

Demand of aluminum beverage can in 2016

The Aluminum Can Recycling Association (Chairman, Mr. Masahiro Endoh) revealed the estimated demand of aluminum beverage can in calendar year 2015 and 2016 on February 16.

According to the announcement, the demand in 2015 increased 10 per cent from a year earlier to 22.2 billion can, which went up by 0.5 billion can from the last years' prediction. The increase was brought by the conversion from steel coffee can, and also the brisk consumption of lower alcoholic beverages and nonalcoholic beverages during hot summer

In 2015, it is the outstanding first year that the shipment of Japanese-made can exceeded 20 billion can.

The association presumes that the total demand in 2016 will rise 2 per cent from the previous year to 22.54 billion can. However beer breweries have gloomy prospects the aging society and the diminishing drinkers, as same situation as the previous some years.

Consequently, the association estimates the major demand, beer can, will decline 1 per cent from the previous year, but instead, the demand of alcoholic except beer and nonalcoholic can will increase 4 per cent year on year.

The yearly demand of aluminum beverage can in Japan has favorably swelled since 2010 as follows. (unit: billion can)

2009	18.24	2010	18.56	2011	18.80
2012	19.13	2013	19.45	2014	20.14

Notes for the table on page one

- A. beer, other alcoholic, nonalcoholic, total except beer,
total domestic supply, bottle type(inside figure)
- B. empty imported
- C. canned imported
- D. canned exported
- E. total domestic demand

(unit: 0.1 billion can, bracketed is per cent compared with the previous year.)

Diecast decreases and cast increases in 2015

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry recently revealed the productions of aluminum diecast and aluminum cast in calendar year 2015. According to the report, the productions are

aluminum diecast	951,715 ton
aluminum cast	418,530 ton

The diecast shrank 2.4 per cent from the previous year, and contrarily, the cast increased 0.3 per cent from a year earlier. Major users of diecast, automobile producers, decreased their production, and the demand for them decreased 2.5 percent from a year ago to 847,977ton. Regarding cast, the demand for rail road increased 11.2 per cent year on year, which pushed up the production of aluminum cast.

Negative interest rates now for real

On January 29, the Policy Board of the Bank of Japan was held and the board revealed a new money easing program, negative interest rates policy.

Interbank lending rates plunged as the newest element of the Bank of Japan's monetary easing took effect, but whether it succeeds in circulating more money through the real economy amid financial market remains to be seen.

The BOJ imposed a negative 0.1 per cent interest rate on a portion of financial institutions' reserves at the central bank, the overnight lending rate on interbank loans dropped to zero, the lowest in a decade.

Interest rates further up the yield curve also fell, with the benchmark 10-year government bond yield slipping 4.5 basis points to 0.04 per cent. The main thrust of the policy is to get banks to lend and invest more. However today, everyone feels apprehension on this uncanny scheme.

The chart on page three shows the change of main indicators between three weeks, from left January 29, February 19 and change rate. From top Tokyo Nikkei stock Ave., New York Dow Ave., Shanghai stock Ave., Korea stock Ave., Japan 10-year government bond yield, US 10-year government bond yield, yen/US\$, yen/euro, market price of primary aluminum (yen) and market price of Dubai crude oil (US\$).

Safety Driving Contest throughout 100 days

The Nishio Safety Driving Conference opened the contest "No accident and no violation throughout 100 days" during the last 100 days last year, and 1,650 teams, formed by 5 members, participated and 483 teams, 29 per cent, gained the ends.

From Asuka Industries Inc. 9 teams attended the contest and successfully all teams obtained goal. On February 29 at the Nishio Police Station, Asuka teams were very happily recognized as the photo on page two.

Toba Fire Festival lively on February 24

Toba Fire Festival is one of the winter traditional events in Nishio area, and we have been observing it every February, nearby New Years' day of lunar calendar, at Toba Shinmeisha Shrine since 1,200 years ago.

The festival was declared an important intangible cultural asset by the Government. It has been handing down that the process of big bonfire shows us the climate and the rich or poor harvest of the year.

Very happily, the bonfire showed us that the climate would be moderate and the harvest would be rich this year. The photo on page three is high spirited Toba Fire Festival.

Shell gathering season comes at Mikawa Bay

March is the best season to gather sea shells at Mikawa Bay, and specially the seashore at Kira in Nishio City is noted for excellent short-neck clam.

The photo on page four is from the cover of Nishio City Bulletin issued on February 15 for all citizens. Nowadays, the time of tide and the weather cause traffic jam. Please take precautions.