

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2022

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the fourth quarter of 2022 were 757,000 metric tons (t), 13% more than that in the third quarter of 2022 and 3% less than that in the fourth quarter of both 2021 and 2020. Jamaica (78%) and Turkey (21%) were the main source of crude and dried bauxite imports in the fourth quarter of 2022. Total imports of crude and dried bauxite in 2022 were 2.80 million metric tons (Mt), 9% and 12% less than that in 2021 and 2020, respectively. Jamaica (84%) and Turkey (14%) were the leading sources of bauxite in 2022 (fig. 1, table 1).

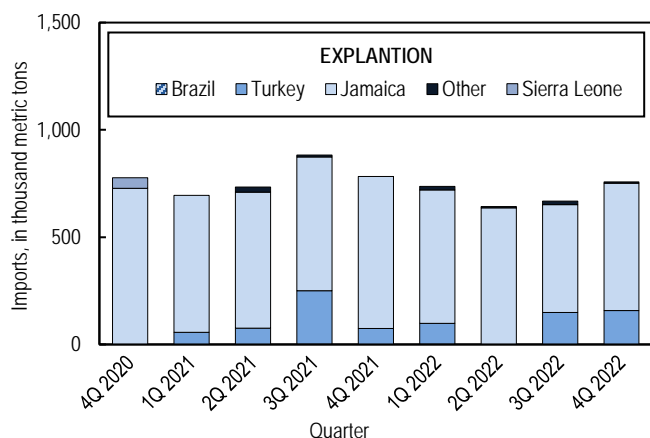


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of crude and dried bauxite from the fourth quarter of 2020 through the fourth quarter of 2022. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Imports of alumina during the fourth quarter of 2022 were 508,000 t, 14% more than that in the third quarter of 2022, 24% more than that in the fourth quarter of 2021, and 62% more than that in the fourth quarter of 2020. The leading sources of imported alumina in the fourth quarter of 2022 were Brazil (48%) and Australia (32%). Total imports of alumina for consumption in 2022 were 1.88 Mt, 21% more than that in 2021 and 40% more than that in 2020. The leading sources of alumina imports for consumption in 2022 were Brazil (62%) and Australia (13%) (fig. 2, table 3).

Exports of alumina during the fourth quarter of 2022 were 47,700 t, 15% more than that in the third quarter of 2022, 14% more than that in the fourth quarter of 2021, but 5% less than

that in the fourth quarter of 2020. The leading destinations for alumina exported in the fourth quarter of 2022 were Mexico (27%); Canada (12%); and China (7%). Total exports of alumina in 2022 were 174,000 t, 4% less than that in 2021 but 7% more than that in 2020. Mexico (37%), Canada (13%), and China including Hong Kong (8%) were the leading destinations for alumina exports in 2022 (fig. 2, table 3).

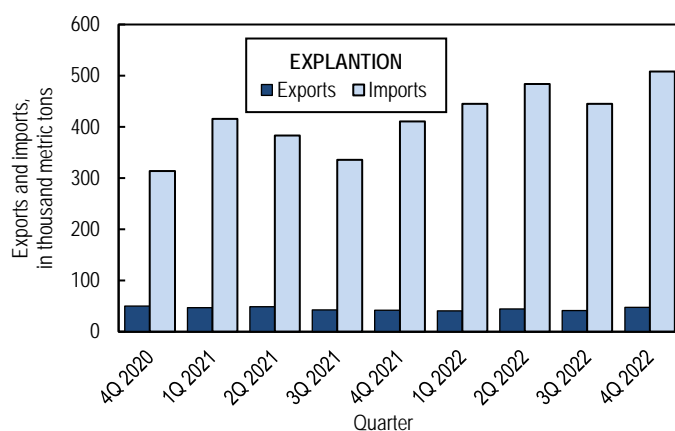


Figure 2. Alumina exports and imports from the fourth quarter of 2020 through the fourth quarter of 2022. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Updates

On December 21, Indonesian president Joko Widodo announced that beginning in June 2023, the Indonesian Government would ban bauxite exports. The measure is intended to increase domestic mining and manufacturing in Indonesia (Nangoy and Christina, 2022).

In January, Alcoa Corp. announced that a production unit would be idled at the company's Kwinana alumina refinery in Western Australia citing an ongoing domestic gas shortage. Output at the 2.2-million-metric-ton-per-year alumina refinery is expected to decrease by 30% (Alcoa Corp., 2023; Argus Metals International, 2023).

