



September 2009

Facts at a Glance - 2008

The **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 2008, the aluminum supply in North America totaled 24.5 billion pounds, a decrease of 7.7 percent from 2007. A reported 52 percent of the aluminum used in North America comes from domestically produced primary aluminum while about 34 percent is derived from recycled materials. The remaining amount (14 percent) was imported.

Aluminum Supply

(figures in millions of pounds)	2008	% of total
Primary Production	12,738	52.0
Secondary Production	8,251	33.7
Imports of Ingot & Mill Prod	3,506	14.3
Total Supply	24,495	100.0

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

Reclamation of **used aluminum beverage cans** continues to be a major source of supply for the U.S. aluminum industry. During 2008, the aluminum industry recycled an estimated 1.56 billion pounds of used beverage cans accounting for 54.2 percent of beverage can shipments.

Aluminum Can Reclamation

	1975	2008
Pounds of Aluminum Collected (Millions)	180	1,557
Number of Cans Collected (Billions)	4.1	53.2
Percent of Cans Collected	26.9	54.2
Number of Cans Per Pound of Aluminum	26.90	34.18

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

Aluminum demand (producer net shipments plus imports) in North America declined 10.2 percent in 2008 to a total of 22.2 billion pounds. An estimated 18.9 billion pounds of aluminum were shipped to U.S. and Canadian **domestic markets**. Exports of aluminum ingot and semi-fabricated products increased 2.3 percent over the previous year to 3.3 billion pounds.

Apparent Consumption by Market

(figures in millions of pounds)

Major Market	2008	% of total
Building & Construction	2,595	11.7
Transportation	6,228	28.1
Consumer Durables	1,338	6.0
Electrical	1,544	7.0
Machinery & Equipment	1,516	6.8
Containers & Packaging	4,918	22.2
Other	737	3.3
Domestic, total	18,876	85.2
Exports	3,274	14.8
Total Shipments	22,150	100.0

Source: The Aluminum Association

The transportation sector is the largest North American market for aluminum accounting for 6.2 billion pounds.

Producer Shipments plus Imports

(figures in millions of pounds)

Product	2008	% of total
Sheet, Plate & Foil	10,490	47.4
Extruded Products	3,563	16.1
Electrical Conductor	700	3.2
Other	507	2.3
Total Mill Products	15,260	68.9
Ingot for Castings & Other	6,890	31.1
Total Aluminum Demand	22,150	100.0

Source: The Aluminum Association

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Excluding cross-border trade between the U.S. and Canada, combined imports totaled 3,859 million pounds while exports totaled 7,458 million pounds. Excluding scrap, imports exceeded exports by 242 million pounds.

U.S. and Canada Imports/Exports - 2008

(figures in millions of pounds)	Total	% of Total	Ingot	Scrap	Mill Products
Total Imports	3,859	100.0%	1,801	345	1,713
Mexico	355	9.2%	71	236	48
South America	771	20.0%	614	70	86
Europe	1,396	36.2%	694	21	681
Asia	1,056	27.4%	260	17	779
Oceania	150	3.9%	140	*	10
Africa	131	3.4%	21	1	109
Total Exports	7,458	100.0%	1,708	4,186	1,564
Mexico	1,379	18.5%	510	165	705
South America	130	1.7%	14	16	100
Europe	852	11.4%	587	24	241
Asia	5,066	67.9%	593	3,980	493
Oceania	16	0.2%	4	1	11
Africa	14	0.2%	*	1	13
Net Imports	242		94	-3,841	149

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

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

(*) Less than 500 thousand pounds.

For more detailed statistics, please consult the Association's industry fact book, the 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 2008 edition contains an eleven-year summary (1998-2008) 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. Member companies operate more than 200 plants in the United States, with many conducting business worldwide. For further information, contact Nick Adams, Vice President, Statistics and Business Information at 1-703-358-2984 or email <nadams@aluminum.org>.