

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JULY 2020

Domestic primary aluminum production in July 2020 was 82,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in July 2020 was 2,650 t, 11% less than that in June 2020 and July 2019 but 20% more than that in July 2018 (fig. 1, table 1). The decrease in primary aluminum production in July 2020 compared with that of the prior month was attributed to the shutdown of the smelter in Ferndale, WA, by Alcoa Corp. (See Aluminum in May 2020.)

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in July 2020 was 268,000 t, 8% more than that in June 2020, 5% less than that in July 2019, and 18% less than that in July 2018. Of this, 146,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 122,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

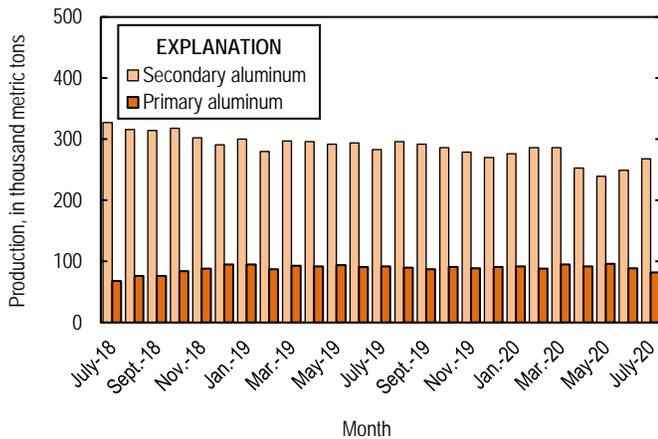


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from July 2018 through July 2020.

Prices and Stocks

The July 2020 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$0.85 per pound, 7% more than that in June 2020, 15% less than that in July 2019, and 26% less than that in July 2018. The average cash price in July 2020 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$0.744 per pound, 5% more than that in June 2020,

9% less than that in July 2019, and 22% less than that in July 2018 (fig. 2, table 6).

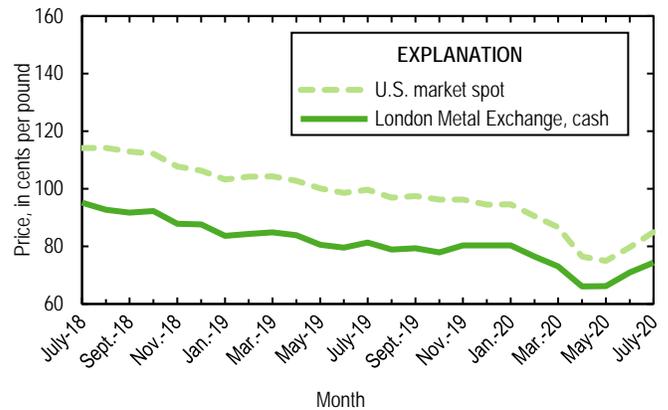


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from July 2018 through July 2020. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States increased to 193,561 t at the end of July from 163,558 t at the end of June. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 35,462 t at the end of June from 35,640 t at the end of June (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2020a-d).

Update

On September 15, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced that the 10% tariff on unalloyed unwrought primary aluminum imported from Canada was being removed, retroactive to September 1. On August 16, the 10% tariff was imposed under authority of Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. (See Aluminum in June 2020.) In the announcement, the USTR stated that imports of unalloyed

unwrought aluminum from Canada were expected to not exceed 83,000 t in September, 70,000 t in October, 83,000 t in November, and 70,000 t in December. If imports exceed the stated amount for the month, then a decrease in the next month of the excess amount was expected. Also, if imports in the four-month period exceed the total amount permitted by 105%, then the 10% tariff would be imposed on all imports for that month retroactively. In 2021, the United States reserved the right to reimpose the 10% on all future imports if imports exceed 105% of the expected amount in any month (Office of the United States Trade Representative, 2020).

