

Jamaica Bauxite Institute

Local Bauxite/Alumina Monthly Statistical Bulletin

Release Date: October 30, 2026

Prepared by: Economics Division, JBI

BAUXITE/ALUMINA INDUSTRY

Y-o-Y (kt)			Sep-26	Sep-25
Production				
Total Bauxite	⇩	18.0%	407	497
Crude Bauxite	⇩	7.9%	142	154
Alumina	⇩	28.1%	82	115
Exports				
Total Bx. Disposed	⇧	3.1%	471	457
Crude Bauxite	⇩	22.1%	130	167
Alumina	⇧	9.8%	107	98
Capacity Utilization (%)				
ACU (%)	⇩	28.1%	27.1	37.7

Y-T-D (kt)			2026	2025
Production				
Total Bauxite	⇩	20.5%	3,724	4,685
Crude Bauxite	⇩	18.6%	1,209	1,485
Alumina	⇩	28.6%	785	1,100
Exports				
Total Bx. Disposed	⇩	15.3%	4,019	4,742
Crude Bauxite	⇩	19.4%	1,175	1,459
Alumina	⇩	20.3%	899	1,128
Capacity Utilization (%)				
ACU (%)	⇩	28.6%	28.4%	39.8%

SEPTEMBER 2026

Production

In September 2026, **total bauxite[1] production** fell by 18.0% year-on-year (YoY) to ~407 kt, reflecting lower output from both the crude bauxite and alumina segments. On a year-to-date (YTD) basis, total bauxite production amounted to ~3.72 million tonnes, down 20.5% relative to the corresponding period of 2025.

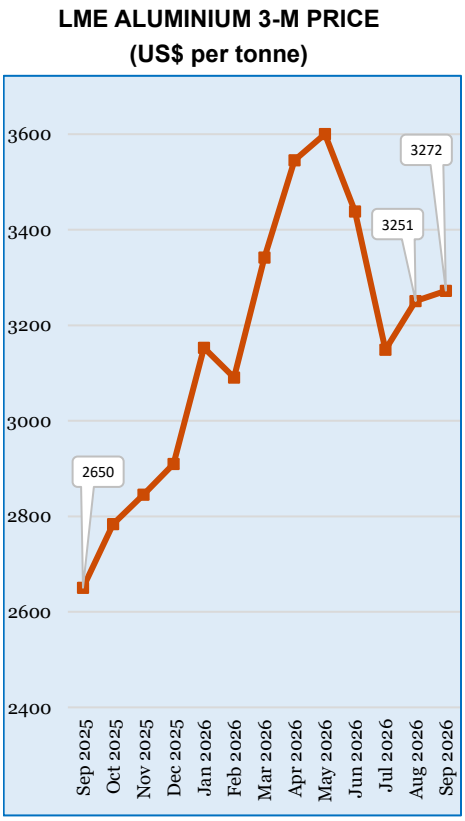
Crude bauxite[2] production totalled ~142 kt in September, a 7.9% YoY decline from the ~154 kt produced in the same period last year as output remained below earlier levels despite a recovery in mining activity. YTD production aggregated to ~1.21 million tonnes, down 18.6% YoY.

Smelter-grade alumina[3] output amounted to **~82 kt**, down 28.1% YoY, reflecting continued refinery operating constraints. For YTD 2026, alumina production totalled **~785 kt**, a decrease of 28.6% compared with the corresponding period in 2025.

For September 2026, the alumina refineries operated at an **average capacity utilization[4]** rate of 27.1%, down from 37.7% 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, rose by 3.1% YoY to ~471 kt in September. The growth was driven by stronger alumina exports, which was up by 9.8% to ~107 kt. Meanwhile, crude bauxite exports fell by 22.1% to ~130 kt despite benefiting from third-party sales to China in the reporting period. During the reporting period, Europe was the dominant market for exports as 86.2% of the alumina shipped was consigned to that region.





