Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2024

Domestic primary aluminum production in December 2024 was 57,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in December 2024 was 1,850 t, compared with 1,840 t in November 2024, and 10% less than that in both in December 2023 and December 2022. In 2024, domestic primary aluminum production was 676,000 t compared with 750,000 t in 2023. The average daily production in 2024 was 1,850 metric tons per day, 10% less than that in 2023, and 13% less than that in 2022 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in December 2024 was 266,000 t, slightly less than that in November 2024, compared with 270,000 t in December 2023, and 4% more than that in December 2022. Of this, 149,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 117,000 t was recovered from old scrap. In 2024, total aluminum recovered from scrap was 3.47 million metric tons (Mt), compared with 3.43 Mt in 2023, and 4% more than that in 2022 (fig. 1, table 1).

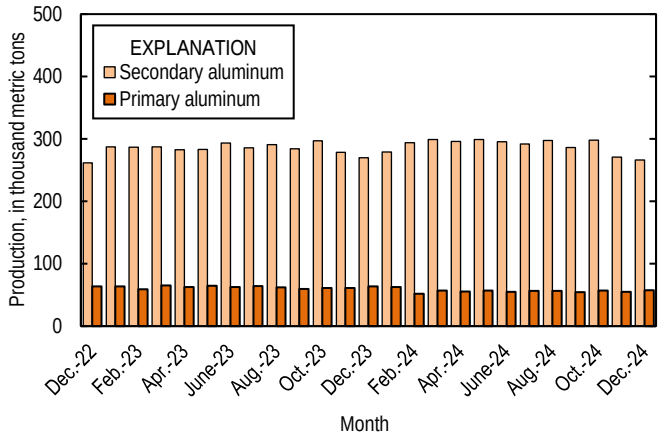

Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from December 2022 through December 2024.

Prices and Stocks

The December 2024 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was $1.38 per pound, compared with $1.39 per pound in November 2024, 17% more than that in December 2023, and 7% more than that in December 2022. The average cash price in December 2024 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was $1.15 per pound, slightly less than that in November 2024, 17% more than that in December 2023, and 6% more than that in December 2022. The 2024 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was $1.30 per pound, 3% more than that in 2023, and 15% less than that in 2022. The 2024 annual average cash price for primary aluminum ingot on the LME was $1.10 per pound, 7% more than that in 2023, and 11% less than that in 2022 (fig. 2, table 6).

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States were 15,833 t at the end of December 2024, 14% more than those at the end of November 2024. Inventories of aluminum alloy (North American Special Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States were 589 t at the end of December 2024, 37% more than those at the end of November 2024 (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2024a, b).

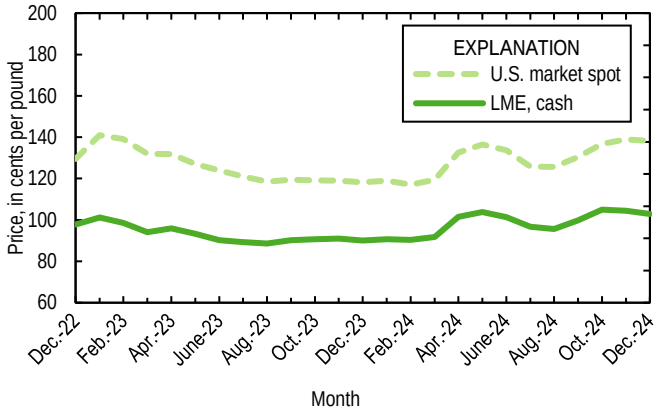

Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from December 2022 through December 2024. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

U.S. Trade

Total imports of aluminum for consumption in 2024 were 5.52 Mt compared with 5.57 Mt in 2023. Imports of crude metal and alloys decreased by 6% in 2024, while imports of semi-fabricated products and scrap increased by 14% and 3%,

respectively. The leading sources of total aluminum imports in the 2024 were Canada (61%), the United Arab Emirates (6%), and Mexico (5%). For crude metal and alloy imports, the leading sources in 2024 were Canada (76%), the United Arab Emirates (10%), and Argentina (5%). For semi-fabricated products, the leading sources were Canada (18%); the Republic of Korea (15%); and China, including Hong Kong (13%). For scrap, the leading sources were Canada (58%) and Mexico (32%) (table 8).

Total aluminum exports in 2024 were 3.43 Mt, 4% more than those in 2023. In 2024, exports of crude metal increased by 33%, scrap exports slightly increased, while exports of alloys and semi-fabricated products decreased by 6% compared with those in 2023. The leading destinations for total aluminum exports in 2024 were Malaysia (20%), Mexico (18%), Canada (14%), India (12%), and Thailand (11%). For scrap, the leading destinations were India (19%); Malaysia and Thailand (17% each); China, including Hong Kong (12%); and the Republic of Korea (11%). Scrap accounted for 61% of all aluminum exports (table 9).

