Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2026

Domestic primary aluminum production in January 2026 was 58,000 metric tons (t). The average daily production in January 2026 was 1,860 t, unchanged from that in December 2025 and 1% more than that in January 2025. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in January 2026 was 318,000 t, 3% more than that in December 2025 (revised) and 14% more than that in January 2025. Of this, 179,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, and 138,000 t was recovered from old scrap (due to rounding, does not equal total) (fig. 1, table 1).

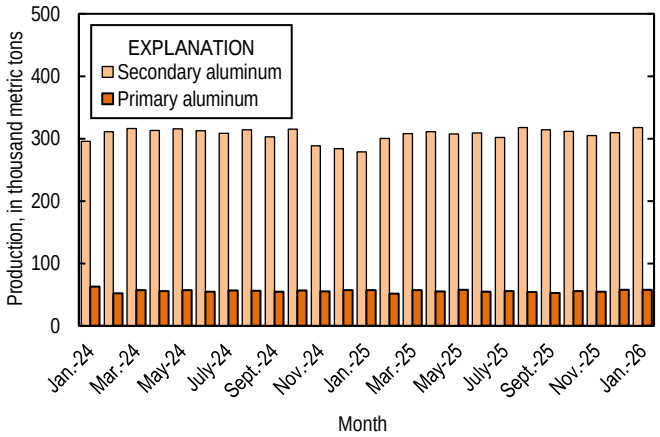

Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from January 2024 through January 2026.

Prices and Stocks

The January 2026 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was $2.42 per pound, 10% more than that in December 2025, and 71% more than that in January 2025. The average cash price in January 2026 of primary aluminum ingot on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was $1.43 per pound, 20% more than that December 2025 and 22% more than that in January 2025 (fig. 2, table 6).

Inventories of primary aluminum in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States were 6,239 t at the end of January 2026, 24% less than those at the end of the prior month. Inventories of aluminum alloy (North American Special Aluminum Alloy Contract) in LME-approved warehouses, including off-warrant inventories, in the United States were 120 t at the end of January 2026, unchanged from those at the end of the prior month (London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2026a, b).

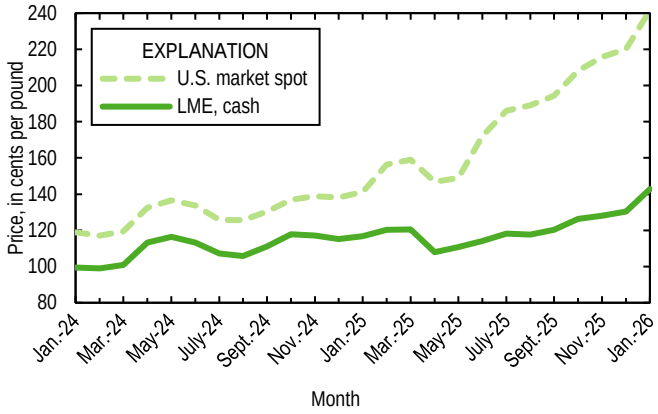

Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from January 2024 through January 2026. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Updates

United States.—On April 2, President Donald J. Trump announced rules for calculating Section 232 tariffs on aluminum, copper, and steel. Under the new provisions, a 50% duty on primary products and a 25% duty on select derivative products will be applied to the full customs value of the imports, rather than only the metal content. These rules represent the latest in a series of actions under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act intended to increase capacity in the U.S. aluminum industry (See Aluminum, June 2025; White House, The, 2026).

On April 16, Century Aluminum Co. (Chicago, IL) announced it restarted production on previously idled potlines at its Mt. Holly primary aluminum smelter in South Carolina. The 229,000-t/yr facility was expected to reach full production by June 2026 (Baer, 2026; Century Aluminum Co., 2026).

Industry Participation

Industry participation enables the publication of domestic aluminum statistics. The USGS National Minerals Information

Center collects data from the nonfuel mining and mineral processing industry on production, consumption, recycling, stocks, and shipments. USGS mineral reports use company-supplied data, which are aggregated for confidentiality and kept private by the Department of the Interior.

