

November 2016

Facts at a Glance - 2015

Aluminum supply is comprised of three basic sources: **Primary** (domestic production from alumina); **Imports** of ingot and semi-fabricated products; and **Recycled** (metal from scrap, also known as secondary recovery). In 2015, the aluminum supply in North America, including inventory changes, totaled 25.8 billion pounds, up less than one percent over 2014. About 38 percent of the aluminum used in North America came from domestically produced primary aluminum while 35 percent was derived from recycled materials. Imports represented 22 percent of supply in 2015.

Aluminum Supply (millions of pounds)		
Components of Supply	2015	% of total
Primary Production	9,847	38.2
Secondary Recovery	9,013	35.0
Imports of Ingot & Mill Products	5,560	21.6
Inventory Change and Other Adjustments to Supply	1,351	5.3
Total Supply	25,772	100.0

Source: The Aluminum Association, Aluminium Association of Canada, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of the Census

Reclamation of **used aluminum beverage cans** continues to be a major source of supply for the U.S. aluminum industry. During 2015, the aluminum industry recycled an estimated 1.63 billion pounds of used beverage cans, accounting for 64.3 percent of beverage can shipments.

Aluminum Beverage Can Recycling		
	1975	2015
Aluminum Collected (millions of pounds)	180	1,625
Percent of Cans Collected	26.9	64.3
Cans per Pound of Aluminum	23.00	34.98

Source: The Aluminum Association, Can Manufacturers Institute, and Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

Aluminum demand in North America, including imports, totaled 25.8 billion pounds. Flat roll products accounted for 44.7 percent of total demand, followed by ingot for castings and other uses at 29.0 percent and extrusions at 21.0 percent.

Producer Shipments plus Imports (millions of pounds)		
Product Form	2015	% of total
Sheet, Plate & Foil	11,509	44.7
Extrusions	5,414	21.0
Electrical Wire & Cable	685	2.7
Other	698	2.7
Total Mill Products	18,306	71.1
Ingot for Castings & Other	7,466	29.0
Total Aluminum Demand	25,772	100.0

Source: The Aluminum Association

Domestic consumption totaled 22.9 billion pounds in 2015, while exports amounted to 2.9 billion pounds. The transportation sector is the largest North American market for aluminum, accounting for 9.2 billion pounds or 35.8 percent of total shipments.

Apparent Consumption by Market (millions of pounds)		
Major Market	2015	% of total
Building & Construction	3,130	12.1
Transportation	9,218	35.8
Consumer Durables	1,634	6.3
Electrical	1,760	6.8
Machinery & Equipment	1,691	6.6
Containers & Packaging	4,703	18.2
Other	722	2.8
Domestic, total	22,858	88.7
Exports	2,914	11.3
Total Shipments	25,772	100.0

Source: The Aluminum Association



Excluding cross-border trade between the U.S. and Canada, **North American imports** totaled 5,942 million pounds while **exports** totaled 6,341 million pounds. Excluding scrap, imports exceeded exports by 2,641 million pounds, compared to 1,472 million pounds during 2014 and 372 million pounds during 2013.

U.S. and Canada Imports & Exports – 2015 (millions of pounds)					
Trading Partner	Total	% of Total	By Product:		
			Ingot	Scrap	Mill Products
Total Imports	5,941.6	100.0	2,606.0	392.8	2,942.7
Mexico	378.7	6.4	50.0	212.2	116.5
Latin/South America	536.6	9.0	345.7	116.9	74.0
European Union	690.5	11.6	91.2	33.9	565.4
Other Europe	808.6	13.6	681.8	3.7	123.1
East Asia	1,540.1	25.9	55.4	3.1	1,481.7
Other Asia	1,737.8	29.2	1,292.7	20.2	425.0
Oceania	118.4	2.0	67.5	1.2	49.7
Africa	130.7	2.2	21.8	1.7	107.3
Total Exports	6,340.6	100.0	1,126.3	3,433.0	1,781.3
Mexico	2,092.1	33.0	657.8	303.8	1,130.6
Latin/South America	131.9	2.1	11.8	5.2	114.9
European Union	438.2	6.9	253.9	31.6	152.8
Other Europe	60.7	1.0	41.4	5.9	13.4
East Asia	3,144.5	49.6	154.5	2,748.3	241.7
Other Asia	461.4	7.3	5.9	338.0	117.5
Oceania	8.4	0.1	0.9	0.1	7.4
Africa	3.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.1

Source: Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce and Statistics Canada

Note: Excludes cross border trade between the U.S. and Canada. Totals may not add due to rounding.

For more detailed statistics, please consult the Association's industry fact book, [Aluminum Statistical Review](#), which covers all statistical data available on the North America aluminum industry, including information on every cycle of the aluminum production process from primary aluminum to markets for finished goods to the recovery of aluminum scrap. The 2015 edition contains an eleven-year summary (2004-2015) as well as historical statistics on the aluminum industry.

The Aluminum Association, based in Arlington, Virginia, works globally to aggressively promote aluminum as the most sustainable and recyclable automotive, packaging and construction material in today's market. The Association represents U.S. and foreign-based primary producers of aluminum, aluminum recyclers and producers of fabricated products, as well as industry suppliers. Producer members operate about 170 plants in North America and many conduct business worldwide. For further information, contact Hank Sattletlight, Manager, Statistical Programs at 1-703-358-2985 or by email at hsattlet@aluminum.org.