

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2018

Domestic primary aluminum production in October 2018 was 84,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in October was 2,710 t, 6% more than that in September 2018, 34% more than that in October 2017 and 36% more than that in October 2016 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in October 2018 was 312,000 t, slightly more than that in September 2018 and October 2017, and 3% more than the amount in October 2016. Of this, 177,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap and 135,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

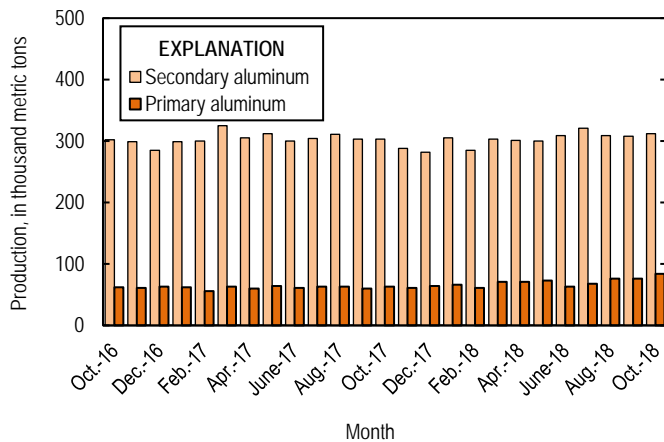


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from October 2016 through October 2018.

Prices and Stocks

The October 2018 average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased slightly from that in September 2018 to \$1.12 per pound. The average cash price in October of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) increased slightly from that in September 2018 to \$0.923 per pound (fig. 2, table 6).

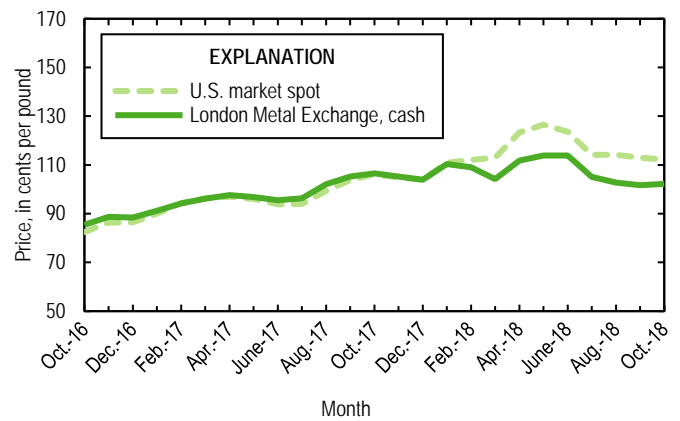


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from October 2016 through October 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 59,275 t at the end of October from 61,450 t at the end of September 2018. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 143,160 t at the end of October from 149,040 t at the end of September 2018 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2018a, b).

Update

The U.S. Department of the Treasury extended the deadline for companies to wind down contracts with United Company RUSAL Plc to January 21, 2019, from January 7, 2019 (Roh, 2018; U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2018). In April, RUSAL and its principal owner who also was formerly its chief executive officer were sanctioned by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. (See Aluminum in February 2018, Aluminum in August 2018, and Aluminum in September 2018.)

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) made its final injury determination concerning its antidumping and countervailing duty investigation of the imports of common

alloy aluminum sheet from China. In November, the U.S. Department of Commerce determined that producers in China sold aluminum sheet in the United States ranging from 49.85% to 59.72% less than fair market value and that the Government of China provided subsidies to aluminum sheet producers at rates ranging from 46.48% to 116.49%. (See Aluminum in September 2018.) The USITC affirmed the findings by the Department of Commerce, which will set antidumping and countervailing duties (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2018). The investigation was initiated by the USITC in November 2017. The alloys that were the subject of the investigation included 1000-series, 3000-series, and 5000-series but did not include can stock alloys. The investigation included flat-rolled products with a thickness greater than 0.2 millimeters and up to 6.3 millimeters. Markets for the subject sheet products were appliances, building and construction, electrical applications, and transportation. (See Aluminum in October 2017.)

