

# Mineral Industry Surveys

**For information, contact:**

E. Lee Bray, Bauxite and Alumina Commodity Specialist  
 National Minerals Information Center  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 989 National Center  
 Reston, VA 20192  
 Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
 Email: lbray@usgs.gov

Susan M. Weaver (Data)  
 Telephone: (703) 648-7979  
 Fax: (703) 648-7995  
 Email: sweaver@usgs.gov

**Internet:** <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

## BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2020

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the third quarter of 2020 were 789,000 metric tons (t), 5% less than those in the second quarter of 2020, 15% less than those in the third quarter of 2019, and 14% less than those in the third quarter of 2018 (fig. 1). Jamaica (92%) and Turkey (8%) were the leading sources of crude and dried bauxite imports in the third quarter of 2020 (table 1).

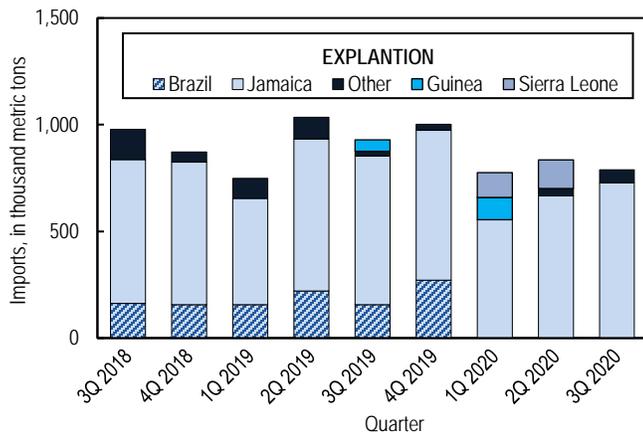


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of crude and dried bauxite from the third quarter of 2018 through the third quarter of 2020. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Imports of alumina during the third quarter of 2020 were 312,000 t, 14% less than those in the second quarter of 2020, 35% less than the amount in the third quarter of 2019, and 29% less than those in the third quarter of 2018 (fig. 2). The leading sources of imported alumina in the second quarter of 2020 were Brazil (74%) and Jamaica (12%) (table 3).

Exports of alumina during the third quarter of 2020 were 37,700 t, 5% more than those in the second quarter of 2020, 9% more than those in the third quarter of 2019, but 33% less than those in the third quarter of 2018 (fig. 2). The leading destinations for alumina exported in the third quarter of 2020 were Mexico (44%) and Canada (13%) (table 3).

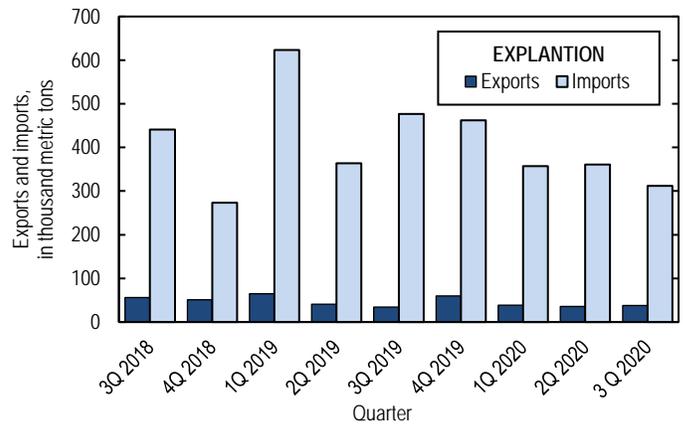


Figure 2. Alumina exports and imports from the third quarter of 2018 through the third quarter of 2020. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

### Update

In October, Hydro ASA completed repair work on the pipeline used to transport bauxite from the Paragominas Mine to the Alumina do Norte do Brasil S.A. (Alunorte) alumina refinery in Barcarena, Brazil. On August 18, Hydro shut down production from the Paragominas Mine, citing damage to the pipeline. (See Bauxite and Alumina in the Second Quarter of 2020.) The pipeline was restarted on October 8 and production from the 9.9-million-metric-tons-per-year (Mt/yr) mine resumed. Production from the 6.3-Mt/yr Alunorte alumina refinery was decreased to 35 to 40% of its capacity, a rate of 2.2 to 2.5 Mt/yr, while the pipeline was being repaired but was ramping up to full capacity (Hydro ASA, 2020a, b).

