

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2018

Domestic primary aluminum production in November 2018 was 88,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in November was 2,920 t, 8% more than that in October 2018, 44% more than that in November 2017 and 43% more than that in November 2016 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in November 2018 was 296,000 t, 5% less than that in October 2018 but 3% more than that in November 2017, and slightly less than the amount in November 2016. Of this, 163,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap and 132,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

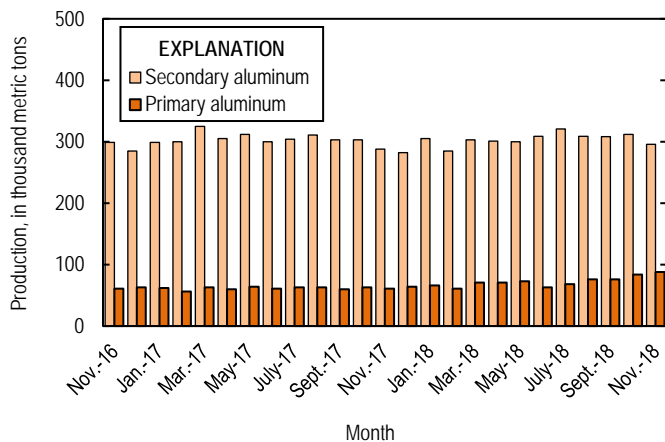


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from November 2016 through November 2018.

Prices and Stocks

The November 2018 average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased by 4% from that in October 2018 to \$1.08 per pound. The average cash price in November of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) decreased by 5% from that in October 2018 to \$0.879 per pound (fig. 2, table 6).

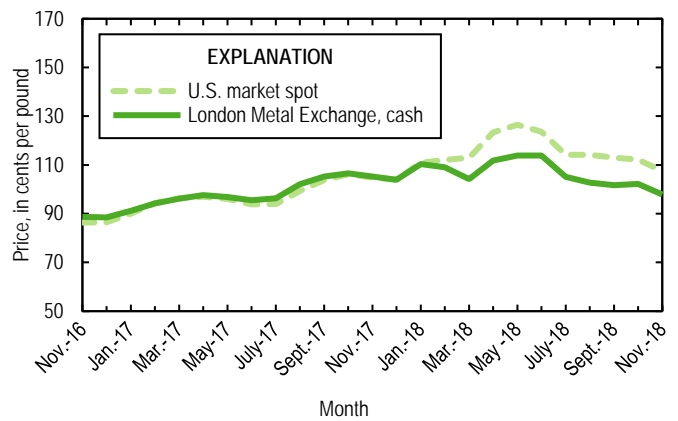


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from November 2016 through November 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 57,175 t at the end of November from 59,275 t at the end of October. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 137,680 t at the end of November from 143,160 t at the end of October (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2018a, b).

Update

The U.S. Department of the Treasury lifted sanctions on United Company RUSAL Plc on January 27, 2019. In April 2018, RUSAL and its principal owner who also was formerly its chief executive officer were sanctioned by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The principle owner decreased his ownership to a level acceptable to the U. S. Department of the Treasury and the company agreed to audits of its operations and reporting requirements. Companies with supply contracts with RUSAL were permitted to continue receiving shipments. (See Aluminum in February 2018, Aluminum in August 2018, and Aluminum in September 2018.) After the sanctions were lifted, the LME

removed its ban on metal produced by RUSAL (Butt, 2019; U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2019).

On January 22, 2019, an explosion occurred at the secondary aluminum smelter in Henderson, KY, owned by Hydro ASA. No injuries were reported, but the furnace was damaged and shut down for repairs. A company spokesman stated that repairs would take 1 or 2 months. The smelter capacity was 90,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of extrusion billet (Cha, 2019; Hydro ASA, 2019).

Alcoa Corp. reached a tentative agreement with representatives of the workers at two primary aluminum smelters in Spain that it announced in October would be shut down. (See Aluminum in August 2018.) The terms of the agreement were to be voted on by the workers within 30 days of the January 16, 2019, agreement, but further details on the outcome of the vote were not available. The production capacity of the Aviles smelter was 93,000 t/yr and the La Coruna smelter capacity was 87,000 t/yr, but only 124,000 t/yr of the combined capacity was producing. Once a closure agreement was ratified by the employees, the smelters would be shut down (Alcoa Corp., 2019).

