

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

E. Lee Bray, Aluminum 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>

ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2021

Domestic primary aluminum production in April 2021 was 72,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in April 2021 was 2,410 t, unchanged from that in March 2021, 21% less than that in April 2020, and 19% less than that in April 2019 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in April 2021 was 263,000 t, 3% less than that in March 2021, 8% more than the amount in April 2020, but 9% less than that in April 2019. Of this, 145,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 119,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

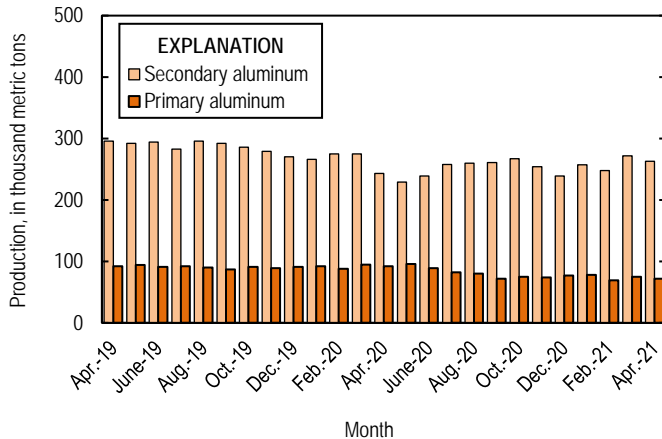


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from April 2019 through April 2021.

Prices and Stocks

The April 2021 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$1.29 per pound, 9% more than that in March 2021, 68% more than that in April 2020, and 25% more than that in April 2019. The average cash price in April 2021 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was \$1.05 per pound, 6% more than that in March 2021, 59% more than that in April 2020, and 26% more than that in April 2019 (fig. 2, table 6).

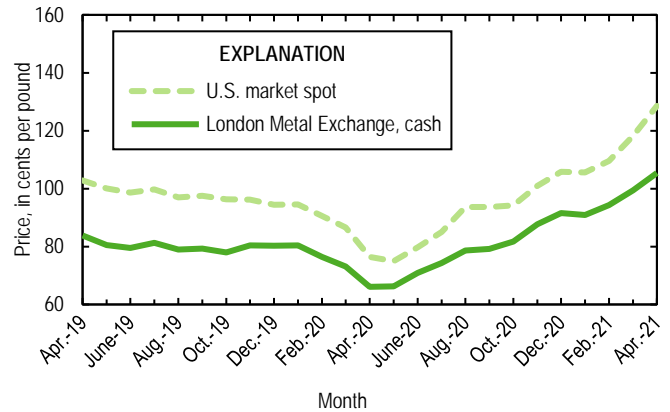


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from April 2019 through April 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 184,048 t at the end of April 2021 from 191,074 t at the end of March 2021. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States decreased to 15,840 t at the end of April 2021 from 18,678 t at the end of March 2021 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2021a-d).

Update

Century Aluminum Co. initiated the restart of approximately 57,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of capacity at the Mount Holly, SC, smelter. In March, Century and the South Carolina Public Service Authority, commonly known as Santee Cooper, finalized a power supply contract for the smelter for enough power to enable the restart of the additional capacity. The restart process was scheduled to be completed by yearend 2021. (See Aluminum in February 2021.) Only one-half of the smelter’s 230,000 t/yr of capacity has been producing since

December 2015 owing to high power prices (Century Aluminum Co., 2021).

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced that its Aluminum Import Monitoring and Analysis (AIM) system will start on June 28. Applications for required import licenses for covered aluminum products can be obtained through the AIM system. The country where primary aluminum was smelted and the country where the aluminum was most recently cast must be reported. Secondary aluminum is excluded from the requirements. The AIM system is intended to aid in enforcement of trade agreements and circumvent evasion of tariffs and quotas on aluminum and aluminum products. The AIM system website is <https://www.trade.gov/aluminium> (Lazzaro, 2021; U.S. Department of Commerce, 2021).