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Next Release date: November 30, 2026

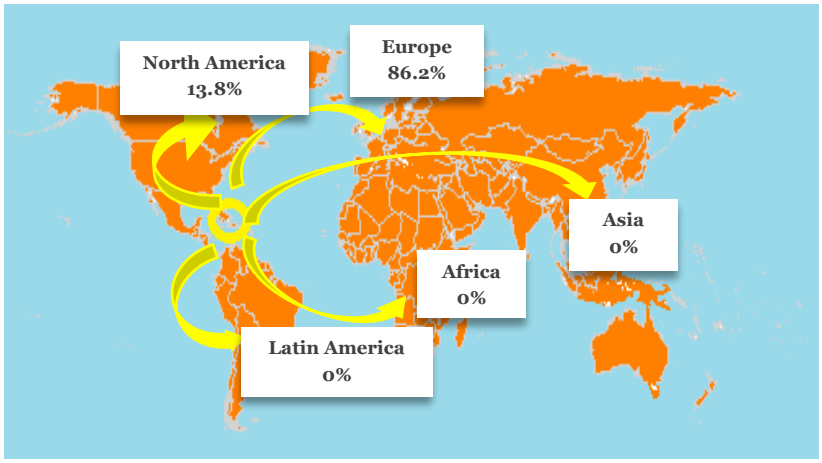


Figure 1: Jamaica's Alumina Sales Volumes to Regional Markets in September 2026

Aluminium Prices

The **London Metal Exchange (LME) aluminium 3-month price** continued its rally in September, supported by low inventories and ongoing concerns over potential Middle Eastern supply disruptions. However, prices remained below the peak reached during the early stages of the Iran conflict. Gains were tempered by expectations of smelter restarts, capacity expansions, and facility upgrades that are expected to boost global supply. During the coverage period (September 2026), the contract price averaged US$3,272/mt, increasing by 0.6% (US$21/mt) compared to August 2026 and was up by 23.5% (US$622/mt) YoY.

Crude Oil Prices

Average crude benchmarks (Brent, OPEC, WTI) rallied further in September as renewed attacks on Middle Eastern energy infrastructure and shipping routes heightened concerns over global oil availability. Disruptions to a key Saudi export pipeline, elevated tanker insurance costs, and longer transit routes tightened market conditions, while recovering Chinese import demand and reduced strategic stockpile releases provided additional support. However, gains were partially moderated as infrastructure repairs, alternative export channels, and lower regional production shut-ins helped sustain export flows.

In September, the OPEC basket averaged US$110.59/bbl, up by 27.9% month-over-month and up by 57.1% YoY. Brent crude traded at US$116.89/bbl, increasing by 28.9% from August's average. It rose by 72.2% with respect to the corresponding period a year ago. Meanwhile, at US$96.38/bbl, the WTI benchmark was up by 16.6% compared to the preceding month and expanded by 51.5% vis-a-vis September 2025.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects Brent crude prices to remain elevated in the near term as continued transit constraints and ongoing global inventory drawdowns keep market balances tight. Brent is forecast to average around US$105/bbl in Q4 2026 before gradually easing as export bypass routes expand and shut-in production recovers toward pre-conflict levels. For 2027, improving supply availability is expected to weigh on prices, with Brent projected to decline to an average of US$87/bbl by Q2 and US$74/bbl by Q4, averaging approximately US$84/bbl for the year.

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 & EXPORTS STATISTICS - SEPTEMBER 2026						
PERIOD	**PRODUCTION**			**SALES**		
	ALUMINA	**CRUDE BAUXITE**	**TOTAL BAUXITE****	**ALUMINA**	**CRUDE BAUXITE**	**TOTAL BAUXITE**
MONTH						
2026	82,392	141,599	407,301	107,392	130,356	471,241
2025	114,546	153,727	496,828	97,791	167,285	456,944
% Chg 2026/25	-28.07	-7.89	-18.02	9.82	-22.08	3.13
2024	110,086	112,548	428,663	163,931	143,044	613,324
% Chg 2025/24	4.05	36.59	15.90	-40.35	16.95	-25.50
Y-T-D						
2026	785,138	1,209,422	3,724,109	899,002	1,175,190	4,018,958
2025	1,099,517	1,485,100	4,685,464	1,127,599	1,458,731	4,742,104
% Chg 2026/25	-28.59	-18.56	-20.52	-20.27	-19.44	-15.25
2024	1,123,395	1,294,228	4,489,323	1,111,912	1,350,566	4,514,100
% Chg 2025/24	-2.13	14.75	4.37	1.41	8.01	5.05