The USGS gathers aluminum data through three surveys: Aluminum (C03), Alumina (C04), and Aluminum Scrap (C52). Each survey targets participants in the aluminum supply chain: C03 for primary aluminum smelters, C04 for alumina producers and consumers, and C52 for secondary aluminum producers. Companies generally report monthly or annually, either by mail or through https://mids.er.usgs.gov. For more information on survey participation, please contact Adam Merrill using the information listed above.

References Cited

Baer, Jenna, 2026, Century's expanded smelter begins aluminum output: Argus Media group, Argus Metals International, April 17. (Accessed April 21, 2026, via http://www.argusmedia.com/metals/.)

Century Aluminum Co., 2026, Century Aluminum commences expanded production at Mt. Holly Smelter: Chicago, IL, Century Aluminum Co. press release, April 16. (Accessed April 17, 2026, at https://centuryaluminum.com/investors/press-releases/press-release-details/2026/Century-Aluminum-Commences-Expanded-Production-at-Mt--Holly-Smelter/default.aspx.)

London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2026a, Off-warrant stock reporting: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd. (Accessed April 21, 2026, via https://www.lme.com/en/Market-data/Reports-and-data/Warehouse-and-stocks-reports/Off-warrant-stock-reporting.)

London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2026b, Stocks breakdown report: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd. (Accessed April 21, 2026, via https://www.lme.com/Market-data/Reports-and-data/Warehouse-and-stocks-reports/Stock-breakdown-report.)

White House, The, 2026, Fact sheet—President Donald J. Trump strengthens tariffs on steel, aluminum, and copper imports: Washington, DC, The White House, April 2. (Accessed April 6, 2026, at https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2026/04/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-strengthens-tariffs-on-steel-aluminum-and-copper-imports/.)

A worksheet has been added to the Excel table files that includes a button to remove text and numerical footnotes from data cells. This will allow users to only have numbers in data cells. Please see the worksheet titled "RemoveTextButton" for instructions on how to use the tool. Note: you must download the excel file to use the tool.

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Table 1. Components of aluminum supply.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown. Data are in thousand metric tons. Revised data are marked with a superscript "r". NA, not available.]

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery[1]			Imports for consumption			Total new supply[2]	Stocks, end of period[3]
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Semi-fabricated products	Total		
2025									
January	57	161	118	279	335	126	461	797	1,730
February	52	167	133	300	298	101	400	752	1,750
March	57	176	132	308	438	99	538	903	1,800
April	55	177	134	311	238	102	340	706	1,840
May	58	171	137	308	227	94	321	687	1,850
June	54	173	136	309	277	99	376	740	1,800
July	56	169	133	302	160	95	255	613	1,810
August	54	182	136	318	211	89	300	670	1,850
September	53	180	134	314	194	84	278	645	1,800
October	56	177	134	311	208	104	313	680	NA
November	55	169 r	136	305 r	208	106	314	673	NA
December	58	170 r	139 r	310 r	219	105	324	691 r	NA
January–December	664	2,070 r	1,600	3,670 r	3,010	1,210	4,220	8,560 r	NA
2026									
January	58	179	138	318	267	124	391	766	NA

[1]Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

[2]Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

[3]Inventory levels reflect total for U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

Table 2. Estimated full coverage consumption of and metallic recovery from purchased new and old aluminum scrap.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in thousand metric tons. Revised data are marked with a superscript "r".]

Period	Secondary smelters		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2025										
January	204	153	129	118	8	8	(1)	(1)	341	279
February	203	155	151	138	8	8	(1)	(1)	363	300
March	211	159	154	141	8	8	(1)	(1)	374	308
April	214	161	155	142	8	8	(1)	(1)	378	311
May	217	161	152	138	8	8	(1)	(1)	377	308
June	209	157	158	144	8	8	(1)	(1)	375	309
July	209	157	150	137	8	8	(1)	(1)	368	302
August	211	159	165	151	8	8	(1)	(1)	384	318
September	213	159	161	148	8	8	(1)	(1)	383	314
October	217	163	153	140	8	8	(1)	(1)	379	311
November	211	158	153 r	139	8	8	(1)	(1)	372	305 r
December	216 r	162 r	154	140	8	8	(1)	(1)	378 r	310 r
January–December	2,540 r	1,900 r	1,830	1,680	101	93	2	2	4,470 r	3,670 r
2026										
January	213	162	162	148	8	8	(1)	(1)	384	318

[1]Less than ½ unit.

