufacturing a post-consumer aluminum product intended for rolling mills. The facility was projected to employ 40 workers over the next 4 years (Federal Metals Co., Inc., 2023; Voloschuk, 2023).

On November 8, Century Aluminum Co. (Chicago, IL) and the United Steelworkers representing workers at the Century Sebree primary aluminum smelter, formally ratified a five-year labor agreement. Located in Robards, KY, the Sebree smelter has production capacity of 220,000 metric tons per year (t/yr). The contract covers 460 hourly-workers and is effective until October 28, 2028 (Century Aluminum Co., 2023; Nicoll, 2023).

On November 14, Vedanta Aluminum Ltd. (India) announced that it had shipped 300 t of low-carbon aluminum billets, reportedly a first for India, to Global Aluminium Pvt. Ltd. (India). The Restora-branded aluminum was produced at Vedanta's aluminum smelter in Jharsuguda, India, will be used by Global Aluminium to manufacture extrusion profiles (Vedanta Aluminum Ltd., 2023).

On November 16, Norsk Hydro ASA (Norway) inaugurated a new \$150 million recycling plant in Cassopolis, MI. The plant will produce Hyrdo CIRCAL, Norsk Hydro's brand of low-carbon recycled aluminum, containing at least 75% post-consumer scrap. With a capacity of 120,000 t/yr of aluminum extrusion ingot, it will largely serve the automotive industry. Norsk Hydro owns and operates eleven recycling plants within the United States and one in Canada (Norsk Hydro ASA, 2023).

On November 21, Emirates Global Aluminum PJS (United Arab Emirates) announced that construction had begun on a new aluminum recycling plant located adjacent to its smelter in Al Taweelah, United Arab Emirates. The facility would produce 170,000 t/yr of low-carbon recycled aluminum sourced from post-consumer scrap and pre-consumer extrusion production scrap. Construction was planned for completion in three years and will reportedly become the United Arab Emirates's largest aluminum recycling facility (Emirates Global Aluminum PJS, 2023; Wookey 2023).

On December 1, Rio Tinto Group (United Kingdom) announced that it has formed a joint venture with the Giampaolo Group (Italy), by acquiring a 50% stake in Matalco, Inc. (Canada), a manufacturer of recycled aluminum billet and slab products. The transaction amounting to \$700 million, has received all regulatory approvals. Matalco operates six facilities

in the United States and one in Canada with a combined production capacity of approximately 900,000 t/yr (Rio Tinto Group, 2023).

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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		
2022 ^p	861	1,890	1,450	3,330	4,150	1,460	5,610	9,810	2,050
2022:									
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–September	672 ^r	1,430 ^r	1,090 ^r	2,520 ^r	3,160	1,130	4,290	7,490 ^r	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	1,860
September	60	151	123	274	309	74	383	717	NA
January–September	564	1,340	1,150	2,490	2,910	765	3,670	6,730	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
2022 ^p	2,330	1,730	1,650	1,500	101	93	4	4	4,080	3,330
2022:										
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–September	1,740 ^r	1,300 ^r	1,270	1,160	76	70	3	3	3,090 ^r	2,530 ^r
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	276
August	199	150	137	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	345	281
September	195	147	131	120	8	8	(2)	(2)	335	274
January–September	1,780	1,330	1,200	1,090	76	70	3	3	3,060	2,490

^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 SEPTEMBER 2023¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	162,000	195,000	122,000	147,000
Independent mill fabricators	118,000	131,000	107,000	120,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	242	290	242	290
Total	287,000	335,000	236,000	274,000

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 SEPTEMBER 2023¹

(Metric tons)