Century Aluminum Co. announced that it would expand the capacity of the billet casthouse at its Sebree, KY, smelter. The project would add 90,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of billet capacity. A separate project at the Sebree smelter would add 20,000 t/yr of secondary aluminum smelting capacity. The primary smelting capacity would remain at 218,000 t/yr. The projects would be completed in the first quarter of 2019 (Century Aluminum Co., 2018).

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		
2017 ^P	741	2,050	1,590	3,630	4,830	1,380	6,200	10,600	1,470
2017:									
October	63	172	131	303	358	122	480	846	1,430
November	61	166	122	288	358	116	474	822	1,420
December	64	165	117	282	400	118	518	864	1,470
January–October	616	1,710	1,350	3,060	4,070	1,140	5,210	8,890	1,470
2018:									
January	66	177	128	305	333	167	500	871	1,460
February	61	161	124	285	374	99	473	819	1,450
March	71	174	129	303	555	126	681	1,060	1,430
April	71	169	132	301	381	122	503	875	1,460
May	73	169	131	300	349	120	469	842	1,490
June	63	175	134	309	297	99	396	767	1,470
July	68	189	132	321	332	105	437	826	1,520
August	76	180	130	309	292	104	396	781	1,560
September	76	177	131	308	313	105	418	802	1,560
October	84	177	135	312	306	119	425	821	NA
January–October	709	1,750	1,310	3,050	3,530	1,170	4,700	8,460	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
	2017 ^P	2,200	1,650	2,060	1,880	101	93	4	4	4,360
2017:										
October	188	141	169	154	8	8	(2)	(2)	365	303
November	183	138	154	141	8	8	(2)	(2)	347	288
December	182	138	148	136	8	8	(2)	(2)	339	282
January–October	1,830	1,380	1,760	1,610	84	77	3	3	3,680	3,060
2018:										
January	179	136	175	161	8	8	(2)	(2)	363	305
February	173	130	160	147	8	8	(2)	(2)	342	285
March	164	130	180	166	8	8	(2)	(2)	353	303
April	165	131	177	162	8	8	(2)	(2)	351	301
May	168	134	173	159	8	8	(2)	(2)	350	300
June	179	137	179	164	8	8	(2)	(2)	366	309
July	182	140	188	173	8	8	(2)	(2)	378	321
August	183	142	174	159	8	8	(2)	(2)	366	309
September	181	140	175	160	8	8	(2)	(2)	365	308
October	188	141	178	163	8	8	(2)	(2)	375	312
January–October	1,760	1,360	1,760	1,610	84	77	3	3	3,610	3,050

^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 OCTOBER 2018¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	156,000	188,000	117,000	141,000
Independent mill fabricators	164,000	178,000	150,000	163,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	266	320	266	320
Total	327,000	375,000	274,000	312,000

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 OCTOBER 2018¹

(Metric tons)

	October			January–October ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	15,500	74,800	74,900	15,400	718,000	718,000
Can stock clippings	4,820	20,900	21,100	4,670	215,000	215,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	14,800	42,900	38,400	19,300	444,000	434,000
Casting	3,140	6,090	6,060	3,170	54,100	54,100
Borings and turnings	3,450	11,400	11,300	3,540	96,900	97,800
Dross and skimmings	10,300	42,300	42,300	10,300	348,000	348,000
Total new scrap	52,000	198,000	194,000	56,400	1,880,000	1,870,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,520	26,500	26,700	8,250	250,000	250,000
Used extrusion	7,830	10,800	10,800	7,830	121,000	121,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	9,510	54,100	54,000	9,540	519,000	519,000
Other wrought products	9,160	33,600	31,500	11,300	298,000	303,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,010	10,200	10,300	2,900	97,000	96,600
Total old scrap	38,000	135,000	133,000	39,800	1,280,000	1,290,000
Sweated pig	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total all classes	90,000	334,000	327,000	96,200	3,160,000	3,160,000

