

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2022

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the second quarter of 2022 were 644,000 metric tons (t), 13% less than those in the first quarter of 2022, 12% less than those in the second quarter of 2021, and 23% less than those in the second quarter of 2020. Jamaica (99%) was the main source of crude and dried bauxite imports in the second quarter of 2022 (fig. 1, table 1).

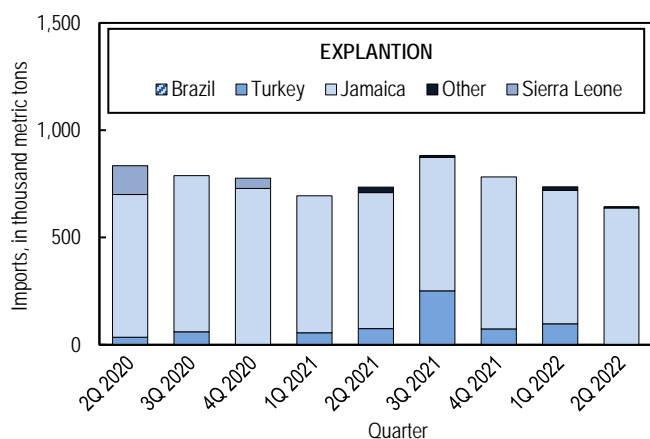


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of crude and dried bauxite from the second quarter of 2020 through the second quarter of 2022. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Imports of alumina during the second quarter of 2022 were 484,000 t, 9% more than those in the first quarter of 2022, 26% more than those in the second quarter of 2021, and 34% more than those in the second quarter of 2020. The leading sources of imported alumina in the second quarter of 2022 were Brazil (76%), Spain (5%), Canada (4%), and Jamaica (2%) (fig. 2, table 3).

Exports of alumina during the second quarter of 2022 were 44,300 t, 9% more than those in the first quarter of 2022, 9% less than those in the second quarter of 2021, but 23% more than those in the second quarter of 2020. The leading destinations for alumina exported in the second quarter of 2022 were Mexico (39%); Canada (15%); China (8%); Belgium and France (5%, each) (fig. 2, table 3).

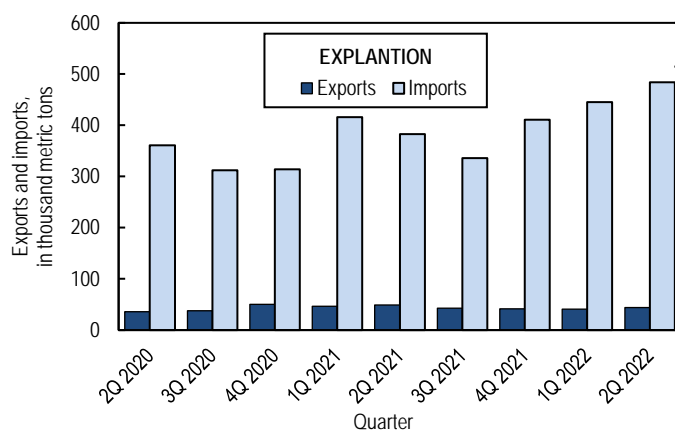


Figure 2. Alumina exports and imports from the second quarter of 2020 through the second quarter of 2022. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

## Update

First Bauxite LLC purchased US Ceramics LLC, a manufacturer and distributor of non-metallurgical bauxite products and ceramic proppants. US Ceramics owns two calcination and manufacturing facilities located in Andersonville and Wrens, GA. First Bauxite sources bauxite from its Bonasika Mine in Guyana. The company intends to use the newly acquired facility to expand its non-metallurgical bauxite product line into new and existing markets including refractories, flame retardants, and chemicals (Howard, 2022; O'Driscoll, 2022).

Employees at the Compagnie des Bauxites de Dian-Dian (COBAD) bauxite mine in Guinea resumed work on June 2 after a weeklong strike. Workers negotiated salary increases, housing allowances, and guarantees for medical treatment. A subsidiary of United Company Rusal, the COBAD mine produced 3.59 million tons of bauxite in 2021 (Reuters, 2022).

