Jamaica Bauxite Institute

Local Bauxite/Alumina Monthly Statistical Bulletin

Release Date: June 30, 2026

Prepared by: Economics Division, JBI

BAUXITE/ALUMINA INDUSTRY				
Y-o-Y (kt)			**May-26**	**May-25**
Production				
Total Bauxite	⇩	9.8%	475	527
Crude Bauxite	⇧	11.1%	181	163
Alumina	⇩	20.8%	96	121
Exports				
Total Bx. Disposed	⇩	33.0%	476	711
Crude Bauxite	⇩	26.5%	147	200
Alumina	⇩	36.6%	107	169
Capacity Utilization (%)				
ACU (%)	⇩	20.8%	30.4	38.4
Y-T-D (kt)			**2026**	**2025**
Production				
Total Bauxite	⇩	18.6%	2,167	2,662
Crude Bauxite	⇩	14.9%	740	870
Alumina	⇩	27.9%	445	617
Exports				
Total Bx. Disposed	⇩	14.6%	2,366	2,769
Crude Bauxite	⇩	15.8%	734	872
Alumina	⇩	20.7%	518	653
Capacity Utilization (%)				
ACU (%)	⇩	28.0%	29.1%	40.4%

MAY 2026

Production

In May 2026, **total bauxite(1) production** declined by 9.8% year-on-year (YoY) to ~475 kt, reflecting weaker alumina output despite stronger crude bauxite volumes. For year-to-date (YTD) 2026, total bauxite output aggregated to ~2,167 kt, representing an 18.6% decrease in comparison to the same period in 2025.

Crude bauxite(2) totalled ~181 kt in May and increased 11.1% YoY from ~163 kt produced in May 2025. The improvement signals continued recovery in mining activity following hurricane-related disruptions. YTD production amounted to ~740 kt but remained 14.9% lower YoY, indicating that normalization remains incomplete.

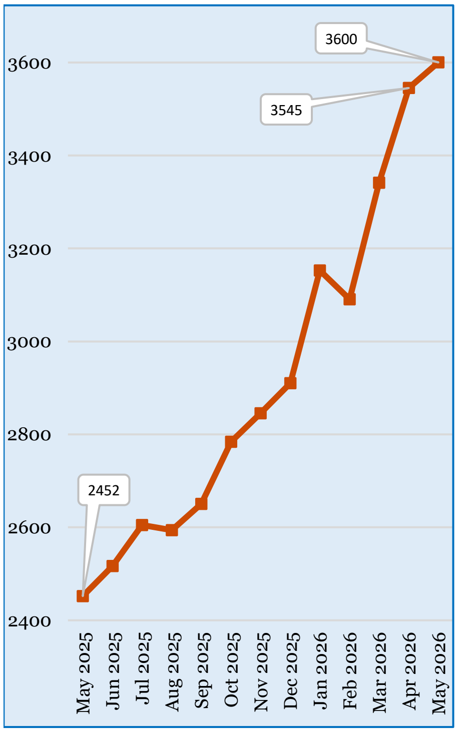
Smelter-grade alumina(3) output amounted to ~96 kt in May, down 20.8% YoY, as refining operations remained constrained by lingering disruptions and operational challenges across both refineries. While output improved month-on-month from April, YTD production fell 27.9% to ~445 kt compared to the same period in 2025, pointing to ongoing capacity limitations.

For May 2026, the alumina refineries operated at an **average capacity utilization(4)** rate of 30.4%, down from 38.4% when compared to the corresponding period of 2025.

Exports

Total bauxite disposed of, which includes both crude bauxite exports and bauxite refined into alumina before being shipped, declined by 33.0% YoY to ~476 kt in May. The outcome reflected sharp declines in both alumina exports (-36.6% to ~107 kt) and crude bauxite shipments (-26.5% to ~147 kt), with no third-party sales recorded during the review period. During the reporting period, Europe was the dominant market for exports as 59% of the alumina shipped was consigned to that region.

