

Weekly News Bulletin

11th January – 17th January 2026

Alcircle

[Southeast Asia's secondary aluminium industry is trapped in "margin squeeze": raw material surge forces ADC12 plant cuts, industry may enter "lunar new Year mode" early](#)

Since the fourth quarter of 2025, the international aluminium market has experienced a significant unilateral upward trend. Driven by supply-side sentiment stemming from the official implementation of the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), combined with the absence of a price correction during the traditional year-end off-season and global holiday disruptions, LME aluminium prices have demonstrated strong resilience and sustained momentum.

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[Role of energy prices 2025 and outlook in aluminium's next 25 years, considering three likely distinct scenarios](#)

Call it destiny or plain arithmetic, aluminium's decarbonisation story now hinges on energy prices. The Hall-Héroult smelting process is evidently electricity-intensive, so swings in oil, gas, coal and (crucially) electricity prices feed directly into producers' margins, and definitely into the calculus for switching smelters to renewables or cleaner fuels.

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[Why the aluminium market is tightening and why prices may stay supported into 2026](#)

In recent years, people often explained aluminium prices using familiar demand stories like construction cycles, auto production, sentiment from China, and seasonal buying. However, as we approach 2026, a larger factor affecting price behaviour is hard to overlook: supply is less flexible than it once was. Even in a slower-growing economy, aluminium prices can remain elevated if the market lacks enough capacity to absorb shocks. This is exactly what we are seeing now: tightness driven by a mix of structural constraints and not just one-time disruptions.

ETManufacturing

[India and Russia need to build a resilient aluminium alliance, ETManufacturing](#)

India and Russia are forging a new aluminium alliance. This partnership aims secure raw materials and boost trade. Joint ventures in mining and refining are planned. Collaboration will strengthen both nations' industrial bases. This strategic move will enhance global influence in the aluminium sector. It promises shared growth and technological advancement.

HinduBusinessline

[Critical metals, sustainable future: Why aluminium deserves policy priority - The HinduBusinessLine](#)

Globally, every nation is recalibrating the industrial strategy i.e. decarbonisation, green energy, circular economy and strategic critical metals to meet their economic and climate commitments. The critical metal strategy redefines the low carbon or green metal transition and national security. Aluminium is quietly emerging as one of the most critical low-carbon enabler due to its unique sustainability-dividends i.e. raw-material availability, lightweight and infinite recyclability. Such characteristics make it the backbone of energy resilient future technologies.

Investing

[Aluminium Gains As Supply Tightening And Strong Global Demand Are Repriced Fast By Kedia Advisory](#)

Kedia Advisory - Aluminium prices recorded a strong advance, settling higher by 2.77% at 317.4, as investors reassessed expectations of tightening supply against a backdrop of resilient global demand. Sentiment was supported by improving confidence in China's macro outlook after the central bank reiterated its commitment to an accommodative policy stance, including reserve requirement and interest rate cuts in 2026, alongside measures to boost domestic demand and stabilise growth.

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[VALCO's smelter expansion plan to support 25,000 downstream jobs](#)

The Volta Aluminium Company Limited (VALCO) announced the plan for expanding its smelter operational capacity to 40 per cent from the current 23 per cent. The initiative supports Ghana's downstream value-addition chain, overcoming the limitations of exporting primary aluminium only. This strategic shift has helped VALCO evolve from its previous role of primary aluminium producer to one also focused on broader industrial development and financial boost.

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[India's aluminium scrap imports grow at 8.6% CAGR over a decade: what's driving scrap use and what comes next as policies evolve](#)

A decade ago, aluminium scrap accounted for a relatively small share of India's metals trade, with primary aluminium forming the backbone of supply for most downstream applications. But that hierarchy no longer holds. By 2025, aluminium scrap had moved from the sideline to the centre of India's secondary aluminium and alloy production. Imports crossed the 2 million tonne mark for the first time, and the country remained nearly 85 per cent dependent on overseas scrap. What was once a supplementary input had quietly become indispensable.