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The Aluminum Import Monitoring System (updated April 2023)

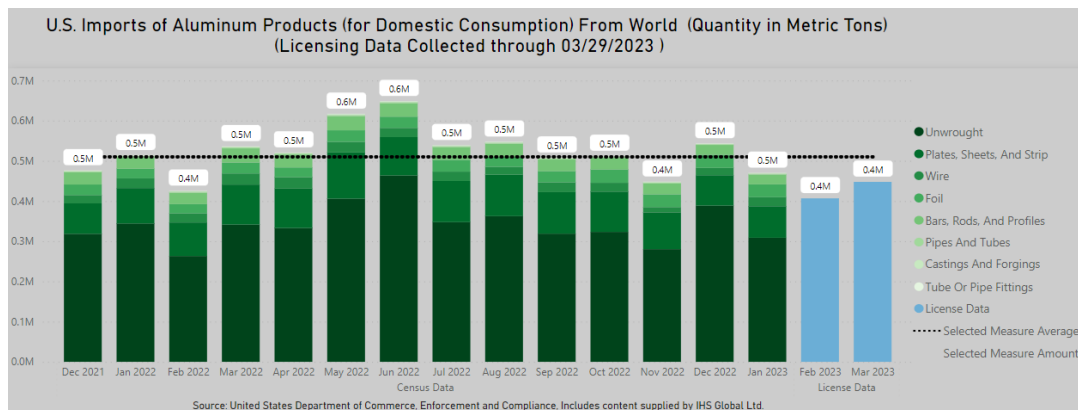
Background on the AIM System

The AIM system consists of an automated online import license mechanism and an interactive public monitor designed to track trends of U.S imports of aluminum.¹ Modeled after the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) system, the aluminum license requirement went into effect on June 28, 2021. The AIM monitor was released in September 2021 to incorporate early warning data collected from the licenses. The AIM system provides accurate license data on imports of certain aluminum products entering the United States earlier than would otherwise be available from the official public source of trade data (*i.e.*, the U.S. Census Bureau). The early release of data ensures the domestic aluminum industry is prepared for import surges and price changes.

The AIM Monitors attract the attention of our trading partners, some of whom may consider similar systems, which will serve to enhance better understanding of global aluminum trade trends and identify potentially problematic trade concerns.

The AIM Monitor and License Application

The interactive AIM monitor is a public data tool that merges historic import data with the data collected from license applications. It is updated and made available to the public weekly on Thursdays. The public AIM monitor allows users to create custom graphics (*i.e.*, line graphs, bar graphs, and maps) and tables showing a wide range of data by country or product category. For example, the chart below highlights monthly U.S. imports of aluminum by volume (MT) and includes two months of early data from the licensing system. The data associated with the graphics are available for download.



The AIM monitor is available at: <https://www.trade.gov/data-visualization/us-aluminum-import-monitor>



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Country of Most Recent Cast Dashboard

The Country of Most Recent Cast dashboard was released in March 2022. This dashboard incorporates never-before-seen country of most recent cast data, which has been collected since the requirement of aluminum licenses on June 28, 2021. The most recent cast field indicates the country where the aluminum product was last liquified by heat and cast into a solid state.

Country of Smelt Dashboard

The Country of Smelt Dashboard provides never-before seen supply chain information that identifies the source of primary aluminum used in imported manufactured aluminum products. Country of Largest Smelt is the country where the largest volume of primary aluminum used in the manufacturing of the product was smelted or where the largest volume of new aluminum metal is produced from alumina (or aluminum oxide) by the electrolytic Hall–Héroult process. The dashboard includes information collected through the country of largest smelt field in import license applications submitted since July 2022. The data is presented using percentages to show the share, in either quantity or value terms, of U.S. imports by country of origin and country of largest smelt as reported by license applicants.

Global Aluminum Trade Monitor

The GATM was release in January 2023 and highlights global aggregate aluminum trade flows from the largest aluminum producing countries, covering the largest exporters and importers. The interactive comparative analysis tool allows users to create custom data visualizations for seven standard aggregate aluminum product categories.

GATM will give the industry greater insight into how aluminum exporting countries and importing countries react to changes in global market conditions. We also wanted to highlight that we have included constructed reverse flow data for major aluminum exporting countries that do not report trade data, including Cambodia, Laos, Mozambique, Myanmar, Oman, Russia, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.

For further information, please contact the AIM team by email at: aluminum.license@trade.gov.