LME ALUMINIUM 3-M PRICE
(US$ per tonne)



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Next Release date: July 31, 2026

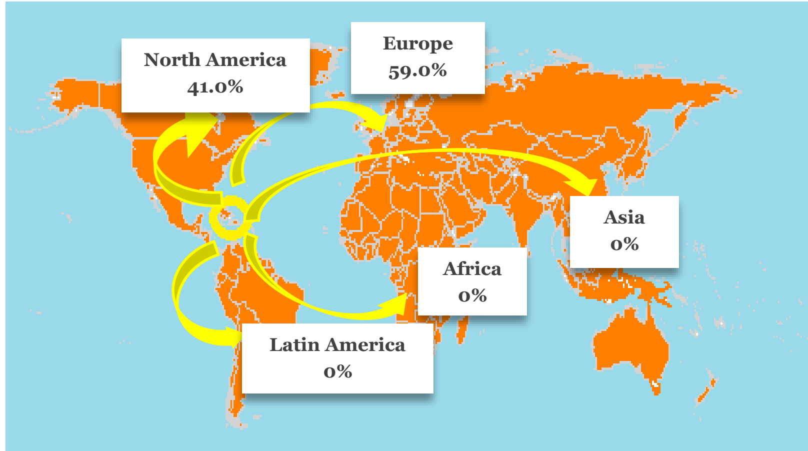

Figure 1: Jamaica's Alumina Export Volumes to Regional Markets in May 2026

Aluminium Prices

The **London Metal Exchange (LME) aluminium 3-month price** extended its rally for a third consecutive month as a severe global deficit widened. The Middle East conflict cut Gulf output by over a third, restricting key supply routes and tightening availability. Plummeting inventories underscored the supply squeeze, which strong Chinese production only partially counteracted. During the coverage period (May 2026), the contract price averaged US$3,600/mt, increasing by 1.6% (US$55/mt) compared to April 2026, and was up by 46.9% (US$1,149/mt) YoY.

Crude Oil Prices

Average crude benchmarks (Brent, OPEC, WTI) showed mixed movements in May as earlier supply-driven gains moderated. However, the market continued to be shaped by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Ongoing disruptions in the Middle East transit route and falling inventories initially supported prices, but this was offset by easing geopolitical tensions, expectations of increased supply, and softer demand conditions, particularly in Asia, leading to a partial retreat in prices by the end of the month.

In May, the OPEC basket averaged US$114.55/bbl, up by 5.0% month-over-month and up by 80.1% YoY. Brent crude traded at US$107.80/bbl, decreasing by 11.2% from April's average. It rose by 68.3% with respect to the corresponding period a year ago. Meanwhile, at US$99.16/bbl, the WTI benchmark was up marginally by 0.5% compared to the preceding month and expanded by 62.3% vis-a-vis May 2025.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects Brent crude to average US$105/bbl in mid-2026, reflecting sustained inventory drawdowns and constrained flows through the Strait of Hormuz. A gradual recovery in shipping and the return of shut in production should ease prices to US$89/bbl by Q4, resulting in a 2026 average of US$95/bbl. Prices are then expected to decline to US$79/bbl in 2027 as supply normalizes and stock levels recover.

NOTES:

(1) Crude Bauxite = Bauxite mined for export
(2) Total Bauxite = Crude bauxite + bauxite converted to alumina
(3) Smelter-grade alumina = High-purity form of alumina used to produce aluminium
(4) Average Capacity Utilization = Percentage of total production capacity that was used

APPENDIX:

BAUXITE/ALUMINA PRODUCTION & EXPORT STATISTICS - MAY 2026						
PERIOD	PRODUCTION			SALES		
	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE**	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE
MONTH						
2026	95,564	181,318	475,046	107,224	147,102	476,101
2025	120,692	163,192	526,835	169,130	200,058	710,836
% Chg 2026/25	-20.82	11.11	-9.83	-36.60	-26.47	-33.02
2024	129,790	164,492	541,989	189,643	144,497	695,808
% Chg 2025/24	-7.01	-0.79	-2.80	-10.82	38.45	2.16
Y-T-D						
2026	445,010	740,187	2,166,847	517,617	733,758	2,365,969
2025	617,245	869,979	2,662,275	653,093	871,898	2,768,714
% Chg 2026/25	-27.90	-14.92	-18.61	-20.74	-15.84	-14.55
2024	651,468	749,547	2,592,770	682,395	785,203	2,715,948
% Chg 2025/24	-5.25	16.07	2.68	-4.29	11.04	1.94