## References Cited

Howard, Parish, 2022, New owner will help Wrens plant diversify its product line: The Augusta [GA] Chronicle, August 5. (Accessed August 5, 2022, at <https://www.augustachronicle.com/story/news/local/the-news-and->

farmer/2022/08/05/new-owner-help-wrens-plant-diversify-its-product-line/10175368002/.)

O'Driscoll, Mike, 2022, First Bauxite acquires US calcination plants: Imformed Industrial Mineral Forums & Research Ltd., May 9. (Accessed August 12, 2022, at <https://imformed.com/first-bauxite-acquires-us-calcination-plants/>.)

Reuters, 2022, Workers at Rusal's Guinea bauxite mine end strike, obtain salary rise: Reuters, June 6. (Accessed August 15, 2022, at <https://www.reuters.com/article/rusal-guinea-idUSKBN2NN1K2>.)

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TABLE 1  
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	2021	2022		
		1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
Imports for consumption:				
Brazil	1,040	845	--	845
Jamaica <sup>2</sup>	2,600,000	622,000	637,000	1,260,000
Turkey	457,000	96,900	4	96,900
Other	32,800	15,900	6,150	22,000
Total	3,090,000	736,000	644,000	1,380,000
Exports:				
Canada	1,750 <sup>r</sup>	272	245	517
Other	410	139	178	317
Total	2,160 <sup>r</sup>	411	423	834

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Source: 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 LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	2022							
	2021		1st quarter		2d quarter		1st quarter– 2d quarter	
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>								
Australia	--	99,000	--	49,500	--	--	--	49,500
Brazil	2,570	--	442	--	--	411	442	411
China	79,200	12,900	21,200	5,080	3,570	6,180	24,800	11,300
Guyana	56,800	142,000	4,820	39,400	21,400	34,200	26,200	73,600
Other	772	62,600	964	18,100	5	16,900	969	35,000
Total	139,000	316,000	27,400	112,000	24,900	57,700	52,400	170,000
<b>Exports:</b>								
Canada	147	--	53	--	69	--	122	--
China	1,190	--	34	--	--	--	34	--
Mexico	3,440	--	1,460	--	158	--	1,620	--
Other	773	493	122	114	109	--	231	114
Total	5,550	493	1,670	114	336	--	2,000	114

-- 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; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF ALUMINA, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

Country or locality	2022			
	2021	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
Imports for consumption: <sup>2</sup>				
Australia	66,500	5,000	1	5,000
Brazil	1,050,000	319,000	367,000	686,000
Canada	67,800	19,200	21,200	40,300
Jamaica <sup>3</sup>	239,000	10,100	12,100	22,100
Spain	154	39,900	25,000	64,900
Other	127,000	51,600	59,100	111,000
Total	1,550,000	445,000	484,000	929,000
Exports: <sup>4</sup>				
Belgium	8,930	965	2,380	3,350
Canada	25,500 <sup>r</sup>	5,310	6,610	11,900
China <sup>5</sup>	13,400	4,170	3,410	7,590
France	8,050	1,690	2,030	3,720
Germany	5,690	1,270	1,450	2,730
Korea, Republic of	5,080	1,400	1,160	2,560
Mexico	66,400	16,300	17,300	33,600
Netherlands	5,630	964	1,210	2,180
United Arab Emirates	2,710	1,170	996	2,170
Other	39,000	7,290	7,730	15,000
Total	180,000 <sup>r</sup>	40,600	44,300	84,800

<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>Includes 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; 144,968 t in the second quarter of 2022.

<sup>3</sup>Source: Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

<sup>4</sup>Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 130,889 (revised) t in 2021; 33,554 t in the first quarter of 2022; 37,057 t in the second quarter.

<sup>5</sup>Includes Hong Kong.

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