

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2019

Domestic primary aluminum production in September was 87,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in September was 2,910 t, unchanged from that in August, 14% more than that in September 2018, and 44% more than that in September 2017 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in September was 284,000 t, slightly less than the amount in August, 9% less than the amount in September 2018, and 6% less than that in September 2017. Of this, 159,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap and 125,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

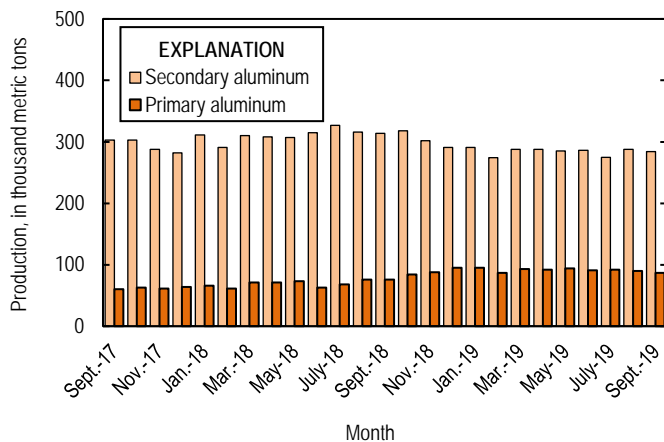


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from September 2017 through September 2019.

Prices and Stocks

The September average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$0.975 per pound, slightly more than that in August. The average cash price in September of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) increased slightly to \$0.793 per pound from that in August (fig. 2, table 6).

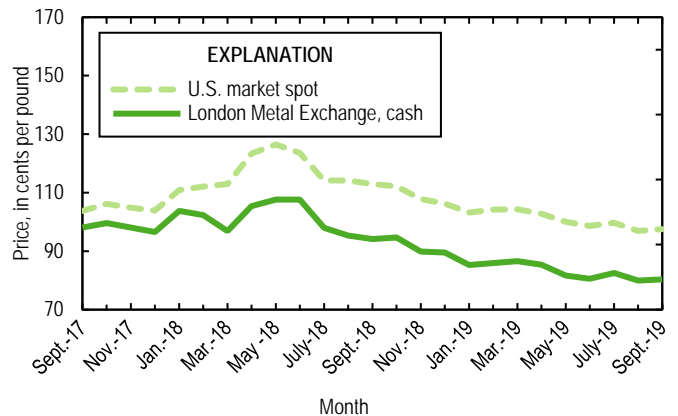


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from September 2017 through September 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 5,800 t at the end of September from 7,250 t at the end of August. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 64,780 t at the end of September from 76,640 t at the end of August (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2019a, b).

U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in the first 9 months of 2019 (table 8) were 24% less than those in the same period in 2018. Imports of crude metal and alloys and scrap decreased by 37% and 14%, respectively, but imports of semifabricated products increased by 9%. Canada continued to be the leading source of imported aluminum materials, supplying 37% of all aluminum imports during the first 9 months of 2019, followed by, in descending order of quantity, the United Arab Emirates (9%), Australia (5%), India (5%), and Bahrain (4%). Canada accounted for 45% of crude metal and alloys, 13% of semifabricated products, and 63% of scrap

imports in the first 9 months of 2019. The United Arab Emirates and Australia accounted for 16% and 8%, respectively, of crude metal and alloy imports. China accounted for 9% of semifabricated product imports. Mexico was the source of 25% of scrap imports.

Total exports of aluminum (table 9) decreased slightly during the first 9 months of 2019 compared with those of the same period in the previous year. Exports of crude metal and alloys, and semifabricated products decreased by 21% and 16%, respectively, compared with those in the same period of 2018, but scrap exports increased by 13%. The leading destinations for total aluminum products during the first 9 months of 2019, in descending order of quantity, were Mexico (23%), Canada (18%), and China (14%).

Update

In October, Century Aluminum Co. shut down a 50,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) potline at the 252,000-t/yr Hawesville, KY, smelter. The potline had been scheduled to be shut down for maintenance work in early 2020 but an immediate shutdown was necessary because the pots were several years past their normal service life and were too fragile to continue operating safely. The potline was expected to restart production in mid-2020. Maintenance work continued on another 50,000-t/yr potline, that was shut down in March, and was planned to be completed in January 2020 (Century Aluminum Co. 2019a, b).

On October 30, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced its final determination in an antidumping investigation of imports of aluminum cable and wire from China, which affirmed the preliminary finding announced on May 30. The finding determined that aluminum cable and wire from China was sold below fair market value and an antidumping rate

ranging from 58.51 to 63.47% was assigned. On November 20, the U.S. International Trade Commission determined that subsidies and dumping by producers in China materially injured cable and wire producers in the United States (Lazzaro, 2019a, b; U.S. Department of Commerce, 2019).

