

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2018

Domestic primary aluminum production in June 2018 was 63,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in June was 2,090 t, 11% less than that in May 2018, and slightly less than that in June 2017 and June 2016 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in June 2018 was 299,000 t, essentially unchanged from the revised amount in May 2018 and in June 2017 but slightly less than in June 2016. Of this, 167,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap and 132,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

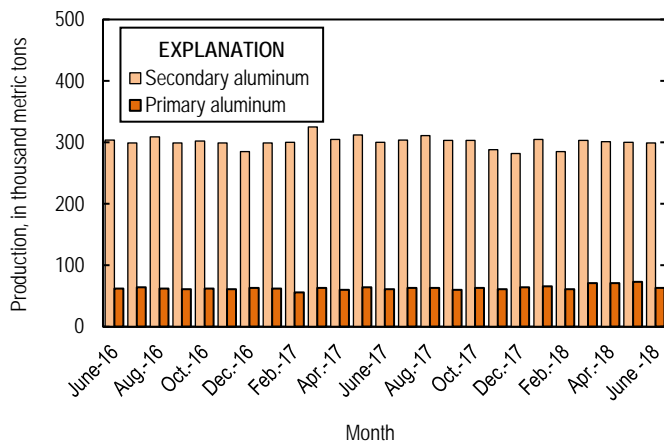


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from June 2016 through June 2018.

### Prices and Stocks

The June 2018 average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot and the average cash price on the London Metal Exchange (LME) decreased by 10% and 8%, respectively, from those in May 2018 to \$1.141 per pound and \$0.952 per pound, respectively (fig. 2, table 6).

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 70,050 t at the end of June 2018 from 74,575 t at the end of May 2018. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses in the United

States decreased to 161,040 t at the end of June 2018 from 167,840 t at the end of May 2018 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2018a, b).

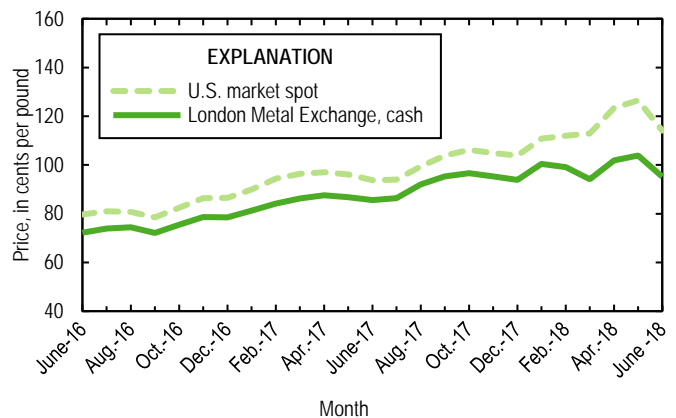


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from June 2016 through June 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

### U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in the first half of 2018 (table 8) were 7% less than those in the same period in 2017. Imports of crude metal and alloys and scrap decreased by 11% and 4%, respectively, but imports of semifabricated products increased by 10%. Canada continued to be the leading source of imported aluminum materials, supplying 45% of all aluminum imports during the first 6 months of 2018, followed by the United Arab Emirates (10%), Russia (7%), China (6%), and Mexico (4%). Canada accounted for 51% of crude metal, 18% of semifabricated products, and 56% of scrap imports. The United Arab Emirates and Russia accounted for 14% and 10%, respectively, of crude metal imports. China accounted for 27% of semifabricated product imports. Mexico was the source of 25% of scrap imports.

Total exports of aluminum (table 9) increased by 10% during the first 6 months of 2018 compared with those of the same period in the previous year. Exports of crude metal and alloys,

semifabricated products, and scrap increased by 9%, 6% and 13%, respectively, compared with those in the same period of 2017. The leading destinations for total aluminum products during the first 6 months of 2018, in descending order of quantity, were Mexico (27%), China (22%), and Canada (21%).

### Update

Century Aluminum Co. continued the restart of two potlines at its smelters in Kentucky. (See Aluminum in May 2018.) At the 218,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) Sebree smelter, one potline was being restarted following its shutdown after a power failure in May. The potline with approximately 73,000 t/yr of capacity was expected to reach full capacity by the end of September. At the 252,000 t/yr Hawesville smelter, one potline that was shut down in 2015 was expected to reach its full capacity of 50,000 t/yr by the end of September. Two other potlines, also shut down since 2015, were scheduled for restart in the fourth quarter of the year and were expected to reach full capacity in early 2019 (Matyi, 2018).

