

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2019

Domestic primary aluminum production in November was 89,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in November was 2,980 t, slightly more than that in October 2019 and November 2018, and 47% more than that in November 2017 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in November was 271,000 t, slightly less than the amount in October, 10% less than the amount in November 2018, and 6% less than that in November 2017. Of this, 145,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap and 126,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

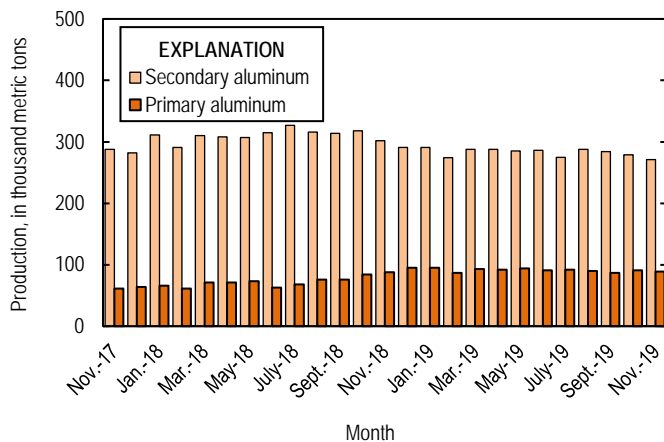


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from November 2017 through November 2019.

Prices and Stocks

The November average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$0.962 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in October. The average cash price in November of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) increased by 3% to \$0.804 per pound from that in October (fig. 2, table 6).

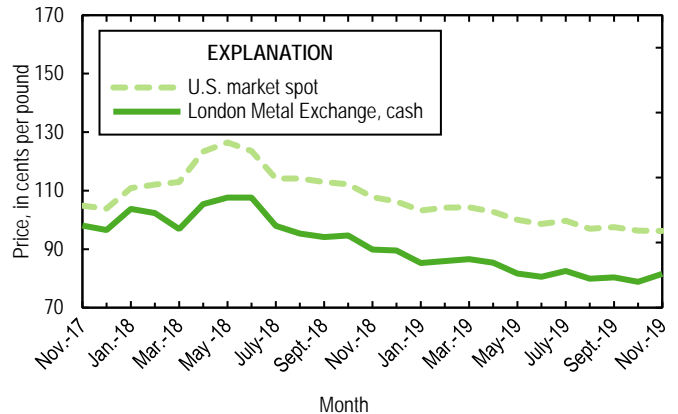


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from November 2017 through November 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 5,025 t at the end of November from 5,225 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 56,080 t at the end of November from 58,600 t at the end of October (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2019a, b).

Update

On January 10, 2020, the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control designated several Iranian individuals and businesses for sanctions in response to activities of the Government of Iran. Among those designated are Al-Mahdi Aluminum Corp. and Iran Aluminum Co., the two producers of primary aluminum and alumina in Iran, and Khalagh Tabdir Pars Co., a trading firm, which deals with aluminum and alumina. All assets subject to U.S. jurisdiction of those sanctioned are frozen and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from doing business with sanctioned individuals or businesses. From January through November 2019, the United

States did not import any aluminum for consumption from Iran (U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2020).

January 13, 2020, at <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm870> .)

References Cited

- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2019a, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., October 31, 3 p.
London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2019b, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., November 29, 3 p.
U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2020, Treasury targets Iran's billion dollar metal industry and senior regime officials: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of the Treasury press release, January 10. (Accessed

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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	4,180 ^r	1,410	5,590 ^r	10,200 ^r	1,570
2018:									
November	88	169	133	302	297 ^r	122	419 ^r	809 ^r	1,580
December	95	169	122	291	309 ^r	122	431 ^r	817 ^r	1,570
January–November	797	1,970	1,450	3,420	3,870 ^r	1,290	5,160 ^r	9,380 ^r	1,570
2019:									
January	95	172	119	291	299 ^r	136	435 ^r	821 ^r	1,640
February	87	153	121	274	286 ^r	118	404 ^r	765 ^r	1,600
March	93	159	129	288	315 ^r	145	460 ^r	841 ^r	1,590
April	92	161	128	288	315 ^r	143	458 ^r	839 ^r	1,650
May	94	158	127	285	288 ^r	135	423 ^r	802 ^r	1,630
June	91	159	127	286	316 ^r	131	447 ^r	824 ^r	1,630
July	92	145	129	275	421 ^r	117	538 ^r	905 ^r	1,640
August	90	158	130	288	334 ^r	115	449 ^r	827 ^r	1,650
September	87	159	125	284	292 ^r	105	397 ^r	769 ^r	1,640
October	91	151	128	279	319 ^r	100	419 ^r	788 ^r	1,630
November	89	145	126	271	302	96	398	758	1,600
January–November	1,001	1,720	1,390	3,110	3,490	1,340	4,830	8,940	1,600