Table 3. Consumption of and recovery from purchased new and old aluminum scrap in January 2026.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.]

Aluminum scrap	Consumption (metric tons)		Calculated metallic recovery (metric tons)	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	178,000	213,000	135,000	162,000
Independent mill fabricators	147,000	162,000	134,000	148,000
Foundries	7,040	8,450	6,440	7,730
Other consumers	134	161	134	161
Total	332,000	384,000	276,000	318,000

Table 4. Purchased and toll-treated aluminum-base scrap in January 2026.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons.]

Aluminum-base scrap	December			
	Stocks, opening[1]	Net receipts[2]	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap				
Extrusions	26,200	56,200	56,100	26,300
Can stock clippings	17,900	36,800	36,800	17,900
Other wrought sheet/clippings	11,800	40,000	39,300	12,600
Castings	3,810	6,080	6,080	3,810
Borings and turnings	6,070	12,100	12,100	6,070
Dross and skimmings[3]	15,700	46,300	46,300	15,700
Total new scrap	81,500	198,000	197,000	82,300
Old scrap				
Used castings	12,800	28,500	28,500	12,800
Used extrusions	7,620	13,400	13,400	7,620
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	12,100	51,300	51,300	12,100
Other wrought products	23,600	29,900	29,900	23,600
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	4,310	12,400	12,400	4,310
Total old scrap	60,400	135,000	135,000	60,400
Grand total, all classes	142,000	333,000	332,000	143,000

[1]May include revisions to previously published data.
[2]Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.
[3]Gross volume of dross and skimmings. Recoverable aluminum content ranges from 15% to 50% of gross weight.

Table 5. Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States in January 2026.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Excludes integrated aluminum companies. Data are in metric tons. —, not applicable.]

Aluminum alloys	Stocks, opening[1]	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die-cast alloys				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,160	2,140	2,140	3,160
380 and variations	6,830	19,600	19,600	6,830
Sand and permanent mold				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,940	2,110	2,110	1,940
No. 319 and variations	1,200	1,380	1,380	1,200
F-132 alloy and variations	89	231	231	89
Al-Zn alloys	339	70	70	339
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	230	193	193	230
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	139	718	718	139
Other[2]	4,230	30,200	30,200	4,250
Other				
Wrought alloys, extrusion billets	20,700	62,100	62,100	20,700
Total all alloys	38,900	119,000	119,000	38,900
Less				
Primary aluminum consumed	—	40,800	—	—
Primary silicon consumed	—	1,680	—	—
Other alloying ingredients consumed	—	925	—	—
Other				
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot[3]	—	75,300	—	—

[1]May include revisions to previously published data.
[2]Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Zn, Al-Cu, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.
[3]No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

Table 6. Average price of aluminum in the United States and on the London Metal Exchange.
[Data are in cents per pound. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.]

Period	Midwest U.S. market price	LME cash price Grade A
2025		
January	141.216	116.777
February	156.350	120.336
March	159.083	120.509
April	146.813	107.996
May	148.913	110.766
June	172.131	114.129
July	186.109	118.106
August	189.075	117.643
September	194.398	120.335
October	208.141	126.367
November	215.813	128.029
December	220.202	130.414
January–December	178.187	119.284

Table 7. Average buying prices for aluminum scrap.
[Data are in cents per pound. Source: Fastmarkets–AMM.]

Period	Used beverage cans	Mixed low copper clips	Old sheet	Old cast	Turnings (clean and dry)
		2025			
January	111.40	80.00	83.40	81.50	82.70
February	115.75	85.00	87.50	84.25	89.00
March	115.13	86.50	89.00	85.25	90.00
April	104.00	84.25	84.88	82.00	87.75
May	100.80	78.70	80.90	79.10	85.80
June	98.63	78.13	80.38	80.13	87.88
July	97.80	81.70	78.80	79.00	86.40
August	96.00	83.00	78.50	79.50	85.50
September	96.25	83.00	80.00	81.00	84.75
October	91.60	83.30	79.70	81.40	85.70
November	93.13	82.75	81.25	82.50	86.00
December	101.20	84.60	81.90	83.00	85.00
January–December	101.81	82.58	82.18	81.55	86.37

Table 8. U.S. imports for consumption of aluminum in January 2026.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (https://usatrade.census.gov/).]

