

# Mineral Industry Surveys

## For information, contact:

Adam M. Merrill, Bauxite and Alumina Commodity Specialist  
National Minerals Information Center  
Telephone: (703) 648-7715  
Email: amerrill@usgs.gov

Susan M. Weaver (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-7979

Email: sweaver@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys>

## BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2023

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the second quarter of 2023 were 733,000 metric tons (t), 59% more than those in the first quarter of 2023, 14% more than those in the second quarter of 2022, and unchanged from that in the second quarter of 2021. The sole sources of crude and dried bauxite imports in the second quarter of 2023 were Jamaica (87%) and Turkey (13%) (fig. 1, table 1).

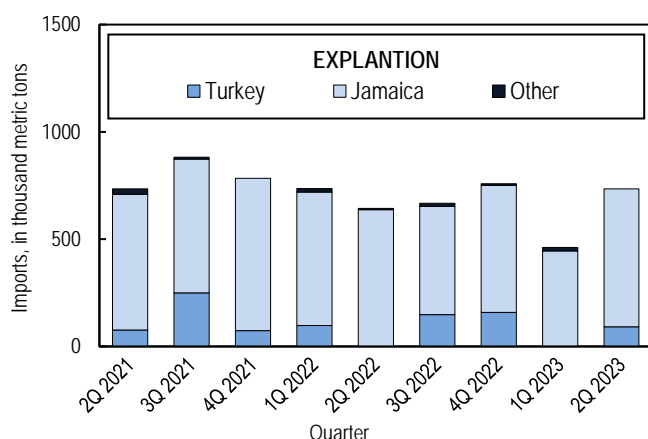


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of crude and dried bauxite from the second quarter of 2021 through the second quarter of 2023. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Imports of alumina during the second quarter of 2023 were 332,000 t, 3% more than those in the first quarter of 2023, 31% less than those in the second quarter of 2022, and 13% less than those in the second quarter of 2021. The leading sources of imported alumina in the second quarter of 2023 were Brazil (86%) and Canada (6%) (fig. 2, table 3).

Exports of alumina during the second quarter of 2023 were 35,400 t, 5% more than those in the first quarter of 2023, 20% less than those in the second quarter of 2022, and 27% less than those in the second quarter of 2021. The leading destinations for alumina exported in the second quarter of 2023 were Mexico (27%); Canada (24%); and China (10%) (fig. 2, table 3).

## Updates

On June 19, China's Shanghai Futures Exchange began selling alumina future contracts after receiving approval from

China's securities regulatory commission earlier in the month. More than 2 million metric tons of alumina futures were sold on the first day of trading. The new offerings are expected to aid in market hedging for upstream and downstream market participants (Argus, 2023; Zhao, 2023).

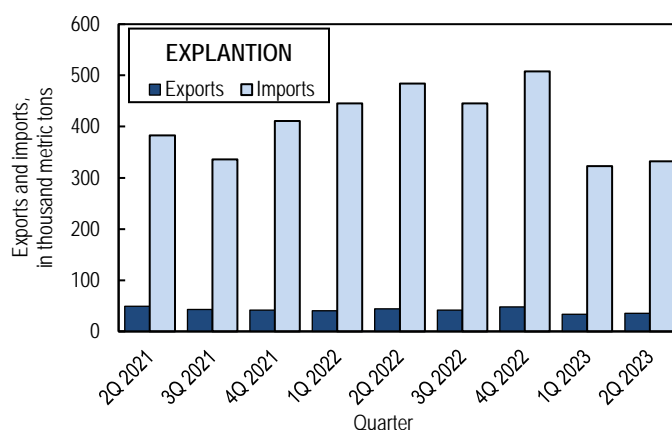


Figure 2. Alumina exports and imports from the second quarter of 2021 through the second quarter of 2023. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

## References Cited

- Argus Metals International, 2023, China's SHFE launches alumina futures contracts: Argus Media group, Argus Metals International, June 21. (Accessed June 21, 2023, via <http://www.argusmedia.com/metals/>.)
- Zhao, Ohmin, 2023, China approves alumina futures contracts on SHFE: Argus Media group, Argus Metals International, June 2. (Accessed June 5, 2023, via <http://www.argusmedia.com/metals/>.)

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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	2022	2023		
		1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
Imports for consumption:				
Brazil	845	55	--	55
Jamaica <sup>2</sup>	2,360,000	445,000	642,000	1,090,000
Turkey	403,000	--	91,700	91,700
Other	44,900	16,900	--	16,900
Total	2,800,000	462,000	733,000	1,200,000
Exports:				
Canada	1,250 <sup>r</sup>	151	1,670	1,820
Other	1,080 <sup>r</sup>	191	220	411
Total	2,320 <sup>r</sup>	342	1,890	2,240

<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	2023							
	2022		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	--	81,500	--	49,500	--	51,900	--	101,000
Brazil	442	43,500	--	56,300	--	803	--	57,100
China	39,100	17,500	16,800	410	9,480	2,990	26,300	3,400
Guyana	67,500	137,000	15,700	5,290	18,700	5,640	34,400	10,900
Other	1,250	91,700	1,010	56	342	--	1,350	56
Total	108,000	371,000	33,500	112,000	28,500	61,300	62,000	173,000
<b>Exports:</b>								
Canada	547	--	769	--	1,240	--	2,000	--
China	34	107	--	36	--	--	--	36
Mexico	3,440	55	1,350	205	145	--	1,500	205
Other	367	155	82	--	60	3	142	3
Total	4,390	317	2,200	241	1,440	3	3,640	244

-- 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	2023			
	2022	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
Imports for consumption: <sup>2</sup>				
Australia	248,000	--	16	16
Brazil	1,170,000	269,000	285,000	554,000
Canada	80,600	22,300	19,200	41,500
Jamaica <sup>3</sup>	40,900	13,000	5,990	19,000
Spain	85,800	44	--	44
Other	252,000	18,900	22,600	41,500
Total	1,880,000	323,000	332,000	656,000
Exports: <sup>4</sup>				
Belgium	4,660	311	696	1,010
Canada	23,500	7,270	8,330	15,600
China <sup>5</sup>	13,500	4,010	3,580	7,590
France	7,710 <sup>r</sup>	1,920	1,430	3,350
Germany	6,090 <sup>r</sup>	1,220	1,500	2,720
Korea, Republic of	5,940 <sup>r</sup>	1,460	1,390	2,840
Mexico	64,400	7,630	9,400	17,000
Netherlands	3,830 <sup>r</sup>	255	617	872
United Arab Emirates	3,530 <sup>r</sup>	763	1,070	1,840
Other	41,100 <sup>r</sup>	8,750	7,400	16,200
Total	174,000	33,600	35,400	69,000

<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>Includes imports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 546,000 metric tons (t) in 2022; 78,600 t in the first quarter of 2023; 69,400 t in the second quarter of 2023.

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

<sup>4</sup>Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 129,000 t (revised) in 2022; 19,800 t in the first quarter of 2023; 23,000 in the second quarter of 2023.

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

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