Update

United States.—On March 12, a 25% tariff was imposed on aluminum and aluminum derivative products imported from all countries, ending previous exemptions for Canada and Mexico. Previously announced on February 10, the action was authorized by President Donald J. Trump under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act to address national security threats associated with the current level of aluminum imports (Executive Office of the President, 2025; U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2025; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security, 2025).

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A worksheet has been added to the Excel table files that includes a button to remove text and numerical footnotes from data cells. This will allow users to only have numbers in data cells. Please see the worksheet titled "RemoveTextButton" for instructions on how to use the tool. Note: you must download the excel file to use the tool.

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Table 1. Components of aluminum supply.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown. Data are in thousand metric tons. NA, not available.]

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery[1]			Imports for consumption			Total new supply[2]	Stocks, end of period[3]
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2023									
Total	750	1,860	1,560	3,430	3,810	1,000	4,810	8,990	1,820
December	64	150	119	270	311	86	397	730	1,820
2024									
January	63	158	121	279	297	98	395	737	1,780
February	52	162	132	294	344	98	442	788	1,770
March	57	165	134	299	270	96	366	722	1,730
April	55	163	133	296	330	113	443	795	1,720
May	57	166	132	299	270	120	390	746	1,800
June	55	163	133	295	340	106	446	796	1,690
July	57	159	133	292	293	113	406	754	1,690
August	56	166	132	297	268	94	362	716	1,800
September	55	160	126	286	332	94	426	766	1,660
October	57	167	131	298	297	96	393	748	1,680
November	55	152	118	271	263	110	373	699	1,710
December	57	149	117	266	297	86	383	707	NA
January–December	676	1,930	1,540	3,470	3,600	1,220	4,820	8,970	NA

[1]Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.
[2]Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.
[3]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 recover from purchased new and old aluminum scrap.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in thousand metric tons.]

Period	Secondary smelters		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2023										
Total	2,520	1,880	1,590	1,450	101	93	3	3	4,210	3,430
December	206	154	119	108	8	8	([1])	([1])	333	270
2024										
January	206	155	127	116	8	8	([1])	([1])	342	279
February	209	158	141	128	8	8	([1])	([1])	359	294
March	213	159	145	132	8	8	([1])	([1])	367	299
April	214	160	141	128	8	8	([1])	([1])	364	296
May	209	156	148	135	8	8	([1])	([1])	365	299
June	208	156	144	131	8	8	([1])	([1])	361	295
July	208	154	142	129	8	8	([1])	([1])	359	292
August	207	154	148	135	8	8	([1])	([1])	364	297
September	210	155	134	122	8	8	([1])	([1])	353	286
October	213	157	145	132	8	8	([1])	([1])	366	298
November	205	153	121	110	8	8	([1])	([1])	335	271
December	204	153	116	106	8	8	([1])	([1])	329	266
January–December	2,510	1,870	1,650	1,510	101	93	3	4	4,260	3,470

[1]Less than ½ unit.

Table 3. Consumption of and recovery from purchased new and old aluminum scrap in December 2024.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.]

Aluminum scrap	Consumption (metric tons)		Calculated metallic recovery (metric tons)	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	170,000	204,000	127,000	153,000
Independent mill fabricators	106,000	116,000	96,800	106,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	242	290	242	290
Total	284,000	329,000	231,000	266,000

Table 4. Purchased and toll-treated aluminum-base scrap in December 2024.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons.]

Aluminum-base scrap	December				January–December	
	Stocks, opening[1]	Net receipts[2]	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts[2]	Melted or consumed
New scrap						
Extrusions	18,800	42,700	42,700	18,800	539,000	539,000
Can stock clippings	96,400	29,300	29,300	96,400	367,000	367,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	156,000	32,100	32,400	156,000	473,000	474,000
Castings	20,400	6,100	6,100	20,400	63,400	63,400
Borings and turnings	41,500	11,100	11,100	41,500	137,000	137,000
Dross and skimmings[3]	340,000	46,600	46,600	340,000	576,000	576,000
Total new scrap	674,000	168,000	168,000	674,000	2,160,000	2,160,000
Old scrap						
Used castings	24,700	27,100	27,100	24,700	331,000	331,000
Used extrusions	15,600	13,200	13,200	15,600	158,000	158,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	4,480	41,900	41,900	4,480	575,000	575,000
Other wrought products	36,700	18,700	18,700	36,700	302,000	302,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	72,600	14,700	14,700	72,600	150,000	150,000
Total old scrap	154,000	116,000	116,000	154,000	1,520,000	1,520,000
Grand total, all classes	828,000	284,000	284,000	828,000	3,680,000	3,680,000

[1]May include revisions to previously published data.
[2]Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.
[3]Gross volume of dross and skimmings. Recoverable aluminum content ranges from 15% to 50% of gross weight.

