

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2019

Domestic primary aluminum production in August was 90,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in August was 2,910 t, slightly less than that in July, 19% more than that in August 2018, and 43% more than that in August 2017 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in August was 288,000 t, 5% more than the amount in July, 9% less than the amount in August 2018, and 7% less than that in August 2017. Of this, 158,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap and 130,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

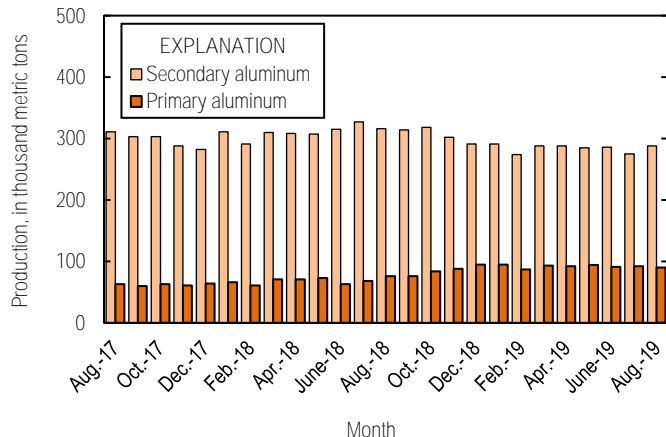


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from August 2017 through August 2019.

### Prices and Stocks

The August average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot was slightly less than that in July at \$0.969 per pound. The average cash price in August of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) decreased slightly from that in July to \$0.79 per pound (fig. 2, table 6).

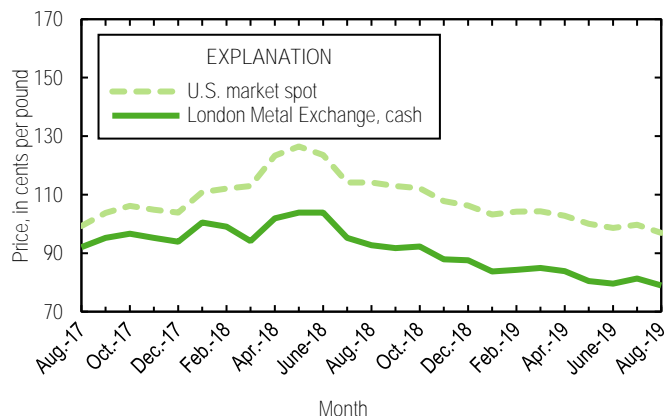


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from August 2017 through August 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 7,250 t at the end of August from 8,175 t at the end of July. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 76,640 t at the end of August from 85,020 t at the end of July (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2019a, b).

### Update

On September 19, workers represented by the United Steelworkers union ratified a 4-year contract with Alcoa Corp. The contract covers about 1,700 employees, most of whom were located at the 269,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) Warrick smelter in Evansville, IN, the 130,000-t/yr smelter in Massena, NY, and a rolling mill in Gum Springs, AR. The 146,000-t/yr Wenatchee, WA, smelter and the 2.3-million-ton-per-year Point Comfort, TX, alumina refinery were also covered by the contract but were temporarily shut down. The new contract was retroactive to May 15 when the prior contract expired and production continued without disruption during the negotiations (Alcoa Corp. 2019a, b).

## References Cited

- Alcoa Corp., 2019a, Alcoa and United Steelworkers reach tentative labor agreement for five U.S. locations: Pittsburgh, PA, Alcoa Corp. press release, August 30, 2 p. (Accessed October 11, 2019, at [https://investors.alcoa.com/~media/Files/A/Alcoa-IR/press-release/To%20Post/083019\\_USW\\_Tentative%20190830.pdf](https://investors.alcoa.com/~media/Files/A/Alcoa-IR/press-release/To%20Post/083019_USW_Tentative%20190830.pdf).)
- Alcoa Corp., 2019b, United Steelworkers at five Alcoa U.S. locations ratify new labor agreement: Pittsburgh, PA, Alcoa Corp. press release, September 20, 2 p. (Accessed October 11, 2019, at <https://investors.alcoa.com/~media/Files/A/Alcoa-IR/press-release/201909XX-USWRatifies-fildfinal.pdf>.)
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2019a, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., July 31, 3 p.
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2019b, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., August 30, 3 p.

