

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JULY 2018

Domestic primary aluminum production in July 2018 was 68,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in July was 2,210 t, 6% more than that in June 2018, and 8% more than that in July 2017 and slightly more than that in July 2016 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in July 2018 was 296,000 t, essentially unchanged from the amount in June 2018, slightly less than the amount in July 2017, and essentially unchanged from the amount in July 2016. Of this, 166,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap and 130,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

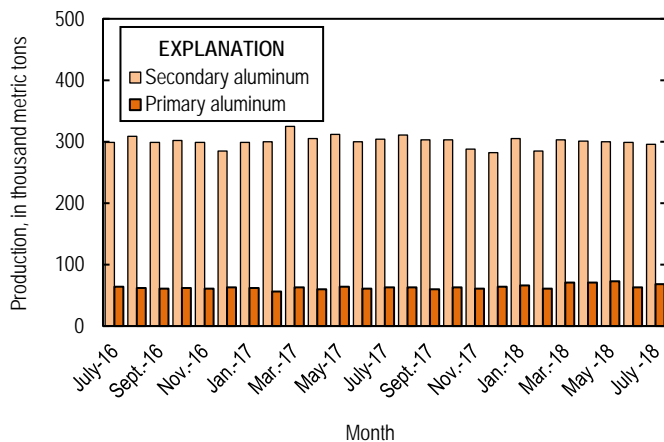


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from July 2016 through July 2018.

Prices and Stocks

The July 2018 average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot and the average cash price on the London Metal Exchange (LME) decreased by 8% and 6%, respectively, from those in June 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 67,650 t at the end of July 2018 from 70,050 t at the end of June 2018. Inventories

of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 156,880 t at the end of July 2018 from 161,040 t at the end of June 2018 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2018a, b).

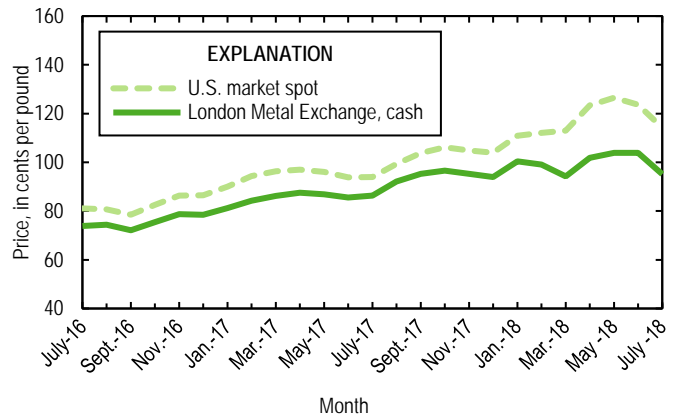


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from July 2016 through July 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Update

In August, Century Aluminum Co. completed the restart of one potline at the 252,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) smelter in Hawesville, KY. Two other potlines were being restarted and scheduled to be producing at full capacity by early 2019. The three potlines, each with 50,000 t/yr of capacity, were shut down in 2015 owing to low aluminum prices. (See Aluminum in May 2018.) When the restart of the three potlines is completed, the smelter will be producing at its full capacity (Century Aluminum Co., 2018).

At Century's 218,000-t/yr Sebree, KY, smelter, the restart of one potline that was shut down after a power failure in May was nearly complete. (See Aluminum in April 2018.) Approximately 75% of the pots in the 73,000-t/yr potline were restarted by mid-August, and the potline was expected to be producing at full capacity by mid-September (Matyi, 2018a).

Alcoa Corp. was planning to restart production from a potline at the Warrick smelter in Evansville, IN, that was shut down after a power failure in May. (See Aluminum in March 2018.) The potline capacity was 50,000 t/yr. Two other potlines with a combined capacity of 100,000 t/yr were restarted in the first half of the year after being shut down in 2016. Total capacity of the smelter was 269,000 t/yr. A specific date for the restart was not available (Matyi, 2018b).

The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced that in 2019 companies may import aluminum produced by United Company RUSAL Plc in Russia. In April, sanctions were announced that would be effective on October 23, 2018, on RUSAL, EN+ Group, and the former chief executive officer of RUSAL, who resigned in May. (See Aluminum in February 2018.) Contract amounts must be similar to the amounts imported in 2018 (Dinsmore, 2018; Yang, 2018).