In August, the President of the United States doubled the tariff rate on aluminum imports from Turkey to 20% (Can, 2018). The tariff was initially imposed in March under authority

of Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. (See Aluminum in January 2018.) Turkey accounted for less than 1% of the crude aluminum and semifabricated aluminum products imported into the United States during the first 6 months of 2018 (table 8).

### References Cited

- Can, Cenk, 2018, New Turkey steel and aluminum tariffs to take effect Monday: Platts Metals Daily, v. 7, no. 158, August 13, p. 9–10.  
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London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2018b, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., June 29, 3 p.  
Matyi, Bob, 2018, Century Al says Hawesville, Sebree potlines to restart soon: Platts Metals Daily, v. 7, no. 151, August 2, p. 4–5.

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TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery <sup>2</sup>			Imports for consumption			Total new supply <sup>3</sup>	Stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2017 <sup>P</sup>	741	2,050	1,590	3,630	4,830	1,380	6,200	10,600	1,470
2017:									
June	61	170	130	300	409	119	528	890	1,330
July	63	170	133	303	411	130	541	908	1,360
August	63	174	138	311	379	121	500	874	1,390
September	60	170	134	303	338	102	440	804	1,420
October	63	172	131	303	358	122	480	846	1,430
November	61	166	122	288	358	116	474	822	1,420
December	64	165	117	282	400	118	518	864	1,470
January–June	367	1,030	813	1,840	2,580	666	3,250	5,460	1,470
2018:									
January	66	177	128	305	333	167	500	871	1,460
February	61	161	124	285	374	99	473	819	1,450
March	71	174	129	303	555	126	681	1,060	1,430
April	71	169	132	301	381	122	503	875	1,460
May	73	169 <sup>r</sup>	131	300 <sup>r</sup>	349	120	469	842 <sup>r</sup>	1,510
June	63	167	132	299	297	99	396	757	NA
January–June	404	1,020	777	1,790	2,290	733	3,020	5,220	NA

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

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

<sup>2</sup>Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

<sup>3</sup>Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

<sup>4</sup>Inventory 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 SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(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
	2017 <sup>P</sup>	2,200	1,650	2,060	1,880	101	93	4	4	4,360
2017:										
June	176	131	176	161	8	8	(2)	(2)	361	300
July	183	138	172	158	8	8	(2)	(2)	364	303
August	185	140	179	163	8	8	(2)	(2)	373	311
September	180	136	173	159	8	8	(2)	(2)	362	303
October	188	141	169	154	8	8	(2)	(2)	365	303
November	183	138	154	141	8	8	(2)	(2)	347	288
December	182	138	148	136	8	8	(2)	(2)	339	282
January–June	1,100	822	1,060	971	51	46	2	2	2,210	1,840
2018:										
January	179	136	175	161	8	8	(2)	(2)	363	305
February	173	130	160	147	8	8	(2)	(2)	342	285
March	164	130	180	166	8	8	(2)	(2)	353	303
April	165	131	177	162	8	8	(2)	(2)	351	301
May	168	134	173 <sup>r</sup>	159 <sup>r</sup>	8	8	(2)	(2)	350 <sup>r</sup>	300 <sup>r</sup>
June	165	132	173	159	8	8	(2)	(2)	347	299
January–June	1,010	793	1,040	953	51	46	2	2	2,110	1,790

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3  
 CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
 NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JUNE 2018<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	137,000	165,000	110,000	132,000
Independent mill fabricators	159,000	173,000	145,000	159,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	266	320	266	320
Total	303,000	347,000	262,000	299,000

<sup>1</sup>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 AND SWEATED  
PIG IN JUNE 2018<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	June			January–June <sup>2</sup>		
	Stocks, opening <sup>2</sup>	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
<b>New scrap:</b>						
Extrusion	15,400	67,900	67,900	15,400	414,000	414,000
Can stock clippings	4,890	22,100	22,500	4,520	130,000	131,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	8,440	44,700	42,700	10,400	257,000	256,000
Casting	2,940	5,080	5,060	2,960	29,800	30,000
Borings and turnings	3,140	8,640	8,740	3,040	55,600	57,000
Dross and skimmings	10,300	26,000	26,000	10,300	187,000	187,000
Total new scrap	45,100	174,000	173,000	46,600	1,070,000	1,080,000
<b>Old scrap:</b>						
Used castings	8,140	24,500	24,400	8,190	150,000	150,000
Used extrusion	7,830	10,800	10,800	7,830	70,300	70,900
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	9,360	53,100	53,200	9,300	307,000	307,000
Other wrought products	11,600	29,200	31,700	9,150	174,000	182,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,830	9,990	10,200	1,640	56,200	57,000
Total old scrap	38,700	128,000	130,000	36,100	757,000	767,000
Sweated pig	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total all classes	83,800	302,000	303,000	82,700	1,830,000	1,840,000

-- Zero.

