

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 percent more than that in January 2025. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in January 2026 was 318,000 t, 3 percent more than that in December 2025 (revised) and 14 percent 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).

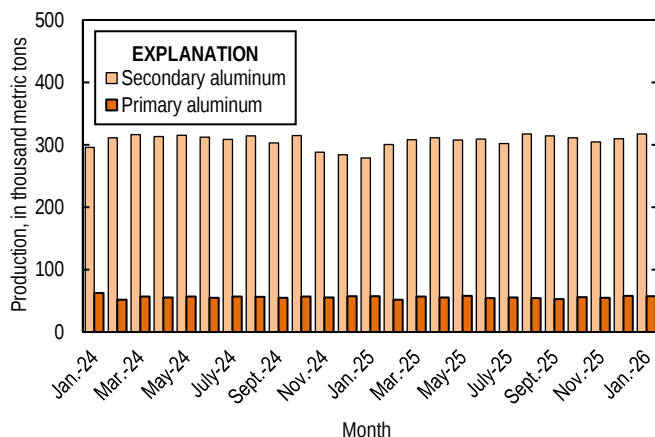


Figure 1. Monthly domestic primary and secondary aluminum production from January 2024 through January 2026.

Prices and Stocks

The January 2026 average U.S. spot market price of primary aluminum ingot was \$2.42 per pound, 10 percent more than that in December 2025 and 71 percent 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, 9 percent more than that in December 2025 and 22 percent 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 percent 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).

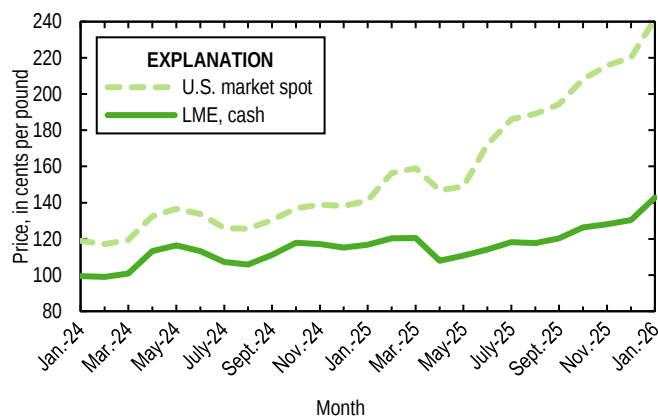


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for primary aluminum from January 2024 through January 2026. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

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 percent duty on primary products and a 25 percent duty on select derivative products will be applied to the full customs value of the imports, rather than only the metal content (White House, The, 2026). These rules represent the latest in a series of actions under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 intended to increase capacity in the U.S. aluminum industry (See Aluminum in June 2025).

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-metric-tons-per-year 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 U.S. Geological Survey (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

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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>.

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List Services

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>.

Data Release

This report is considered preliminary and for informational purposes only. Raw data from this and other reports from the National Minerals Information Center are available at <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/6a4550bd1ba49bba33a320d2>.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This publication is provided by the National Minerals Information Center (NMIC), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Includes data available through March 26, 2026, unless otherwise noted.

NMIC data included in Excel tables of the Minerals Yearbook Chapters and Minerals Industry Surveys are considered preliminary, for informational purposes only.

Comprehensive data releases and list services for NMIC publications are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center>. Data in these tables may not include granular footnotes.

Unless otherwise noted, totals, United States (U.S.) data, and estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices and unit values; may not add to totals shown. Data may include revisions to previously published data.

FOOTNOTES AND TERMINOLOGY

Year-to-date indicates the sum of all months or quarters for the given year to the given period.

Estimated data contained in a row or column are marked with a superscript "e." Preliminary data contained in a row or column are marked with a superscript "p."

Do, ditto. NA, not available. No., number. W, withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. —, not applicable. <0.5, less than half a unit.

Al - Chemical symbol and abbreviation for aluminum.

TRADE DATA

Trade data is sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>). "HTS" indicates the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States code. "Schedule B" indicates the Schedule B of the United States number.

Imports refers to "imports for consumption." Import valuation is customs value, free-alongside-ship basis.

Exports refers to "domestic exports." Export valuation is on a free-alongside-ship basis.

CONTACT

For questions on this report, please contact Adam Merrill, amerrill@usgs.gov.

If you are an industry producer or consumer and would like to contribute to NMIC industry surveys, please contact Sidney DeLoach-Overton, sdeloach-overton@usgs.gov.

Table 1. Components of aluminum supply.
[Data are in thousand metric tons.]