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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:									
November	61	166	122	288	358	116	474	822	1,420
December	64	165	117	282	400	118	518	864	1,470
January–November	677	1,880	1,470	3,350	4,430	1,260	5,680	9,710	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
November	88	163	132	296	294	122	416	799	NA
January–November	797	1,910	1,440	3,350	3,830	1,290	5,110	9,260	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:										
November	183	138	154	141	8	8	(2)	(2)	347	288
December	182	138	148	136	8	8	(2)	(2)	339	282
January–November	2,020	1,520	1,910	1,750	93	85	4	4	4,020	3,350
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
November	181	135	167	152	8	8	(2)	(2)	356	296
January–November	1,940	1,500	1,930	1,770	93	85	4	4	3,970	3,350

^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 NOVEMBER 2018¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	151,000	181,000	113,000	135,000
Independent mill fabricators	153,000	167,000	139,000	152,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	266	320	266	320
Total	311,000	356,000	259,000	296,000

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 NOVEMBER 2018¹

(Metric tons)

	November			January–November ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	15,400	65,800	65,800	15,400	783,000	784,000
Can stock clippings	4,670	21,700	21,800	4,630	236,000	237,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	19,300	36,900	34,700	21,600	481,000	469,000
Casting	3,170	5,760	5,760	3,170	59,900	59,900
Borings and turnings	3,540	11,100	11,100	3,510	108,000	109,000
Dross and skimmings	10,300	41,200	41,200	10,300	389,000	389,000
Total new scrap	56,400	182,000	180,000	58,600	2,060,000	2,050,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,250	26,200	26,200	8,250	276,000	276,000
Used extrusion	7,830	10,800	10,800	7,830	132,000	132,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	9,540	53,600	53,600	9,520	573,000	573,000
Other wrought products	11,300	30,500	29,900	11,900	329,000	333,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,900	10,200	10,100	3,080	107,000	107,000
Total old scrap	39,800	131,000	131,000	40,600	1,420,000	1,420,000
Sweated pig						
	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total all classes	96,200	314,000	311,000	99,100	3,470,000	3,470,000

-- 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 NOVEMBER 2018^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	November			January–November		
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,720	1,730	1,730	2,720	20,900	19,900
380 and variations	6,190	14,700	14,700	6,190	162,000	162,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,160	2,370	2,370	1,160	26,100	26,100
No. 319 and variations	2,860	3,910	3,910	2,860	41,000	40,700
F-132 alloy and variations	162	196	196	162	2,150	2,150
Al-Zn alloys	243	94	94	243	1,030	1,030
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	103	92	92	103	1,010	1,010
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	178	67	67	178	742	742
Other ⁴	5,820	10,600	10,600	5,820	114,000	113,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,100	54,700	54,700	10,100	602,000	602,000
Total all alloys	29,600	88,500	88,500	29,600	971,000	968,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,800	XX	XX	175,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,010	XX	XX	21,900	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	960	XX	XX	10,800	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	69,600	XX	XX	763,000	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:		
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
November	107.763	87.871
January–November	115.505	96.440

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:					
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
November	59.35	54.62	45.45	44.50	41.00
January–November	74.35	62.68	56.00	56.36	53.06

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January– November	November	January– November	November	January– November	November	January– November
Argentina	4,730	151,000	--	38	--	--	4,730	151,000
Australia	19,700	122,000	76	709	89	2,070	19,800	125,000
Austria	--	67	3,550	33,000	--	--	3,550	33,100
Bahrain	9,420	121,000	4,090	54,500	--	--	13,500	175,000
Belgium	52	490	499	6,810	--	--	551	7,300
Brazil	--	10,500	3,930	25,600	42	4,950	3,970	41,100
Canada	153,000	1,970,000	14,500	217,000	33,800	372,000	201,000	2,560,000
Chile	--	--	--	2	370	5,280	370	5,280
China	24	3,170	11,800	243,000	--	473	11,800	247,000
Colombia	--	--	459	8,250	18	1,830	477	10,100
Costa Rica	--	--	--	14	268	3,270	268	3,280
El Salvador	--	--	178	1,430	208	2,670	386	4,100
France	641	12,800	2,300	33,400	111	2,390	3,050	48,600
Germany	23	513	6,910	47,100	267	5,180	7,200	52,800
Greece	--	--	3,180	25,800	63	337	3,250	26,200
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	790	11,800	790	11,800
Honduras	--	--	25	194	152	1,540	177	1,740
Hong Kong	25	25	975	7,410	20	665	1,020	8,100
India	10,700	171,000	3,860	44,700	--	86	14,600	216,000
Indonesia	18	18	9,920	89,000	--	--	9,940	89,100
Italy	--	842	3,510	17,300	--	--	3,510	18,100
Japan	93	108	3,210	33,400	591	1,100	3,900	34,600
Korea, Republic of	253	299	1,930	20,200	1,030	16,300	3,210	36,800
Malaysia	--	2,180	640	8,180	--	--	640	10,400
Mexico	44	12,500	2,860	44,200	13,000	164,000	15,900	220,000
Netherlands	185	1,430	584	4,730	--	211	769	6,370
New Zealand	101	7,760	--	1	--	96	101	7,860
Norway	2,400	19,400	131	417	--	--	2,540	19,800
Oman	--	34,400	9,370	57,600	--	--	9,370	92,000
Qatar	7,360	106,000	--	3	--	--	7,360	106,000
Romania	--	--	663	5,680	38	57	701	5,730
Russia	36,800	318,000	947	20,300	--	--	37,800	339,000
Saudi Arabia	2,730	46,200	437	8,090	--	2,270	3,170	56,600
South Africa	600	92,600	9,460	58,700	--	--	10,100	151,000
Spain	89	4,780	1,530	6,860	376	5,110	2,000	16,700
Sweden	--	--	822	7,640	--	5	822	7,650
Switzerland	--	--	292	3,220	15	15	307	3,240
Taiwan	--	141	5,040	35,000	152	2,820	5,200	38,000
Thailand	126	815	1,760	10,200	19	1,880	1,900	12,900
Turkey	--	--	3,440	24,700	--	3,620	3,440	28,300
United Arab Emirates	45,100	551,000	367	2,630	41	1,850	45,500	555,000
United Kingdom	--	14,700	1,890	11,200	550	3,790	2,440	29,700
Venezuela	--	49,600	24	1,530	985	7,640	1,010	58,700
Vietnam	--	253	1,360	22,600	11	679	1,370	23,500
Other	54	1,430	5,630	46,000	1,800	21,500	7,480	68,900
Total	294,000	3,830,000	122,000	1,290,000	54,900	647,000	471,000	5,760,000