<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 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED  
STATES IN JUNE 2018<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	June			January–June		
	Stocks, opening <sup>3</sup>	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,240	1,730	1,790	3,180	12,300	10,800
380 and variations	6,190	14,700	14,700	6,190	88,200	88,200
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,160	2,370	2,370	1,160	14,200	14,200
No. 319 and variations	2,700	3,670	3,720	2,660	22,100	22,100
F-132 alloy and variations	162	196	196	162	1,180	1,180
Al-Zn alloys	243	94	94	243	563	563
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	103	92	92	103	551	551
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	178	67	67	178	405	405
Other <sup>4</sup>	5,810	10,500	10,300	6,010	62,200	60,700
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,100	54,700	54,700	10,100	329,000	328,000
Total all alloys	29,900	88,100	88,000	30,000	530,000	527,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,800	XX	XX	95,400	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,040	XX	XX	12,000	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	939	XX	XX	6,070	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>5</sup>	XX	69,300	XX	XX	417,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>4</sup>Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

<sup>5</sup>No 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
2017:		
June	93.761	85.559
July	93.964	86.329
August	99.330	92.062
September	103.810	95.261
October	106.198	96.616
November	104.852	95.280
December	103.908	93.911
January–December	98.298	89.254
2018:		
January	110.830	100.429
February	112.050	99.091
March	112.929	94.173
April	123.388	101.866
May	126.488	103.875
June	114.136	95.177
January–June	116.637	99.102

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)
2017:					
June	67.23	63.14	58.77	59.77	59.68
July	67.05	62.00	57.85	59.00	59.00
August	70.98	62.91	57.30	58.35	59.00
September	73.12	65.00	58.40	58.95	58.90
October	74.09	65.00	58.00	58.77	58.00
November	72.88	64.08	57.65	59.00	56.60
December	69.95	62.55	56.50	57.95	54.70
January–December	70.93	63.62	58.44	59.63	58.62
2018:					
January	75.57	63.48	58.90	59.90	56.36
February	75.66	65.29	61.21	62.21	58.45
March	75.59	66.00	61.91	63.00	58.95
April	81.81	66.29	60.83	62.76	57.71
May	84.41	68.00	62.00	63.50	63.50
June	85.29	67.79	61.95	63.40	57.31
January–June	79.72	66.14	61.13	62.46	58.71

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2018<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January–	June	January–	June	January–	June	January–
		June		June		June		June
Argentina	12,900	86,400	--	2	--	--	12,900	86,400
Australia	4,860	33,000	47	274	394	1,070	5,300	34,300
Austria	--	64	2,730	15,300	--	--	2,730	15,400
Bahrain	9,080	67,200	3,500	32,100	--	--	12,600	99,300
Belgium	--	383	494	4,070	--	--	494	4,460
Brazil	--	10,400	368	9,500	1,560	2,870	1,930	22,800
Canada	178,000	1,170,000	18,300	133,000	33,300	197,000	230,000	1,500,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	674	3,340	674	3,340
China	10	2,550	5,310	200,000	10	376	5,330	203,000
Colombia	--	--	874	4,600	265	879	1,140	5,480
Costa Rica	--	--	--	14	321	1,980	321	2,000
El Salvador	--	--	66	552	325	1,750	391	2,300
France	897	9,250	3,480	18,500	94	921	4,470	28,700
Germany	27	367	3,340	20,000	845	3,110	4,210	23,400
Greece	--	--	2,480	11,300	14	52	2,490	11,400
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	1,340	6,930	1,340	6,930
Honduras	--	--	24	27	125	1,040	149	1,060
Hong Kong	--	--	500	4,400	--	201	500	4,600
India	16,900	101,000	3,620	22,900	--	55	20,600	124,000
Indonesia	--	--	10,000	44,400	--	--	10,000	44,400
Italy	--	706	1,210	6,410	--	--	1,210	7,120
Japan	10	10	2,810	18,100	7	130	2,830	18,300
Korea, Republic of	--	5	2,530	10,700	701	10,300	3,230	21,000
Malaysia	305	949	787	4,660	--	--	1,090	5,610
Mexico	231	11,500	3,420	25,900	20,000	88,100	23,600	126,000
Netherlands	76	907	424	2,300	46	156	546	3,360
New Zealand	978	5,340	--	1	18	18	996	5,360
Norway	19	10,700	--	116	--	--	19	10,800
Oman	5,290	25,100	6,440	26,300	--	--	11,700	51,400
Qatar	10,800	58,600	--	3	--	--	10,800	58,600
Romania	--	--	526	2,120	--	--	526	2,120
Russia	4,250	236,000	2,070	10,500	--	--	6,320	247,000
Saudi Arabia	2,550	26,300	653	7,170	360	1,410	3,560	34,900
South Africa	4,070	69,500	5,660	27,800	--	--	9,730	97,200
Spain	2,590	4,490	593	2,730	181	3,040	3,360	10,300
Sweden	--	--	639	3,740	5	5	644	3,750
Switzerland	--	--	201	1,810	--	--	201	1,810
Taiwan	3	65	4,100	13,500	233	1,180	4,340	14,700
Thailand	69	380	665	4,130	153	954	887	5,460
Turkey	--	--	2,270	9,290	773	2,930	3,040	12,200
United Arab Emirates	42,200	323,000	280	907	108	1,080	42,600	325,000
United Kingdom	--	190	1,340	2,340	382	1,820	1,730	4,350
Venezuela	63	29,100	257	1,250	250	4,300	570	34,600
Vietnam	--	253	2,180	13,200	80	328	2,260	13,800
Other	129	844	4,410	16,800	2,090	11,500	6,630	29,200
Total	297,000	2,290,000	98,600	733,000	64,600	349,000	460,000	3,370,000