References Cited

- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2020a, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., June 30, 3 p.
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London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2020c, Off-warrant stock reporting—June 2020: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., August 10, 1 p. (Accessed August 17, 2020, at

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London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2020d, Off-warrant stock reporting—July 2020: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., September 10, 1 p. (Accessed September 11, 2020, at <https://www.lme.com/en-GB/Market-Data/Reports-and-data/Warehouse-and-stocks-reports/Off-warrant-stock-reporting>.)
Office of the United States Trade Representative, 2020, USTR statement on Canadian Aluminum: Office of the United States Trade Representative press release, September 15. (Accessed September 17, 2020, at <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/september/ustr-statement-canadian-aluminum>.)

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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	1,540	3,470	3,800	1,490 ^r	5,290 ^r	9,840 ^r	1,600
2019:									
July	92	150	132	283	421	130 ^r	551 ^r	926 ^r	1,640
August	90	163	133	296	334	127 ^r	461 ^r	847 ^r	1,650
September	87	164	128	292	292	118 ^r	410 ^r	789 ^r	1,640
October	91	156	131	286	319	109 ^r	428 ^r	805 ^r	1,630
November	89	150	128	279	302	106 ^r	408 ^r	776 ^r	1,600
December	91	149	121	270	317	95 ^r	412 ^r	773 ^r	1,600
January–July	644	1,140	900	2,040	2,230	936 ^r	3,170 ^r	5,850 ^r	1,600
2020:									
January	92	151	125	276	347	111 ^r	458 ^r	827 ^r	1,650
February	88	161	124	286	261	93 ^r	354 ^r	727 ^r	1,580
March	95	158	127	286	308	102 ^r	410 ^r	790 ^r	1,590
April	92	133	120	253	338	87 ^r	425 ^r	770 ^r	1,590
May	96	128	111	239	316	80 ^r	396 ^r	730 ^r	1,530
June	89	132	117	249	262	88 ^r	350 ^r	688 ^r	1,430
July	82	146	122	268	253	84	337	687	NA
January–July	634	1,010	847	1,860	2,090	645	2,730	5,220	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 ^P	2,300	1,750	1,770	1,620	101	93	4	4	4,180
2019:										
July	191	145	142	130	8	8	(2)	(2)	342	283
August	190	143	158	145	8	8	(2)	(2)	357	296
September	191	145	151	139	8	8	(2)	(2)	351	292
October	193	148	143	130	8	8	(2)	(2)	345	286
November	193	147	136	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	338	279
December	187	144	129	118	8	8	(2)	(2)	326	270
January–July	1,350	1,020	1,050	963	59	54	2	2	2,460	2,040
2020:										
January	189	144	135	124	8	8	(2)	(2)	333	276
February	189	144	145	134	8	8	(2)	(2)	343	286
March	191	145	147	135	6	5	(2)	(2)	344	286
April	182	140	119	108	6	5	(2)	(2)	307	253
May	174	135	108	98	6	5	(2)	(2)	289	239
June	175	136	118	107	6	5	(2)	(2)	300	249
July	182	139	132	120	8	8	(2)	(2)	323	268
January–July	1,280	982	905	827	49	45	2	2	2,240	1,860

^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 JULY 2020¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	151,000	182,000	116,000	139,000
Independent mill fabricators	118,000	132,000	108,000	120,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	277,000	323,000	230,000	268,000

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 JULY 2020¹

(Metric tons)

	July			January–July ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,600	41,200	41,400	20,400	302,000	303,000
Can stock clippings	4,510	24,400	24,400	4,500	174,000	174,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	11,400	34,300	34,300	11,400	230,000	233,000
Casting	3,550	5,930	5,930	3,550	40,600	40,600
Borings and turnings	5,060	16,300	16,200	5,170	97,200	96,900
Dross and skimmings	10,900	36,100	36,100	10,900	256,000	256,000
Total new scrap	56,000	158,000	158,000	55,900	1,100,000	1,100,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	7,000	26,000	26,000	7,000	182,000	182,000
Used extrusion	7,320	17,600	17,600	7,320	123,000	123,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	9,100	40,000	39,900	9,250	273,000	273,000
Other wrought products	6,700	22,100	22,600	6,190	155,000	163,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	4,730	12,300	12,400	4,570	82,600	82,100
Total old scrap	34,800	118,000	118,000	34,300	815,000	823,000
Total all classes	90,800	276,000	277,000	90,200	1,920,000	1,930,000