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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		
2018 <sup>P</sup>	891	2,140	1,570	3,710	4,130	1,410	5,540	10,100	1,570
2018:									
August	76	185	131	316	292	104	396	787	1,560
September	76	182	132	314	313	105	418	809	1,560
October	84	182	136	318	306	119	425	827	1,570
November	88	169	133	302	294	122	416	806	1,580
December	95	169	122	291	306	122	428	813	1,570
January–August	549	1,440	1,050	2,480	2,910	942	3,860	6,890	1,570
2019:									
January	95	172	119	291	298	136	434	820	1,640
February	87	153	121	274	284	118	402	763	1,600
March	93	159	129	288	312	145	457	838	1,590
April	92	161	128	288	314	143	457	838	1,650
May	94	158	127	285	287	135	423	802	1,630
June	91	159	127	286	315	131	446	823	1,630
July	92	145	129	275	91	117	208	575	1,640
August	90	158	130	288	74	115	189	567	NA
January–August	734	1,270	1,010	2,280	1,980	1,040	3,020	6,030	NA

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. 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>Inventories 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
	2018 <sup>P</sup>	2,210	1,700	2,090	1,910	101	93	4	4	4,410
2018:										
August	191	148	175	160	8	8	(2)	(2)	374	316
September	189	146	175	160	8	8	(2)	(2)	373	314
October	195	146	179	164	8	8	(2)	(2)	383	318
November	189	141	167	153	8	8	(2)	(2)	365	302
December	186	141	155	142	8	8	(2)	(2)	350	291
January–August	1,450	1,130	1,410	1,290	68	62	3	3	2,940	2,480
2019:										
January	178	135	161	148	8	8	(2)	(2)	348	291
February	182	138	140	128	8	8	(2)	(2)	330	274
March	188	141	152	140	8	8	(2)	(2)	349	288
April	184	139	154	141	8	8	(2)	(2)	346	288
May	185	139	150	137	8	8	(2)	(2)	344	285
June	184	139	152	139	8	8	(2)	(2)	345	286
July	182	137	142	130	8	8	(2)	(2)	333	275
August	182	135	158	145	8	8	(2)	(2)	348	288
January–August	1,470	1,100	1,210	1,110	68	62	3	3	2,740	2,280

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary.

<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 2019<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	151,000	182,000	113,000	135,000
Independent mill fabricators	143,000	158,000	132,000	145,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	302,000	348,000	251,000	288,000

<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 2019<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	August			January–August <sup>2</sup>		
	Stocks, opening <sup>2</sup>	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
<b>New scrap:</b>						
Extrusion	18,500	59,400	59,400	18,500	424,000	424,000
Can stock clippings	6,030	22,600	22,500	6,190	196,000	196,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	42,900	69,700	33,400	79,300	349,000	297,000
Casting	4,150	5,690	5,690	4,150	53,100	53,100
Borings and turnings	5,570	13,400	13,400	5,570	102,000	102,000
Dross and skimmings	16,400	41,200	41,200	16,400	319,000	319,000
Total new scrap	93,600	212,000	176,000	130,000	1,440,000	1,390,000
<b>Old scrap:</b>						
Used castings	9,410	27,300	27,300	9,410	214,000	214,000
Used extrusion	9,190	15,900	15,900	9,190	122,000	122,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	11,300	44,100	44,100	11,300	326,000	326,000
Other wrought products	14,500	30,800	30,200	15,200	239,000	241,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,790	9,300	9,300	3,790	76,400	76,600
Total old scrap	48,200	127,000	127,000	48,900	977,000	980,000
Total all classes	142,000	339,000	302,000	179,000	2,420,000	2,370,000

