

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2020

Domestic primary aluminum production in August 2020 was 80,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in August 2020 was 2,580 t, slightly less than that in July 2020, 11% less than that in August 2019, but 6% more than that in August 2018 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in August 2020 was 270,000 t, slightly more than that in July 2020, 9% less than that in August 2019, and 14% less than that in August 2018. Of this, 144,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 126,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

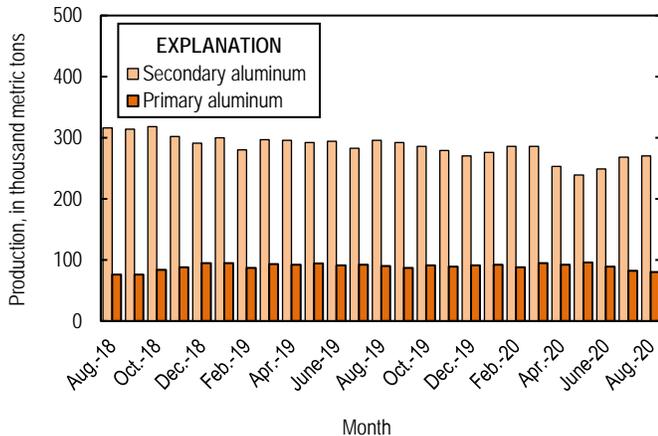


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from August 2018 through August 2020.

Prices and Stocks

The August 2020 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$0.936 per pound, 10% more than that in July 2020, 3% less than that in August 2019, and 18% less than that in August 2018. The average cash price in August 2020 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$0.786 per pound, 6% more than that in July 2020, essentially unchanged from that in August 2019, but 15% less than that in August 2018 (fig. 2, table 6).

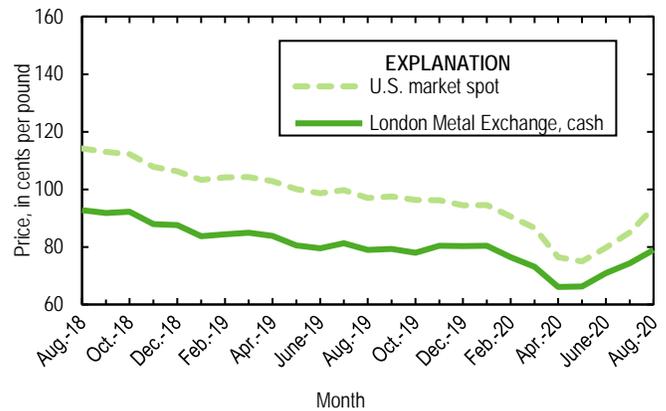


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from August 2018 through August 2020. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States increased to 221,342 t at the end of August from 193,561 t at the end of July. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 34,121 t at the end of August from 35,462 t at the end of July (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2020a-d).

Update

On October 9, the U.S. Department of Commerce issued its preliminary determination of an antidumping duty investigation of common alloy aluminum sheet imports from 18 countries and issued preliminary antidumping rates for each producer. The countries included were Bahrain, Brazil, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Oman, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Taiwan, and Turkey. The Aluminum Association Inc. filed a complaint in March alleging that the imports from these countries were sold in the United States below market rates.

(See Aluminum in January 2020.) The final determination was expected to be issued in February 2021. The U.S. International Trade Commission continued its antidumping investigation of common alloy aluminum sheet imports from these countries and was expected to issue its final determination in April 2021. (Roh, 2020; U.S. Department of Commerce, 2020).

References Cited

- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2020a, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., July 31, 3 p.
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- Roh, Michael, 2020, Commerce sets AD duties on aluminium sheet: Fastmarkets-AMM, v. 128, no. 42–1, October 12, p. 1, 4.
- U.S. Department of Commerce, 2020, U.S. Department of Commerce issues affirmative preliminary antidumping duty determinations on common alloy aluminum sheet from 18 countries: U.S. Department of Commerce press release, October 9. (Accessed October 17, 2020, at <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2020/10/us-department-commerce-issues-affirmative-preliminary-antidumping-duty>.)

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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	5,290	9,840	1,600
2019:									
August	90	163	133	296	334	127	461	847	1,650
September	87	164	128	292	292	118	410	789	1,640
October	91	156	131	286	319	109	428	805	1,630
November	89	150	128	279	302	106	408	776	1,600
December	91	149	121	270	317	95	412	773	1,600
January–August	734	1,310	1,030	2,340	2,570	1,060	3,630	6,700	1,600
2020:									
January	92	151	125	276	347	111	458	827	1,650
February	88	161	124	286	261	93	354	727	1,580
March	95	158	127	286	308	102	410	790	1,590
April	92	133	120	253	338	87	425	770	1,590
May	96	128	111	239	316	80	396	730	1,530
June	89	132	117	249	262	88	350	688	1,430
July	82	146	122	268	253	84	337	687	1,410
August	80	144	126	270	270	85	355	705	1,410
January–August	714	1,150	973	2,130	2,360	730	3,090	5,930	1,410

^PPreliminary.

