

April 2016

Alufoil Statistics 2015:

European Aluminium Foil Production Ends 2015 with Positive Mood

Production and deliveries of aluminium foil from European rollers has ended 2015 ahead of results for 2014, but only by a very small margin. The total of 860,152 tonnes was just 0.5% higher than the previous year. However, Q4 provided a very positive quarterly growth for the year with a 1.4% rise compared with the final three months of 2014, according to figure recently released by EAFA, the European Aluminium Foil Association.

One bright spot was the continued increase in deliveries of thicker gauges, used typically for semi-rigid containers and technical applications. These ended the year 4.5% ahead, thanks mainly to increasing demand from the building, construction and automotive sectors – all of which saw growth in 2015. Thinner gauges, used mainly for flexible packaging and household foils, continued to be a very flat market, closing 1.5% down compared with the previous 12 months.

Overall shipments within the EAFA region increased by 1.1%, indicating a slow but patchy recovery in these markets. Exports continued the downward trend seen throughout 2015, with the total ending 4.8% lower than the year before, which was a period of growth for overseas sales. Strong competition from suppliers outside the European zone continues to impact on this performance.

Commenting on the results Guido Aufdemkamp, EAFA's executive director said, "Markets remain fragile and making predictions about future growth is still very difficult. But we see plenty of underlying signs that our core end user sectors are improving. If these trends continue the outlook for 2016 remains positive. But we will monitor the situation carefully as uncertainty still exists."

"In particular we believe aluminium foil, with its absolute barrier properties, will continue to play an essential role in flexible packaging, by delivering resource efficiency and avoiding food waste, as well as preventing packaging materials becoming waste," he added.

* EAFA region covers EU 28, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey

High resolution pictures can be downloaded at www.alufoil.org.



Further information:

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The European Aluminium Foil Association (EAFA) is the international body representing companies engaged in the rolling and rewinding of alufoil and in the manufacture of aluminium closures, alufoil semi-rigid containers and of all kind of flexible packaging. Its more than 100 members include companies in Western, Central and Eastern Europe.

Aluminium foil characteristics are strength, formability and barrier properties which have made it an essential part of many flexible packaging and container applications. Other uses of aluminium foil include automotive and heat exchange components, insulation material and many industrial applications.