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North America Aluminum Industry - A Quick Review

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 2005, the aluminum supply in North America totaled 25.0 billion pounds, an increase of 6.2 percent over 2004. Just under 50 percent of the aluminum used in North America comes from domestically produced primary aluminum while about 30 percent is derived from recycled materials. The remaining amount (24 percent) is imported.

Aluminum Supply

(figures in millions of pounds)	2005	% of total
Primary Production	11,849	47.4
Secondary Production	7,220	28.9
Imports of Ingot & Mill Prod	5,938	23.7
Total Supply	25,007	100.0

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

Reclamation of **used aluminum beverage cans** continues to be a major source of supply for the U.S. aluminum industry. During 2005, the aluminum industry melted an estimated 1.51 billion pounds of used beverage cans accounting for 52.0 percent of beverage can shipments.

Aluminum Can Reclamation

	1975	2005
Pounds of Aluminum Collected (Millions)	180	1,511
Number of Cans Collected (Billions)	4.1	51.4
Percent of Cans Collected	26.9	52.0
Number of Cans Per Pound of Aluminum	26.9	34.0

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

Aluminum demand (producer net shipments plus imports) in North America rose 2.6 percent in 2005 to a total of 25.6 billion pounds. An estimated 23.1 billion pounds of aluminum were shipped to U.S. and Canadian **domestic markets**. Exports of aluminum ingot and semi-fabricated products jumped 21.2 percent over the previous year to almost 2.5 billion pounds.

Producer Shipments plus Imports

(Millions of Pounds)

Product	2005	% of total
Sheet, Plate & Foil	11,817	46.2
Extruded Products	4,566	17.8
Electrical Conductor	807	3.2
Other	594	2.3
Total Mill Products	17,784	69.5
Ingot for Castings & Other	7,811	30.5
Total Aluminum Demand	25,595	100.0

Source: The Aluminum Association, Inc.

The transportation sector is the largest North American market for aluminum accounting for 8.7 billion pounds.

Apparent Consumption by Market

(figures in millions of pounds)

Major Market	2005	% of total
Building & Construction	3,693	14.4
Transportation	8,683	33.9
Consumer Durables	1,561	6.1
Electrical	1,657	6.5
Machinery & Equipment	1,664	6.5
Containers & Packaging	5,115	20.0
Other	740	2.9
Domestic, total	23,113	90.3
Exports	2,482	9.7
Total Shipments	25,595	100.0

Source: The Aluminum Association, Inc.

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The Aluminum Association, Inc.

1525 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22209
 Tel: +1 (703) 358-2960 Fax: +1 (703) 358-2961
 Website: www.aluminum.org

Excluding cross-border trade between the U.S. and Canada, combined imports totaled 6,317 million pounds while exports totaled 4,682 million pounds.

U.S. and Canada Imports/Exports - 2005

(figures in millions of pounds)	Total	% of Total	Ingot	Scrap	Mill Products
Total Imports	6,317	100.0%	3,897	363	2,057
Mexico	288	4.6%	*	231	57
South America	1,197	19.0%	906	101	190
Europe	3,178	50.3%	2,204	15	958
Asia	1,093	17.3%	382	15	696
Oceania	239	3.8%	233	*	6
Africa	321	5.1%	171	-	149
Total Exports	4,682	100.0%	1,204	2,222	1,256
Mexico	1,245	26.6%	488	131	626
South America	80	1.7%	12	8	60
Europe	426	9.1%	222	32	172
Asia	2,911	62.2%	480	2,050	382
Oceania	12	0.3%	1	*	11
Africa	8	0.2%	*	2	5
Net Imports	1,634		2,693	-1,860	801

Source: Foreign Trade Division, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

(*) Less than 500 thousand pounds.

The Aluminum Association, based in Arlington, Virginia, represents U.S. and foreign-based primary producers of aluminum, as well as recyclers, and producers of semi-fabricated products, and suppliers. Member companies operate over 200 plants in North America and many conduct business worldwide. For further information, contact Nick Adams, Director of Statistics and Economics at 1-703-358-2984 or email <nadams@aluminum.org>.