

# 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 THIRD QUARTER 2023

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the third quarter of 2023 were 648,000 metric tons (t), 12% less than those in the second quarter of 2023, 3% less than those in the third quarter of 2022, and 27% less than that in the third quarter of 2021. Jamaica (71%) and Turkey (28%) were the leading sources of crude and dried bauxite imports in the third quarter of 2023 (fig. 1, table 1).

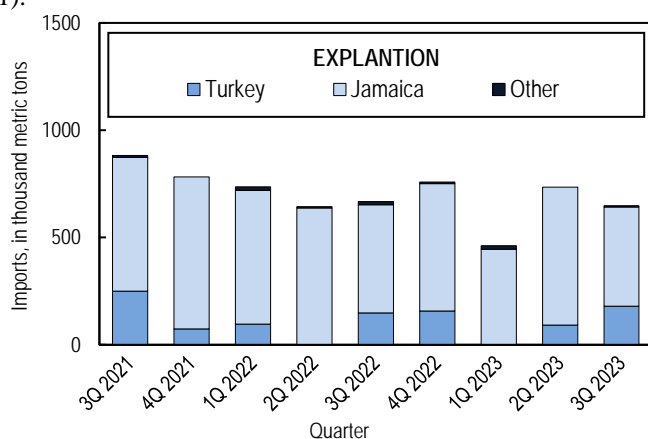


Figure 1. Quarterly imports of crude and dried bauxite from the third quarter of 2021 through the third quarter of 2023. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

Imports of alumina during the third quarter of 2023 were 345,000 t, 4% more than those in the second quarter of 2023, 23% less than those in the third quarter of 2022, and slightly more than those in the third quarter of 2021. The leading sources of imported alumina in the third quarter of 2023 were Brazil (80%) and Canada (6%) (fig. 2, table 3).

Exports of alumina during the third quarter of 2023 were 35,900 t, essentially unchanged from those in the second quarter of 2023, 13% less than those in the third quarter of 2022, and 16% less than those in the third quarter of 2021. The leading destinations for alumina exported in the third quarter of 2023 were Mexico (27%), Canada (19%), and China (15%) (fig. 2, table 3).

## Updates

On October 3, RHI Magnesita N.V. (Austria) announced the purchase of P-D Refractories CZ a.s. (Czechia) for \$48 million<sup>1</sup>.

P-D Refractories produces alumina refractory products for the aluminum and glass industries. The acquisition includes four production facilities in Czechia and Germany; and two mines in Czechia and Slovenia (London Stock Exchange plc, 2023; RHI Magnesita N.V., 2023).

On October 24, United Company RUSAL plc (Russia) announced an agreement to acquire 30% of Hebei Wenfeng New Materials Co., Ltd. (HWNM), a China-based alumina producer. The purchase price is set at \$267 million but may be adjusted based on HWNM's working capital and debt upon finalization of the transaction. HWNM owns and operates a 4.8 million-ton-per-year alumina refinery in Hebei Province, China. Once finalized, alumina produced at the refinery will be distributed proportionally to each company based on their ownership stakes (United Company RUSAL plc, 2023).

<sup>1</sup> Converted from euros to U.S. dollars at the October 2023 average monthly exchange rate of 0.946 euros=US\$1.00.

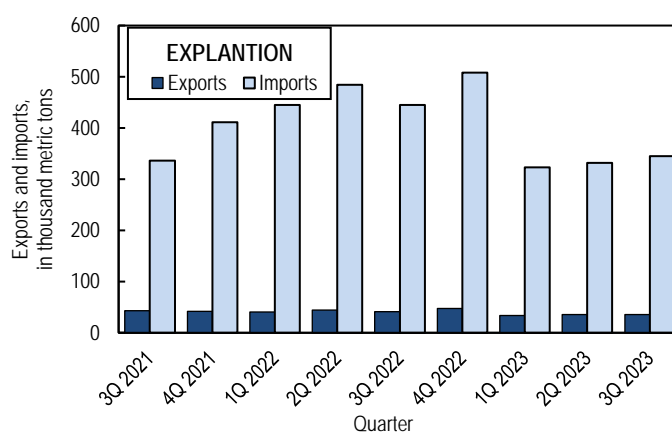


Figure 2. Alumina exports and imports from the third quarter of 2021 through the third quarter of 2023. Sources: Jamaica Bauxite Institute and U.S. Census Bureau.

