



Aluminium News (Issue No. 782 | 2026.08)

ASUKA INDUSTRIES, INC.

28, U Shindenkami, Nakabata-Cho, Nishio-shi, Aichi-ken, 444-0303, Japan

TEL : 81-(0)563-77-0500 FAX : 81-(0)563-77-0501

Japan's 2026 Aluminium Can Demand Expected to Fall Below 20 Billion Units

The Aluminium Can Recycling Association has released the actual demand figures for beverage aluminium cans in calendar year 2025 (January–December) and the demand forecast for 2026.

Domestic demand in 2025 decreased by 4.3% year-on-year, totaling 20 billion cans, barely maintaining the 20-billion-can level for the 12th consecutive year.

Demand for beer-related canned products declined due to reduced at-home drinking and the drop in sales of “new genre” beverages following the October 2023 tax increase.

For 2026, demand is forecast to fall 1.3% year-on-year to 19.73 billion cans, marking the first time in 13 years that demand will fall below the 20-billion-can threshold.

Although beer demand is expected to increase following the October revision of the Liquor Tax Act, demand for happoshu and new-genre beverages is projected to decline, resulting in an overall decrease.

Meanwhile, the non-alcoholic beverage market is expected to expand, supported by growing health consciousness.

Summer Holiday Notice

Our offices will be closed for summer holidays from:

Saturday, August 8 through Monday, August 16

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

FY2025 Aluminium Can Recycling Rate: 94.7%

The Aluminium Can Recycling Association has announced the recycling rate for aluminium cans in FY2025.

Key Figures

Domestic recycled volume: 216,237 tons

Total consumption volume: 296,292 tons

Total recycled volume (domestic + export): 280,492 tons

Overall recycling rate: 94.7%

Domestic recycling rate: 73.0%

CAN-to-CAN rate (percentage of UBC recycled back into can stock): 73.3%

Year-on-Year Comparison

Domestic circulation volume: -9.6%

Export volume: -11.7%

Consumption volume: -5.3%

Recycling rate: -5.1%

CAN-to-CAN rate: -3.2%

The Association's target of maintaining a stable recycling rate above 92% has been achieved for 10 consecutive years. However, due to lower consumption, domestic recycled volume decreased.

Exports declined mainly due to reduced shipments to Thailand, and rising UBC prices may have contributed to increased domestic inventory.

FY2025–26 Imports of Aluminium and Silicon

The government has released import statistics for aluminium and silicon for FY2025 (April 2025–March 2026).

Year-on-Year Changes by Category

Primary aluminium ingots: +2.6%

Alloy ingots: –3.9%

Aluminium and alloy scrap: +9.7%

Silicon: +0.1%

Imports of alloy ingots decreased.

Due to geopolitical factors, imports from Russia—formerly a major supplier—have sharply declined since FY2022.

Supply sources for alloy ingots have shifted from Russia to countries in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

The recent closure of the Strait of Hormuz has disrupted shipments from Middle Eastern countries, likely altering the ranking of import sources.

2026 Safe Driving Management Model Workplace

The Nishio Safe Driving Management Council held its FY2026 General Meeting on July 1 at the JA Nishi-Mikawa headquarters.



This year's theme is:

“Promoting unified corporate safety activities to contribute to the local community.”

Key initiatives include:

- Company-wide promotion of safety management
- Measures to prevent private-vehicle accidents
- Sharing traffic safety awareness and ensuring pedestrian-protection driving
- Promoting traffic safety activities in cooperation with the community

Asuka Industries was appointed as a Safe Driving Management Model Workplace for FY2026.

(Photo: Safety Manager Shigeo Tsuge receiving the appointment certificate)

Internal News

- Summer holidays will be observed as announced on page 1.
- On July 17, a “Sōmen Lunch” was served. Thank you for the timely idea during the severe heat when many have lost their appetite. We look forward to the next event.
- The extreme heat in late July required frequent replenishment of coolant packs and distribution of sports drinks as part of our “extremely hot day” response.
- Cooling jackets continue to improve each year—we expect good results.

Editor’s Note

- The conflict between the U.S. and Iran shows no sign of resolution. NY (WTI) crude futures have fluctuated wildly, dropping below \$70 per barrel and then rising above \$90.
- The foreign exchange market saw the yen weaken to nearly ¥164 per U.S. dollar.
- Following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling invalidating “Trump reciprocal tariffs,” the Trump administration issued additional counter-tariffs.
- “Watering the garden, new tatami mats, Iyo bamboo blinds, translucent summer fabrics, and a fair-skinned coiffure”—where has the elegant summer described by the poet Shokusanjin gone?