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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		
2017 ^p	741	2,050	1,590	3,630	4,830	1,380	6,200	10,600	1,470
2017:									
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–July	430	1,200	946	2,150	2,990	796	3,790	6,360	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	131	300	349	120	469	842	1,490 ^r
June	63	167	132	299	297	99	396	757	1,470
July	68	166	130	296	332	105	437	801	NA
January–July	473	1,180	907	2,090	2,620	838	3,460	6,020	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
	2017 ^P	2,200	1,650	2,060	1,880	101	93	4	4	4,360
2017:										
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–July	1,280	960	1,240	1,130	59	54	2	2	2,580	2,150
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	159	8	8	(2)	(2)	350	300
June	165	132	173	159	8	8	(2)	(2)	347	299
July	167	136	167	152	8	8	(2)	(2)	343	296
January–July	1,180	928	1,210	1,110	59	54	2	2	2,450	2,090

^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 JULY 2018¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	139,000	167,000	113,000	136,000
Independent mill fabricators	153,000	167,000	140,000	152,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	266	320	266	320
Total	299,000	343,000	259,000	296,000

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 AND SWEATED
PIG IN JULY 2018¹

(Metric tons)

	July			January–July ²		
	Stocks, opening ²	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	15,400	64,500	64,400	15,500	479,000	479,000
Can stock clippings	4,520	21,800	21,700	4,560	152,000	152,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	10,400	46,700	45,600	11,500	304,000	302,000
Casting	2,960	5,010	4,820	3,150	34,800	34,800
Borings and turnings	3,040	9,680	9,360	3,360	65,300	66,400
Dross and skimmings	10,300	24,900	24,900	10,300	212,000	212,000
Total new scrap	46,600	173,000	171,000	48,300	1,250,000	1,250,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	8,190	24,800	24,500	8,470	174,000	174,000
Used extrusion	7,830	10,800	10,800	7,830	81,100	81,600
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	9,300	53,100	53,100	9,370	360,000	360,000
Other wrought products	9,150	32,500	30,300	11,400	207,000	212,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,640	10,500	9,960	2,210	66,700	67,000
Total old scrap	36,100	132,000	129,000	39,200	889,000	895,000
Sweated pig	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total all classes	82,700	304,000	299,000	87,500	2,140,000	2,140,000

-- Zero.

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 JULY 2018^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	July				January–July	
	Stocks, opening ³	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,180	1,730	1,780	3,130	14,000	12,600
380 and variations	6,190	14,700	14,700	6,190	103,000	103,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,160	2,370	2,370	1,160	16,600	16,600
No. 319 and variations	2,660	3,670	3,700	2,630	25,800	25,800
F-132 alloy and variations	162	196	196	162	1,370	1,370
Al-Zn alloys	243	94	94	243	656	656
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	103	92	92	103	642	642
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	178	67	67	178	472	472
Other ⁴	6,010	10,500	10,200	6,340	72,700	70,900
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,100	54,700	54,700	10,100	383,000	383,000
Total all alloys	30,000	88,200	87,900	30,300	619,000	615,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,800	XX	XX	111,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,040	XX	XX	14,000	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	939	XX	XX	7,010	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	69,300	XX	XX	486,000	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-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
2017:		
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	123.607 ^r	101.603 ^r
July	114.136	95.177
January–July	117.633	99.459

^rRevised.

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:					
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
July	77.40	64.55	57.93	58.52	54.48
January–July	79.39	65.91	60.68	61.90	58.11

