

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: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2019

Domestic primary aluminum production in January 2019 was 95,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in January 2019 was 3,050 t, essentially unchanged from that in December 2018, 43% more than that in January 2018 and 52% more than that in January 2017 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in January 2019 was 290,000 t, unchanged from the revised amount in December 2018, but 6% less than the revised amount in January 2018, and slightly less than the amount in January 2017. Of this, 172,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap and 118,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

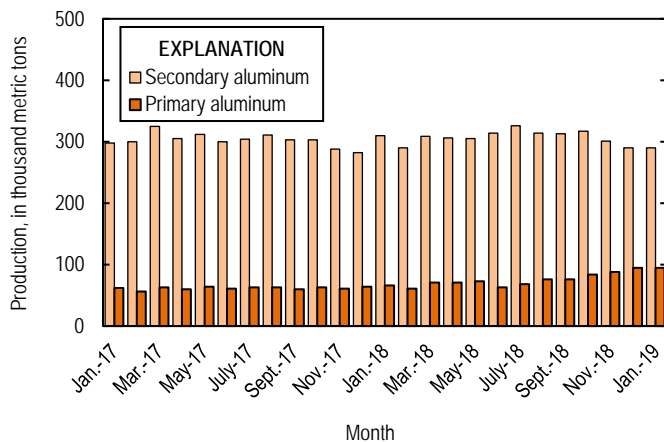


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from January 2017 through January 2019.

Prices and Stocks

The January 2019 average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased slightly from that in December 2018 to \$1.03 per pound. The average cash price in January of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) decreased by 4% from that in December 2018 to \$0.837 per pound (fig. 2, table 6).

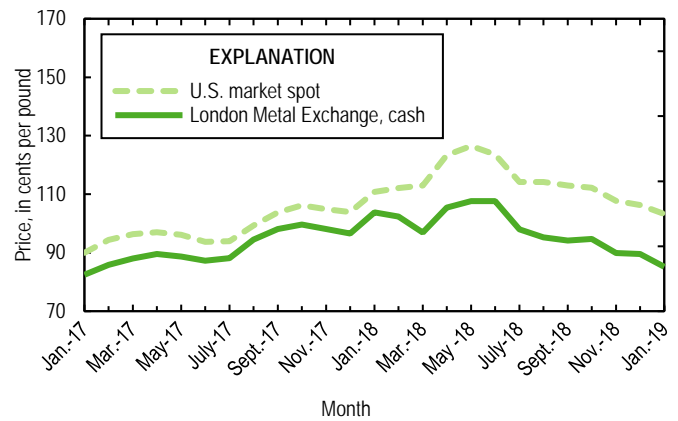


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from January 2017 through January 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 48,225 t at the end of January 2019 from 53,050 t at the end of December 2018. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 126,340 t at the end of January 2019 from 133,200 t at the end of December 2018 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2018, 2019).

Update

The New York Power Authority extended the power supply contract with Alcoa Corp. for the Massena, NY, smelter through March 2026. The prior contract, signed in November 2015, was set to expire at the end of March. Under the contract, Alcoa would receive 240 megawatts per year of power at the 130,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) smelter (Dey Bera, 2019; Matyi, 2019).

A power failure was cited for all production being shut down of at CVG Venalum’s primary aluminum smelter in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela, on March 7. The smelter capacity was 430,000 t/yr but the recent production rate was estimated to be

less than 20% of its capacity. Power shortages and lack of maintenance since 2015 have been cited for decreased production at the smelter (Poole, 2019).

References Cited

Dey Bera, Rijuta, 2019, Alcoa extends smelting ops in New York: Fastmarkets, v. 127, no. 13-1, March 25, p. 10.
London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2018, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., December 31, 3 p.
London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2019, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., January 31, 3 p.

Matyi, Bob, 2019, NYPA approves new power deal for Alcoa's Massena smelter: Platts Metals Daily, v. 8, no. 60, March 26, p. 3-4.
Poole, Anthony, 2019, Venalum recovering from power failure, total Al production loss: Platts Metals Daily, v. 8, no. 52, March 14, p. 2-3.