-- 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 OCTOBER 2018^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	October			January–October		
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,780	1,730	1,790	2,720	19,200	18,200
380 and variations	6,190	14,700	14,700	6,190	147,000	147,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,160	2,370	2,370	1,160	23,700	23,700
No. 319 and variations	2,630	3,910	3,680	2,860	37,100	36,800
F-132 alloy and variations	162	196	196	162	1,960	1,960
Al-Zn alloys	243	94	94	243	938	938
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	103	92	92	103	918	918
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	178	67	67	178	674	674
Other ⁴	5,760	10,600	10,500	5,820	103,000	102,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,100	54,700	54,700	10,100	548,000	547,000
Total all alloys	29,300	88,500	88,200	29,600	882,000	879,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,800	XX	XX	159,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,010	XX	XX	19,900	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	960	XX	XX	9,820	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	69,600	XX	XX	694,000	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-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
2017:		
October	106.198	96.616
November	104.852	95.280
December	103.908	93.911
January–December	98.298	89.254
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
January–October	116.279	97.297

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)
2017:					
October	74.09	65.00	58.00	58.77	58.00
November	72.88	64.08	57.65	59.00	56.60
December	69.95	62.55	56.50	57.95	54.70
January–December	70.93	63.62	58.44	59.63	58.62
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
January–October	75.85	63.49	57.05	57.55	54.27

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2018¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October
Argentina	12,400	146,000	36	38	--	--	12,400	147,000
Australia	20,500	102,000	189	633	323	1,980	21,000	105,000
Austria	--	67	3,040	29,400	--	--	3,040	29,500
Bahrain	13,200	111,000	5,730	50,400	--	--	19,000	162,000
Belgium	18	438	547	6,320	--	--	565	6,750
Brazil	97	10,500	3,770	21,700	107	4,910	3,970	37,200
Canada	158,000	1,820,000	16,800	203,000	36,900	338,000	211,000	2,360,000
Chile	--	--	--	2	291	4,910	291	4,910
China	121	3,140	10,700	231,000	--	473	10,800	235,000
Colombia	--	--	474	7,790	107	1,810	581	9,600
Costa Rica	--	--	--	14	292	3,000	292	3,010
El Salvador	--	--	161	1,250	173	2,460	334	3,710
France	651	12,200	2,100	31,100	334	2,280	3,090	45,500
Germany	42	489	5,580	40,200	212	4,920	5,830	45,600
Greece	--	--	3,190	22,600	14	274	3,210	22,900
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	917	11,000	917	11,000
Honduras	--	--	62	169	93	1,390	155	1,560
Hong Kong	--	--	645	6,430	19	645	664	7,080
India	17,600	161,000	4,330	40,800	--	86	21,900	202,000
Indonesia	--	--	10,900	79,100	--	--	10,900	79,100
Italy	118	842	2,780	13,700	--	--	2,900	14,600
Japan	--	15	3,180	30,200	275	505	3,450	30,700
Korea, Republic of	3	46	2,390	18,200	1,650	15,300	4,040	33,600
Malaysia	199	2,180	667	7,540	--	--	866	9,730
Mexico	265	12,400	4,470	41,400	15,000	151,000	19,700	204,000
Netherlands	179	1,240	857	4,140	--	211	1,040	5,600
New Zealand	396	7,660	--	1	--	96	396	7,760
Norway	6,120	17,000	71	285	--	--	6,190	17,300
Oman	--	34,400	6,630	48,200	--	--	6,630	82,600
Qatar	5,190	98,300	--	3	--	--	5,190	98,300
Romania	--	--	828	5,010	--	19	828	5,030
Russia	5,400	281,000	1,820	19,300	--	--	7,210	301,000
Saudi Arabia	3,410	43,500	--	7,650	79	2,270	3,490	53,400
South Africa	8,010	92,000	3,420	49,300	--	--	11,400	141,000
Spain	57	4,690	822	5,330	304	4,730	1,180	14,800
Sweden	--	--	1,050	6,820	--	5	1,050	6,820
Switzerland	--	--	260	2,930	--	--	260	2,930
Taiwan	6	141	4,970	30,000	170	2,670	5,140	32,800
Thailand	94	689	1,650	8,400	135	1,860	1,880	10,900
Turkey	--	--	3,840	21,200	18	3,620	3,860	24,900
United Arab Emirates	49,200	506,000	347	2,260	108	1,810	49,700	510,000
United Kingdom	27	14,700	2,120	9,340	335	3,240	2,480	27,300
Venezuela	4,920	49,600	32	1,500	647	6,660	5,600	57,700
Vietnam	--	253	2,090	21,200	4	667	2,100	22,100
Other	127	1,380	6,460	40,400	2,060	19,700	8,650	61,500
Total	306,000	3,530,000	119,000	1,170,000	60,500	592,000	485,000	5,290,000

