ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2021

Domestic primary aluminum production in March 2021 was 75,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in March 2021 was 2,410 t, 3% less than that in February 2021, 21% less than that in March 2020, and 20% less than that in March 2019 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in March 2021 was 272,000 t, 10% more than that in February 2021, slightly less than the amount in March 2020, and 6% less than that in March 2019. Of this, 155,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 117,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

Prices and Stocks
The March 2021 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was $1.18 per pound, 8% more than that in February 2021, 36% more than that in March 2020, and 13% more than that in March 2019. The average cash price in March 2021 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was $0.994 per pound, 5% more than that in February 2021, 36% more than that in March 2020, and 17% more than that in March 2019 (fig. 2, table 6).

U.S. Trade
Total imports for consumption of aluminum in the first quarter of 2021 (table 8) increased by 49% compared with those in the same period in 2020. Imports of crude metal and alloys, semifabricated products, and scrap increased by 8%, 288%, and 461%, respectively. Canada continued to be the leading source of imported aluminum materials, supplying 58% of all aluminum imports during the first 3 months of 2021, followed by the United Arab Emirates (6%), Mexico (5%), Bahrain (3%), China (3%), and Russia (3%). Canada accounted for 71% of crude metal, 21% of semifabricated products, and
59% of scrap imports. Other leading sources of crude metal imports were the United Arab Emirates (10%), Russia (5%), and Bahrain (4%). China and Saudi Arabia accounted for 11% and 6% of semifabricated product imports, respectively. Mexico was the source of 28% of scrap imports.

Total exports of aluminum (table 9) during the first 3 months of 2021 were slightly less than those of the same period in 2020. Exports of crude metal and semifabricated products decreased by 10% and 17%, respectively, compared with those in the same period of 2020. Scrap exports in the first quarter of 2021 increased by 6% compared with those in the first quarter of 2020. The leading destinations for total aluminum exports during the first 3 months of 2021, in descending order of quantity, were Mexico (21%), Canada (17%), Malaysia (16%), China plus Hong Kong (11%), and the Republic of Korea (10%). Scrap accounted for 68% of total aluminum exports in the first quarter of 2021.

Update

In April, the U.S. Department of Commerce issued preliminary determinations of antidumping investigations of aluminum foil imports from Armenia, Brazil, Oman, and Russia and set preliminary duty rates for imports from each country. The preliminary duty rate set for foil imports from Armenia was 188.84%; from Brazil the rate ranged between 13.87% to 63.05%; from Russia the rate was 62.18%; from Oman the rate was 4.03%. The investigation determined that Turkey did not export aluminum foil during the investigation period and therefore an antidumping duty rate was not set for imports from Turkey. The period of the investigation was from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The antidumping investigations were announced in October 2020. (See Aluminum in September 2020.) Final determinations were expected by the end of October (Coyne, 2021).

On April 16, employees at Century Aluminum Co.’s Hawesville, KY smelter, represented by the United Steelworkers union, ratified a labor contract. The contract will expire April 1, 2026. Production at the 250,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) smelter continued during the contract negotiations. Century also announced that it will add 60 new jobs at the smelter (Century Aluminum Co., 2021).

ELYSIS Corp., a joint venture between Alcoa Corp. and Rio Tinto plc., announced that it selected the Alma smelter in Saguenay, Quebec, Canada, for the first installation and demonstration of its inert anode technology in a commercial-scale smelting pot. A project schedule was not available. The smelter, owned by Rio Tinto, has a capacity of 473,000 t/yr and is located near the ELYSIS research and development center which was completed in December 2020. (See Aluminum in November 2020.) The inert anode smelting technology was designed to produce primary aluminum without a carbon anode and would eliminate direct carbon emissions from carbon dioxide and fluorocarbons. ELYSIS planned to commercialize the inert anode technology in 2024. Alcoa and Rio Tinto planned to retrofit their existing smelters with the inert anode technology and ELYSIS would license the process to other smelters (ELYSIS Corp., 2021; Hotter, 2021).

References Cited


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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Imports for consumption</th>
<th>Metals and alloys, crude</th>
<th>Plates, sheets, bars, etc.</th>
<th>Total new supply</th>
<th>Stocks, end of period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Primary production</td>
<td>Secondary recovery</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New</td>
<td>Old</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>1,420</td>
<td>3,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020: March</td>
<td></td>
<td>95</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
<td>92</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>243</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td></td>
<td>96</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td></td>
<td>89</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td></td>
<td>82</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>258</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td></td>
<td>80</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>267</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td></td>
<td>74</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td></td>
<td>77</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–March</td>
<td></td>
<td>275</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021: January</td>
<td></td>
<td>78</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–March</td>
<td></td>
<td>222</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>778</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Preliminary.  †Revised.  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 1**

COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY\(^1\)

(Thousand metric tons)
### TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹
(Thousand metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Secondary smelters</th>
<th>Independent mill fabricators</th>
<th>Foundries</th>
<th>Other consumers</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Metal recovery</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Metal recovery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2,030</td>
<td>1,570</td>
<td>1,540</td>
<td>1,410</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–March</td>
<td>522 ¹</td>
<td>402 ¹</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Preliminary. ¹Revised. ¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. ¹Less than ½ unit.
### TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MARCH 2021

(Metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Consumption</th>
<th>Calculated metallic recovery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tabulated reports</td>
<td>Estimated full coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary smelters</td>
<td>148,000</td>
<td>177,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent mill fabricators</td>
<td>126,000</td>
<td>140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundries</td>
<td>7,040</td>
<td>8,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other consumers</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>281,000</td>
<td>327,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data 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 MARCH 2021**

(Metric tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>March</th>
<th>January–March&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stocks, opening&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Net receipts&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New scrap:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extrusion</td>
<td>19,100</td>
<td>47,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can stock clippings</td>
<td>6,720</td>
<td>30,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other wrought sheet/clippings</td>
<td>7,730</td>
<td>35,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casting</td>
<td>3,820</td>
<td>5,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borings and turnings</td>
<td>4,820</td>
<td>12,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dross and skimmings</td>
<td>13,300</td>
<td>35,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total new scrap</td>
<td>55,500</td>
<td>167,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old scrap:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used castings</td>
<td>8,080</td>
<td>27,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Used extrusion</td>
<td>8,020</td>
<td>16,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)</td>
<td>8,250</td>
<td>35,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other wrought products</td>
<td>7,180</td>
<td>25,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)</td>
<td>4,190</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total old scrap</td>
<td>35,700</td>
<td>118,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total all classes</td>
<td>91,200</td>
<td>285,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>March</th>
<th>January–March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stocks, opening</td>
<td>Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Die-cast alloys:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)</td>
<td>2,760</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>380 and variations</td>
<td>6,430</td>
<td>18,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sand and permanent mold:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)</td>
<td>2,120</td>
<td>2,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 319 and variations</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-132 alloy and variations</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Zn alloys</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>297</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other4</td>
<td>7,630</td>
<td>7,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wrought alloys, extrusion billets</strong></td>
<td>10,100</td>
<td>53,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total all alloys</strong></td>
<td>31,800</td>
<td>88,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary aluminum consumed</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>15,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary silicon consumed</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>1,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other alloying ingredients consumed</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot5</strong></td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>70,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Midwest U.S. market price</th>
<th>LME cash price Grade A</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>2020:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>86.591</td>
<td>73.070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>76.450</td>
<td>66.095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>74.961</td>
<td>66.215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>79.682</td>
<td>70.943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>85.022</td>
<td>74.360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>93.613</td>
<td>78.648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>93.627</td>
<td>79.167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>94.236</td>
<td>81.774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>100.921</td>
<td>87.639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>105.798</td>
<td>91.531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–December</td>
<td>89.666</td>
<td>77.187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>105.638</td>
<td>90.891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>109.548</td>
<td>94.329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>118.185</td>
<td>99.409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–March</td>
<td>111.124</td>
<td>94.876</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.
### TABLE 7
AVERAGE BUYING PRICES FOR ALUMINUM SCRAP

(Cents per pound)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Used beverage cans</th>
<th>Mixed low copper clips</th>
<th>Old sheet</th>
<th>Old cast (clean and dry)</th>
<th>Turnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2020:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>50.02</td>
<td>41.80</td>
<td>38.95</td>
<td>39.95</td>
<td>35.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>40.79</td>
<td>37.12</td>
<td>32.45</td>
<td>34.17</td>
<td>30.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>39.80</td>
<td>36.80</td>
<td>32.35</td>
<td>33.80</td>
<td>29.25</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>44.77</td>
<td>37.50</td>
<td>35.39</td>
<td>35.77</td>
<td>29.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>47.45</td>
<td>40.09</td>
<td>37.86</td>
<td>37.20</td>
<td>31.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>48.40</td>
<td>42.69</td>
<td>40.52</td>
<td>39.60</td>
<td>34.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>50.93</td>
<td>46.10</td>
<td>43.90</td>
<td>43.60</td>
<td>37.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>52.18</td>
<td>48.18</td>
<td>46.73</td>
<td>47.00</td>
<td>40.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>56.55</td>
<td>51.45</td>
<td>51.42</td>
<td>51.76</td>
<td>46.06</td>
</tr>
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<td>December</td>
<td>62.82</td>
<td>58.86</td>
<td>58.02</td>
<td>57.50</td>
<td>50.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–December</td>
<td>49.90</td>
<td>43.57</td>
<td>41.19</td>
<td>41.39</td>
<td>35.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2021:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>64.50</td>
<td>61.50</td>
<td>63.00</td>
<td>59.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>67.50</td>
<td>65.63</td>
<td>64.50</td>
<td>65.50</td>
<td>64.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>73.00</td>
<td>68.50</td>
<td>66.50</td>
<td>68.50</td>
<td>68.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January–March</td>
<td>68.50</td>
<td>66.21</td>
<td>64.17</td>
<td>65.67</td>
<td>63.92</td>
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Source: Fastmarket-AMM.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country or locality</th>
<th>Metals and alloys, crude March</th>
<th>Plates, sheets, bars, etc March</th>
<th>Scrap March</th>
<th>Total March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>8,110 17,400</td>
<td>-- 3</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>8,110 17,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>7,290 24,400</td>
<td>8 120</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>7,300 24,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>(2) 2,510 6,210</td>
<td>-- 1</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>2,510 6,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>9,770 30,700</td>
<td>4,680 6,470</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>14,400 37,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>23 78</td>
<td>970 3,250</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>993 3,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>(2) 36 41</td>
<td>3,270 4,380</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>3,310 4,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>216,000 567,000</td>
<td>22,200 61,300</td>
<td>34,800 98,300</td>
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1Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
### U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2021

(Metric tons)

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1 Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
2 Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.