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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		
2018 ^p	891	2,130 ^r	1,560	3,700 ^r	4,130	1,410	5,540	10,100	1,570
2018:									
January	66	182 ^r	129 ^r	310 ^r	333	167	500	876 ^r	1,460
February	61	166 ^r	124	290 ^r	374	99	473	824 ^r	1,450
March	71	179 ^r	129	309 ^r	555	126	681	1,060	1,430
April	71	174 ^r	133 ^r	306 ^r	381	122	503	880 ^r	1,460
May	73	174 ^r	131	305 ^r	349	120	469	847 ^r	1,490
June	63	180 ^r	134	314 ^r	297	99	396	772 ^r	1,470
July	68	194 ^r	133 ^r	326 ^r	332	105	437	832 ^r	1,520
August	76	185 ^r	130	314 ^r	292	104	396	786 ^r	1,560
September	76	182 ^r	131	313 ^r	313	105	418	807 ^r	1,560
October	84	182 ^r	135	317 ^r	306	119	425	826 ^r	1,570
November	88	168 ^r	132	301 ^r	294	122	416	804 ^r	1,580
December	95	169 ^r	121	290 ^r	306	122	428	812 ^r	1,570
2019, January	95	172	118	290	298	136	434	819	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.

²Metallurgical 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
	2018 ²	2,200	1,690 ^r	2,090 ^r	1,910 ^r	101	93	4	4	4,390 ^r
2018:										
January	186 ^r	141 ^r	176 ^r	161	8	8	(2)	(2)	370 ^r	310 ^r
February	179 ^r	135 ^r	161 ^r	148 ^r	8	8	(2)	(2)	349 ^r	290 ^r
March	170 ^r	134 ^r	181 ^r	166	8	8	(2)	(2)	360 ^r	309 ^r
April	172 ^r	136 ^r	178 ^r	163 ^r	8	8	(2)	(2)	358 ^r	306 ^r
May	175 ^r	138 ^r	174 ^r	159	8	8	(2)	(2)	357 ^r	305 ^r
June	185 ^r	142 ^r	179	164	8	8	(2)	(2)	373 ^r	314 ^r
July	188 ^r	145 ^r	189 ^r	173	8	8	(2)	(2)	385 ^r	326 ^r
August	189 ^r	146 ^r	175 ^r	160 ^r	8	8	(2)	(2)	373 ^r	314 ^r
September	187 ^r	144 ^r	175	160	8	8	(2)	(2)	371 ^r	313 ^r
October	194 ^r	145 ^r	179 ^r	164 ^r	8	8	(2)	(2)	381 ^r	317 ^r
November	187 ^r	140 ^r	167	153 ^r	8	8	(2)	(2)	363 ^r	301 ^r
December	185 ^r	139 ^r	155	142	8	8	(2)	(2)	349 ^r	290 ^r
2019, January	177	134	161	148	8	8	(2)	(2)	347	290

²Preliminary. ^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 JANUARY 2019¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	148,000	177,000	112,000	134,000
Independent mill fabricators	144,000	161,000	133,000	148,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	299,000	347,000	251,000	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 AND SWEATED
PIG IN JANUARY 2019¹

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Extrusion	18,200	55,700	55,700	18,200
Can stock clippings	6,000	34,900	35,100	5,840
Other wrought sheet/clippings	28,700	40,200	37,500	31,400
Casting	4,030	6,290	6,290	4,030
Borings and turnings	5,230	11,900	11,900	5,270
Dross and skimmings	16,400	38,200	38,200	16,400
Total new scrap	78,600	187,000	185,000	81,200
Old scrap:				
Used castings	9,360	27,200	27,200	9,360
Used extrusion	9,250	10,800	10,800	9,250
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	11,300	38,100	38,200	11,200
Other wrought products	16,900	28,100	29,000	16,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	4,150	9,150	9,150	4,150
Total old scrap	50,900	113,000	114,000	49,900
Sweated pig				
	--	--	--	--
Total all classes	129,000	301,000	299,000	131,000

-- Zero.

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 JANUARY 2019^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die-cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,630	1,790	1,790	2,630
380 and variations	7,620	14,000	14,000	7,620
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,310	2,550	2,550	1,310
No. 319 and variations	3,480	3,370	3,370	3,480
F-132 alloy and variations	418	386	386	418
Al-Zn alloys	W	W	W	W
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	214	142	142	214
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	W	W	W	W
Other ⁴	6,960	10,900	10,900	6,960
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,800	55,000	55,000	10,800
Total all alloys	33,400	88,100	88,100	33,400
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,900	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,000	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	947	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	69,200	XX	XX

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other." 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
2018:		
January	110.830	100.429
February	112.050	99.091
March	112.929	94.173
April	123.388	101.866
May	126.488	103.875
June	123.607	101.603
July	114.136	95.177
August	114.193	92.764
September	112.963	91.739
October	112.207	92.254
November	107.763	87.871
December	106.294	87.588
January–December	114.737	95.703
2019, January	103.268	83.711