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	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2019 ^P	2,300	1,750	1,770	1,620	101	93	4	4	4,180	3,470
2019:										
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–August	1,540	1,170	1,210	1,110	68	62	3	3	2,820	2,340
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
August	184	141	133	121	8	8	(2)	(2)	326	270
January–August	1,470	1,120	1,040	948	58	53	3	3	2,560	2,130

^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 AUGUST 2020¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	153,000	184,000	118,000	141,000
Independent mill fabricators	119,000	133,000	108,000	121,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	279,000	326,000	232,000	270,000

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 AUGUST 2020¹

(Metric tons)

	August				January–August ²	
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	20,400	39,200	39,200	20,400	341,000	342,000
Can stock clippings	4,500	24,300	24,500	4,370	198,000	198,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	11,400	33,400	34,500	10,300	264,000	267,000
Casting	3,550	6,040	6,040	3,550	46,600	46,600
Borings and turnings	5,170	16,200	16,400	4,900	113,000	113,000
Dross and skimmings	10,900	36,100	36,100	10,900	293,000	293,000
Total new scrap	55,900	155,000	157,000	54,400	1,260,000	1,260,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	7,000	26,700	26,700	7,000	208,000	208,000
Used extrusion	7,320	17,600	17,600	7,320	141,000	141,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	9,250	41,800	41,900	9,090	314,000	315,000
Other wrought products	6,190	23,400	23,700	5,930	178,000	187,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	4,570	12,100	12,400	4,250	94,700	94,500
Total old scrap	34,300	122,000	122,000	33,600	937,000	945,000
Total all classes	90,200	277,000	279,000	88,000	2,190,000	2,210,000

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 AUGUST 2020^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	August				January–August 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	15,600	15,600
380 and variations	8,820	17,400	17,400	8,820	124,000	124,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,180	2,720	2,720	2,180	19,300	19,300
No. 319 and variations	3,820	3,460	3,460	3,820	24,600	24,600
F-132 alloy and variations	182	224	224	182	1,590	1,590
Al-Zn alloys	467	73	73	467	519	519
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	219	120	120	219	851	851
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	318	221	221	318	1,570	1,570
Other ⁴	7,560	9,020	9,020	7,560	64,100	64,100
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,400	40,500	40,500	10,400	288,000	288,000
Total all alloys	37,200	75,900	75,900	37,200	540,000	540,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	14,000	XX	XX	99,600	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,630	XX	XX	11,600	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	716	XX	XX	5,090	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	59,600	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:		
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
August	93.613	78.648
January–August	85.176	73.267

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:					
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
August	48.40	42.69	40.52	39.60	34.64
January–August	47.04	39.78	36.77	37.10	31.61

