

Weekly News Bulletin

15th March – 21st March 2026

The Times of India

[Aluminium prices recover as market weighs disruptions and weaker demand - The Economic Times](#)

Aluminium prices steadied on Friday as investors balanced the competing impacts of the Iran war and lower supply from disrupted operations in the Middle East against weaker demand from a spike in oil prices.

Chemistry World

[New studies highlight emerging potential of aluminium\(I\) chemistry | Research | Chemistry World](#)

New research showing how [aluminium](#) can mimic the reactivity of transition metals could open up new possibilities for using the main-group element to drive chemical processes. As aluminium is one of the most abundant elements in the Earth's crust, using it instead of the much rarer metals that are currently needed in catalysis would bring considerable benefits in terms of cost and sustainability.

ING Think

[Gulf smelter cuts tighten aluminium outlook | articles | ING THINK](#)

Recent output cuts at Alba and Qatalum underscore the aluminium market's exposure to disruptions in the Persian Gulf. We have updated our aluminium scenarios to align with our latest oil market outlook while incorporating early signs of supply curtailments

ORFonline

[The EU's CBAM and Gulf Countries: An Analysis of Early Evidence](#)

Since the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) became operational in 2005, carbon leakage—the increases in emissions elsewhere due to the offshoring of emissions via imports—has been a concern for policymakers. Historically, the EU has addressed leakage concerns by providing support for energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries via free allocation of EU Allowances (EUAs) and a national indirect cost compensation system.

Alcircle

[Cast aluminium alloy futures fell sharply, and spot prices fluctuated downward](#)

Futures: Overnight, the aluminium alloy ad2604 contract fluctuated downward after opening, hitting a low of RMB 22,180 per tonne and finally closing at RMB 23,000 per tonne, down sharply 2.52 per cent from the previous trading day's closing price. The futures showed a weak consolidation pattern, with prices fluctuating repeatedly in the low range and no clear rebound momentum emerging. Intraday, prices traded below the average price line, while the RSI indicator stayed in neutral territory, with the tug-of-war between longs and shorts tilting bearish.

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[Global aluminium sector records production milestones, extrusion growth and rising supply risks amid geopolitical tensions](#)

The global downstream aluminium is shaped by infusing a blend of operational milestones, financial resilience, strategic partnerships and the ever-changing market dynamics. The global market is witnessing everything from production successes and investor activity to innovations driven by sustainability and shifts in geopolitical supply. This sector is a reflection of both stability and the pressures lurking beneath the surface. All these factors together indicate a market that's not just looking for growth opportunities but also learning to adapt to various structural and regional challenges.

Alcircle

[Alcoa reports higher orders following Middle East aluminium disruptions](#)

Alcoa has reported an increase in orders as supply disruptions in the middle east continue to alter global aluminium trade flows, tightening availability across key markets. The shift follows the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which has redirected significant volumes of metal. Alcoa, which typically ships around 4 million tonnes of aluminium to the Middle East each year to supply smelters, is now placing those volumes in alternative markets. According to Beerman, material that would normally move into the region is being absorbed elsewhere.

Alcircle

[MYSTEEL: Middle East supply disruptions seen supporting China's aluminium prices](#)

On March 18, the regional conflict had entered its third week, with its impact extending beyond market sentiment to materially disrupt primary aluminium smelting in several Middle Eastern countries, the report noted. For instance, on March 12, Qatalum, the 50/50 joint venture between Norsk Hydro and Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing, announced it would maintain output at around 60 per cent of capacity due to reduced gas supply, following an earlier move to implement controlled production cuts. On March 15, Aluminium Bahrain reported a 19 per cent reduction in output amid disruptions to raw material supply and transportation.

Alcircle

[From peak to pullback: LME aluminium cash offer retreats from \\$3,400/t to \\$3,200/t as tensions ease and prices retreat](#)

As we are aware that the current geopolitical tension has created a temporary halt to the passage of goods through the Strait of Hormuz, the London Metal Exchange (LME) aluminium price soared to an all-time high. However, now the market is slowly but steadily witnessing a return to the range it was previously in. The LME cash bid moved down by USD 201.5 per tonne, shifting from USD 3,399.5 per tonne to USD 3,198 per tonne. The cash offer also changed by USD 200 per tonne, from USD 3,400 per tonne to USD 3,200 per tonne, where both the bid and offer reflected a 6 per cent change from the previous day's close.

Alcircle

[China's aluminium processing sector sees modest growth amid peak season demand](#)

This week, the weekly operating rate of leading downstream aluminium processing enterprises in China edged up 1 percentage point w-o-w to 62.9 per cent, with signs of the peak season slightly emerging and demand gradually being released. Specifically, the operating rates of leading enterprises in aluminium plate/sheet and strip and aluminium wire and cable were flat w-o-w this week. Auto orders recovered y-o-y less than expected, and exports to the Middle East were suspended, constraining any further rise in the operating rate.

Alcircle

[Alcoa plunges 11% as Iran conflict jolts global aluminium market and LME prices tumble](#)

Alcoa, a global industry leader in bauxite mining, alumina refining and aluminium manufacturing, witnessed an 11 per cent fall in its early trading on Thursday. However, on the London Metal Exchange (LME), the aluminium futures dropped the largest since 2018. The decline is mainly owed to the growing tension regarding the global economic fallout from the ongoing conflict in Iran, leading to widespread losses in the industrial metals markets.

Alcircle

[Japanese aluminium buyers agree to \\$350/t Q2 premium following Rio Tinto's revised offer amidst the Middle East tension](#)

For deliveries scheduled during the April-June quarter, Japanese aluminium buyers agreed to the payment of a USD 350 per tonne premium, which buyers will pay in addition to the current base price on the London Metal Exchange. At the end of February, global aluminium producers had suggested a [premium of USD 220 to 250 per tonne](#) for the buyers in Japan for April-June quarter (Q2 2026). That

was already 13 to 28 per cent higher than the premium of USD 195 per tonne agreed for the previous quarter

Reuters

[Iran war rattles the global aluminium supply chain | Reuters](#)

LONDON, March 19 (Reuters) - The U.S.-Israeli [war on Iran](#) is now in its third week and its impact on Gulf [aluminium](#) production and exports is accelerating disruption across an already fragmented physical supply chain. Two Gulf smelters are curtailing capacity, and the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz threatens more output cuts.