References Cited

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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	2,140	1,570	3,710	4,130	1,410	5,540	10,100	1,570
2018:									
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–September	625	1,620	1,180	2,800	3,230	1,050	4,270	7,700	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	1,600
September	87	159	125	284	54	105	159	531	NA
January–September	821	1,420	1,140	2,560	2,030	1,150	3,180	6,560	NA

^PPreliminary. 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
	2018 ^p	2,210	1,700	2,090	1,910	101	93	4	4	4,410
2018:										
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–September	1,640	1,270	1,590	1,450	76	70	3	3	3,310	2,800
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
September	182	138	151	139	8	8	(2)	(2)	342	284
January–September	1,650	1,240	1,360	1,250	76	70	3	3	3,090	2,560

^pPreliminary.

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 2019¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	152,000	182,000	115,000	138,000
Independent mill fabricators	137,000	151,000	126,000	139,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	297,000	342,000	248,000	284,000

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 2019¹

(Metric tons)

	September			January–September ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	18,500	59,000	59,000	18,500	483,000	483,000
Can stock clippings	6,190	22,300	22,500	6,020	218,000	218,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	44,700	39,600	36,600	47,700	354,000	333,000
Casting	4,150	5,760	5,760	4,150	58,900	58,900
Borings and turnings	5,570	11,900	11,800	5,580	114,000	114,000
Dross and skimmings	16,400	39,500	39,500	16,400	359,000	359,000
Total new scrap	95,500	178,000	175,000	98,400	1,590,000	1,570,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	9,410	26,300	26,300	9,410	240,000	240,000
Used extrusion	9,190	15,900	15,900	9,190	138,000	138,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	11,300	39,900	39,900	11,300	366,000	366,000
Other wrought products	15,200	30,300	29,900	15,600	269,000	271,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,790	9,410	9,330	3,870	85,800	85,900
Total old scrap	48,900	122,000	121,000	49,300	1,100,000	1,100,000
Total all classes	144,000	300,000	297,000	148,000	2,690,000	2,670,000

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.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES IN SEPTEMBER 2019^{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.)	2,630	1,790	1,790	2,630	16,100	16,100
380 and variations	6,930	15,400	15,400	6,930	139,000	139,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,310	2,550	2,550	1,310	22,900	22,900
No. 319 and variations	3,480	3,370	3,370	3,480	30,300	30,300
F-132 alloy and variations	418	386	386	418	3,470	3,470
Al-Zn alloys	W	W	W	W	W	W
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	214	142	142	214	1,280	1,280
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other ⁴	6,930	10,100	10,100	6,930	90,800	90,800
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,800	55,000	55,000	10,800	495,000	495,000
Total all alloys	32,700	88,800	88,800	32,700	799,000	799,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	16,200	XX	XX	144,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,860	XX	XX	17,600	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	846	XX	XX	8,440	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum						
scrap consumed in production of						
secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	69,900	XX	XX	629,000	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:		
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	81.310
August	96.929	78.950
September	97.507	79.340
January–September	100.826	81.829

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:					
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
September	51.50	42.10	36.98	35.90	29.35
January–September	55.72	48.16	42.94	41.73	35.87

