



Aluminium News (Issue No. 779 | 2026.05)

ASUKA INDUSTRIES, INC.

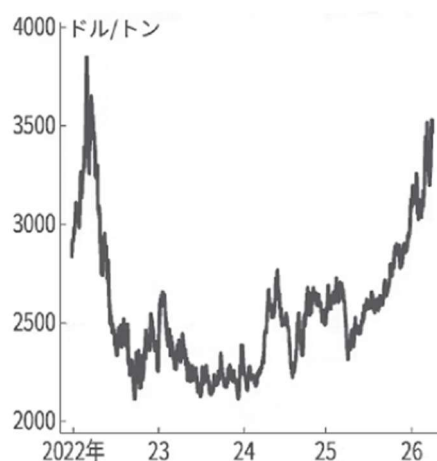
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Concerns Over the Supply of Middle Eastern Aluminium

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz, triggered by military conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, is casting a shadow over the global aluminium supply chain. The Middle East, where electricity costs are low, is a major production hub for primary aluminium, accounting for roughly 20% of global output excluding China. Most of China's large production volume is consumed domestically. Japan's dependence on Middle Eastern aluminium is not insignificant. Imports of primary aluminium account for about 20%, and when including slabs, billets, and secondary alloys, the ratio is estimated to approach 30%. Reports of damage to multiple smelters and production line shutdowns in the region have prompted companies to actively seek alternative procurement sources.

Simultaneous surges in energy and non-ferrous metal prices are pushing up raw material costs across industries. There is growing concern that the situation may become prolonged.



LME Aluminum 3-Month (3M) Price

Guidelines for Supplying Aluminium Products for a Decarbonized Society

Japan Aluminium Association has released new guidelines for the supply of aluminium products in support of a decarbonized society.

Aluminium offers excellent electrical and thermal conductivity as well as weather resistance, making it indispensable in all stages of renewable energy generation, transmission, transportation, and storage—such as solar panels, wind turbines, long-distance high-voltage power lines, lithium-ion batteries, and heat exchangers.

It is also a critical material for strategically important Japanese industries, including automobiles, aircraft, capacitors, and semiconductor manufacturing equipment. The aluminium industry remains a key driver of Japan's economic and industrial competitiveness. In Europe and the United States, aluminium is designated as a critical material, and in the U.S. it is classified as a strategic industry. The International Energy Agency also identifies aluminium as an

essential mineral for the global energy transition.

Aluminium is highly recyclable, and its reuse significantly reduces CO₂ emissions, contributing to the development of a circular economy. Meanwhile, demand for “green aluminium” produced using renewable energy such as hydropower continues to rise, making long-term procurement increasingly important for Japan.

Since Japan has no domestic primary smelting and relies heavily on imported raw materials, securing recycled aluminium and green aluminium over the medium to long term is becoming even more essential. To address these challenges, the aluminium industry will strengthen its role within the supply chain by taking responsibility for procuring recycled and green aluminium, ensuring traceability that links environmental value to products, mitigating risks during major supply-demand fluctuations, and working toward stable product supply and decarbonization.

Nishio Tea

The lower terraces along the Yahagi River offer excellent drainage and fertile soil, ideal for cultivating tea plants. New buds are grown gently under shade to limit sunlight exposure, producing high-grade tea. “Nishio Matcha” is one of Japan’s leading matcha products and has been certified as a regional brand by the Japan Patent Office. Every year during this season, members of the local tea-leaf club perform a traditional tea-picking ceremony.



Internal News

- The loquat and mandarin trees planted in the southern greenbelt a year ago have shown delayed growth due to low rainfall.
- Our fiscal year-end inventory count was conducted at the end of April. We appreciate the understanding of our raw material suppliers and logistics partners for the inconvenience caused.
- Thanks to everyone’s cooperation, the inventory count was completed smoothly. We extend our sincere gratitude for your support.
- In the fresh spring greenery, the chicks of the large plover “Keri” have begun walking around the greenbelt. The parent birds are fiercely protecting their young.

Editor’s Note

- The Japan Meteorological Agency has announced that days exceeding 40°C will now be classified as “extremely hot days.” We sincerely hope such extreme temperatures will remain rare.
- Navigation difficulties in the Strait of Hormuz continue, raising concerns over the supply of petroleum-related materials.
- As noted on page 1, escalating tensions in the Middle East are significantly affecting the international aluminium supply network.
- An analyst at commodity trading firm Mercuria described the situation as a “black swan” event, further heightening a sense of crisis.