	September			January–September		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	61,900	37,100	37,000	62,000	350,000	350,000
Can stock clippings	10,600	27,400	27,400	10,600	256,000	256,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	11,800	42,300	42,500	11,700	329,000	326,000
Casting	3,740	4,930	4,930	3,740	49,400	49,400
Borings and turnings	5,620	11,800	11,800	5,620	114,000	114,000
Dross and skimmings ⁴	18,400	42,300	42,300	18,400	400,000	400,000
Total new scrap	112,000	166,000	166,000	112,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,690	25,800	25,800	8,690	239,000	239,000
Used extrusion	8,210	12,700	12,700	8,210	114,000	114,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	5,890	48,600	48,600	5,890	449,000	449,000
Other wrought products	20,500	22,800	22,800	20,500	223,000	223,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	5,150	11,200	11,200	5,150	103,000	103,000
Total old scrap	48,400	121,000	121,000	48,400	1,130,000	1,130,000
Total all classes	160,000	287,000	287,000	160,000	2,630,000	2,620,000

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
ESTIMATED ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED
STATES IN SEPTEMBER 2023^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	September				January–September	
	Stocks, opening ³	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	24,300	24,300
380 and variations	7,310	20,300	20,300	7,310	176,000	173,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,940	3,100	3,100	1,940	27,900	27,900
No. 319 and variations	1,420	1,390	1,390	1,420	12,500	12,500
F-132 alloy and variations	89	233	233	89	2,100	2,100
Al-Zn alloys	339	71	71	339	638	638
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	230	195	195	230	1,750	1,750
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	139	724	724	139	6,520	6,520
Other ⁴	3,380	4,900	4,900	3,380	50,500	53,300
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	16,000	61,200	61,200	16,000	551,000	551,000
Total all alloys	33,600	94,800	94,800	33,600	854,000	854,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	14,400	XX	XX	130,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,750	XX	XX	15,700	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	851	XX	XX	7,660	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	77,800	XX	XX	701,000	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
2022:		
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
September	119.429	98.756
January–September	128.218	103.049

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:					
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
September	67.75	66.50	67.25	68.50	59.25
January–September	75.35	68.61	69.03	70.73	59.10

Source: Fastmarkets–AMM.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2023¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September
Argentina	34,900	128,000	--	90	--	--	34,900	129,000
Australia	8,260	191,000	(2)	103	--	--	8,260	191,000
Austria	--	(2)	2,080	22,800	13	98	2,090	22,900
Bahrain	9,670	68,600	2,190	13,100	--	--	11,900	81,700
Belgium	7	1,050	1,780	12,600	--	--	1,780	13,700
Brazil	--	--	1,960	12,100	292	4,360	2,250	16,500
Canada	210,000	1,960,000	16,000	160,000	33,000	307,000	259,000	2,430,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	21	1,080	21	1,080
China ³	27	569	6,290	99,000	57	226	6,380	99,800
Colombia	--	--	291	2,000	450	5,860	741	7,860
Costa Rica	--	--	34	248	172	1,570	206	1,820
France	471	5,340	260	5,000	10	105	742	10,400
Germany	20	1,150	1,810	19,900	544	5,260	2,370	26,300
Greece	--	--	2,890	21,000	22	104	2,910	21,100
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	1,240	7,760	1,240	7,760
Honduras	--	--	144	1,790	11	1,330	155	3,120
India	3,300	32,900	948	10,900	--	10	4,250	43,800
Indonesia	--	119	651	7,080	--	--	651	7,190
Italy	--	2,130	543	9,050	1	1	544	11,200
Japan	--	22	995	21,900	26	107	1,020	22,000
Korea, Republic of	1,420	14,100	7,850	66,000	--	741	9,270	80,900
Malaysia	--	1,090	758	4,110	--	95	758	5,290
Mexico	905	11,500	4,240	44,400	14,500	171,000	19,600	227,000
Netherlands	55	951	99	1,280	--	495	155	2,720
New Zealand	831	9,910	--	1	--	--	831	9,910
Norway	466	3,900	393	3,530	--	--	859	7,430
Oman	--	325	5,780	52,000	--	--	5,780	52,300
Qatar	7,480	63,700	(2)	105	--	--	7,480	63,800
Romania	--	--	65	232	--	111	65	343
Russia	--	7,960	--	26	--	--	--	7,990
Saudi Arabia	--	2,090	1,230	8,090	--	--	1,230	10,200
South Africa	42	888	743	33,100	--	6,530	784	40,500
Spain	250	3,660	606	7,190	--	620	856	11,500
Sweden	--	2,500	970	9,070	--	--	970	11,600
Switzerland	--	19	595	6,560	--	--	595	6,580
Taiwan	84	1,070	330	3,050	--	(2)	414	4,120
Thailand	122	712	2,100	26,700	9	196	2,230	27,600
Turkey	155	1,540	2,900	27,700	--	852	3,050	30,100
United Arab Emirates	31,000	388,000	129	1,430	--	627	31,200	390,000
United Kingdom	--	141	651	4,990	71	397	722	5,530
Vietnam	--	--	2,080	16,500	--	--	2,080	16,500
Other	--	271	3,530	30,100	1,250	12,800	4,780	43,200
Total	309,000	2,910,000	73,900	765,000	51,600	530,000	435,000	4,200,000

