

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2022

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the third quarter of 2022 were 669,000 metric tons (t), 4% more than those in the second quarter of 2022, 24% less than those in the third quarter of 2021, and 15% less than those in the third quarter of 2020. Jamaica (75%) and Turkey (22%) were the main source of crude and dried bauxite imports in the third quarter of 2022 (fig. 1, table 1).

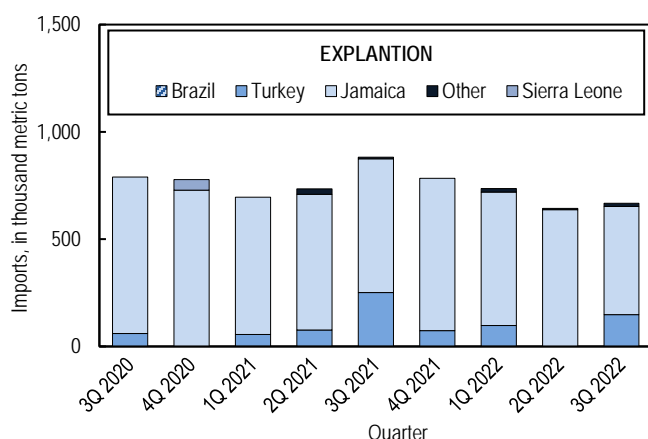


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of crude and dried bauxite from the third quarter of 2020 through the third quarter of 2022. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Imports of alumina during the third quarter of 2022 were 445,000 t, 8% less than those in the second quarter of 2022, 32% more than those in the third quarter of 2021, and 43% more than those in the third quarter of 2020. The leading sources of imported alumina in the third quarter of 2022 were Brazil (55%), Australia (19%), and Canada and Spain (5%, each) (fig. 2, table 3).

Exports of alumina during the third quarter of 2022 were 41,400 t, 6% less than those in the second quarter of 2022, 3% less than those in the third quarter of 2021, but 10% more than those in the third quarter of 2020. The leading destinations for alumina exported in the third quarter of 2022 were Mexico (44%); Canada (14%); China and France (6%, each) (fig. 2, table 3).

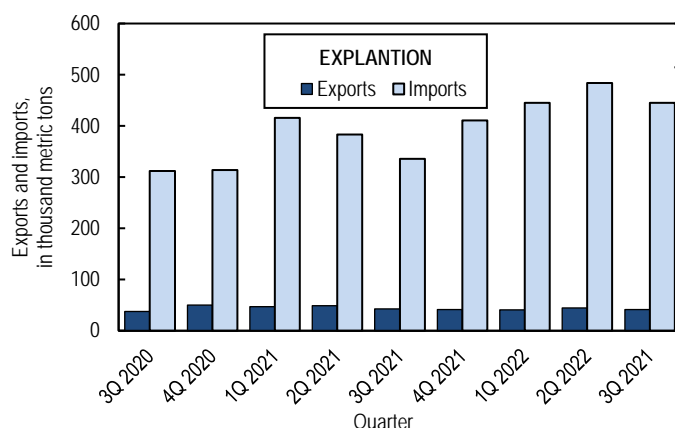


Figure 2. Alumina exports and imports from the third quarter of 2020 through the third quarter of 2022. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

## Updates

On July 28, Alcoa Corp. announced production curtailment at its alumina refinery in San Ciprián, Spain. Production at the 1.6-million-metric-ton-per-year (Mt/yr) alumina refinery is expected to be reduced by up to 60%. The high cost of natural gas is blamed for the reduction (Alcoa Corp., 2022).

In August, Jamaica's National Environment and Planning Agency suspended the environmental permit for West Indies Alumina Co.'s (Winalco) alumina refinery in Ewarton, Jamaica, for an unauthorized release into the Rio Cobre River. The refinery has a 650,000 metric tons per year (t/yr). Winalco (Manchester, Jamaica) is a subsidiary of United Company Rusal Plc, a Russian aluminum producer (CRU International Ltd., 2022a).

In August, Jamalco Inc. resumed operations at its alumina refinery in Clarendon, Jamaica. A fire at the facility in August 2021 caused a year-long shutdown. The refinery has a 1.4 Mt/yr alumina production capacity. Full operations were expected to have resumed by September (Collinder, 2022; CRU International Ltd., 2022b).

In August, producer Alro S.A. temporarily shuttered its 600,000-t/yr alumina refinery located in Tulcea, Romania. High

energy prices were blamed for the shutdown. Alro is a subsidiary of Vimetco N.V., a Belgium based aluminum producer (Alum S.A., [undated]; CRU International Ltd., 2022a).

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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	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Imports for consumption:					
Brazil	1,040	845	--	--	845
Jamaica <sup>2</sup>	2,600,000	622,000	637,000	503,000	1,760,000
Turkey	457,000	96,900	4	149,000	246,000
Other	32,800	15,900	6,150	16,300	38,400
Total	3,090,000	736,000	644,000	669,000	2,050,000
Exports:					
Canada	1,750	272	245	188	705
Other	410	139	178	624	941
Total	2,160	411	423	812	1,650

-- 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		3d quarter		1st quarter– 3d quarter	
	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other	Refrac- tory	Other
Imports for consumption:										
Australia	--	99,000	--	49,500	--	--	--	32,000	--	81,500
Brazil	2,570	--	442	--	--	411	--	2,250	442	2,660
China	79,200	12,900	21,200	5,080	3,570	6,180	8,460	3,770	33,200	15,000
Guyana	56,800	142,000	4,820	39,400	21,400	34,200	24,400	26,100	50,600	99,700
Other	772	62,600	964	18,100	5	16,900	156	49,000	1,130	84,000
Total	139,000	316,000	27,400	112,000	24,900	57,700	33,000	113,000	85,400	283,000
Exports:										
Canada	147	--	53	--	69	--	80	--	202	--
China	1,190	--	34	--	--	--	--	34	34	34
Mexico	3,440	--	1,460	--	158	--	1,690	14	3,300	14
Other	773	493	122	114	109	--	68	7	299	121
Total	5,550	493	1,670	114	336	--	1,830	55	3,840	169

-- 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	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Imports for consumption: <sup>2</sup>					
Australia	66,500	5,000	1	82,700	87,800
Brazil	1,050,000	319,000	367,000	245,000	930,000
Canada	67,800	19,200	21,200	20,500	60,900
Jamaica <sup>3</sup>	239,000	10,100	12,100	10,800	32,900
Spain	154	39,900	25,000	20,800	85,700
Other	127,000	51,600	59,100	65,500	176,000
Total	1,550,000	445,000	484,000	445,000	1,370,000
Exports: <sup>4</sup>					
Belgium	8,930	965	2,380	854	4,200
Canada	25,500	5,310	6,610	5,820	17,700
China <sup>5</sup>	13,400	4,170	3,410	2,360	9,950
France	8,050	1,690	2,030	2,300	6,020
Germany	5,690	1,270	1,450	1,530	4,260
Korea, Republic of	5,080	1,400	1,160	1,580	4,140
Mexico	66,400	16,300	17,300	18,100	51,700
Netherlands	5,630	964	1,210	716	2,900
United Arab Emirates	2,710	1,170	996	809	2,970
Other	39,000	7,290	7,730	7,390	22,400
Total	180,000	40,600	44,300	41,400	126,000

<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, and 181,509 t in the third 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 t in 2021; 33,554 t in the first quarter of 2022; 37,057 t in the second quarter, and 32,395 t in the third quarter.

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

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