References Cited

Alcoa Corp., 2023, Gas shortage prompts production cut at Alcoa's Kwinana Alumina Refinery: Pittsburgh, PA, Alcoa Corp. press release, January 9. (Accessed February 23, 2023, at <https://www.alcoa.com/australia/en/news/releases?id=2023/01/gas-shortage-prompts-production-cut-at-alcoas-kwinana-alumina-refinery&year=y2023>.)

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Nangoy, Fransiska and Christina, Bernadette, 2022, Indonesia confirms bauxite export ban to proceed as scheduled: Reuters, December 21. (Accessed February 23, 2023, at <https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/indonesia-announce-ban-exports-commodity-without-saying-which-2022-12-21/>.)

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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	2022				
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Imports for consumption:						
Brazil	1,040	845	--	--	--	845
Jamaica ²	2,600,000	622,000	637,000	503,000	593,000	2,360,000
Turkey	457,000	96,900	4	149,000	158,000	403,000
Other	32,800	15,900	6,150	16,300	6,540	44,900
Total	3,090,000	736,000	644,000	669,000	757,000	2,800,000
Exports:						
Canada	1,750	272	245	188	477	1,180
Other	410	139	178	624	118	1,060
Total	2,160	411	423	812	595	2,240

--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	2022											
	2021		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	--	99,000	--	49,500	--	--	--	32,000	--	--	--	81,500
Brazil	2,570	--	442	--	--	411	--	2,250	--	40,800	442	43,500
China	79,200	12,900	21,200	5,080	3,570	6,180	8,460	3,770	5,900	2,500	39,100	17,500
Guyana	56,800	142,000	4,820	39,400	21,400	34,200	24,400	26,100	16,900	37,000	67,500	137,000
Other	772	62,600	964	18,100	5	16,900	156	49,000	127	7,720	1,250	91,700
Total	139,000	316,000	27,400	112,000	24,900	57,700	33,000	113,000	22,900	88,100	108,000	371,000
Exports:												
Canada	147	--	53	--	69	--	80	--	345	--	547	--
China	1,190	--	34	--	--	--	--	34	--	73	34	107
Mexico	3,440	--	1,460	--	158	--	1,690	14	140	41	3,440	55
Other	773	493	122	114	109	--	68	7	68	34	367	155
Total	5,550	493	1,670	114	336	--	1,830	55	553	148	4,390	317

-- 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	2022					
	2021	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Imports for consumption: ²						
Australia	66,500	5,000	1	82,700	161,000	248,000
Brazil	1,050,000	319,000	367,000	245,000	243,000	1,170,000
Canada	67,800	19,200	21,200	20,500	19,700	80,600
Jamaica ³	239,000	10,100	12,100	10,800	7,960	40,900
Spain	154	39,900	25,000	20,800	135	85,800
Other	127,000	51,600	59,100	65,500	75,700	252,000
Total	1,550,000	445,000	484,000	445,000	508,000	1,880,000
Exports: ⁴						
Belgium	8,930	965	2,380	854	459	4,660
Canada	25,500	5,310	6,610	5,820	5,720	23,500
China ⁵	13,400	4,170	3,410	2,360	3,500	13,500
France	8,050	1,690	2,030	2,300	1,670	7,690
Germany	5,690	1,270	1,450	1,530	1,850	6,110
Korea, Republic of	5,080	1,400	1,160	1,580	1,790	5,920
Mexico	66,400	16,300	17,300	18,100	12,700	64,400
Netherlands	5,630	964	1,210	716	949	3,840
United Arab Emirates	2,710	1,170	996	809	590	3,560
Other	39,000	7,290	7,730	7,390	18,500	40,900
Total	180,000	40,600	44,300	41,400	47,700	174,000

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: 298,000 metric tons (t) in 2021; 102,000 t in the first quarter of 2022; 145,000 t in the second quarter of 2022, 182,000 t in the third quarter of 2022, 118,000 t in the fourth quarter of 2022, and 546,000 metric tons (t) in 2022.

³Source: Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

⁴Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 131,000 t in 2021; 33,600 t in the first quarter of 2022; 37,100 t in the second quarter of 2022, 32,400 t in the third quarter of 2022, 25,700 t in the fourth quarter of 2022, and 129,000 t in 2022.

⁵Includes Hong Kong.

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