Source: American Metal Market.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc		Scrap		Total	
	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August
Argentina	13,500	115,000	--	--	--	--	13,500	115,000
Australia	2,660	64,800	57	279	--	19	2,720	65,100
Austria	--	--	2,090	17,400	--	--	2,090	17,400
Bahrain	4,500	49,500	56	17,600	--	--	4,560	67,100
Belgium	--	73	343	3,340	--	--	343	3,410
Brazil	--	--	960	8,790	--	5,690	960	14,500
Canada	205,000	1,680,000	18,300	134,000	30,500	218,000	254,000	2,030,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	183	1,450	183	1,450
China	47	642	11,100	82,100	6	31	11,200	82,800
Colombia	--	--	775	3,790	--	544	775	4,340
Costa Rica	--	--	3	6	135	1,170	138	1,180
France	120	1,940	136	8,930	8	794	264	11,700
Germany	158	320	5,350	45,100	393	1,450	5,900	46,800
Greece	--	--	1,150	11,900	--	16	1,150	11,900
Guatemala	--	--	--	13	112	3,120	112	3,130
Honduras	--	--	419	3,280	8	66	427	3,350
Hong Kong	--	--	85	1,440	--	--	85	1,440
Iceland	19	547	--	--	--	--	19	547
India	2,600	75,600	961	19,700	--	343	3,560	95,700
Indonesia	--	--	1,050	15,200	--	--	1,050	15,200
Italy	149	278	2,030	15,300	96	1,000	2,270	16,600
Japan	--	--	1,140	9,170	66	669	1,210	9,840
Korea, Republic of	647	8,080	1,950	20,700	122	2,310	2,720	31,100
Malaysia	--	224	819	4,850	--	24	819	5,100
Mexico	--	2	3,080	19,000	10,800	95,100	13,900	114,000
Netherlands	40	786	716	3,980	87	720	843	5,480
New Zealand	311	6,810	1	3	--	--	312	6,810
Norway	--	155	245	1,440	--	--	245	1,600
Oman	--	99	5,680	43,000	--	--	5,680	43,100
Qatar	3,150	43,600	1	1	--	--	3,150	43,600
Romania	--	--	266	5,180	--	36	266	5,220
Russia	3,380	77,800	1,600	14,700	20	39	5,000	92,500
Saudi Arabia	--	5,450	7,150	49,900	--	--	7,150	55,400
South Africa	--	4,470	3,430	20,400	--	--	3,430	24,900
Spain	82	770	1,920	16,500	98	282	2,100	17,600
Sweden	--	--	425	4,410	--	7	425	4,420
Switzerland	--	--	235	3,980	--	--	235	3,980
Taiwan	--	312	525	21,800	3	238	528	22,400
Thailand	86	628	268	24,300	--	250	354	25,100
Turkey	--	--	3,430	33,600	--	--	3,430	33,600
United Arab Emirates	33,700	218,000	249	1,130	--	35	34,000	219,000
United Kingdom	81	300	193	3,160	391	2,340	665	5,790
Venezuela	--	25	--	--	--	--	--	25
Vietnam	--	--	1,350	14,200	--	9	1,350	14,200
Other	--	96	5,150	26,500	872	7,540	6,020	34,200
Total	270,000	2,350,000	84,700	731,000	43,900	344,000	399,000	3,430,000

-- 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 AUGUST 2020¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August	August	January– August
Australia	20	355	166	1,400	--	--	186	1,750
Belgium	1	23	10	170	317	4,980	328	5,170
Brazil	--	17	238	2,370	334	1,670	572	4,060
Canada	5,800	56,700	25,700	193,000	7,090	45,900	38,600	296,000
China	40	1,130	1,460	14,800	6,650	132,000	8,160	148,000
Colombia	--	6	31	512	--	129	31	647
Dominican Republic	--	9	25	199	80	139	105	347
France	2	305	367	5,230	67	911	436	6,450
Germany	30	127	294	4,150	1,260	6,330	1,590	10,600
Guatemala	--	2	1	44	--	--	1	46
Hong Kong	--	8	29	429	3,230	47,100	3,260	47,500
India	115	277	190	966	27,000	172,000	27,300	173,000
Indonesia	--	8	2	70	13,500	67,100	13,500	67,200
Ireland	--	1	37	443	67	67	104	511
Israel	--	10	1,600	11,900	--	--	1,600	11,900
Italy	33	159	116	997	25	4,210	174	5,370
Jamaica	--	81	10	43	12	16	22	140
Japan	45	1,030	612	10,300	1,490	9,170	2,150	20,500
Korea, Republic of	38	584	1,730	15,700	23,800	190,000	25,600	206,000
Malaysia	529	2,670	231	1,500	41,300	255,000	42,100	259,000
Mexico	7,700	53,400	21,200	173,000	13,400	90,300	42,400	317,000
Netherlands	6	36	33	263	76	782	115	1,080
New Zealand	--	--	53	302	--	19	53	321
Norway	--	1	9	19	--	--	9	20
Pakistan	--	39	4	15	1,380	8,070	1,390	8,120
Panama	--	12	--	28	--	--	--	40
Philippines	--	237	11	185	468	4,500	479	4,920
Poland	--	1	12	210	22	122	34	333
Romania	7	63	125	1,940	--	--	132	2,000
Russia	--	1	--	20	1,440	13,500	1,440	13,500
Saudi Arabia	--	12	16	435	470	830	486	1,280
Singapore	--	70	164	1,940	19	2,900	183	4,900
Spain	3	5	36	339	853	3,870	892	4,210
Taiwan	275	1,850	251	3,090	3,680	27,000	4,210	32,000
Thailand	--	1	45	535	6,620	48,300	6,660	48,800
Turkey	--	29	137	3,120	764	4,330	901	7,470
United Arab Emirates	--	4	94	418	1,290	5,640	1,380	6,060
United Kingdom	14	312	343	4,510	206	1,370	563	6,180
Vietnam	--	165	20	867	2,200	10,700	2,220	11,700
Other	184	544	251	2,710	1,510	14,200	1,950	17,400
Total	14,800	120,000	55,700	458,000	161,000	1,170,000	231,000	1,750,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.