



Aluminium News (Issue No. 780 | 2026.06)

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Production and Shipment of Secondary Aluminium Alloy Ingots Slightly Increased

The Japan Aluminium Alloy Association recently announced the production and shipment results for secondary aluminium ingots and aluminium alloy ingots for FY2025 (April 2025 – March 2026).

According to the report, production reached 710,023 tons, a 1.4% increase year-on-year, while shipments totaled 708,927 tons, up 1.1%, maintaining the 700,000-ton level.

By industrial sector, shipments of die-cast products—the main application—rose 3.3%, and cast products increased 1.2%, while sheet and steel-related applications declined.

Government economic reports indicate that Japan's economy has begun shifting from a "deflationary, cost-cutting model" toward a new growth-oriented economy, supported by wage increases exceeding 5% for the second consecutive year. Real GDP growth for FY2025 is projected at around 1.1%.

Under these conditions, FY2025 saw a recovery in domestic automobile production—an important driver of demand for secondary aluminium alloys. However, the industry also faced challenges, including reduced scrap generation and persistently high scrap prices, creating a difficult business environment.

Japan Aluminium Alloy Association — Annual General Meeting

The Japan Aluminium Alloy Association held its 52nd Annual General Meeting on May 20 at the Kasuyama Kaikan in Kasumigaseki, Tokyo. The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Masashi Koyama (Nikkei MC Aluminium)

Vice Chairman: Yuichi Tashiro (SS Aluminium)

Vice Chairman: Shigenori Hayashi (Daiki Aluminium)

Executive Director: Hiroshi Ito

The government's Monthly Economic Report states that, despite lingering effects of U.S. trade policy, the economy is recovering moderately. Under the policy of "responsible proactive fiscal management," the government is implementing measures to counter rising prices and has introduced a Comprehensive Economic Package for a Strong

Economy.

For FY2026, real GDP growth is projected at 1.3%, and nominal GDP growth at 3.4%, although uncertainties in overseas economies and financial markets require close attention.

Last year, while domestic automobile production recovered, the industry faced difficulties due to reduced aluminium scrap supply and high scrap prices. In FY2026, securing stable scrap procurement and managing price fluctuations will be essential.

Interest in recycled aluminium continues to grow as part of carbon-neutral initiatives. The association aims to contribute to resource circulation and CO₂ reduction by ensuring stable supply of secondary aluminium alloys and promoting horizontal aluminium recycling.

Nishio City Hazardous Materials Safety Association — Annual Meeting

The 65th Annual Meeting of the Nishio City Hazardous Materials Safety Association was held on May 15 at Mikawa Bay Resort Links in Kira-cho, Nishio City.

Chairman Makoto Nagasaka emphasized the importance of safety in the storage, handling, and transportation of hazardous materials amid uncertainties in Middle Eastern geopolitical conditions. After the address, two companies and two individuals received commendations.

Asuka Industries received an Aichi Prefecture Association Federation Award.



Metal Theft Prevention Act to Be Fully Enforced in June — Notification Required for Copper Scrap Buyers

The “Act on the Prevention of Disposal of Stolen Specified Metal Products” will be fully enforced in June. The newly enforced provisions concern businesses purchasing copper scrap.

Businesses purchasing copper scrap must file a notification of “Specified Metal Scrap Buyer” with the Prefectural Public Safety Commission via their local police station within three months of the enforcement date. Existing businesses must also file within the same period. Failure to do so may result in penalties.

Identity verification of sellers will also become mandatory. Although the law currently applies only to copper scrap, the scope may expand to aluminium and other metals depending on future crime trends.

Government Approves Amendment to Waste Management Act — Introducing Permit System for Scrap Yards

On April 10, the government approved a bill to amend the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act. The amendment introduces regulations for facilities that store or recycle used metal and plastic products—commonly known as scrap yards—due to issues such as noise, water pollution, and fires reported at some sites.

The amendment will:

Introduce a permit system for businesses storing or recycling used metal/plastic products

Require compliance with storage and recycling standards

Require domestic recycling in principle for materials with environmental risks, with export permitted only upon approval by the Minister of the Environment

Sangane-san Mountain Hydrangea Festival

The Sangane-san Skyline, a 5km scenic road connecting Nishio City and Katahara Onsen, is known as the “Hydrangea Line.” From June to early July, approximately 70,000 hydrangeas bloom along the route, offering panoramic views of Mikawa Bay.

The annual Sangane-san Mountain Hydrangea Festival is held from June 1 to June 30. On June 13 (Sat), various events—including local product fairs and a large prize drawing—will take place at the summit parking area.



Internal News

-Hot days exceeding 30°C are expected to increase again this year.

-In accordance with last year’s revisions to safety and health regulations, we will continue efforts for early detection and proper response to heat-related illness.

-Although tensions in the Strait of Hormuz continue to cause concerns about petroleum-related supply disruptions, operations remain unaffected at this time.

-At the Aluminium Alloy Association’s General Meeting, President Amano was reappointed as a standing director.

Editor’s Note

-May 14: During the U.S.–China summit, President Xi Jinping asked President Trump, “Can our two countries avoid the Thucydides Trap?”

-May 14: The Nikkei Stock Average surpassed ¥63,700, reaching a new all-time high.

-May 22: Kevin Warsh assumed office as Chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board.