Table 5. Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States in December 2024.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Excludes integrated aluminum companies. Data are in metric tons. —, not applicable.]

Aluminum alloys	December			January–December		
	Stocks, opening[1]	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	4,370	2,700	2,700	4,370	32,400	30,000
380 and variations	7,750	17,600	17,600	7,750	212,000	208,000
Sand and permanent mold						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,940	2,130	2,130	1,940	25,500	25,500
No. 319 and variations	1,200	1,390	1,390	1,200	16,700	16,700
F-132 alloy and variations	89	233	233	89	2,800	2,800
Al-Zn alloys	339	71	71	339	851	851
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	230	195	195	230	2,340	2,340
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	139	724	724	139	8,690	8,690
Other[2]	3,740	4,450	4,450	3,740	53,400	53,400
Other						
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	14,600	61,900	61,900	14,600	734,000	734,000
Total all alloys	34,400	91,400	91,400	34,400	1,090,000	1,080,000
Less						
Primary aluminum consumed	—	15,200	—	—	182,000	—
Primary silicon consumed	—	1,600	—	—	19,200	—
Other alloying ingredients consumed	—	839	—	—	10,100	—
Other						
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot[3]	—	73,800	—	—	879,000	—

[1]May include revisions to previously published data.
[2]Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Zn, Al-Cu, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.
[3]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.
[Data are in cents per pound. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.]

Period	Midwest U.S. market price	LME cash price Grade A
2023		
December	118.250	98.610
January–December	125.863	102.113
2024		
January	118.966	99.514
February	117.083	98.984
March	119.438	100.791
April	132.536	113.285
May	136.524	116.334
June	133.738	113.154
July	125.870	107.137
August	125.571	105.865
September	130.393	111.185
October	136.848	117.840
November	138.940	117.150
December	138.200	115.126
January–December	129.509	109.697

Table 7. Average buying prices for aluminum scrap.
[Data are in cents per pound. Source: Fastmarkets–AMM.]

Period	Used beverage cans	Mixed low copper clips	Old sheet	Old cast	Turnings (clean and dry)
2023					
December	70.38	68.25	68.88	69.75	65.50
January–December	73.84	68.35	69.03	70.37	59.88
2024					
January	74.13	69.13	70.25	72.13	68.63
February	76.00	69.90	71.80	73.80	71.40
March	78.00	71.13	73.00	78.00	72.50
April	87.88	73.00	76.25	79.50	74.63
May	92.60	78.60	82.60	82.00	80.20
June	94.50	79.50	82.25	82.00	82.00
July	92.50	77.25	81.50	83.00	82.50
August	90.90	76.50	77.00	79.50	80.10
September	99.00	76.25	77.00	78.00	77.13
October	104.00	77.20	78.20	79.10	76.90
November	104.25	80.50	81.75	81.00	78.25
December	105.00	77.88	80.38	81.50	80.50
January–December	91.56	75.57	77.67	79.13	77.06

Table 8. U.S. imports for consumption of aluminum in December 2024.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.]

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars[1]		Scrap		Total	
	December	January–December	December	January–December	December	January–December	December	January–December
Argentina	22,500	165,000	0	71	0	0	22,500	165,000
Australia	3,530	82,400	47	382	0	0	3,570	82,800
Austria	0	5	2,520	27,000	1	37	2,520	27,100
Bahrain	8,380	109,000	4,360	47,100	0	0	12,700	156,000
Belgium	20	141	1,070	20,000	0	283	1,090	20,400
Brazil	0	5	367	29,100	361	6,780	728	35,900
Canada	216,000	2,740,000	11,700	214,000	31,500	404,000	259,000	3,360,000
Chile	0	0	0	19	21	2,140	21	2,160
China[2]	28	586	9,140	154,000	1	320	9,170	155,000
Colombia	0	0	303	5,010	1,100	8,390	1,410	13,400
Costa Rica	0	0	17	635	146	1,540	163	2,170
France	159	9,780	295	7,650	33	230	488	17,700
Germany	5	515	1,320	18,200	1,340	8,860	2,660	27,600
Greece	0	0	1,030	36,200	38	151	1,070	36,300
Guatemala	0	0	0	20	822	12,300	822	12,300
Honduras	0	0	619	8,160	40	1,420	659	9,580
India	15,000	74,200	1,680	30,800	0	(3)	16,700	105,000
Indonesia	0	1,300	340	11,500	0	0	340	12,800
Italy	0	2,940	1,210	13,800	39	99	1,250	16,800
Japan	0	4	864	15,100	61	641	925	15,800
Korea, Republic of	213	7,290	15,500	181,000	0	27	15,700	189,000
Malaysia	0	0	1,260	14,600	3	5	1,260	14,600
Mexico	277	4,030	2,910	52,100	20,100	226,000	23,300	282,000
Netherlands	67	1,230	54	891	2	95	123	2,220
New Zealand	395	4,890	0	3	0	0	395	4,890
Norway	0	2,400	1,460	10,500	0	0	1,460	12,900
Oman	0	148	5,360	65,700	0	0	5,360	65,900
Qatar	5,090	44,000	0	28	0	0	5,090	44,000
Romania	0	0	91	1,530	0	224	91	1,750
Russia	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	26
Saudi Arabia	0	0	7,300	18,300	0	0	7,300	18,300
South Africa	0	121	1,820	16,000	0	101	1,820	16,200
Spain	78	2,730	463	13,600	0	279	540	16,600
Sweden	0	0	1,010	11,100	0	0	1,010	11,100
Switzerland	0	0	16	4,230	0	0	16	4,230
Taiwan	27	221	226	3,360	0	75	253	3,660
Thailand	157	2,070	3,910	33,100	(3)	14	4,070	35,200
Turkey	0	702	2,120	28,100	246	246	2,360	29,000
United Arab Emirates	24,700	344,000	98	3,250	0	150	24,800	347,000
United Kingdom	33	178	996	11,900	554	1,260	1,580	13,300
Vietnam	0	0	733	34,500	0	10	733	34,500
Other	3	84	4,290	80,500	2,750	24,500	7,040	105,000
Total	297,000	3,600,000	86,500	1,220,000	59,200	701,000	442,000	5,520,000

