

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2020

Domestic primary aluminum production in June 2020 was 89,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in June 2020 was 2,980 t, 3% less than that in May 2020, slightly less than that in June 2019, but 43% more than that in June 2018 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in June 2020 was 249,000 t, 4% more than the revised amount in May 2020, 15% less than the revised amount in June 2019, and 21% less than that in June 2018. Of this, 132,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 117,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

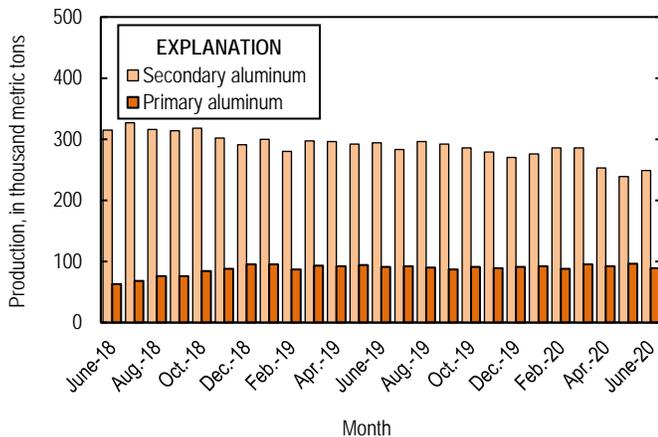


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from June 2018 through June 2020.

Prices and Stocks

The June 2020 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$0.797 per pound, 6% more than that in May 2020, 19% less than that in June 2019, and 36% less than that in June 2018. The average cash price in June 2020 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$0.709 per pound, 7% more than that in May 2020, 11% less than that in June 2019, and 30% less than that in June 2018 (fig. 2, table 6).

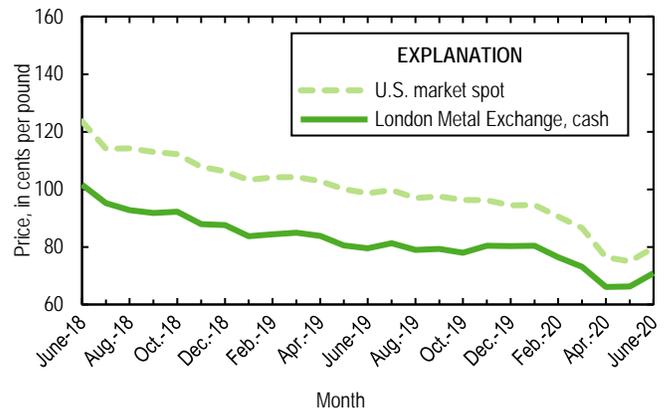


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from June 2018 through June 2020. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States increased to 163,558 t at the end of June from 132,870 t at the end of May. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 35,640 t at the end of June from 39,477 t at the end of May (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2020a-d).

U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in the first 6 months of 2020 (table 8) were 12% less than those in the same period in 2019. Imports of crude metal and alloys increased slightly but imports of semifabricated products and scrap decreased by 40% and 19%, respectively. Canada continued to be the leading source of imported aluminum materials, supplying 59% of all aluminum imports during the first 6 months of 2020, followed by the United Arab Emirates (7%) and Argentina (4%). Canada accounted for 69% of crude metal, 19% of semifabricated products, and 62% of scrap imports in

the first half of 2020. The United Arab Emirates and Argentina accounted for 10% and 5%, respectively, of crude metal imports. China accounted for 10% of semifabricated product imports. Mexico was the source of 29% of scrap imports.

Total exports of aluminum (table 9) decreased by 15% during the first 6 months of 2020 compared with those of the same period in the previous year. Exports of crude metal and alloys, semifabricated products, and scrap decreased by 26%, 23%, and 9%, respectively, compared with those in the same period of 2019. The leading destinations for total aluminum products during the first 6 months of 2020, in descending order of quantity, were Mexico (18%), Canada (17%), Malaysia (13%), and the Republic of Korea (12%).

Update

On August 6, the President of the United States announced that a tariff on unalloyed unwrought primary aluminum imported from Canada would be reinstated on August 16. The 10% tariff was imposed under authority of Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. Although the tariff was initially imposed on June 1, 2018, it was removed on May 19, 2019 based on an agreement between the two countries. Under the agreement, the United States reserved the right to reinstate the tariff if imports surged. Imports of unalloyed unwrought primary aluminum from Canada from June 2019 to May 2020 increased by 87% compared with imports during the same period the prior twelve months. In response, Canada announced plans to reinstate tariffs on products from the United States that had been removed as a result of the agreement reached in May 2019, as allowed under the terms of that agreement (Coyne, 2020; Executive Office of the President, 2020; Hotter, 2020).