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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:										
November	189	141	167	153	8	8	(2)	(2)	365	302
December	186	141	155	142	8	8	(2)	(2)	350	291
January–November	2,030	1,560	1,930	1,770	93	85	4	4	4,060	3,420
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
October	185	140	143	130	8	8	(2)	(2)	336	279
November	185	139	136	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	329	271
January–November	2,020	1,520	1,640	1,500	93	85	4	4	3,750	3,110

^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 2019¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	154,000	185,000	116,000	139,000
Independent mill fabricators	122,000	136,000	112,000	124,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	284,000	329,000	234,000	271,000

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 NOVEMBER 2019¹

(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	18,600	46,300	46,400	18,500	577,000	577,000
Can stock clippings	6,080	21,100	21,200	5,920	262,000	262,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	51,700	70,900	35,800	86,700	467,000	408,000
Casting	4,150	5,640	5,640	4,150	70,100	70,100
Borings and turnings	5,590	12,300	12,300	5,580	138,000	138,000
Dross and skimmings	16,400	40,700	40,700	16,400	439,000	439,000
Total new scrap	102,000	197,000	162,000	137,000	1,950,000	1,890,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	9,410	26,700	26,700	9,410	294,000	294,000
Used extrusion	9,190	15,900	15,900	9,190	170,000	170,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	11,200	39,100	39,200	11,200	445,000	445,000
Other wrought products	16,700	29,100	30,600	15,200	331,000	333,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,850	9,260	9,250	3,860	104,000	104,000
Total old scrap	50,400	120,000	122,000	48,800	1,340,000	1,350,000
Total all classes	153,000	317,000	284,000	186,000	3,300,000	3,240,000

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 NOVEMBER 2019^{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.)	2,630	1,790	1,790	2,630	19,700	19,700
380 and variations	6,930	15,400	15,400	6,930	170,000	170,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,310	2,550	2,550	1,310	28,000	28,000
No. 319 and variations	3,480	3,370	3,370	3,480	37,000	37,000
F-132 alloy and variations	418	386	386	418	4,250	4,250
Al-Zn alloys	W	W	W	W	W	W
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	214	142	142	214	1,560	1,560
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other ⁴	6,930	10,100	10,100	6,930	111,000	111,000
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,800	55,000	55,000	10,800	605,000	605,000
Total all alloys	32,700	88,800	88,800	32,700	976,000	976,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	16,200	XX	XX	176,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,860	XX	XX	21,300	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	846	XX	XX	10,100	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum						
scrap consumed in production of						
secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	69,900	XX	XX	768,000	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:		
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
October	96.283	77.949
November	96.236	80.375
January–November	99.996	81.344

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:					
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
October	51.59	40.11	34.91	34.37	26.67
November	53.24	39.00	33.74	33.24	26.50
January–November	55.12	46.59	41.37	40.29	34.18