References Cited

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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		
2020 ^p	1,012	1,650	1,420	3,070	3,270	1,050	4,320	8,400 ^r	1,490
2020:									
April	92	126	117	243	338	87	425	760	1,590
May	96	122	107	229	316	80	396	721	1,530
June	89	126	113	239	262	88	350	678	1,430
July	82	139	118	258	253	84	337	677	1,410
August	80	138	122	260	270	85	355	695	1,410
September	72	141	120	261	214	79	293	626	1,400
October	75	143	124	267	231	80	311	653	1,450
November	74	135	119	254	241	80	321	649	1,430
December	77	125	114	239	229	78	307	623	1,490
January–April	366	577 ^r	483 ^r	1,060 ^r	1,250	393 ^r	1,650 ^r	3,070 ^r	1,490
2021:									
January	78	135	123	257	250	84	334	669	1,470
February	69	132	117	248	243	81	324	641	1,480 ^r
March	75	155	117	272	308	121	429	776	1,470
April	72	145	119	263	324	109	433	769	NA
January–April	294	566	475	1,040	1,130	395	1,520	2,850	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
2020 ^p	2,030	1,570	1,540	1,410	91	84	4	4	3,670	3,070
2020:										
April	167	129	119	108	6	5	(2)	(2)	292	243
May	159	124	108	99	6	5	(2)	(2)	273	229
June	160	125	118	108	6	5	(2)	(2)	285	239
July	166	129	132	121	8	8	(2)	(2)	307	258
August	168	130	133	121	8	8	(2)	(2)	310	260
September	171	132	132	121	8	8	(2)	(2)	312	261
October	174	134	136	125	8	8	(2)	(2)	319	267
November	170	131	126	115	8	8	(2)	(2)	305	254
December	170	130	111	100	8	8	(2)	(2)	289	239
January–April	689 ^r	531 ^r	547	501	29	26	1	1	1,270 ^r	1,060 ^r
2021:										
January	175	133	128	116	8	8	(2)	(2)	311	257
February	167	131	120	109	8	8	(2)	(2)	296	248
March	177	136	141	129	8	8	(2)	(2)	327	273
April	177	136	130	119	8	8	(2)	(2)	316	263
January–April	696	535	519	475	34	31	1	1	1,250	1,040

^pPreliminary. ^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 APRIL 2021¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	147,000	177,000	113,000	136,000
Independent mill fabricators	117,000	130,000	107,000	119,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	272,000	316,000	227,000	263,000

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 APRIL 2021¹

(Metric tons)

	April			January–April ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	19,100	39,000	39,000	19,100	155,000	155,000
Can stock clippings	6,790	28,700	28,400	7,150	112,000	111,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	9,860	35,200	36,600	8,390	133,000	139,000
Casting	3,820	5,470	5,470	3,820	21,900	21,900
Borings and turnings	4,820	12,300	12,300	4,810	48,800	48,800
Dross and skimmings	13,300	34,400	34,400	13,300	136,000	136,000
Total new scrap	57,700	155,000	156,000	56,600	608,000	612,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,080	27,600	27,600	8,080	108,000	108,000
Used extrusion	8,020	16,900	16,900	8,020	67,600	67,600
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	8,260	37,300	37,000	8,580	149,000	149,000
Other wrought products	11,700	25,300	21,900	15,200	91,200	88,400
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	4,630	11,800	12,000	4,490	48,200	48,000
Total old scrap	40,700	119,000	115,000	44,300	464,000	461,000
Total all classes	98,500	274,000	272,000	101,000	1,070,000	1,070,000