On August 10, the U.S. Department of Commerce issued its preliminary determination of a countervailing duty investigation of common alloy aluminum sheet imports from Bahrain, Brazil, India, and Turkey. Preliminary subsidy rates were set for Bahrain (9.49%), Brazil (0.67 to 1.32%), India (4.55 to 34.84%), and Turkey (0.07 to 3.15%). The investigation was initiated after The Aluminum Association Inc. filed a complaint in March alleging that the imports from those countries were subsidized by the Governments. (See Aluminum in January 2020.) The final determination was scheduled to be issued by December 22. The U.S. International Trade Commission continued an antidumping investigation of common alloy aluminum sheet imports from 18 countries and was expected to issue its final determination in February 2021.

The antidumping investigation also was initiated in March at the request of The Aluminum Association (Roh, 2020).

On August 4, JW Aluminum Inc. temporarily halted production from its rolling mill and casthouse in Goose Creek, SC, after a fire in the casthouse. Production resumed the next day from a new 250,000-metric-ton-per-year furnace and casthouse that were not damaged by the fire. The new furnace and casthouse had been installed as part of an expansion project and started production in July. The furnace and casting equipment involved in the fire remained shut down and a restart schedule was not available (Lazzaro, 2020a, b).

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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		
2019 ^p	1,093	1,920 ^r	1,540 ^r	3,470 ^r	3,800	1,440	5,230	9,790 ^r	1,600
2019:									
June	91	164 ^r	130 ^r	294 ^r	316	131	447	832 ^r	1,630
July	92	150 ^r	132 ^r	283 ^r	421	117	538	913 ^r	1,640
August	90	163 ^r	133 ^r	296 ^r	334	115	449	835 ^r	1,650
September	87	164 ^r	128 ^r	292 ^r	292	105	397	776 ^r	1,640
October	91	156 ^r	131 ^r	286 ^r	319	100	419	796 ^r	1,630
November	89	150 ^r	128 ^r	279 ^r	302	96	398	766 ^r	1,600
December	91	149 ^r	121 ^r	270 ^r	317	96	413	774 ^r	1,600
January–June	552	992 ^r	768 ^r	1,760 ^r	1,810	808	2,620	4,930	1,600
2020:									
January	92	151 ^r	125 ^r	276 ^r	347	98	445	814 ^r	1,650
February	88	161 ^r	124 ^r	286 ^r	261	83	344	717 ^r	1,580
March	95	158 ^r	127 ^r	286 ^r	308	89	397	777 ^r	1,590
April	92	133 ^r	120 ^r	253 ^r	338	75	413	758 ^r	1,590
May	96	128 ^r	111 ^r	239 ^r	316	68	384	718 ^r	1,530
June	89	132	117	249	262	75	337	675	NA
January–June	552	864	725	1,590	1,830	488	2,320	4,460	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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
	2019 ^b	2,300 ^r	1,750 ^r	1,770	1,620	101	93	4	4	4,180 ^r
2019:										
June	193 ^r	147 ^r	152	139	8	8	(2)	(2)	353 ^r	294 ^r
July	191 ^r	145 ^r	142	130	8	8	(2)	(2)	342 ^r	283 ^r
August	190 ^r	143 ^r	158	145	8	8	(2)	(2)	357 ^r	296 ^r
September	191 ^r	145 ^r	151	139	8	8	(2)	(2)	351 ^r	292 ^r
October	193 ^r	148 ^r	143	130	8	8	(2)	(2)	345 ^r	286 ^r
November	193 ^r	147 ^r	136	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	338 ^r	279 ^r
December	187 ^r	144 ^r	129	118	8	8	(2)	(2)	326 ^r	270 ^r
January–June	1,160 ^r	878 ^r	908	834	51	46	2	2	2,120 ^r	1,760 ^r
2020:										
January	189 ^r	144 ^r	135	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	333 ^r	276 ^r
February	189 ^r	144 ^r	145	134	8	8	(2)	(2)	343 ^r	286 ^r
March	191 ^r	145 ^r	147	135	6	5	(2)	(2)	344 ^r	286 ^r
April	182 ^r	140 ^r	119	108	6	5	(2)	(2)	307 ^r	253 ^r
May	174 ^r	135 ^r	108	98	6	5	(2)	(2)	289 ^r	239 ^r
June	175	136	118	107	6	5	(2)	(2)	300	249
January–June	1,100	843	773	706	41	37	2	2	1,920	1,590

^bPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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 JUNE 2020¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	146,000	175,000	113,000	136,000
Independent mill fabricators	106,000	118,000	96,100	107,000
Foundries	4,950	5,940	4,530	5,440
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	257,000	300,000	214,000	249,000

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 JUNE 2020¹

(Metric tons)

	June			January–June ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,800	36,200	36,400	20,600	261,000	261,000
Can stock clippings	4,440	23,200	23,200	4,510	149,000	150,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	10,500	31,800	30,900	11,400	196,000	198,000
Casting	3,550	5,460	5,460	3,550	34,600	34,600
Borings and turnings	5,030	14,300	14,300	5,060	80,800	80,700
Dross and skimmings	10,900	33,500	33,500	10,900	220,000	220,000
Total new scrap	55,200	144,000	144,000	56,000	942,000	945,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	7,000	23,900	23,900	7,000	156,000	156,000
Used extrusion	7,320	17,600	17,600	7,320	105,000	105,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	9,130	39,600	39,600	9,100	233,000	233,000
Other wrought products	6,500	20,800	20,600	6,700	133,000	141,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	4,330	12,300	11,900	4,730	70,300	69,700
Total old scrap	34,300	114,000	114,000	34,800	697,000	704,000
Total all classes	89,400	259,000	257,000	90,800	1,640,000	1,650,000

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 JUNE 2020^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	June				January–June ³	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,270	2,440	2,440	3,270	14,700	14,700
380 and variations	8,820	19,300	19,300	8,820	116,000	116,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,180	3,020	3,020	2,180	18,100	18,100
No. 319 and variations	3,820	3,850	3,850	3,820	23,100	23,100
F-132 alloy and variations	182	249	249	182	1,490	1,490
Al-Zn alloys	467	81	81	467	487	487
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	219	133	133	219	797	797
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	318	245	245	318	1,470	1,470
Other ⁴	7,560	10,000	10,000	7,560	60,100	60,300
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,400	45,000	45,000	10,400	296,000	296,000
Total all alloys	37,200	84,400	84,400	37,200	533,000	533,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,600	XX	XX	93,400	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,810	XX	XX	10,800	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	795	XX	XX	4,770	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum						
scrap consumed in production of						
secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	66,200	XX	XX	424,000	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-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
2019:		
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
December	94.488	80.288
January–December	99.537	81.256
2020:		
January	94.545	80.351
February	90.540	76.451
March	86.591	73.070
April	76.450	66.095
May	74.961	66.215
June	79.682	70.943
January–June	83.795	72.188

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)
2019:					
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
December	53.12	39.00	35.48	34.98	27.12
January–December	54.95	45.96	40.88	39.85	33.59
2020:					
January	53.40	40.10	37.38	37.07	29.62
February	51.66	42.16	39.29	39.24	33.82
March	50.02	41.80	38.95	39.95	35.18
April	40.79	37.12	32.45	34.17	29.25
May	39.80	36.80	32.35	33.80	29.25
June	44.77	37.50	35.39	35.77	29.91
January–June	46.74	39.25	35.97	36.67	31.17