-- 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 SEPTEMBER 2023¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September	September	January– September
Australia	(2)	175	94	1,230	--	--	94	1,400
Belgium	--	134	215	1,910	564	5,550	779	7,590
Brazil	2	47	410	3,570	669	4,560	1,080	8,180
Canada	5,360	51,700	31,400	268,000	9,860	92,300	46,700	412,000
China ³	64	1,100	868	8,730	19,100	166,000	20,000	176,000
Colombia	1	12	10	334	19	821	29	1,170
Dominican Republic	1	17	8	272	236	1,670	244	1,960
France	416	3,430	966	7,280	203	1,360	1,590	12,100
Germany	282	3,180	436	4,740	177	2,830	895	10,700
Guatemala	--	--	10	90	--	--	10	90
India	62	605	309	3,290	42,700	362,000	43,100	366,000
Indonesia	--	(2)	5	210	3,780	29,900	3,790	30,100
Ireland	(2)	15	106	688	141	419	247	1,120
Israel	--	31	684	5,300	--	--	684	5,330
Italy	2	91	224	1,700	2,270	10,400	2,490	12,200
Jamaica	13	36	(2)	55	--	--	13	92
Japan	98	814	1,870	8,560	3,490	26,400	5,460	35,800
Korea, Republic of	(2)	314	2,010	18,600	24,600	210,000	26,600	229,000
Malaysia	18,800	133,000	466	4,010	25,800	269,000	45,100	406,000
Mexico	14,800	127,000	23,000	224,000	12,300	131,000	50,100	482,000
Netherlands	5	612	67	396	492	5,690	565	6,700
New Zealand	--	19	29	531	--	--	29	550
Norway	(2)	1	1	11	127	1,300	128	1,310
Pakistan	--	120	1	226	1,690	12,700	1,690	13,000
Panama	1	8	3	61	--	(2)	4	69
Philippines	--	96	11	220	363	2,850	374	3,170
Poland	(2)	8	129	955	--	21	129	985
Romania	(2)	(2)	130	1,090	--	--	130	1,090
Saudi Arabia	--	4	2	95	--	123	2	222
Singapore	--	47	137	1,470	412	1,500	549	3,020
Spain	6	14	107	1,440	328	3,330	441	4,790
Taiwan	20	400	277	3,310	4,070	36,300	4,370	40,000
Thailand	236	1,420	74	2,130	23,200	162,000	23,500	166,000
Turkey	(2)	1	580	5,840	102	1,630	682	7,460
United Arab Emirates	--	37	34	1,220	481	4,100	515	5,350
United Kingdom	12	164	1,190	8,210	188	2,050	1,390	10,400
Vietnam	--	(2)	161	947	1,880	16,200	2,040	17,200
Other	162	1,460	392	3,750	659	6,220	1,210	11,400
Total	40,300	326,000	66,400	595,000	180,000	1,570,000	287,000	2,490,000

-- 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.