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 APRIL 2021^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	April				January–April	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,760	2,600	2,600	2,760	10,400	10,400
380 and variations	6,430	18,900	18,900	6,430	75,600	75,600
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2120	2,850	2,850	2,120	11,400	11,400
No. 319 and variations	2,000	2,430	2,430	2,000	9,710	9,710
F-132 alloy and variations	128	198	198	128	792	792
Al-Zn alloys	37	29	29	37	115	115
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	143	186	186	143	745	745
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	423	297	297	423	1,190	1,190
Other ⁴	7,630	7,870	7,870	7,630	31,500	31,500
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,500	53,800	53,900	10,400	213,000	213,000
Total all alloys	32,200	89,100	89,200	32,100	355,000	354,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,600	XX	XX	62,300	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,690	XX	XX	6,760	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	733	XX	XX	2,930	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵						
	XX	71,100	XX	XX	283,000	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
2020:		
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
September	93.627	79.167
October	94.236	81.774
November	100.921	87.639
December	105.798	91.531
January–December	89.666	77.187
2021:		
January	105.638	90.891
February	109.548	94.329
March	118.185	99.409
April	128.563	105.404
January–April	115.484	97.508

Source: S&P Global 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)
2020:					
April	40.79	37.12	32.45	34.17	30.21
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
September	50.93	46.10	43.90	43.60	37.88
October	52.18	48.18	46.73	47.00	40.55
November	56.55	51.45	51.42	51.76	46.06
December	62.82	58.86	58.02	57.50	50.41
January–December	49.90	43.57	41.19	41.39	35.73
2021:					
January	65.00	64.50	61.50	63.00	59.00
February	67.50	65.63	64.50	65.50	64.00
March	73.00	68.50	66.50	68.50	68.75
April	75.50	72.10	68.90	70.50	69.20
January–April	70.25	67.68	65.35	66.88	65.24

Source: Fastmarket-AMM.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2021¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc		Scrap		Total	
	April	January–	April	January–	April	January–	April	January–
		April		April		April		April
Argentina	76	17,500	4	6	--	--	80	17,500
Australia	14,000	38,400	77	196	--	--	14,100	38,600
Austria	--	(2)	2,700	8,900	--	1	2,700	8,900
Bahrain	10,900	41,600	1,710	8,180	--	--	12,600	49,800
Belgium	45	122	1,040	4,290	--	--	1,090	4,410
Brazil	--	(2)	(2)	41	3,220	7,600	3,220	7,650
Canada	245,000	811,000	19,800	81,100	34,200	133,000	299,000	1,020,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	39	725	39	725
China	138	1,080	11,000	43,200	22	75	11,100	44,300
Colombia	--	--	558	2,170	548	2,230	1,110	4,400
Costa Rica	--	--	--	17	59	833	59	850
France	290	739	887	2,370	11	85	1,190	3,200
Germany	90	809	3,980	14,200	222	951	4,290	15,900
Greece	--	--	2,040	6,520	--	--	2,040	6,520
Guatemala	--	--	--	14	936	3,960	936	3,980
Honduras	--	--	365	1,760	26	72	391	1,840
Hong Kong	--	(2)	317	1,120	--	--	317	1,120
India	4,810	21,700	1,160	3,680	--	--	5,970	25,400
Indonesia	--	--	2,320	6,960	--	--	2,320	6,960
Italy	300	300	1,500	5,520	--	--	1,800	5,820
Japan	--	--	4,700	13,000	16	2,220	4,720	15,200
Korea, Republic of	481	3,980	2,980	9,880	--	77	3,460	13,900
Malaysia	--	4	1,280	4,540	--	--	1,280	4,550
Mexico	2,360	5,470	4,550	17,400	19,900	67,200	26,900	90,000
Netherlands	79	112	275	976	110	345	464	1,430
New Zealand	20	378	1	4	--	--	21	382
Norway	--	97	1,550	3,600	--	--	1,550	3,700
Oman	--	1,280	6,220	26,600	--	--	6,220	27,800
Qatar	5,220	22,500	--	--	--	--	5,220	22,500
Romania	--	--	553	1,990	--	--	553	1,990
Russia	9,320	48,100	1,070	4,910	--	--	10,400	53,000
Saudi Arabia	--	--	4,690	20,700	--	--	4,690	20,700
South Africa	--	--	4,710	9,530	--	--	4,710	9,530
Spain	122	319	2,430	8,570	465	1,580	3,020	10,500
Sweden	--	--	1,090	3,170	--	--	1,090	3,170
Switzerland	--	1	901	2,610	--	2	901	2,620
Taiwan	32	32	499	2,880	--	5	531	2,920
Thailand	103	275	5,030	19,400	81	193	5,210	19,900
Turkey	--	--	5,940	16,400	--	--	5,940	16,400
United Arab Emirates	30,900	109,000	311	741	--	--	31,200	109,000
United Kingdom	4	25	563	1,290	903	2,380	1,470	3,690
Vietnam	1	1	2,970	9,620	--	--	2,970	9,630
Other	30	168	7,620	27,300	2,080	6,460	9,730	33,900
Total	324,000	1,120,000	109,000	395,000	62,900	230,000	496,000	1,750,000