[1]Includes castings, forgings, and unclassified semifabricated forms.
[2]Includes Hong Kong.
[3]Less than ½ unit.

Table 9. U.S. exports of aluminum in December 2024.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.]

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars[1]		Scrap		Total	
	December	January–December	December	January–December	December	January–December	December	January–December
Australia	211	753	100	1,900	0	0	311	2,650
Belgium	0	2	296	2,450	1,100	9,610	1,390	12,100
Brazil	(2)	3	303	3,360	457	4,350	760	7,720
Canada	4,430	65,200	19,200	289,000	8,280	128,000	31,900	482,000
China[3]	184	3,450	1,140	13,200	24,600	246,000	25,900	262,000
Colombia	1	101	18	478	118	733	137	1,310
Dominican Republic	1	2	12	353	168	5,350	182	5,710
France	482	6,100	447	10,400	177	2,350	1,110	18,800
Germany	351	4,020	428	5,610	274	2,170	1,050	11,800
Guatemala	0	1	1	99	0	0	1	99
India	114	1,450	578	4,750	28,900	408,000	29,600	414,000
Indonesia	36	90	15	68	9,820	60,000	9,870	60,100
Ireland	0	2	146	474	0	806	146	1,280
Israel	0	20	968	8,320	0	0	968	8,340
Italy	14	159	159	2,190	259	6,700	431	9,050
Jamaica	0	7	2	92	0	0	2	100
Japan	163	1,950	1,160	13,800	2,330	30,100	3,650	45,800
Korea, Republic of	52	2,930	2,480	25,000	18,200	233,000	20,800	261,000
Malaysia	18,800	332,000	147	3,590	23,600	359,000	42,500	695,000
Mexico	11,700	174,000	18,200	305,000	8,260	137,000	38,100	617,000
Netherlands	60	546	24	435	553	7,810	636	8,800
New Zealand	0	10	21	619	0	0	21	629
Norway	0	91	4	25	0	621	4	737
Pakistan	216	1,630	16	27	2,750	21,000	2,990	22,600
Panama	0	6	1	37	0	0	1	44
Philippines	0	164	25	319	0	903	25	1,390
Poland	(2)	15	73	1,150	0	23	74	1,190
Romania	(2)	(2)	55	1,220	0	0	55	1,220
Saudi Arabia	0	3	6	230	0	0	6	233
Singapore	108	2,440	215	1,610	20	220	343	4,270
Spain	0	39	240	2,100	1,000	9,030	1,240	11,200
Taiwan	0	487	377	3,980	2,470	37,300	2,850	41,800
Thailand	2,010	10,900	115	1,130	40,100	353,000	42,200	365,000
Turkey	(2)	7	602	4,220	49	806	651	5,030
United Arab Emirates	0	73	41	559	20	2,120	60	2,750
United Kingdom	7	87	606	8,530	19	854	633	9,470
Vietnam	18	975	128	1,280	2,420	20,000	2,570	22,300
Other	33	1,670	323	4,460	700	13,600	1,060	19,700
Total	38,900	612,000	48,600	722,000	177,000	2,100,000	264,000	3,430,000

[1]Includes castings, forgings, and unclassified semifabricated forms.
[2]Less than ½ unit.
[3]Includes Hong Kong.