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(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	2,080	98,300	--	21	--	--	2,080	98,300
Australia	1,290	164,000	73	868	--	389	1,360	165,000
Austria	--	--	592	20,600	--	--	592	20,600
Bahrain	4,970	97,400	8,330	57,200	--	--	13,300	155,000
Belgium	--	129	356	10,500	--	--	356	10,600
Brazil	--	1,640	2,410	28,100	--	174	2,410	29,900
Canada	12,300	903,000	18,300	146,000	32,300	287,000	62,900	1,340,000
Chile	--	--	1	5	222	2,420	223	2,430
China	333	10,500	6,950	102,000	55	125	7,340	112,000
Colombia	--	--	294	3,490	37	1,260	331	4,760
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	187	2,560	187	2,560
El Salvador	--	--	94	539	303	1,410	397	1,950
France	--	3,040	1,230	16,100	189	367	1,420	19,500
Germany	--	142	7,850	82,600	222	1,730	8,080	84,400
Greece	--	--	2,800	30,000	4	28	2,800	30,100
Guatemala	--	--	--	8	669	8,770	669	8,780
Honduras	--	--	153	1,410	--	758	153	2,170
Hong Kong	--	--	32	5,220	--	--	32	5,220
India	4,110	121,000	3,280	43,800	--	26	7,390	165,000
Indonesia	--	--	3,830	64,300	--	--	3,830	64,300
Italy	--	1,570	1,430	26,800	--	36	1,430	28,400
Japan	--	53	3,660	36,500	222	8,400	3,880	45,000
Korea, Republic of	--	7,850	2,640	34,200	1,560	8,680	4,200	50,700
Malaysia	446	3,770	484	5,300	19	39	949	9,100
Mexico	--	325	2,990	29,100	10,300	115,000	13,300	145,000
Netherlands	--	445	434	4,220	34	276	468	4,940
New Zealand	227	5,190	--	2	--	--	227	5,190
Norway	--	11,600	56	4,320	--	--	56	16,000
Oman	--	5,110	8,460	68,600	--	--	8,460	73,700
Qatar	9,400	123,000	--	62	--	--	9,400	123,000
Romania	--	--	1,370	10,600	--	--	1,370	10,600
Russia	267	125,000	323	11,000	--	--	590	136,000
Saudi Arabia	80	12,100	6,040	43,100	--	--	6,120	55,200
South Africa	--	6,760	4,380	40,900	--	--	4,380	47,600
Spain	--	2,080	891	17,600	--	729	891	20,400
Sweden	--	--	542	7,390	--	--	542	7,390
Switzerland	--	--	342	5,500	--	--	342	5,500
Taiwan	--	117	4,170	49,300	74	848	4,250	50,300
Thailand	69	569	1,040	13,400	19	348	1,130	14,300
Turkey	--	--	3,060	45,300	--	--	3,060	45,300
United Arab Emirates	18,200	321,000	114	2,590	--	134	18,300	324,000
United Kingdom	33	739	360	7,400	253	3,190	646	11,300
Venezuela	--	36	--	284	151	1,060	151	1,380
Vietnam	--	--	1,630	16,100	--	1,120	1,630	17,200
Other	98	2,030	3,990	53,300	752	11,100	4,840	66,500
Total	53,900	2,030,000	105,000	1,150,000	47,600	458,000	206,000	3,630,000

-- 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 SEPTEMBER 2019¹

(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	76	393	262	1,770	--	3	338	2,160
Belgium	--	6	71	1,520	277	5,320	348	6,850
Brazil	18	972	571	5,040	2,230	17,600	2,820	23,600
Canada	7,650	74,200	28,200	257,000	8,010	70,500	43,900	402,000
China	9	585	2,680	21,500	19,600	300,000	22,300	323,000
Colombia	--	4	14	459	--	--	14	463
Dominican Republic	82	639	40	627	58	58	180	1,320
France	550	5,660	654	6,420	189	1,650	1,390	13,700
Germany	371	1,800	566	4,690	263	5,910	1,200	12,400
Guatemala	--	--	632	3,770	--	--	632	3,770
Hong Kong	--	29	159	1,040	7,750	82,700	7,910	83,800
India	11	169	192	1,410	21,200	196,000	21,400	198,000
Indonesia	104	209	11	59	4,930	74,500	5,040	74,800
Ireland	--	15	73	454	--	--	73	469
Israel	--	4	1,200	9,250	--	21	1,200	9,270
Italy	40	62	200	1,290	2,530	5,220	2,770	6,570
Jamaica	2	9	17	131	--	--	19	140
Japan	169	1,460	1,700	13,900	1,080	11,100	2,950	26,500
Korea, Republic of	12	284	2,310	21,500	23,600	203,000	25,900	225,000
Malaysia	3	67	290	2,570	30,900	175,000	31,200	178,000
Mexico	6,970	87,200	29,000	287,000	16,300	140,000	52,300	514,000
Netherlands	13	40	29	359	21	926	63	1,330
New Zealand	1	2	46	300	--	--	47	302
Norway	--	--	9	82	--	--	9	82
Pakistan	--	--	5	44	1,140	10,800	1,150	10,800
Panama	19	20	4	147	--	--	23	167
Philippines	--	2	35	258	812	8,560	847	8,820
Poland	1	60	79	736	--	200	80	996
Romania	12	81	139	924	--	--	151	1,010
Russia	--	6	9	84	770	4,290	779	4,380
Saudi Arabia	5	7	88	595	139	2,890	232	3,500
Singapore	91	444	106	1,330	201	4,900	398	6,670
Spain	276	415	114	987	530	3,650	920	5,050
Taiwan	297	1,770	589	4,480	4,420	47,900	5,300	54,100
Thailand	242	347	124	1,260	4,220	21,300	4,580	22,900
Turkey	--	115	174	3,850	80	378	254	4,340
United Arab Emirates	--	166	27	264	833	4,420	860	4,850
United Kingdom	118	734	522	7,060	114	2,080	754	9,880
Vietnam	--	3	3	111	1,150	3,690	1,150	3,810
Other	246	530	582	3,640	2,040	10,300	2,870	14,500
Total	17,400	178,000	71,500	668,000	155,000	1,420,000	244,000	2,260,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.