-- Zero.

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.

TABLE 9
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2021¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January– April	April	January– April	April	January– April	April	January– April
Australia	52	401	131	388	--	235	183	1,020
Belgium	--	1	9	93	97	476	106	570
Brazil	1	27	158	376	586	2,570	745	2,980
Canada	6,720	24,100	28,000	106,000	7,920	29,700	42,600	160,000
China	109	592	1,270	3,850	1,380	7,980	2,760	12,400
Colombia	--	--	37	221	39	118	76	339
Dominican Republic	10	10	8	150	141	620	159	780
France	1	46	632	1,750	151	237	784	2,040
Germany	31	38	485	1,470	61	1,040	577	2,550
Guatemala	--	--	1	35	--	--	1	35
Hong Kong	2	245	37	310	29,600	94,500	29,700	95,000
India	61	130	78	281	30,300	111,000	30,400	112,000
Indonesia	--	--	1	5	4,190	23,200	4,190	23,200
Ireland	--	13	54	208	--	--	54	221
Israel	--	11	1,010	4,110	--	--	1,010	4,120
Italy	--	(2)	59	217	78	743	137	960
Jamaica	--	--	(2)	17	--	--	--	17
Japan	--	58	190	966	1,450	6,600	1,640	7,620
Korea, Republic of	63	320	1,310	4,750	21,900	86,900	23,300	92,000
Malaysia	(2)	(2)	470	1,570	36,300	146,000	36,700	148,000
Mexico	9,940	39,900	23,900	96,100	15,400	60,500	49,200	196,000
Netherlands	3	34	29	117	281	782	313	933
New Zealand	--	2	23	169	--	--	23	171
Norway	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	3
Pakistan	--	--	--	15	1,650	5,570	1,650	5,580
Panama	2	2	9	26	--	--	11	28
Philippines	--	--	5	24	258	1,580	263	1,600
Poland	(2)	(2)	53	122	--	--	53	122
Romania	10	44	48	147	--	--	58	191
Russia	--	--	1	26	6,230	17,200	6,230	17,200
Saudi Arabia	--	--	13	141	--	187	13	328
Singapore	8	59	315	1,130	77	280	400	1,470
Spain	6	15	22	92	140	961	168	1,070
Taiwan	313	923	312	2,030	2,640	10,000	3,270	13,000
Thailand	--	(2)	99	227	6,730	26,700	6,830	26,900
Turkey	(2)	(2)	60	697	689	2,720	749	3,420
United Arab Emirates	--	--	380	852	955	2,500	1,340	3,350
United Kingdom	39	56	481	1,540	163	1,190	683	2,790
Vietnam	--	1	79	160	776	5,820	855	5,980
Other	352	1,180	310	1,100	1,330	6,180	1,990	8,460
Total	17,700	68,200	60,000	232,000	172,000	655,000	249,000	955,000

-- Zero.

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.