

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2019

Domestic primary aluminum production in April was 92,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in April was 3,070 t, slightly more than that in March, 30% more than that in April 2018, and 53% more than that in April 2017 (fig. 1, table 1).

Total aluminum recovered from scrap in April was 288,000 t, the same as the revised amount in March, 6% less than the amount in both April 2018 and April 2017. Of this, 161,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap and 128,000 t was recovered from old scrap (fig. 1, table 1).

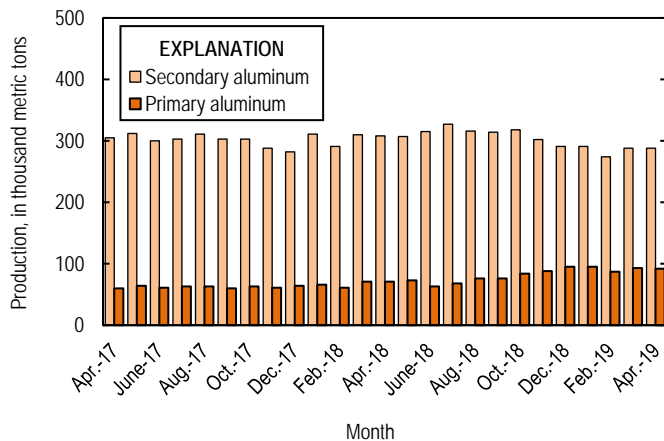


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from April 2017 through April 2019.

Prices and Stocks

The April average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot was slightly less than that in March at \$1.03 per pound. The average cash price in April of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) decreased slightly from that in March to \$0.838 per pound (fig. 2, table 6).

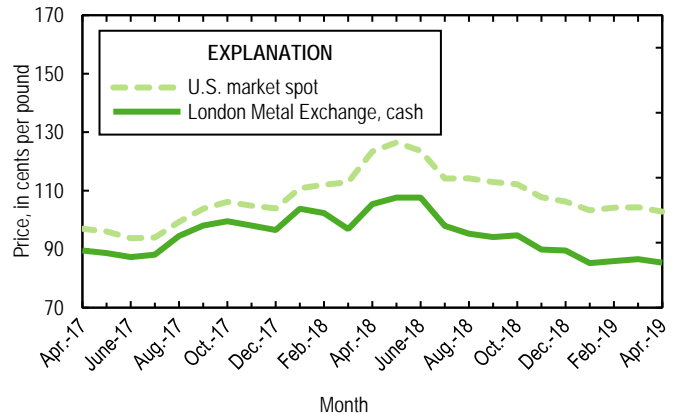


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from April 2017 through April 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 22,750 t at the end of April from 39,400 t at the end of March. Inventories of secondary aluminum (North American Secondary Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses in the United States decreased to 112,800 t at the end of April from 117,140 t at the end of March (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2019a, b).

Update

On May 30, the U.S. Department of Commerce affirmed the preliminary determination in the antidumping investigation of imports of aluminum wire from China. The finding determined that aluminum wire and cable from China was sold below fair market value at a rate ranging from 58.51 to 63.47% by certain producers. A preliminary antidumping duty was set at those rates for the aluminum wire and cable imported by those producers. A final determination was expected by October 9 (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2019).

References Cited

- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2019a, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., March 29, 3 p.
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2019b, Aluminium stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., April 30, 3 p.
- U.S. Department of Commerce, 2019, U.S. Department of Commerce issues affirmative preliminary antidumping duty determination on aluminum wire and cable from China: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce press release, May 30. (Accessed June 19, 2019, at

[https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2019/05/us-department-commerce-issues-affirmative-preliminary-antidumping-2.](https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2019/05/us-department-commerce-issues-affirmative-preliminary-antidumping-2))

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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		
2018 ^p	891	2,140	1,570	3,710	4,130	1,410	5,540	10,100	1,570
2018:									
April	71	174	133	308	381	122	503	881	1,460
May	73	174	132	307	349	120	469	849	1,490
June	63	181	134	315	297	99	396	774	1,470
July	68	194	133	327	332	105	437	833	1,520
August	76	185	131	316	292	104	396	787	1,560
September	76	182	132	314	313	105	418	809	1,560
October	84	182	136	318	306	119	425	827	1,570
November	88	169	133	302	294	122	416	806	1,580
December	95	169	122	291	306	122	428	813	1,570
January–April	269	703	517	1,220	1,640	514	2,160	3,640	1,570
2019:									
January	95	172	119	291	298	136	434	820	1,640
February	87	153 ^r	121 ^r	274 ^r	284	118	402	763 ^r	1,600
March	93	159 ^r	129 ^r	288 ^r	312	145	457	838 ^r	1,590
April	92	161	128	288	314	143	457	838	NA
January–April	366	645	497	1,140	1,210	542	1,750	3,260	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.

