



Jamaica Bauxite Institute



Local Bauxite/Alumina Monthly Statistical Bulletin

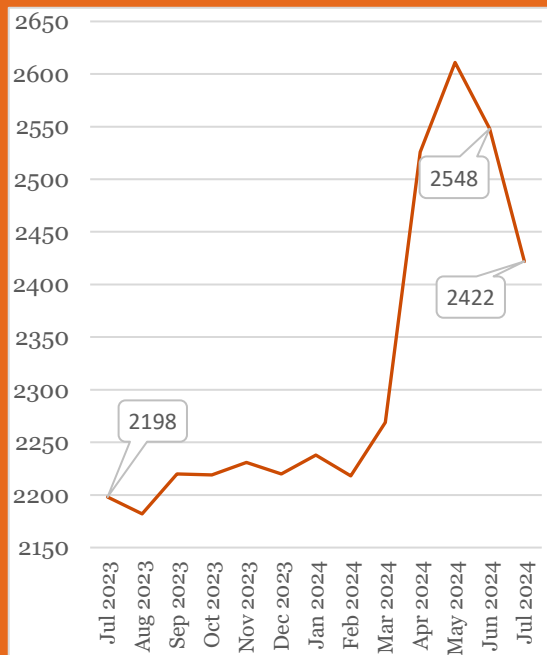
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JULY 2024

BAUXITE/ALUMINA INDUSTRY				
Y-o-Y (kt)			JuL-24	JuL-23
Production				
Total Bauxite	↓	15%	449	529
Crude Bauxite	↓	8%	154	166
Alumina	↓	23%	100	131
Exports				
Total Bx. Disposed	↓	26%	453	613
Crude Bauxite	↓	8%	143	156
Alumina	↓	36%	105	165
Capacity Utilization (%)				
ACU (%)	↓	24%	32	42

LME ALUMINIUM 3-M PRICE (US\$ /t)



Production

There was a general downturn in industry data for the month, attributed to Hurricane Beryl, which hit the island on July 3rd. In July, **total bauxite production** fell by around 15% on a year-over-year basis to roughly 449kt. Output for the first seven months of the year aggregated to almost 3.6 million tonnes, marking an increase of about 5% when compared with the identical period of 2023.

During the month under review, **crude bauxite production** totaled approximately 154kt, marking a decrease of roughly 8% compared to the same month last year. Year-to-date production amounted to under 1.1 million tonnes and fell by nearly 12% relative to the same period a year ago.

Alumina production in the local sector declined in the month under review. Output of smelter-grade alumina contracted by about 23% to roughly 100kt compared to the corresponding period of last year. However, for the January to July period of 2024, output grew by about 14% to approximately 878kt relative to the same seven-month period of 2023.

In July, the alumina refineries operated at an **average capacity utilization** rate of about 32%, down from 42% over the corresponding period last year.

Exports

Total bauxite disposed of, which includes crude bauxite exported and bauxite refined into alumina before being shipped, was down by around 26% on a year-over-year basis to approximately 453kt in the month under review.

Meanwhile, **crude bauxite exports** decreased by close to 8% year-on-year, amounting to roughly 143kt. **Alumina exports** were also down, falling by around 36% to roughly 105kt. In the month under review, Europe was the dominant market for exports as 95% of the alumina shipped was consigned to that region.