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(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	14,800	171,000	--	21	--	--	14,800	171,000
Australia	13,600	256,000	58	971	--	389	13,600	257,000
Austria	--	--	389	21,800	--	--	389	21,800
Bahrain	11,700	121,000	4,680	66,900	--	--	16,300	188,000
Belgium	57	279	257	11,500	--	--	314	11,800
Brazil	--	1,640	2,200	32,500	--	174	2,200	34,300
Canada	162,000	1,870,000	17,200	182,000	28,300	350,000	207,000	2,400,000
Chile	--	--	--	5	177	3,030	177	3,040
China	15	14,500	7,080	115,000	40	220	7,140	130,000
Colombia	--	--	370	4,260	55	1,320	425	5,590
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	187	2,970	187	2,970
El Salvador	--	--	46	617	128	1,640	174	2,260
France	318	5,180	1,560	18,800	220	838	2,100	24,800
Germany	94	323	6,200	97,000	66	1,830	6,360	99,200
Greece	--	--	1,420	33,100	9	42	1,430	33,100
Guatemala	--	--	--	19	201	9,440	201	9,460
Honduras	--	--	291	1,990	105	884	396	2,870
Hong Kong	--	--	30	5,290	--	--	30	5,290
India	24,000	175,000	2,930	50,400	--	26	27,000	226,000
Indonesia	--	--	1,220	67,600	--	1	1,220	67,700
Italy	36	2,750	1,580	30,100	36	71	1,650	32,900
Japan	1	78	2,760	43,800	328	9,640	3,090	53,500
Korea, Republic of	704	16,900	3,410	40,800	921	10,700	5,040	68,500
Malaysia	--	4,830	726	6,530	--	39	726	11,400
Mexico	52	782	2,000	33,300	11,700	140,000	13,800	174,000
Netherlands	96	694	418	5,130	184	618	698	6,440
New Zealand	2,290	12,400	--	2	--	--	--	12,400
Norway	--	11,700	129	4,640	--	--	129	16,300
Oman	--	6,080	4,100	80,100	--	--	4,100	86,200
Qatar	8,600	150,000	--	62	--	--	8,600	150,000
Romania	--	--	594	11,800	--	35	594	11,800
Russia	15,500	192,000	236	12,500	--	--	15,700	205,000
Saudi Arabia	2,190	19,200	10,300	59,800	--	--	12,500	79,000
South Africa	401	9,490	4,600	48,500	--	--	5,000	58,000
Spain	132	3,770	1,040	19,500	--	729	1,170	24,000
Sweden	--	--	434	8,360	--	--	434	8,360
Switzerland	--	--	178	6,000	--	43	178	6,050
Taiwan	20	179	2,650	55,800	76	926	2,750	56,900
Thailand	69	742	4,150	18,000	39	406	4,260	19,200
Turkey	--	--	4,990	54,200	--	--	4,990	54,200
United Arab Emirates	45,500	439,000	79	2,760	--	134	45,600	442,000
United Kingdom	41	1,630	343	8,090	194	3,680	578	13,400
Venezuela	--	47	5	289	101	1,240	106	1,570
Vietnam	--	100	2,110	20,000	--	1,120	2,110	21,200
Other	102	2,130	3,060	60,500	658	12,700	3,820	75,300
Total	302,000	3,490,000	95,800	1,340,000	43,800	554,000	439,000	5,380,000

-- 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 2019¹

(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	45	652	130	2,070	--	3	175	2,730
Belgium	--	7	60	1,770	979	7,560	1,040	9,330
Brazil	18	1,110	302	5,670	2,670	22,100	2,990	28,900
Canada	8,210	91,300	26,900	312,000	7,550	86,400	42,700	490,000
China	794	1,560	1,730	25,700	5,490	313,000	8,010	340,000
Colombia	--	4	57	575	--	--	57	579
Dominican Republic	--	678	18	656	21	79	39	1,410
France	571	6,580	382	7,250	99	2,110	1,050	15,900
Germany	359	2,220	656	6,090	860	7,360	1,880	15,700
Guatemala	--	--	303	4,490	--	--	303	4,490
Hong Kong	--	31	271	1,500	3,690	89,800	3,960	91,300
India	9	225	201	1,910	23,400	240,000	23,600	242,000
Indonesia	100	309	14	79	5,660	89,500	5,780	89,900
Ireland	--	15	18	490	--	--	18	505
Israel	--	4	575	10,800	--	21	575	10,800
Italy	4	79	257	1,750	1,180	10,400	1,450	12,200
Jamaica	1	10	29	174	--	--	30	184
Japan	251	1,770	1,290	16,500	1,980	14,400	3,530	32,700
Korea, Republic of	306	593	2,050	25,600	23,000	250,000	25,300	277,000
Malaysia	525	593	241	3,130	41,500	257,000	42,300	261,000
Mexico	6,870	101,000	25,500	342,000	16,400	172,000	48,800	616,000
Netherlands	7	55	17	407	398	1,320	422	1,790
New Zealand	1	3	39	407	--	--	40	410
Norway	1	1	5	87	--	--	6	88
Pakistan	--	--	6	55	885	12,400	891	12,400
Panama	--	20	54	262	--	--	54	282
Philippines	6	9	33	334	781	10,700	820	11,000
Poland	--	65	69	1,040	--	239	69	1,350
Romania	4	90	331	1,390	--	--	335	1,480
Russia	--	6	9	151	669	6,540	678	6,690
Saudi Arabia	--	7	73	722	--	2,910	73	3,640
Singapore	45	493	166	1,770	18	5,010	229	7,280
Spain	115	1,230	120	1,290	390	4,500	625	7,020
Taiwan	78	2,240	289	5,070	4,140	57,200	4,510	64,500
Thailand	--	348	91	1,490	4,460	29,600	4,550	31,400
Turkey	48	164	386	4,700	504	941	938	5,810
United Arab Emirates	--	166	10	285	331	5,840	341	6,290
United Kingdom	19	799	623	8,510	71	2,270	713	11,600
Vietnam	--	3	27	158	1,780	7,560	1,810	7,720
Other	46	697	440	4,480	1,800	14,700	2,280	19,900
Total	18,400	216,000	63,800	803,000	151,000	1,720,000	233,000	2,740,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.