⁴Inventories 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
2018 ^p	2,210	1,700	2,090	1,910	101	93	4	4	4,410	3,710
2018:										
April	173	137	178	163	8	8	(2)	(2)	359	308
May	176	139	174	159	8	8	(2)	(2)	359	307
June	186	143	179	164	8	8	(2)	(2)	375	315
July	189	146	189	173	8	8	(2)	(2)	386	327
August	191	148	175	160	8	8	(2)	(2)	374	316
September	189	146	175	160	8	8	(2)	(2)	373	314
October	195	146	179	164	8	8	(2)	(2)	383	318
November	189	141	167	153	8	8	(2)	(2)	365	302
December	186	141	155	142	8	8	(2)	(2)	350	291
January–April	712	550	695	638	34	31	1	1	1,440	1,220
2019:										
January	178	135	161	148	8	8	(2)	(2)	348	291
February	182	138	140	128 ^r	8	8	(2)	(2)	330 ^r	274 ^r
March	188	141	152	140	8	8	(2)	(2)	349	288 ^r
April	184	139	154	141	8	8	(2)	(2)	346	288
January–April	732	553	606	557	34	31	1	1	1,370	1,140

^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 2019¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	153,000	184,000	116,000	139,000
Independent mill fabricators	139,000	154,000	128,000	141,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	273	328	273	328
Total	300,000	346,000	250,000	288,000

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 2019¹

(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	18,400	54,300	54,000	18,700	215,000	215,000
Can stock clippings	5,820	24,100	24,100	5,830	103,000	103,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	31,500	43,300	39,900	34,900	161,000	153,000
Casting	4,150	6,410	6,410	4,150	26,000	26,000
Borings and turnings	5,610	12,400	12,400	5,590	50,000	50,000
Dross and skimmings	16,400	39,200	39,200	16,400	158,000	158,000
Total new scrap	82,000	180,000	176,000	85,600	714,000	706,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	9,410	26,700	26,700	9,410	108,000	108,000
Used extrusion	9,190	15,900	15,900	9,190	58,700	58,700
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	11,000	40,700	40,500	11,200	155,000	156,000
Other wrought products	11,200	32,000	30,600	12,500	115,000	120,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,710	9,730	9,720	3,710	38,500	38,800
Total old scrap	44,500	125,000	123,000	46,000	476,000	481,000
Total all classes	126,000	305,000	300,000	132,000	1,190,000	1,190,000

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 2019^{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.)	2,630	1,790	1,790	2,630	7,150	7,150
380 and variations	6,930	15,400	15,400	6,930	61,700	61,700
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,310	2,550	2,550	1,310	10,200	10,200
No. 319 and variations	3,480	3,370	3,370	3,480	13,500	13,500
F-132 alloy and variations	418	386	386	418	1,540	1,540
Al-Zn alloys	W	W	W	W	W	W
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	214	142	142	214	569	569
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other ⁴	6,930	10,100	10,100	6,930	40,400	40,400
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	10,800	55,000	55,000	10,800	220,000	220,000
Total all alloys	32,700	88,800	88,800	32,700	355,000	355,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	15,900	XX	XX	63,800	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,980	XX	XX	7,910	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	964	XX	XX	3,860	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum						
scrap consumed in production of						
secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	69,900	XX	XX	279,000	XX

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other." 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
2018:		
April	123.388	101.866
May	126.488	103.875
June	123.607	101.603
July	114.136	95.177
August	114.193	92.764
September	112.963	91.739
October	112.207	92.254
November	107.763	87.871
December	106.294	87.588
January–December	114.737	95.703
2019:		
January	103.268	83.711
February	104.202	84.333
March	104.286	84.907
April	102.825	83.849
January–April	103.645	84.200

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)
2018:					
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
August	73.37	60.24	52.87	51.70	49.80
September	65.87	57.37	47.13	46.21	43.84
October	63.50	55.87	45.78	44.30	42.30
November	59.35	54.62	45.45	44.50	41.00
December	58.12	53.25	45.50	45.00	40.62
January–December	73.00	61.90	55.12	55.42	52.03
2019:					
January	54.98	50.55	44.38	43.45	39.38
February	57.58	50.21	45.32	44.32	39.50
March	59.60	51.00	46.00	45.00	39.38
April	59.48	51.38	46.40	45.48	39.05
January–April	57.91	50.79	45.53	44.56	39.33

Source: American Metal Market.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2019¹