<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.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES IN AUGUST 2019<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	August			January–August		
	Stocks, opening <sup>3</sup>	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
<b>Die-cast alloys:</b>						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,630	1,790	1,790	2,630	14,300	14,300
380 and variations	6,930	15,400	15,400	6,930	123,000	123,000
<b>Sand and permanent mold:</b>						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,310	2,550	2,550	1,310	20,400	20,400
No. 319 and variations	3,480	3,370	3,370	3,480	26,900	26,900
F-132 alloy and variations	418	386	386	418	3,090	3,090
Al-Zn alloys	W	W	W	W	W	W
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	214	142	142	214	1,140	1,140
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other <sup>4</sup>	6,930	10,100	10,100	6,930	80,700	80,700
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,800	55,000	55,000	10,800	440,000	440,000
<b>Total all alloys</b>	<b>32,700</b>	<b>88,800</b>	<b>88,800</b>	<b>32,700</b>	<b>710,000</b>	<b>710,000</b>
<b>Less:</b>						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	16,200	XX	XX	128,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,860	XX	XX	15,700	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	846	XX	XX	7,600	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum						
scrap consumed in production of						
secondary aluminum ingot <sup>5</sup>	XX	69,900	XX	XX	559,000	XX

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other." 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
2018:		
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
February	104.202	84.333
March	104.286	84.907
April	102.825	83.849
May	100.083	80.510
June	98.625	79.547
July	99.707	81.307
August	96.929	78.953
January–August	101.241	82.140

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:					
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
February	57.58	50.21	45.32	44.32	39.50
March	59.60	51.00	46.00	45.00	39.38
April	59.48	51.38	46.40	45.48	39.05
May	57.00	49.05	44.77	43.07	37.91
June	54.12	47.15	42.40	40.90	34.70
July	54.00	46.34	41.00	39.00	32.18
August	53.18	45.64	39.18	38.43	31.39
January–August	56.24	48.92	43.68	42.46	36.69

