

## Facts at a Glance - 2018

**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 2018, the aluminum supply in North America, including inventory changes, totaled 28.2 billion pounds, up 4.0 percent over 2017. About 30 percent of the aluminum used in North America came from domestically produced primary aluminum while 36 percent was derived from recycled materials. Imports represented nearly 30 percent of supply in 2018.

North America Aluminum Supply (millions of pounds)		
Components of Supply	2018	% of total
Primary Production	8,424	29.8
Secondary Recovery	10,108	35.8
Imports of Ingot & Mill Products	8,397	29.7
Inventory Change and Other Adjustments to Supply	-1,308	4.6
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>28,237</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: The Aluminum Association, Aluminum Association of Canada, Statistics 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 2018, the aluminum industry recycled an estimated 1.67 billion pounds of used beverage cans, accounting for 63.6 percent of beverage can shipments.

Aluminum Beverage Can Recycling		
	1975	2018
Aluminum Collected (millions of pounds)	180	1,669
Percent of Cans Collected	26.9	63.6
Cans per Pound of Aluminum	23.00	33.69

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

**Aluminum demand** in North America, including imports, totaled 28.2 billion pounds. Flat roll products accounted for 41.6 percent of total demand, followed by ingot for castings, export and other uses at 28.2 percent, and extrusions at 19.4 percent.

Producer Shipments plus Imports (millions of pounds)		
Product Form	2018	% of total
Sheet, Plate & Foil	11,739	41.6
Extrusions	5,488	19.4
Electrical Wire & Cable	872	3.1
Other	2,184	7.7
<b>Total Mill Products</b>	<b>20,283</b>	<b>71.8</b>
<b>Ingot for Castings &amp; Other</b>	<b>7,954</b>	<b>28.2</b>
<b>Total Aluminum Demand</b>	<b>28,237</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: The Aluminum Association

**Domestic consumption** totaled 24.8 billion pounds in 2018, while exports amounted to 3.4 billion pounds. The transportation sector is the largest North American market for aluminum, accounting for 10.0 billion pounds or 35.5 percent of total shipments.

Apparent Consumption by Market (millions of pounds)		
Major Market	2018	% of total
Building & Construction	3,485	12.3
Transportation	10,015	35.5
Consumer Durables	1,951	6.9
Electrical	1,939	6.9
Machinery & Equipment	1,885	6.7
Containers & Packaging	4,784	16.9
Other Domestic	765	2.7
<b>Domestic, total</b>	<b>24,824</b>	<b>87.9</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>3,413</b>	<b>12.1</b>
<b>Total Shipments</b>	<b>28,237</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: The Aluminum Association

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Excluding cross-border trade between the U.S. and Canada, **North American imports** totaled 9,190 million pounds while **exports** totaled 7,345 million pounds. Excluding scrap, which accounted for more than 53 percent of exports, imports exceeded exports by 5,160 million pounds.

<b>U.S. and Canada Net Imports &amp; Exports – 2018</b> <i>(millions of pounds)</i>					
			<b>By Product:</b>		
<b>Trading Partner</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Ingot</b>	<b>Scrap</b>	<b>Mill Products</b>
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>9,190.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,641.4</b>	<b>611.9</b>	<b>3,937.1</b>
Mexico	561.4	6.1	27.8	390.7	142.8
Latin/South America	833.1	9.1	514.3	126.5	192.2
European Union	882.2	9.6	83.6	40.5	758.1
Other Europe	1,157.4	12.6	903.2	8.4	245.8
East Asia	1,446.9	15.7	69.5	11.3	1,366.1
Gulf Cooperation Council	2,557.0	27.8	2,067.2	8.9	480.9
Other Asia	972.7	10.6	414.8	6.5	551.5
Oceania	364.0	4.0	341.1	5.3	17.6
Africa	415.6	4.5	219.7	13.9	182.0
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>7,345.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,712.6</b>	<b>3,926.5</b>	<b>1,706.2</b>
Mexico	2,182.5	29.7	703.7	304.7	1,174.1
Latin/South America	104.8	1.4	11.0	36.6	57.2
European Union	803.0	10.9	580.9	101.1	121.0
Other Europe	52.4	0.7	3.1	34.3	15.1
East Asia	2,871.6	39.1	404.2	2,248.3	219.1
Gulf Cooperation Council	47.0	0.6	1.8	7.5	37.6
Other Asia	1,271.1	17.3	6.5	1,190.9	73.7
Oceania	9.5	0.1	1.3	1.3	6.9
Africa	3.3	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.4

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 2018 edition contains an eleven-year summary (2008-2018) 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 190 plants in North America and many conduct business worldwide. For further information, contact Hank Sattlethight, Manager, Statistical Programs at 1-703-358-2985 or by email at [hsattlethight@aluminum.org](mailto:hsattlethight@aluminum.org).