(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	3,870	54,100	--	21	--	--	3,870	54,100
Australia	24,800	108,000	47	448	--	389	24,800	109,000
Austria	--	--	3,030	10,700	--	--	3,030	10,700
Bahrain	12,500	50,500	6,190	20,500	--	--	18,700	71,000
Belgium	--	93	1,930	5,900	--	--	1,930	6,000
Brazil	--	1,610	4,000	16,200	--	--	4,000	17,800
Canada	163,000	569,000	15,400	60,500	32,700	124,000	211,000	754,000
Chile	--	--	--	--	206	1,260	206	1,260
China	1,870	5,760	12,400	54,200	25	41	14,300	60,000
Colombia	--	--	367	1,260	280	610	647	1,870
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	286	1,280	286	1,280
El Salvador	--	--	101	237	36	366	137	603
France	437	1,980	2,300	8,200	20	31	2,760	10,200
Germany	13	92	9,560	30,100	328	1,240	9,900	31,500
Greece	--	--	4,060	14,400	--	--	4,060	14,400
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	982	3,640	982	3,640
Honduras	--	--	143	686	215	324	358	1,010
Hong Kong	--	--	1,150	3,470	--	--	1,150	3,470
India	24,500	76,700	4,360	20,600	3	21	28,900	97,300
Indonesia	--	--	8,750	33,700	--	--	8,750	33,700
Italy	20	559	3,770	13,800	--	--	3,790	14,300
Japan	10	32	4,690	15,000	2,500	4,470	7,200	19,500
Korea, Republic of	1,200	4,810	5,040	17,700	418	3,700	6,650	26,200
Malaysia	558	1,420	635	2,430	--	--	1,190	3,850
Mexico	76	169	3,120	13,400	13,100	52,100	16,300	65,700
Netherlands	123	374	685	1,800	41	128	849	2,300
New Zealand	739	2,410	--	1	--	--	739	2,410
Norway	82	6,320	1,050	2,510	--	--	1,130	8,830
Oman	3,240	3,740	10,700	34,900	--	--	13,900	38,600
Qatar	12,800	60,100	--	--	--	--	12,800	60,100
Romania	--	--	1,830	5,620	--	--	1,830	5,620
Russia	26,300	69,800	1,520	6,170	--	--	27,800	76,000
Saudi Arabia	2,810	9,170	1,430	12,000	--	--	4,230	21,200
South Africa	3,850	4,470	6,920	23,000	--	--	10,800	27,400
Spain	43	361	2,370	7,540	--	191	2,420	8,090
Sweden	--	--	1,450	4,120	--	--	1,450	4,120
Switzerland	--	--	717	2,090	--	--	717	2,090
Taiwan	1	92	7,560	27,100	68	339	7,630	27,500
Thailand	69	274	894	6,750	19	155	982	7,180
Turkey	--	--	4,000	22,600	--	--	4,000	22,600
United Arab Emirates	30,900	176,000	520	1,690	15	15	31,500	177,000
United Kingdom	34	96	1,150	5,130	608	1,400	1,790	6,620
Venezuela	--	28	24	53	229	458	253	539
Vietnam	--	--	2,110	7,770	5	1,100	2,110	8,860
Other	391	962	6,850	26,900	1,050	5,490	8,280	33,400
Total	314,000	1,210,000	143,000	541,000	53,100	203,000	510,000	1,950,000

-- 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 APRIL 2019¹

(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
Australia	27	248	301	819	--	3	328	1,070
Belgium	--	--	141	754	747	2,770	888	3,520
Brazil	98	118	269	3,210	1,420	7,610	1,790	10,900
Canada	9,140	34,500	27,400	112,000	8,340	32,000	44,800	178,000
China	18	165	2,580	8,400	44,800	157,000	47,400	166,000
Colombia	1	2	47	220	--	--	48	222
Dominican Republic	--	184	103	364	--	--	103	548
France	529	2,520	932	2,870	117	444	1,580	5,840
Germany	188	841	510	2,260	741	3,610	1,440	6,710
Guatemala	--	--	629	1,950	--	--	629	1,950
Hong Kong	2	22	209	371	12,400	29,100	12,600	29,500
India	23	110	191	653	21,400	83,000	21,600	83,800
Indonesia	2	2	3	14	9,280	36,400	9,290	36,400
Ireland	--	1	29	154	--	--	29	155
Israel	--	2	1,170	3,810	--	21	1,170	3,830
Italy	--	2	127	440	210	412	337	854
Jamaica	2	4	3	39	--	--	5	43
Japan	175	503	1,590	6,360	999	4,570	2,760	11,400
Korea, Republic of	6	72	2,740	11,500	24,600	93,400	27,300	105,000
Malaysia	2	8	343	1,130	18,300	57,400	18,600	58,500
Mexico	11,200	42,700	36,600	136,000	14,500	62,800	62,200	242,000
Netherlands	2	21	35	124	172	541	209	686
New Zealand	--	1	13	85	--	--	13	86
Norway	--	--	16	53	--	--	16	53
Pakistan	--	--	2	7	1,060	4,770	1,060	4,780
Panama	--	1	16	45	--	--	16	46
Philippines	--	--	11	63	871	3,690	882	3,750
Poland	2	45	91	317	--	--	93	362
Romania	10	35	49	266	--	--	59	301
Russia	1	4	19	47	527	1,770	547	1,820
Saudi Arabia	1	2	69	255	180	1,550	250	1,810
Singapore	20	139	130	620	884	2,500	1,030	3,260
Spain	--	6	176	390	688	1,870	864	2,260
Taiwan	239	582	973	2,480	4,300	24,800	5,510	27,900
Thailand	2	104	109	633	1,300	3,640	1,410	4,380
Turkey	--	61	481	1,830	21	60	502	1,950
United Arab Emirates	24	121	19	145	707	1,240	750	1,500
United Kingdom	119	373	970	3,560	216	1,210	1,310	5,140
Vietnam	--	--	20	92	206	481	226	573
Other	33	152	349	1,460	1,250	3,550	1,630	5,160
Total	21,800	83,600	79,400	306,000	170,000	623,000	271,000	1,010,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.