-- 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 OCTOBER 2018¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October	October	January– October
Australia	58	507	320	1,690	--	3	378	2,200
Belgium	--	87	132	1,090	2,640	9,350	2,770	10,500
Bolivia	--	--	1	639	--	--	--	639
Brazil	2	153	528	3,240	2,090	14,100	2,620	17,400
Canada	10,600	105,000	32,000	333,000	10,400	87,300	53,000	526,000
China	43	1,000	2,300	22,600	28,100	423,000	30,500	447,000
Colombia	--	82	208	1,590	--	15	208	1,690
Dominican Republic	139	1,820	78	1,060	--	--	217	2,880
France	698	6,350	752	8,640	198	2,300	1,650	17,300
Germany	191	1,660	824	6,700	465	6,250	1,480	14,600
Guatemala	--	3	1,140	7,440	--	--	1,140	7,450
Hong Kong	38	45	34	1,220	5,190	32,200	5,260	33,500
India	46	262	313	3,860	25,500	164,000	25,800	168,000
Indonesia	1	19	9	620	10,200	58,800	10,200	59,400
Ireland	--	42	7	291	--	--	7	333
Israel	6	12	1,020	8,940	--	48	1,030	9,000
Italy	2	114	117	1,190	257	871	376	2,180
Jamaica	--	27	5	95	--	--	5	122
Japan	143	1,260	1,720	13,500	3,290	20,200	5,160	34,900
Korea, Republic of	12	425	2,430	25,500	23,900	198,000	26,400	223,000
Malaysia	21	63	205	4,480	16,500	137,000	16,700	141,000
Mexico	12,800	126,000	39,100	396,000	19,900	160,000	71,800	682,000
Netherlands	6	110	32	290	248	3,740	286	4,140
New Zealand	--	7	28	634	5	9	33	650
Norway	--	3	6	121	--	--	6	124
Pakistan	--	13	--	317	1,910	10,800	1,910	11,100
Panama	--	9	12	104	--	160	12	273
Philippines	61	104	21	280	619	3,710	701	4,100
Poland	6	110	32	690	--	171	38	971
Romania	18	144	123	596	--	--	141	740
Russia	--	31	14	126	481	10,000	495	10,200
Saudi Arabia	--	1	82	1,810	--	20	82	1,830
Singapore	55	771	155	3,910	190	615	400	5,300
Spain	--	111	218	1,150	227	1,250	445	2,500
Taiwan	269	3,570	341	7,350	7,840	46,100	8,450	57,000
Thailand	--	260	356	3,920	1,770	11,600	2,130	15,800
Turkey	--	127	669	3,740	--	272	669	4,140
United Arab Emirates	73	659	93	875	295	1,680	461	3,210
United Kingdom	72	459	779	8,970	69	1,860	920	11,300
Vietnam	--	--	16	102	792	4,290	808	4,400
Other	44	524	357	4,270	1,300	8,780	1,700	13,600
Total	25,500	252,000	86,600	883,000	164,000	1,420,000	276,000	2,550,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.