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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	1,810
November	55	169	136	305	208	106	314	673	1,850
December	58	170	139	310	219	105	324	691	1,840
January–December	664	2,070	1,600	3,670	3,010	1,210	4,220	8,560	NA
2026									
January	58	179	138	318	267	124	391	766	NA

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

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

³Inventory 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 in thousand metric tons.]

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	<0.5	<0.5	341	279
February	203	155	151	138	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	363	300
March	211	159	154	141	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	374	308
April	214	161	155	142	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	378	311
May	217	161	152	138	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	377	308
June	209	157	158	144	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	375	309
July	209	157	150	137	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	368	302
August	211	159	165	151	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	384	318
September	213	159	161	148	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	383	314
October	217	163	153	140	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	379	311
November	211	158	153	139	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	372	305
December	216	162	154	140	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	378	310
January–December	2,540	1,900	1,830	1,680	101	93	<0.5	<0.5	4,470	3,670
2026										
January	213	162	162	148	8	8	<0.5	<0.5	384	318

Table 3. Consumption of and recovery from purchased new and old aluminum scrap in January 2026.

[Data are in metric tons.]

Aluminum scrap	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	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 in metric tons.]

Aluminum-base scrap	Stocks, opening	Net receipts¹	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 ²	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
All classes				
Grand total	142,000	333,000	332,000	143,000

¹Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.²Gross 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.
[Excludes integrated aluminum companies. Data are in metric tons.]

Aluminum alloys	Stocks, opening	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 ¹	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 ²	—	75,300	—	—

¹Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Zn, Al-Cu, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

²No 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 in metric tons.]

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	<0.5	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	53,400	229,000
China ²	2	16,200	1	16,200
Colombia	0	100	1,620	1,720
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	654	654
Honduras	0	619	547	1,170
India	14,100	1,420	0	15,500
Indonesia	1,350	1,710	0	3,060
Italy	0	926	9	934
Japan	<0.5	1,370	0	1,370
Korea, Republic of	1,420	33,000	1,530	35,900
Malaysia	3	415	19	437
Mexico	258	2,870	25,100	28,300
New Zealand	720	0	0	720
Norway	0	302	0	302
Oman	214	3,270	0	3,480
Panama	0	0	477	477
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	218	1,820
United Arab Emirates	44,500	410	489	45,400
United Kingdom	23	1,050	1,140	2,220
Vietnam	0	1,940	0	1,940
Other	123	7,640	2,310	10,100
Total	267,000	124,000	88,000	479,000

¹Includes bars, castings, forgings, pipes, plates, profiles, rods, sheets, strip, and tubes.

²Includes Hong Kong.

Table 9. U.S. exports of aluminum in January 2026.

[Data are in metric tons.]

Country or locality	Metals and alloys, crude	Semi-fabricated products ¹	Scrap	Total
Australia	83	95	0	178
Belgium	<0.5	155	1,350	1,500
Brazil	<0.5	223	109	332
Canada	3,410	8,550	9,340	21,300
China ²	230	803	32,500	33,600
Colombia	163	167	0	330
Costa Rica	0	10	5	14
Czechia	0	9	0	9
Denmark	0	14	246	260
Finland	0	29	0	29
France	505	602	181	1,290
Germany	61	677	633	1,370
Greece	0	1	40	41
India	51	342	28,600	29,000
Indonesia	14	6	105	125
Israel	<0.5	73	0	73
Italy	14	76	270	361
Japan	38	783	5,320	6,140
Korea, Republic of	<0.5	1,400	19,000	20,400
Malaysia	188	322	22,300	22,800
Mexico	11,400	20,600	10,000	42,000
Netherlands	0	29	113	142
New Zealand	0	26	0	26
Pakistan	0	<0.5	1,690	1,690
Philippines	0	10	20	30
Poland	0	93	0	93
Romania	0	65	0	65
Saudi Arabia	0	2	0	2
Singapore	134	160	392	687
Spain	<0.5	239	187	426
Switzerland	133	17	0	150
Taiwan	0	457	1,790	2,250
Thailand	0	193	42,800	43,000
Turkey	33	75	40	148
United Arab Emirates	0	435	248	683
United Kingdom	2,550	545	0	3,100
Vietnam	<0.5	190	2,680	2,870
Other	17	213	254	484
Total	19,000	37,700	180,000	237,000

¹Includes bars, castings, forgings, pipes, plates, profiles, rods, sheets, strip, and tubes.²Includes Hong Kong.