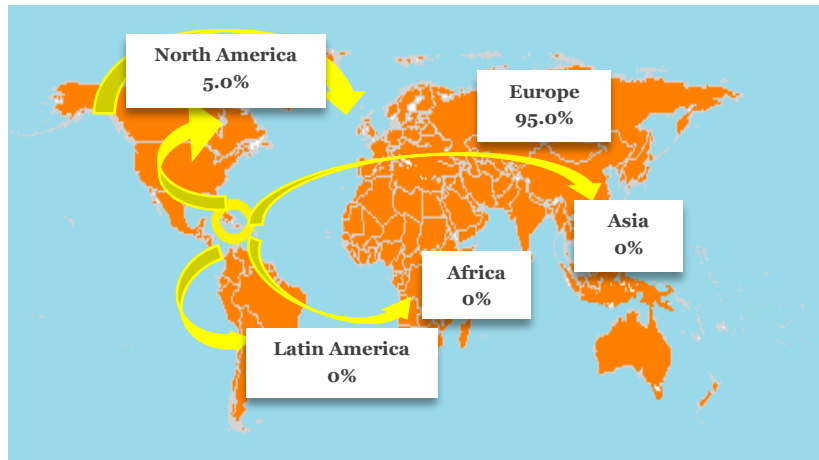


Figure 1: Jamaica's Export Volumes to Regional Markets in July 2024

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Aluminium Prices

The **London Metal Exchange (LME) aluminium 3-month price** fell for a second consecutive month in July. The decline was spurred by rising supply and weak demand. Record metal output persisted in China from rainfall boosting hydro powered smelters. Further, new capacity came on stream in the country's northern regions. Meanwhile, China's PMI for the manufacturing sector continued to contract indicating sluggish demand. During the coverage period, the contract price averaged US\$2,422/t, which was down by 4.9% (US\$126/t) relative to June 2024, but up by 10.2% (US\$224/t) year-on-year.

Crude Oil Prices

Average crude oil prices rallied in July. Factors contributing to higher oil prices in the month include rising U.S. demand during the peak driving season and escalating Middle East conflicts (Israel/Hezbollah), which threatens oil supply. Additionally, prices were bolstered by fears of production disruptions in the US Gulf in the wake of Hurricane Beryl.

In July, the OPEC basket averaged approximately US\$84.4/bbl, up by 1.3% from the previous month and up by 4.2% year-over-year. Brent crude traded at roughly US\$85.2/bbl, up by 3.5% from June's average, as well as representing an increase of 6.3% with respect to the corresponding period a year ago. Meanwhile, at US\$81.8/bbl, the WTI benchmark was up by 2.5% from the preceding month. However, it was up by 7.5% vis-a-vis June 2023.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects the Brent price to rise in the second half of the year reaching between US\$85/bbl and US\$90/bbl by year end. Rising prices are deemed to be the result of falling global inventories, which, to some extent, are driven by the OPEC+ production cuts. It is estimated that global inventories decreased by 0.4 million barrels per day in the first half of 2024 and are expected to fall by 0.8 million barrels per day in the second half. Despite the agency anticipating the Brent average to increase for the remainder of the year, the crude average forecast for 2025 has been lowered from its previous estimate of US\$88/bbl due to reduced oil consumption.

BAUXITE/ALUMINA PRODUCTION & EXPORTS STATISTICS - JULY 2024

PERIOD	PRODUCTION			SALES		
	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE**	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE
<u>MONTH</u>						
2024	100,012	153,607	448,848	104,966	142,696	453,340
2023	130,554	166,155	528,564	164,887	155,504	612,899
% Chg 2024/23	-23.39	-7.55	-15.08	-36.34	-8.24	-26.03
2022	30,997	202,591	288,874	4,466	202,962	215,824
% Chg 2023/22	321.18	-17.99	82.97	3,592.05	-23.38	183.98
<u>Y-T-D</u>						
2024	878,032	1,080,424	3,590,670	885,512	1,108,392	3,640,422
2023	772,825	1,222,013	3,419,451	821,899	1,242,448	3,580,136
% Chg 2024/23	13.61	-11.59	5.01	7.74	-10.79	1.68
2022	224,543	1,517,091	2,201,195	238,633	1,507,104	2,239,206
% Chg 2023/22	244.18	-19.45	55.35	244.42	-17.56	59.88

NOTE:

- (1) Crude Bauxite = Bauxite mined for export
- (2) Total Bauxite = Crude bauxite + bauxite converted to alumina

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