## References Cited

London Stock Exchange plc, 2023, Acquisition of P-D Refractories: London, United Kingdom, London Stock Exchange plc, October 3. (Accessed November 30, 2023, at <https://www.londonstockexchange.com/news-article/RHIM/acquisition-of-p-d-refractories/16149811>.)

RHI Magnesita N.V., 2023, RHI Magnesita strengthens market position in process industries by acquiring P-D Refractories: Vienna, Austria, RHI Magnesita N.V. press release, October 3. (Accessed November 30, 2023, at <https://www.rhimagnesita.com/rhi-magnesita-strengthens-market-position-in-process-industries-by-acquiring-p-d-refractories/>.)

United Company RUSAL Plc, 2023, RUSAL announces entering into the transaction for acquisition of 30% equity interest in Hebei Wenfeng New Materials: Moscow, Russia, United Company RUSAL Plc press release, October 24. (Accessed November 30, 2023, at <https://rusal.ru/en/press-center/press-releases/rusal-announces-entering-into-the-transaction-for-acquisition-of-30-equity-interest-in-hebei-wenfeng/>.)

*List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.*

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– 3d quarter
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	
Imports for consumption:					
Brazil	845	55	--	--	55
Jamaica <sup>2</sup>	2,360,000	445,000	642,000	462,000	1,550,000
Turkey	403,000	--	91,700	180,000	272,000
Other	44,900	16,900	--	5,770	22,700
Total	2,800,000	462,000	733,000	648,000	1,840,000
Exports:					
Canada	1,250	151	1,670	271	2,100
Other	1,080	191	220	--	411
Total	2,320	342	1,890	271	2,510

--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		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	--	81,500	--	49,500	--	51,900	--	54,900	--	156,000
Brazil	442	43,500	--	56,300	--	803	--	186	--	57,300
China	39,100	17,500	16,800	410	9,480	2,990	15,200	38	41,400	3,440
Guyana	67,500	137,000	15,700	5,290	18,700	5,640	6,000	17,000	40,400	27,900
Other	1,250	91,700	1,010	50 <sup>r</sup>	342	--	112	12	1,470	62
Total	108,000	371,000	33,500	112,000	28,500	61,300	21,300	72,100	83,300	245,000
Exports:										
Canada	547	--	769	--	1,240	--	140	--	2,140	--
China	34	107	--	36	--	--	--	--	--	36
Mexico	3,440	55	1,350	205	145	--	155	--	1,650	205
Other	367	155	82	--	60	3	62	--	204	3
Total	4,390	317	2,200	241	1,440	3	357	--	4,000	244

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- 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	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Imports for consumption: <sup>2</sup>					
Australia	248,000	--	16	66	83
Brazil	1,170,000	269,000	285,000	276,000	829,000
Canada	80,600	22,300	19,200	19,500	61,100
Jamaica <sup>3</sup>	40,900	13,000	5,990	17,300	36,400
Spain	85,800	44	--	91	135
Other	252,000	18,900	22,600	32,100	73,600
Total	1,880,000	323,000	332,000	345,000	1,000,000
Exports: <sup>4</sup>					
Belgium	4,660	311	696	565	1,570
Canada	23,500	7,270	8,330	6,740	22,300
China <sup>5</sup>	13,500	4,010	3,580	5,330	12,900
France	7,690 <sup>r</sup>	1,920	1,430	1,110	4,460
Germany	6,090	1,220	1,500	1,660	4,380
Korea, Republic of	5,940	1,460	1,390	1,150	3,990
Mexico	64,400	7,630	9,400	9,810	26,800
Netherlands	3,830	255	617	359	1,230
United Arab Emirates	3,530	763	1,070	519	2,360
Other	41,100	8,750	7,400	8,710	24,900
Total	174,000	33,600	35,400	35,900	105,000

<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; and 92,500 t in the third 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 in 2022; 19,800 t in the first quarter of 2023; 23,000 in the second quarter of 2023; and 22,800 t in the third quarter of 2023.

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

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