-- 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.

TABLE 9  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2018<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January–	June	January–	June	January–	June	January–
		June		June		June		June
Australia	6	237	184	982	--	3	190	1,220
Belgium	--	54	156	494	553	1,900	709	2,450
Bolivia	--	--	--	638	--	--	--	638
Brazil	4	90	261	1,710	1,660	6,700	1,930	8,500
Canada	9,600	63,400	34,600	210,000	8,740	52,700	53,000	327,000
China	64	855	1,640	14,200	37,500	315,000	39,200	330,000
Colombia	--	82	99	938	--	15	99	1,040
Dominican Republic	214	1,020	129	657	--	--	343	1,670
France	542	3,620	741	5,730	235	1,460	1,520	10,800
Germany	46	961	567	3,460	439	4,410	1,050	8,840
Guatemala	--	3	849	4,360	--	--	849	4,360
Hong Kong	--	6	193	750	3,980	16,200	4,170	16,900
India	11	82	738	2,210	18,100	74,100	18,800	76,400
Indonesia	--	10	131	591	9,480	30,200	9,610	30,800
Ireland	6	39	8	195	--	--	14	234
Israel	2	5	1,320	5,180	--	48	1,320	5,240
Italy	16	103	145	713	267	267	428	1,080
Jamaica	--	26	5	58	--	--	5	84
Japan	108	737	1,750	7,400	2,410	10,400	4,270	18,600
Korea, Republic of	25	343	2,700	16,100	20,900	109,000	23,600	125,000
Malaysia	5	25	625	3,050	14,500	61,300	15,100	64,400
Mexico	11,100	74,200	39,200	244,000	17,500	90,800	67,700	409,000
Netherlands	3	83	29	187	230	1,700	262	1,970
New Zealand	--	6	35	419	1	1	36	426
Norway	--	3	1	55	--	--	1	58
Pakistan	--	--	44	134	551	4,150	595	4,280
Panama	--	9	13	44	--	--	13	53
Philippines	--	42	10	177	362	1,310	372	1,530
Poland	15	60	74	467	--	171	89	698
Romania	14	110	88	289	--	--	102	399
Russia	11	28	8	74	534	7,930	553	8,030
Saudi Arabia	--	--	134	1,000	--	20	134	1,020
Singapore	44	535	422	2,710	64	241	530	3,480
Spain	22	111	88	453	--	735	110	1,300
Taiwan	595	3,040	748	5,980	4,140	21,700	5,480	30,700
Thailand	111	157	494	2,500	1,110	6,170	1,720	8,830
Turkey	19	126	217	1,680	--	258	236	2,060
United Arab Emirates	76	454	54	532	135	862	265	1,850
United Kingdom	51	289	850	5,520	223	1,160	1,120	6,970
Vietnam	--	--	2	42	470	2,430	472	2,470
Other	51	266	382	2,660	843	4,500	1,280	7,430
Total	22,800	151,000	89,700	549,000	145,000	828,000	257,000	1,530,000

-- 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.