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2019<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	2,790	96,200	--	21	--	--	2,790	96,200
Australia	3,160	163,000	154	794	--	389	3,320	164,000
Austria	--	--	915	20,000	--	--	915	20,000
Bahrain	5,130	92,400	6,950	48,800	--	--	12,100	141,000
Belgium	--	129	643	10,100	--	--	643	10,300
Brazil	25	1,640	1,510	25,700	--	174	1,540	27,500
Canada	10,700	891,000	16,900	128,000	31,000	254,000	58,700	1,270,000
Chile	--	--	--	4	168	2,200	168	2,210
China	356	10,200	8,470	94,800	2	70	8,830	105,000
Colombia	--	--	440	3,200	39	1,230	479	4,430
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	297	2,380	297	2,380
El Salvador	--	--	45	445	132	1,110	177	1,550
France	--	3,040	1,960	14,800	17	179	1,980	18,100
Germany	--	142	11,700	74,700	39	1,510	11,800	76,300
Greece	--	--	2,110	27,200	--	24	2,110	27,300
Guatemala	--	--	--	8	807	8,110	807	8,110
Honduras	--	--	225	1,260	13	758	238	2,020
Hong Kong	--	--	129	5,190	--	--	129	5,190
India	6,470	117,000	4,340	40,500	--	26	10,800	158,000
Indonesia	--	--	5,290	60,500	--	--	5,290	60,500
Italy	--	1,570	2,360	25,400	36	36	2,390	27,000
Japan	--	53	4,890	32,900	141	8,180	5,030	41,100
Korea, Republic of	221	7,850	3,170	31,500	632	7,120	4,020	46,500
Malaysia	399	3,320	461	4,810	--	20	860	8,160
Mexico	--	325	2,980	26,100	10,400	105,000	13,400	131,000
Netherlands	--	445	355	3,780	53	243	408	4,470
New Zealand	232	4,960	--	2	--	--	232	4,960
Norway	--	11,600	188	4,270	--	--	188	15,900
Oman	--	5,110	6,270	60,200	--	--	6,270	65,300
Qatar	10,700	114,000	--	62	--	--	10,700	114,000
Romania	--	--	491	9,210	--	--	491	9,210
Russia	7,680	125,000	600	10,700	--	--	8,280	135,000
Saudi Arabia	11	12,000	8,450	37,100	--	--	8,460	49,100
South Africa	--	6,760	2,260	36,500	--	--	2,260	43,200
Spain	--	2,080	1,520	16,700	--	729	1,520	19,600
Sweden	--	--	562	6,850	--	--	562	6,850
Switzerland	--	--	680	5,150	--	--	680	5,150
Taiwan	--	117	5,860	45,100	86	774	5,950	46,000
Thailand	--	500	3,200	12,400	19	329	3,210	13,200
Turkey	--	--	2,790	42,200	--	--	2,790	42,200
United Arab Emirates	25,700	303,000	75	2,480	--	134	25,700	305,000
United Kingdom	13	706	448	7,040	313	2,940	774	10,700
Venezuela	--	36	18	284	23	906	41	1,230
Vietnam	--	--	1,680	14,500	5	1,120	1,680	15,600
Other	201	1,930	4,220	49,400	1,050	10,400	5,470	61,700
Total	73,800	1,980,000	115,000	1,040,000	45,300	411,000	235,000	3,430,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data 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 AUGUST 2019<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	6	317	184	1,500	--	3	190	1,820
Belgium	--	6	254	1,450	316	5,050	570	6,500
Brazil	78	953	339	4,470	2,050	15,300	2,460	20,700
Canada	8,440	66,500	31,100	229,000	8,360	62,400	47,900	358,000
China	40	575	2,160	18,900	26,500	281,000	28,700	300,000
Colombia	--	4	101	445	--	--	101	449
Dominican Republic	147	557	113	586	--	--	260	1,140
France	833	5,110	978	5,770	256	1,460	2,070	12,300
Germany	210	1,430	337	4,120	469	5,650	1,020	11,200
Guatemala	--	--	423	3,130	--	--	423	3,130
Hong Kong	--	29	52	875	12,100	75,000	12,100	75,900
India	1	159	143	1,220	24,600	175,000	24,800	176,000
Indonesia	102	105	6	48	9,440	69,600	9,540	69,800
Ireland	1	15	49	381	--	--	50	396
Israel	--	4	1,230	8,050	--	21	1,230	8,080
Italy	--	22	244	1,090	1,410	2,690	1,660	3,800
Jamaica	--	7	41	114	--	--	41	121
Japan	177	1,290	1,780	12,300	1,110	10,000	3,070	23,600
Korea, Republic of	73	273	1,680	19,100	23,200	180,000	24,900	199,000
Malaysia	--	63	296	2,280	25,800	145,000	26,100	147,000
Mexico	8,520	80,200	29,700	258,000	15,700	124,000	53,900	462,000
Netherlands	--	27	27	331	78	905	105	1,260
New Zealand	--	1	64	253	--	--	64	254
Norway	--	--	1	74	--	--	1	74
Pakistan	--	--	4	40	505	9,630	509	9,670
Panama	--	1	53	143	--	--	53	144
Philippines	--	2	28	223	1,180	7,750	1,200	7,970
Poland	--	58	32	658	--	200	32	916
Romania	17	69	266	784	--	--	283	853
Russia	--	6	2	75	271	3,520	273	3,600
Saudi Arabia	--	2	83	507	240	2,760	323	3,260
Singapore	112	353	144	1,220	117	4,700	373	6,270
Spain	132	138	184	873	481	3,120	797	4,130
Taiwan	182	1,480	331	3,890	4,950	43,500	5,460	48,800
Thailand	1	105	115	1,140	3,510	17,100	3,630	18,300
Turkey	--	115	578	3,670	135	298	713	4,090
United Arab Emirates	--	166	16	237	507	3,590	523	3,990
United Kingdom	81	616	705	6,540	213	1,970	999	9,120
Vietnam	3	3	--	108	685	2,550	688	2,660
Other	16	284	425	3,060	1,240	8,290	1,680	11,600
Total	19,200	161,000	74,200	596,000	165,000	1,260,000	259,000	2,020,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.