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2020¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc		Scrap		Total	
	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June
Argentina	10,900	90,400	--	--	--	--	10,900	90,400
Australia	2,140	59,400	20	172	19	19	2,180	59,600
Austria	--	--	397	2,950	--	--	397	2,950
Bahrain	2,790	41,100	949	17,500	--	--	3,740	58,600
Belgium	10	73	108	1,820	--	--	118	1,890
Brazil	--	--	592	7,790	4,070	4,880	4,660	12,700
Canada	224,000	1,270,000	15,300	93,700	30,600	157,000	270,000	1,520,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	214	1,100	214	1,100
China	35	504	6,910	49,800	6	17	6,950	50,400
Colombia	--	--	486	2,360	79	464	565	2,820
Costa Rica	--	--	1	2	262	896	263	898
France	156	1,740	1,300	7,220	114	779	1,570	9,730
Germany	38	138	4,610	31,700	288	864	4,930	32,700
Greece	--	--	1,570	8,510	--	16	1,570	8,530
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	796	2,790	796	2,790
Honduras	--	--	280	2,290	1	45	281	2,340
Hong Kong	--	--	30	224	--	--	30	224
Iceland	--	343	--	--	--	--	--	343
India	5,150	61,400	1,900	16,400	--	343	7,050	78,100
Indonesia	--	--	1,660	12,000	--	--	1,660	12,000
Italy	17	17	1,340	7,930	--	657	1,360	8,610
Japan	--	--	1,310	6,980	--	517	1,310	7,490
Korea, Republic of	462	6,100	2,060	17,100	174	1,980	2,690	25,200
Malaysia	--	222	580	2,650	--	24	580	2,900
Mexico	--	2	1,870	12,100	11,900	73,200	13,800	85,300
Netherlands	97	726	505	2,450	16	543	618	3,720
New Zealand	64	6,440	--	3	--	--	64	6,440
Norway	--	155	3	933	--	--	3	1,090
Oman	--	99	5,530	30,100	--	--	5,530	30,200
Qatar	4,220	37,000	--	--	--	--	4,220	37,000
Romania	--	--	354	2,980	--	36	354	3,010
Russia	5,170	69,900	151	1,870	--	20	5,320	71,800
Saudi Arabia	--	5,450	4,860	36,200	--	--	4,860	41,700
South Africa	19	4,470	122	9,300	--	--	141	13,800
Spain	84	628	1,480	9,410	25	185	1,590	10,200
Sweden	--	--	461	2,700	--	7	461	2,710
Switzerland	--	--	72	1,450	--	--	72	1,450
Taiwan	50	212	4,580	16,000	--	229	4,630	16,500
Thailand	17	439	3,470	20,200	38	250	3,530	20,900
Turkey	--	--	4,770	24,400	--	--	4,770	24,400
United Arab Emirates	6,270	177,000	30	461	--	35	6,300	178,000
United Kingdom	31	90	181	2,010	505	1,870	717	3,960
Venezuela	--	25	--	--	--	--	--	25
Vietnam	--	--	1,320	11,300	4	9	1,320	11,300
Other	--	96	3,300	15,300	844	5,620	4,140	21,100
Total	262,000	1,830,000	74,500	488,000	49,900	254,000	386,000	2,570,000

-- 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 JUNE 2020¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June	June	January– June
Australia	40	270	139	1,090	--	--	179	1,360
Belgium	--	21	19	150	252	3,960	271	4,130
Brazil	--	17	229	1,860	56	1,280	285	3,150
Canada	9,400	43,000	18,100	141,000	4,400	33,300	31,800	217,000
China	53	1,060	2,160	11,900	21,600	117,000	23,800	129,000
Colombia	--	6	20	436	--	129	20	571
Dominican Republic	--	7	3	163	--	59	3	229
France	23	303	482	4,190	88	704	593	5,200
Germany	2	94	714	3,470	1,530	3,660	2,250	7,220
Guatemala	--	2	13	40	--	--	13	42
Hong Kong	2	6	24	344	9,270	38,800	9,290	39,100
India	22	102	149	736	12,800	123,000	12,900	124,000
Indonesia	--	8	16	67	9,780	43,500	9,790	43,600
Ireland	--	--	12	328	--	--	12	328
Israel	--	10	1,730	8,780	--	--	1,730	8,790
Italy	35	125	107	807	486	4,170	628	5,100
Jamaica	17	81	--	32	--	4	17	117
Japan	80	935	1,530	8,940	693	6,970	2,310	16,800
Korea, Republic of	--	541	1,880	12,100	21,600	142,000	23,500	154,000
Malaysia	128	2,120	119	1,120	38,100	165,000	38,300	168,000
Mexico	5,670	39,500	20,500	130,000	10,300	64,800	36,500	234,000
Netherlands	9	30	34	216	--	674	43	920
New Zealand	--	--	35	181	--	19	35	200
Norway	--	1	--	4	--	--	--	5
Pakistan	--	39	--	5	1,310	5,460	1,310	5,510
Panama	1	9	4	27	--	--	5	36
Philippines	--	237	25	155	651	3,740	676	4,130
Poland	--	1	33	180	--	37	33	218
Romania	3	47	18	1,740	--	--	21	1,780
Russia	1	1	--	19	1,230	11,400	1,240	11,400
Saudi Arabia	11	12	38	387	--	182	49	581
Singapore	3	70	206	1,550	196	2,650	405	4,270
Spain	--	--	24	294	366	2,780	390	3,070
Taiwan	223	1,530	450	2,680	3,360	19,900	4,030	24,100
Thailand	--	1	42	477	7,010	33,900	7,050	34,400
Turkey	--	29	310	2,490	962	2,610	1,270	5,120
United Arab Emirates	--	4	6	255	216	3,750	222	4,010
United Kingdom	49	265	308	3,680	79	1,100	436	5,040
Vietnam	--	165	37	826	2,220	6,520	2,260	7,510
Other	121	200	299	2,180	1,010	11,400	1,430	13,800
Total	15,900	90,800	49,800	345,000	150,000	854,000	215,000	1,290,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.