In China, Government authorities modified winter shutdown orders affecting alumina refineries in several locations. The shutdown orders were expected to have only a limited impact on alumina refineries in the region around Beijing, Hebei, and Tianjin for the 2020-2021 winter season. Refineries in Shandong province are exempt from shutdown orders this winter. In recent years, the Government of China ordered

alumina refineries in 30 cities to decrease production by 30% during the winter months citing pollution control efforts. Pollution control efforts would be based on local conditions, with shutdowns only under specified conditions (Tang, 2020).

### References Cited

- Hydro ASA, 2020, Hydro resumes bauxite pipeline operation in Brazil: Oslo, Norway, Hydro ASA press release, October 8. (Accessed November 21, 2020, at <https://www.hydro.com/en-US/media/news/2020/hydro-resumes-bauxite-pipeline-operation-in-brazil/>.)
- Hydro ASA, 2020, Third quarter 2020—Strong cash generation, improving markets: Oslo, Norway, Hydro ASA press release, October 23. (Accessed

- November 20, 2020, at <https://www.hydro.com/en-US/media/news/2020/third-quarter-2020-strong-cash-generation-improving-markets/>.)
- Tang, Lucy, 2020, Winter output cuts to have limited impact on China's alumina market—Sources: Platts Metals Daily, v. 9, no. 204, October 15, p. 3.

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TABLE 1  
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	2019	2020			
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>					
Brazil	806,000	--	--	--	--
Guinea	52,800	104,000	--	--	104,000
Jamaica <sup>2</sup>	2,610,000	554,000	666,000	728,000	1,950,000
Sierra Leone	--	116,000	134,000	--	249,000
Turkey	239,000	--	35,000	60,700	95,700
Other	7,150	729	--	261	990
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,710,000</b>	<b>775,000</b>	<b>834,000</b>	<b>789,000</b>	<b>2,400,000</b>
<b>Exports:</b>					
Canada	2,120	652	222	332	1,210
Other	1,100	403	293	84	780
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>1,990</b>

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Source: Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CALCINED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	2020									
	2019		1st quarter		2d quarter		3d quarter		1st quarter– 3d quarter	
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>										
Australia	--	213,000	--	49,700	--	49,500	--	--	--	99,200
China	16,900	11,900	15,100	89	5,820	3,050	3,780	2,120	24,700	5,250
Guyana	51,600	133,000	5,440	51,300	7,250	13,900	11,300	17,100	24,000	82,300
India	125	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	738	3,620	366	6	360	74	304	29	1,030	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,300</b>	<b>361,000</b>	<b>20,900</b>	<b>101,000</b>	<b>13,400</b>	<b>66,500</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>19,200</b>	<b>49,700</b>	<b>187,000</b>
<b>Exports:</b>										
Canada	4,170	--	1,260	--	656	--	535	--	2,450	--
China	1,510	--	241	--	503	--	680	--	1,420	--
Mexico	845	2 <sup>r</sup>	246	--	897	--	453	3	1,600	3
Other	714	34 <sup>r</sup>	308	--	235	40	131	--	674	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,240</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6,140</b>	<b>43</b>

<sup>r</sup>Revised. --Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF ALUMINA, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

Country or locality	2019	2020			
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
<b>Imports for consumption:<sup>2</sup></b>					
Australia	459,000	48,700	49,400	1	98,100
Brazil	1,010,000	233,000	197,000	229,000	660,000
Canada	78,600 <sup>r</sup>	17,100	13,600	13,800	44,500
Jamaica <sup>3</sup>	217,000	33,800	71,000	38,100	143,000
Other	163,000 <sup>r</sup>	24,500	29,400	30,500	84,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,930,000</b>	<b>357,000</b>	<b>361,000</b>	<b>312,000</b>	<b>1,030,000</b>
<b>Exports:<sup>4</sup></b>					
Canada	30,500	8,290	4,720	5,080	18,100
Iceland	20,800	--	--	--	--
Mexico	42,300	10,700	13,700	16,500	40,900
Netherlands	14,600	1,480	1,080	655	3,220
Venezuela	20,800	--	--	--	--
Other	71,100	18,000	16,300	15,500	49,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>38,500</b>	<b>35,900</b>	<b>37,700</b>	<b>112,000</b>

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes imports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 402,000 metric tons (t) in 2019; 80,600 t in the first quarter of 2020; 74,200 t in the second quarter of 2020, and 46,100 t in the third quarter of 2020.

<sup>3</sup>Source: Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

<sup>4</sup>Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 83,300 t in 2019; 21,100 t in the first quarter of 2020; 25,500 t in the second quarter of 2020, and 32,100 t in the third quarter of 2020.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.