Source: 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)
2018:					
January	75.57	63.48	58.90	59.90	56.36
February	75.66	65.29	61.21	62.21	58.45
March	75.59	66.00	61.91	63.00	58.95
April	81.81	66.29	60.83	62.76	57.71
May	84.41	68.00	62.00	63.50	63.50
June	85.29	67.79	61.95	63.40	57.31
July	77.40	64.55	57.93	58.52	54.48
August	73.37	60.24	52.87	51.70	49.80
September	65.87	57.37	47.13	46.21	43.84
October	63.50	55.87	45.78	44.30	42.30
November	59.35	54.62	45.45	44.50	41.00
December	58.12	53.25	45.50	45.00	40.62
January–December	73.00	61.90	55.12	55.42	52.03
2019, January	54.98	50.55	44.38	43.45	39.38

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2019¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	11,600	20	--	11,600
Australia	30,300	265	44	30,700
Austria	--	3,030	--	3,030
Bahrain	16,600	4,690	--	21,300
Belgium	11	1,320	--	1,330
Brazil	1,010	3,970	--	4,980
Canada	119,000	15,200	31,800	166,000
Chile	--	--	429	429
China	1,210	14,200	7	15,400
Colombia	--	275	155	430
Costa Rica	--	--	378	378
El Salvador	--	47	186	233
France	705	2,090	2	2,790
Germany	41	5,850	574	6,470
Greece	--	4,310	--	4,310
Guatemala	--	--	979	979
Honduras	--	35	--	35
Hong Kong	--	688	--	688
India	18,700	5,050	--	23,700
Indonesia	--	8,790	--	8,790
Italy	300	3,750	--	4,050
Japan	17	3,960	590	4,560
Korea, Republic of	1,550	3,510	1,060	6,120
Malaysia	202	604	--	806
Mexico	34	4,240	14,300	18,600
Netherlands	88	757	16	861
New Zealand	852	--	--	852
Norway	101	395	--	496
Oman	506	7,250	--	7,750
Qatar	20,100	--	--	20,100
Romania	--	1,090	--	1,090
Russia	20,900	1,580	--	22,400
Saudi Arabia	2,830	1,430	--	4,270
South Africa	16	7,950	--	7,960
Spain	92	1,940	191	2,220
Sweden	--	839	--	839
Switzerland	--	320	--	320
Taiwan	7	5,560	140	5,710
Thailand	67	2,250	77	2,400
Turkey	--	6,740	--	6,740
United Arab Emirates	51,400	527	--	51,900
United Kingdom	28	1,700	288	2,020
Venezuela	28	--	--	28
Vietnam	--	2,570	992	3,560
Other	188	7,100	1,830	9,130
Total	298,000	136,000	54,000	488,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2019¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metal and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Australia	200	125	--	325
Belgium	--	349	431	780
Bolivia	--	--	--	--
Brazil	2	769	1,480	2,250
Canada	9,100	29,200	8,130	46,400
China	7	1,290	36,400	37,700
Colombia	--	105	--	105
Dominican Republic	21	74	--	95
France	841	725	103	1,670
Germany	13	573	1,320	1,900
Guatemala	--	763	--	763
Hong Kong	(2)	34	3,810	3,840
India	36	180	18,000	18,200
Indonesia	--	3	8,600	8,600
Ireland	--	40	--	40
Israel	2	850	--	852
Italy	--	119	40	159
Jamaica	--	6	--	6
Japan	132	1,830	1,090	3,050
Korea, Republic of	38	2,890	20,300	23,200
Malaysia	1	196	9,870	10,100
Mexico	11,400	34,400	17,500	63,300
Netherlands	2	28	86	116
New Zealand	(2)	32	--	32
Norway	--	3	--	3
Pakistan	--	(2)	563	563
Panama	--	10	--	10
Philippines	--	10	892	902
Poland	9	97	--	106
Romania	14	35	--	49
Russia	1	20	925	946
Saudi Arabia	1	118	214	333
Singapore	67	168	517	752
Spain	6	99	220	325
Taiwan	39	495	7,900	8,430
Thailand	102	195	652	949
Turkey	60	353	--	413
United Arab Emirates	48	28	78	154
United Kingdom	61	885	214	1,160
Vietnam	--	2	58	60
Other	14	331	1,050	1,400
Total	22,200	77,400	140,000	240,000

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.