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude	Semi-fabricated products[1]	Scrap	Total
Argentina	12,300	0	0	12,300
Australia	9,740	32	112	9,880
Austria	0	2,390	(2)	2,390
Azerbaijan	0	255	0	255
Bahrain	8,850	581	0	9,430
Belgium	0	3,770	0	3,770
Brazil	200	6,990	0	7,190
Canada	166,000	9,170	45,500	221,000
China[3]	2	16,200	1	16,200
Colombia	0	100	300	400
Ecuador	0	1,210	20	1,230
France	789	2,960	5	3,750
Germany	34	4,530	103	4,670
Greece	0	3,330	1	3,330
Guatemala	0	0	142	142
Honduras	0	619	527	1,150
India	14,100	1,420	0	15,500
Indonesia	1,350	1,710	0	3,060
Italy	0	926	9	934
Japan	0	1,370	0	1,370
Korea, Republic of	1,420	33,000	1,380	35,800
Malaysia	3	415	19	437
Mexico	258	2,870	16,700	19,900
New Zealand	720	0	0	720
Norway	0	302	0	302
Oman	214	3,270	0	3,480
Panama	0	0	102	102
Poland	0	232	0	232
Qatar	5,080	29	0	5,110
Romania	0	236	0	236
Saudi Arabia	0	1,430	78	1,510
South Africa	1,240	3,490	0	4,730
Spain	33	894	93	1,020
Sweden	0	1,460	0	1,460
Thailand	220	6,420	70	6,710
Turkey	0	1,600	0	1,600
United Arab Emirates	44,500	410	489	45,400
United Kingdom	23	1,050	0	1,080
Vietnam	0	1,940	0	1,940
Other	123	7,640	1,980	9,740
Total	267,000	124,000	67,600	459,000

[1]Includes bars, castings, forgings, pipes, plates, profiles, rods, sheets, strip, and tubes.
[2]Less than ½ unit.
[3]Includes Hong Kong.

Table 9. U.S. exports of aluminum in January 2026.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (https://usatrade.census.gov/).]

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude	Semi-fabricated products[1]	Scrap	Total
Australia	83	95	0	178
Belgium	(2)	155	137	292
Brazil	(2)	223	79	302
Canada	3,410	8,550	473	12,400
China[3]	230	803	983	2,020
Colombia	163	167	0	330
Costa Rica	0	10	5	14
Czechia	0	9	0	9
Denmark	0	14	0	14
Finland	0	29	0	29
France	505	602	0	1,110
Germany	61	677	205	943
Greece	0	1	0	1
India	51	342	892	1,280
Indonesia	14	6	87	107
Israel	(2)	73	0	73
Italy	14	76	85	175
Japan	38	783	423	1,240
Korea, Republic of	(2)	1,400	442	1,840
Malaysia	188	322	148	657
Mexico	11,400	20,600	3,430	35,400
Netherlands	0	29	20	49
New Zealand	0	26	0	26
Pakistan	0	(2)	184	184
Philippines	0	10	0	10
Poland	0	93	0	93
Romania	0	65	0	65
Saudi Arabia	0	2	0	2
Singapore	134	160	0	294
Spain	(2)	239	20	259
Switzerland	133	17	0	150
Taiwan	0	457	74	531
Thailand	0	193	1,140	1,340
Turkey	33	75	0	107
United Arab Emirates	0	435	0	435
United Kingdom	2,550	545	0	3,100
Vietnam	(2)	190	146	335
Other	17	213	0	230
Total	19,000	37,700	8,970	65,700

[1]Includes bars, castings, forgings, pipes, plates, profiles, rods, sheets, strip, and tubes.
[2]Less than ½ unit.
[3]Includes Hong Kong.