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 JULY 2020^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	July				January–July 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	2,200	2,200	3,270	13,400	13,400
380 and variations	8,820	17,400	17,400	8,820	106,000	106,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,180	2,720	2,720	2,180	16,600	16,600
No. 319 and variations	3,820	3,460	3,460	3,820	21,200	21,200
F-132 alloy and variations	182	224	224	182	1,370	1,370
Al-Zn alloys	467	73	73	467	446	446
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	219	120	120	219	731	731
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	318	221	221	318	1,350	1,350
Other ⁴	7,560	9,020	9,020	7,560	55,100	55,100
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,400	40,500	40,500	10,400	248,000	248,000
Total all alloys	37,200	75,900	75,900	37,200	464,000	464,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	14,000	XX	XX	85,600	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,630	XX	XX	9,930	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	716	XX	XX	4,370	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot⁵						
	XX	59,600	XX	XX	364,000	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:		
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
July	85.022	74.360
January–July	83.970	72.498

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:					
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
July	47.45	40.09	37.86	37.20	31.23
January–July	46.84	39.37	36.24	36.74	31.18

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc		Scrap		Total	
	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–
		July		July		July		
Argentina	11,400	102,000	--	--	--	--	11,400	102,000
Australia	2,820	62,200	42	222	--	19	2,860	62,400
Austria	--	--	1,740	15,300	--	--	1,740	15,300
Bahrain	3,850	45,000	9	17,600	--	--	3,850	62,500
Belgium	--	73	597	3,000	--	--	597	3,070
Brazil	--	--	21	7,830	804	5,690	825	13,500
Canada	206,000	1,470,000	18,000	116,000	30,900	188,000	255,000	1,780,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	167	1,270	167	1,270
China	91	595	9,940	71,000	8	25	10,000	71,600
Colombia	--	--	662	3,020	80	544	742	3,560
Costa Rica	--	--	1	3	139	1,040	140	1,040
France	90	1,820	1,180	8,800	8	786	1,280	11,400
Germany	24	162	3,540	39,700	189	1,050	3,750	40,900
Greece	--	--	898	10,700	--	16	898	10,700
Guatemala	--	--	13	13	220	3,010	233	3,020
Honduras	--	--	570	2,860	12	57	582	2,920
Hong Kong	--	--	197	1,360	--	--	197	1,360
Iceland	185	528	--	--	--	--	185	528
India	11,700	73,000	1,210	18,800	--	343	12,900	92,100
Indonesia	--	--	1,180	14,200	--	--	1,180	14,200
Italy	112	129	1,620	13,300	251	908	1,990	14,400
Japan	--	--	785	8,030	86	603	871	8,630
Korea, Republic of	1,330	7,440	1,150	18,700	211	2,190	2,690	28,400
Malaysia	2	224	821	4,030	--	24	823	4,280
Mexico	--	2	2,910	15,900	11,100	84,300	14,000	100,000
Netherlands	19	746	521	3,260	90	633	630	4,640
New Zealand	59	6,500	--	3	--	--	59	6,500
Norway	--	155	138	1,200	--	--	138	1,350
Oman	--	99	6,400	37,300	--	--	6,400	37,400
Qatar	3,550	40,500	--	--	--	--	3,550	40,500
Romania	--	--	337	4,920	--	36	337	4,950
Russia	4,520	74,500	1,940	13,100	--	20	6,460	87,500
Saudi Arabia	--	5,450	6,580	42,800	--	--	6,580	48,200
South Africa	--	4,470	1,090	17,000	--	--	1,090	21,400
Spain	59	687	2,110	14,600	--	185	2,170	15,500
Sweden	--	--	222	3,990	--	7	222	4,000
Switzerland	--	--	567	3,740	--	--	567	3,740
Taiwan	99	312	2,640	21,300	5	235	2,740	21,900
Thailand	103	542	3,670	24,000	--	250	3,770	24,800
Turkey	--	--	4,520	30,200	--	--	4,520	30,200
United Arab Emirates	7,350	185,000	189	878	--	35	7,540	185,000
United Kingdom	129	219	272	2,960	77	1,940	478	5,130
Venezuela	--	25	--	--	--	--	--	25
Vietnam	--	--	1,430	12,800	--	9	1,430	12,800
Other	--	96	4,570	21,400	1,040	6,670	5,610	28,100
Total	253,000	2,080,000	84,300	646,000	45,400	300,000	383,000	3,030,000

