



Jamaica Bauxite Institute

Local Bauxite/Alumina Monthly Statistical Bulletin



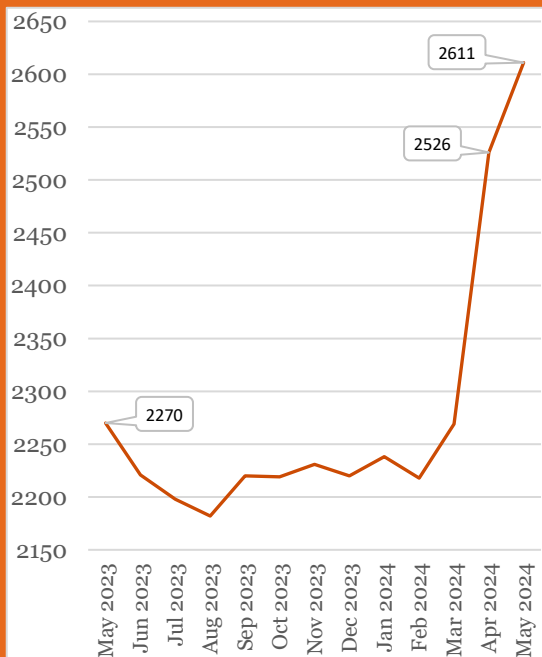
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MAY 2024

BAUXITE/ALUMINA INDUSTRY				
Y-o-Y (kt)			May-24	May-23
Production				
Total Bauxite	↓	1%	542	547
Crude Bauxite	↓	21%	164	208
Alumina	↑	9%	130	119
Exports				
Total Bx. Disposed	↓	3%	696	720
Crude Bauxite	↓	42%	144	250
Alumina	↑	15%	190	164
Capacity Utilization (%)				
ACU (%)	↑	8%	41	38

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



Production

In May, **total bauxite production** fell by about 1% on a year-over-year basis to roughly 542kt. Output for the first five months of the year aggregated to approximately 2.6 million tonnes, representing an increase of almost 6% when compared with the identical period of 2023.

During the month under review, **crude bauxite production** totaled approximately 164kt, marking a decrease of roughly 21% compared to the same month last year. Year-to-date production fell by nearly 15%, reaching around 750kt relative to the same period a year ago.

Alumina production in the local sector continued to show improvement. The production of smelter-grade alumina increased by about 9% compared to the previous year, reaching just under 130kt during the review period. On a year-to-date basis, output grew by roughly 18% to over 651kt.

In May, the alumina refineries operated at an **average capacity utilization** rate of about 41%, up from roughly 38% 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 3% on a year-over-year basis to approximately 696kt in the month under review.

Meanwhile, **crude bauxite exports** decreased by close to 42% year-on-year to total roughly 144kt. **Alumina exports** on the other hand, were up by around 15% to almost 190kt. In the month under review, Europe was the dominant market for exports as roughly 66% of the alumina shipped was consigned to that region.

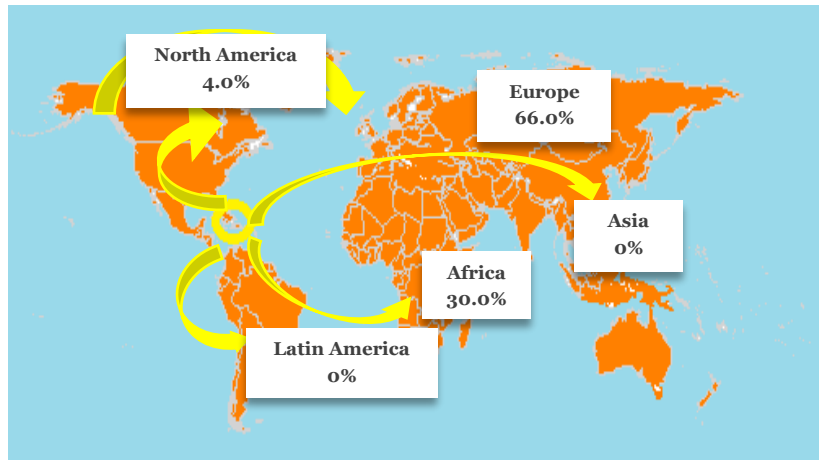


Figure 1: Jamaica's Export Volumes to Regional Markets in May 2024

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Aluminium Prices

The **London Metal Exchange (LME) aluminium 3-month price** rose for the third consecutive month in May. This was in part due to improved market sentiment as the CPI report from the US, a popular inflation measure, came in below expectations. Additionally, the surge in copper prices and a renewed influx of investment into commodities contributed to the increase. Finally, Rio Tinto's declaration of force majeure on alumina shipments from Australia further intensified the rally. During the coverage period, the contract price averaged US\$2,611/t, which was up by 3.4% (US\$85/t) relative to April 2024, and up by 15.0% (US\$341/t) year-on-year.

Crude Oil Prices

Average crude oil prices declined in May due to lingering high inflation data and the perception that geopolitical risks have decreased. The demand outlook has also grown more concerning, thereby putting downward pressure on prices. The International Energy Agency (IEA) in its May report projects global oil demand to rise by 1.1 million barrels per day in 2024, slightly less than previously forecasted, with 2025 demand expected to increase by 1.2 million barrels per day.

In May, the OPEC basket averaged approximately US\$83.6/bbl, decreasing by 6.3% from the previous month but up by 10.3% year-over-year. Brent crude traded at roughly US\$81.8/bbl, down by 9.1% from April's average, as well as representing an increase of 8.3% with respect to the corresponding period a year ago. Meanwhile, at US\$80.1/bbl, the WTI benchmark was down by 6.1% from the preceding month. It was up by 11.9% vis-a-vis May 2023.

With the announcement that the OPEC+ will be extending production cuts through Q3 2024, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects that there will be a greater draw down of global inventories. The agency therefore expects that this will propel Brent prices to average US\$85/bbl for the remainder of the year. This is lower than the previous month's forecasted annual average, as it reflects the current price decline.

BAUXITE/ALUMINA PRODUCTION & EXPORT STATISTICS - MAY 2024

PERIOD	PRODUCTION			SALES		
	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE**	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE
<u>MONTH</u>						
2024	129,790	164,492	541,989	189,643	144,497	695,808
2023	118,998	207,697	546,957	164,377	249,820	719,865
% Chg 2024/23	9.07	-20.80	-0.91	15.37	-42.16	-3.34
2022	32,303	257,273	357,428	12,893	255,734	295,709
% Chg 2023/22	268.38	-19.27	53.03	1,174.93	-2.31	143.44
<u>Y-T-D</u>						
2024	651,468	749,547	2,592,770	682,395	785,203	2,715,948
2023	550,970	879,960	2,454,883	559,509	885,433	2,487,192
% Chg 2024/23	18.24	-14.82	5.62	21.96	-11.32	9.20
2022	162,895	1,107,221	1,607,960	164,817	1,099,888	1,606,535
% Chg 2023/22	238.24	-20.53	52.67	239.47	-19.50	54.82

NOTE:

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

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