-- 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 NOVEMBER 2018¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January– November	November	January– November	November	January– November	November	January– November
Australia	48	555	111	1,800	--	3	159	2,360
Belgium	--	87	248	1,340	1,570	10,900	1,820	12,300
Bolivia	--	--	--	639	--	--	--	639
Brazil	7	159	271	3,510	2,000	16,100	2,280	19,700
Canada	10,000	115,000	28,500	362,000	9,550	96,800	48,100	574,000
China	1	1,000	2,040	24,600	38,300	462,000	40,300	487,000
Colombia	--	82	80	1,670	--	15	80	1,770
Dominican Republic	35	1,860	53	1,110	--	--	88	2,970
France	502	6,850	605	9,250	119	2,420	1,230	18,500
Germany	19	1,680	523	7,230	264	6,520	806	15,400
Guatemala	--	3	24	7,470	--	--	24	7,470
Hong Kong	--	45	148	1,370	5,130	37,300	5,280	38,800
India	15	277	170	4,020	30,000	194,000	30,200	199,000
Indonesia	--	19	37	657	7,360	66,100	7,400	66,800
Ireland	--	42	52	343	--	--	52	385
Israel	49	61	802	9,740	--	48	851	9,850
Italy	5	119	94	1,290	118	990	217	2,390
Jamaica	--	27	14	108	--	--	14	135
Japan	154	1,410	1,670	15,100	1,860	22,100	3,690	38,600
Korea, Republic of	49	474	2,590	28,100	21,100	219,000	23,700	247,000
Malaysia	12	74	185	4,660	19,600	156,000	19,800	161,000
Mexico	11,000	137,000	37,900	434,000	19,400	180,000	68,200	750,000
Netherlands	1	111	29	318	114	3,860	144	4,290
New Zealand	--	7	44	678	--	9	44	694
Norway	--	3	4	124	--	--	4	127
Pakistan	--	13	23	340	2,660	13,400	2,680	13,800
Panama	--	9	24	128	--	160	24	297
Philippines	14	118	5	285	769	4,480	788	4,890
Poland	1	111	92	782	--	171	93	1,060
Romania	11	155	67	663	--	--	78	818
Russia	--	31	4	130	896	10,900	900	11,100
Saudi Arabia	--	1	37	1,850	--	20	37	1,870
Singapore	82	853	279	4,190	199	814	560	5,860
Spain	4	115	63	1,210	273	1,520	340	2,840
Taiwan	37	3,610	336	7,690	10,600	56,700	11,000	68,000
Thailand	101	361	317	4,230	2,260	13,800	2,680	18,400
Turkey	--	127	508	4,240	36	308	544	4,680
United Arab Emirates	23	683	36	911	696	2,380	755	3,970
United Kingdom	41	500	817	9,790	395	2,260	1,250	12,500
Vietnam	--	--	1	103	87	4,380	88	4,480
Other	24	548	372	4,640	994	9,770	1,390	15,000
Total	22,200	274,000	79,200	962,000	176,000	1,600,000	278,000	2,830,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.