-- 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 JULY 2020¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	July	January--	July	January--	July	January--	July	January--
		July		July		July		July
Australia	66	336	140	1,230	--	--	206	1,570
Belgium	2	22	10	160	705	4,660	717	4,850
Brazil	--	17	270	2,130	61	1,340	331	3,480
Canada	7,950	50,900	26,600	168,000	5,540	38,800	40,100	257,000
China	36	1,090	1,500	13,400	8,500	125,000	10,000	140,000
Colombia	--	6	45	481	--	129	45	616
Dominican Republic	2	9	11	174	--	59	13	242
France	--	303	674	4,860	140	844	814	6,010
Germany	2	96	389	3,860	1,410	5,070	1,800	9,020
Guatemala	--	2	2	43	--	--	2	45
Hong Kong	2	8	56	400	5,060	43,900	5,110	44,300
India	61	163	39	776	21,700	145,000	21,800	146,000
Indonesia	--	8	--	68	10,100	53,600	10,100	53,700
Ireland	1	1	78	406	--	--	79	407
Israel	--	10	1,520	10,300	--	--	1,520	10,300
Italy	--	125	74	881	20	4,190	94	5,190
Jamaica	--	81	--	33	--	4	--	118
Japan	47	983	731	9,670	713	7,680	1,490	18,300
Korea, Republic of	5	546	1,890	14,000	24,600	166,000	26,500	181,000
Malaysia	26	2,140	143	1,270	48,900	214,000	49,100	217,000
Mexico	6,180	45,700	21,800	152,000	12,000	76,900	40,000	274,000
Netherlands	--	30	13	230	32	706	45	966
New Zealand	--	--	68	249	--	19	68	268
Norway	--	1	5	10	--	--	5	11
Pakistan	--	39	6	11	1,220	6,690	1,230	6,740
Panama	3	12	1	28	--	--	4	40
Philippines	--	237	19	174	295	4,030	314	4,440
Poland	--	1	17	198	63	100	80	299
Romania	10	57	74	1,810	--	--	84	1,870
Russia	--	1	1	20	638	12,000	639	12,100
Saudi Arabia	--	12	32	419	178	360	210	791
Singapore	--	70	219	1,770	233	2,880	452	4,720
Spain	2	2	9	303	238	3,020	249	3,320
Taiwan	41	1,570	159	2,840	3,430	23,400	3,630	27,800
Thailand	--	1	14	490	7,730	41,700	7,740	42,200
Turkey	--	29	493	2,980	953	3,560	1,450	6,570
United Arab Emirates	--	4	69	323	610	4,360	679	4,680
United Kingdom	33	298	482	4,160	64	1,160	579	5,620
Vietnam	--	165	21	847	1,990	8,510	2,010	9,520
Other	160	360	272	2,450	1,230	12,700	1,670	15,500
Total	14,600	105,000	57,900	403,000	158,000	1,010,000	231,000	1,520,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.