

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2022

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the first quarter of 2022 were 736,000 metric tons (t), 6% less than those in the fourth quarter of 2021, 6% more than those in the first quarter of 2021, and 5% less than those in the first quarter of 2020. Jamaica (85%) and Turkey (13%) were the sources of crude and dried bauxite imports in the first quarter of 2022 (fig. 1, table 1).

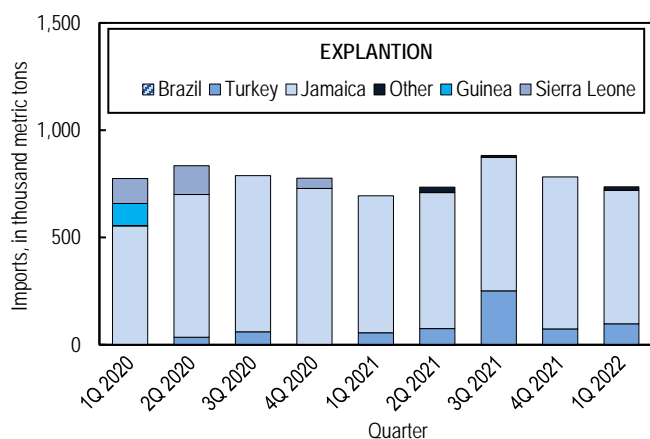


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of crude and dried bauxite from the first quarter of 2020 through the first quarter of 2022. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Imports of alumina during the first quarter of 2022 were 445,000 t, 8% more than those in the fourth quarter of 2021, 7% more than those in the first quarter of 2021, and 25% more than those in the first quarter of 2020. The leading sources of imported alumina in the first quarter of 2022 were Brazil (72%), Spain (9%), Canada (4%), and Jamaica (2%) (fig. 2, table 3).

Exports of alumina during the first quarter of 2022 were 40,600 t, 3% less than those in the fourth quarter of 2021, 13% less than those in the first quarter of 2021, but 43% more than those in the first quarter of 2020. The leading destinations for alumina exported in the first quarter of 2022 were Mexico (40%), Canada (13%), and China (10%) (fig. 2, table 3).

Update

On May 2, South32 Ltd. completed the purchase of 18.2% of the Mineração Rio do Norte (MRN) bauxite mine in Para State, Brazil from Alcoa Corp. With the acquisition, South32's

ownership of the MRN Mine increased to 33%. The mine capacity was 18 million metric tons per year (South32 Ltd., 2022; Warwick, 2022).

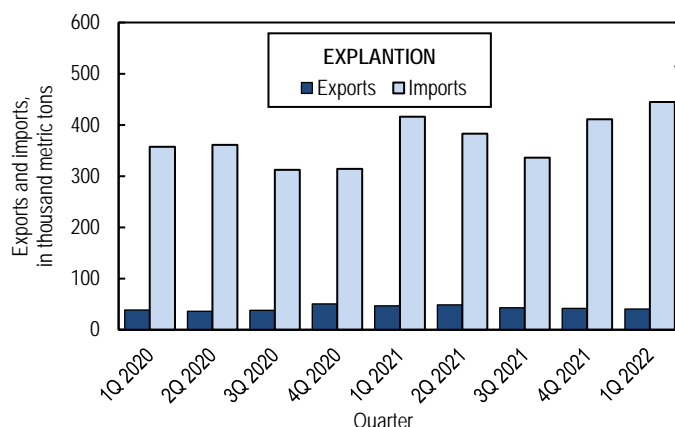


Figure 2. Alumina exports and imports from the first quarter of 2020 through the first quarter of 2022. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

References Cited

- South32 Ltd., 2022, South32 completes acquisition of additional interest in Mineração Rio do Norte: Perth, Western Australia, Australia, South32 Ltd. media release, May 2. (Accessed May 27, at https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/media-releases/south32-completes-acquisition-of-additional-interest-in-mrn.pdf?sfvrsn=a97948f2_4).
- Warwick, Filip, 2022, Australian miner South32 boosts stake in Brazil's MRN bauxite mine by 18%: S&P Global Platts Metals Daily, v. 11, no. 86, May 3, p. 4-5.

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TABLE 1
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	2021				1st quarter– 4th quarter	2022 1st quarter
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		
Imports for consumption:						
Brazil	53	209	773	--	1,040	845
Jamaica ²	639,000	633,000	623,000	709,000	2,600,000	622,000
Turkey	56,500	75,500	250,000	74,400	457,000	96,900
Other	--	25,200	7,580	--	32,800	15,900
Total	695,000	734,000	881,000	784,000	3,090,000	736,000
Exports:						
Canada	284	298	802	360	1,740	272
Other	124	72	96	118	410	139
Total	408	370	898	478	2,150	411

-- Zero.

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

²Source: Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CALCINED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	2021										2022 1st quarter	
	1st quarter		2d quarter		3d quarter		4th quarter		1st quarter– 4th quarter			
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
Imports for consumption:												
Australia	--	--	--	49,500	--	49,500	--	--	--	99,000	--	49,500
Brazil	1,780	--	--	--	791	--	--	--	2,570	--	442	--
China	14,200	5,580	13,500	1,440	24,900	1,770	26,600	4,100	79,200	12,900	21,200	5,080
Guyana	13,000	45,100	14,900	30,500	6,680	31,500	22,300	34,500	56,800	142,000	4,820	39,400
Other	133	9,550	204	10,000	164	16,300	271	26,800	772	62,600	964	18,100
Total	29,000	60,200	28,700	91,500	32,600	99,000	49,100	65,300	139,000	316,000	27,400	112,000
Exports:												
Canada	54	--	20	--	30	--	43	--	147	--	53	--
China	630	--	428	--	65	--	71	--	1,190	--	34	--
Mexico	181	--	1,560	--	114	--	1,590	--	3,440	--	1,460	--
Other	136	39	220	351	321	12	96	91	773	493	122	114
Total	1,000	39	2,230	351	530	12	1,800	91	5,550	493	1,670	114

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF ALUMINA, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

Country or locality	2021				1st quarter–	2022
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter
Imports for consumption: ²						
Australia	66,500	32	2	(3)	66,500	5,000
Brazil	220,000	252,000	241,000 ^r	341,000	1,050,000	319,000
Canada	16,000	16,600	17,400	17,900	67,800	19,200
Jamaica ⁴	77,500	87,400	57,600	16,200	239,000	10,100
Spain	(3)	--	20	134	154	39,900
Other	35,900	26,600 ^r	27,800 ^r	36,100 ^r	127,000	51,600
Total	416,000	383,000	344,000 ^r	411,000	1,550,000	445,000
Exports: ⁵						
Belgium	1,980	3,210	2,470	1,260	8,930	965
Canada	6,430	7,260	6,250	5,480	25,400	5,310
China	3,250	4,010	3,230	2,590	13,100	4,070
France	1,770	2,080	1,770	2,430	8,050	1,690
Germany	1,340	1,310	1,940	1,100	5,690	1,270
Korea, Republic of	1,270	1,310	759	1,750	5,080 ^r	1,400
Mexico	15,900	17,300	15,400	17,800	66,400	16,300
Netherlands	3,510	893	572	656	5,630	964
United Arab Emirates	136	189	953	1,430	2,710	1,170
Other	11,100	11,300	9,520	7,220	39,200	7,390
Total	46,800	48,800	42,900	41,700	180,000	40,600

^rRevised.

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

²Includes imports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 298,186 metric tons (t) in 2021; 101,532 t in the first quarter of 2022.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴Source: Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

⁵Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 130,977 t in 2021; 33,554 t in the first quarter of 2022.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.