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JULY 2018¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	July	January– July	July	January– July	July	January– July	July	January– July
Argentina	18,200	105,000	--	2	--	--	18,200	105,000
Australia	7,790	40,800	68	342	152	1,230	8,010	42,400
Austria	3	67	3,460	18,800	--	--	3,470	18,900
Bahrain	11,100	78,300	4,840	37,000	--	--	15,900	115,000
Belgium	12	395	411	4,480	--	--	423	4,880
Brazil	--	10,400	2,920	12,400	1,230	4,100	4,150	27,000
Canada	170,000	1,340,000	18,700	152,000	35,600	233,000	225,000	1,730,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	475	3,820	475	3,820
China	83	2,630	5,720	206,000	6	381	5,810	209,000
Colombia	--	--	929	5,530	264	1,140	1,190	6,670
Costa Rica	--	--	--	14	242	2,220	242	2,240
El Salvador	--	--	258	810	266	2,010	524	2,820
France	929	10,200	4,270	22,800	544	1,470	5,740	34,500
Germany	27	395	4,210	24,200	162	3,280	4,400	27,900
Greece	--	--	2,400	13,700	71	124	2,470	13,900
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	1,330	8,260	1,330	8,260
Honduras	--	--	11	39	89	1,130	100	1,160
Hong Kong	--	--	409	4,810	39	240	448	5,050
India	17,100	118,000	4,900	27,800	--	55	22,000	146,000
Indonesia	--	--	7,010	51,400	--	--	7,010	51,400
Italy	18	724	1,460	7,870	--	--	1,480	8,600
Japan	--	10	3,260	21,400	15	144	3,270	21,500
Korea, Republic of	38	43	2,020	12,700	725	11,000	2,780	23,800
Malaysia	416	1,370	802	5,460	--	--	1,220	6,820
Mexico	218	11,800	2,780	28,700	18,300	106,000	21,300	147,000
Netherlands	55	963	464	2,760	13	169	532	3,890
New Zealand	810	6,150	--	1	--	18	810	6,170
Norway	127	10,800	1	117	--	--	128	10,900
Oman	1,500	26,600	5,560	31,800	--	--	7,060	58,400
Qatar	5,130	63,700	--	3	--	--	5,130	63,700
Romania	--	--	641	2,760	--	--	641	2,760
Russia	15,000	251,000	2,940	13,500	--	--	17,900	265,000
Saudi Arabia	4,660	31,000	20	7,190	388	1,790	5,070	40,000
South Africa	7,050	76,500	6,820	34,600	--	--	13,900	111,000
Spain	81	4,570	476	3,210	544	3,580	1,100	11,400
Sweden	--	--	549	4,290	--	5	549	4,290
Switzerland	--	--	217	2,030	--	--	217	2,030
Taiwan	--	65	4,570	18,100	279	1,460	4,850	19,600
Thailand	66	446	387	4,510	198	1,150	651	6,110
Turkey	--	--	2,520	11,800	391	3,320	2,920	15,100
United Arab Emirates	51,000	374,000	173	1,080	230	1,310	51,400	376,000
United Kingdom	14,500	14,700	1,640	3,980	425	2,240	16,500	20,900
Venezuela	5,300	34,400	169	1,420	1,000	5,300	6,470	41,100
Vietnam	--	253	2,160	15,300	194	522	2,350	16,100
Other	313	1,160	5,030	21,800	2,640	14,200	7,980	37,100
Total	332,000	2,620,000	105,000	838,000	65,800	415,000	503,000	3,870,000

-- 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 JULY 2018¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–	July	January–
		July		July		July		July
Australia	116	353	82	1,060	--	3	198	1,420
Belgium	33	87	116	610	1,270	3,170	1,420	3,870
Bolivia	--	--	--	638	--	--	--	638
Brazil	19	109	223	1,930	1,840	8,540	2,090	10,600
Canada	10,000	73,400	29,300	240,000	7,500	60,200	46,800	373,000
China	20	875	2,390	16,600	27,300	343,000	29,700	360,000
Colombia	--	82	89	1,030	--	15	89	1,130
Dominican Republic	200	1,220	144	801	--	--	344	2,020
France	626	4,250	916	6,640	197	1,650	1,740	12,500
Germany	127	1,090	616	4,080	771	5,190	1,510	10,400
Guatemala	--	3	980	5,340	--	--	980	5,340
Hong Kong	--	6	272	1,020	2,390	18,500	2,660	19,600
India	54	137	581	2,790	16,900	91,000	17,500	93,900
Indonesia	--	10	10	601	5,850	36,100	5,860	36,700
Ireland	--	39	29	223	--	--	29	262
Israel	--	5	929	6,110	--	48	929	6,170
Italy	2	105	168	881	246	513	416	1,500
Jamaica	--	26	15	72	--	--	15	98
Japan	166	903	1,070	8,470	1,980	12,400	3,210	21,800
Korea, Republic of	--	343	1,750	17,800	20,800	130,000	22,600	148,000
Malaysia	--	25	448	3,490	24,200	85,600	24,700	89,100
Mexico	13,100	87,300	38,500	283,000	15,400	106,000	67,000	476,000
Netherlands	11	94	27	214	374	2,070	412	2,380
New Zealand	--	6	73	492	4	5	77	503
Norway	--	3	8	63	--	--	8	66
Pakistan	--	--	53	187	1,230	5,380	1,280	5,570
Panama	--	9	4	48	--	--	4	57
Philippines	--	42	32	209	575	1,880	607	2,130
Poland	23	83	65	532	--	171	88	786
Romania	6	116	59	348	--	--	65	464
Russia	1	29	9	83	591	8,520	601	8,630
Saudi Arabia	--	--	278	1,280	--	20	278	1,300
Singapore	57	592	262	2,970	121	362	440	3,920
Spain	--	111	84	537	92	828	176	1,480
Taiwan	149	3,190	213	6,190	5,590	27,200	5,950	36,600
Thailand	97	253	352	2,850	564	6,730	1,010	9,840
Turkey	--	126	382	2,060	12	270	394	2,460
United Arab Emirates	43	498	188	720	331	1,190	562	2,410
United Kingdom	29	318	904	6,430	325	1,480	1,260	8,230
Vietnam	--	--	7	50	290	2,720	297	2,770
Other	31	297	280	2,940	627	5,130	938	8,370
Total	24,900	176,000	81,900	631,000	137,000	965,000	244,000	1,770,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.