

Facts at a Glance - 2016

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 2016, the aluminum supply in North America, including inventory changes, totaled 26.4 billion pounds, up 2.6 percent over 2015. About 34 percent of the aluminum used in North America came from domestically produced primary aluminum while 37 percent was derived from recycled materials. Imports represented 27 percent of supply in 2016.

North America Aluminum Supply (millions of pounds)		
Components of Supply	2016	% of total
Primary Production	8,879	33.6
Secondary Recovery	9,837	37.2
Imports of Ingot & Mill Products	7,266	27.5
Inventory Change and Other Adjustments to Supply	447	1.7
Total Supply	26,428	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 2016, the aluminum industry recycled an estimated 1.62 billion pounds of used beverage cans, accounting for 63.9 percent of beverage can shipments.

Aluminum Beverage Can Recycling		
	1975	2016
Aluminum Collected (millions of pounds)	180	1,615
Percent of Cans Collected	26.9	63.9
Cans per Pound of Aluminum	23.00	35.21

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

Aluminum demand in North America, including imports, totaled 26.4 billion pounds. Flat roll products accounted for 44.4 percent of total demand, followed by ingot for castings and other uses at 29.6 percent and extrusions at 20.8 percent.

Producer Shipments plus Imports (millions of pounds)		
Product Form	2016	% of total
Sheet, Plate & Foil	11,739	44.4
Extrusions	5,488	20.8
Electrical Wire & Cable	761	2.9
Other	618	2.3
Total Mill Products	18,606	70.4
Ingot for Castings & Other	7,822	29.6
Total Aluminum Demand	26,428	100.0

Source: The Aluminum Association

Domestic consumption totaled 23.3 billion pounds in 2016, while exports amounted to 3.1 billion pounds. The transportation sector is the largest North American market for aluminum, accounting for 9.3 billion pounds or 35.2 percent of total shipments.

Apparent Consumption by Market (millions of pounds)		
Major Market	2016	% of total
Building & Construction	3,234	12.2
Transportation	9,311	35.2
Consumer Durables	1,750	6.6
Electrical	1,843	7.0
Machinery & Equipment	1,728	6.5
Containers & Packaging	4,758	18.0
Other	687	2.6
Domestic, total	23,311	88.2
Exports	3,117	11.8
Total Shipments	26,428	100.0

Source: The Aluminum Association



Excluding cross-border trade between the U.S. and Canada, **North American imports** totaled 7,945 million pounds while **exports** totaled 6,107 million pounds. Excluding scrap, imports exceeded exports by 4,313 million pounds, compared to 2,641 million pounds during 2015 and 1,472 million pounds during 2014.

U.S. and Canada Net Imports & Exports – 2016 (millions of pounds)					
			By Product:		
Trading Partner	Total	% of Total	Ingot	Scrap	Mill Products
Total Imports	7,945.4	100.0	4,341.7	514.9	3,088.8
Mexico	442.1	5.6	32.2	293.1	116.8
Latin/South America	836.5	10.5	596.2	125.6	114.7
European Union	647.0	8.1	50.7	30.7	565.6
Other Europe	1,756.9	22.1	1,618.3	12.1	126.6
East Asia	1,542.1	19.4	44.4	16.1	1,481.6
Other Asia	2,456.9	30.9	1,933.8	29.4	493.7
Oceania	83.3	1.0	39.4	2.9	41.1
Africa	180.5	2.3	26.7	5.1	148.7
Total Exports	6,106.9	100.0	1,436.3	2,989.7	1,680.9
Mexico	1,975.5	32.3	697.0	208.5	1,070.1
Latin/South America	122.2	2.0	11.0	3.3	107.9
European Union	286.7	4.7	131.1	29.9	125.6
Other Europe	96.9	1.6	78.6	7.8	10.5
East Asia	3,109.2	50.9	511.5	2,347.3	250.4
Other Asia	501.7	8.2	6.3	392.6	102.8
Oceania	8.0	0.1	0.7	0.0	7.3
Africa	6.8	0.1	0.1	0.4	6.3

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 2016 edition contains an eleven-year summary (2006-2016) 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 Sattletight, Manager, Statistical Programs at 1-703-358-2985 or by email at hsattlet@aluminum.org.