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## MARKET INTELLIGENCE

## ALUMINUM BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL BATS

**JANUARY TO JUNE 1991** 

Pub. No.: 91125-IA

February 1992







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## ALUMINUM BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL BATS

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#### REFERENCE SOURCES

Industry, Science and Technology Canada Statistics Canada, Tel.: (613) 951-9647 Revenue Canada, Tel.: (613) 954-6892 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census,

Tel.: (301) 763-7754

#### **TARIFFS**

Enquiries concerning **Canadian** tariffs should be directed to the nearest Customs and Excise office or to:

Tariff Programs Revenue Canada Customs and Excise Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L5

Tel.: (613) 954-6892 Fax.: (613) 954-2509 Enquiries concerning tariffs and other government trade regulations in foreign countries should be directed to:

Info Export External Affairs Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

Tel.: (613) 993-6435 OR 1-800-267-8376

Fax.: (613) 996-9709

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

#### **Commodity Classification**

Canadian Trade statistics are classified and published according to the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity and Description Coding System (H.S.), as defined by the Canadian Customs Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature.

#### Valuation

Dollar values shown in this report are based on selling price F.O.B. plant, in Canadian dollars. This selling price represents the value paid by the importer, excluding all freight, packing and insurance costs when specified. All trade discounts, when applicable, are also deducted from the selling price.

#### Rounding

Figures may not add due to rounding.

#### Canada - U.S. Exchange Rate

The Bank of Canada exchange rates were used to convert U.S. imports reported in \$US to \$Cdn.

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#### I. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

This Import Analysis is one of a continuing series of market intelligence reports designed to increase business awareness of the potential existing for production in Canada and to assist businesses and other organizations in their market research of specific products. The detailed information provided in these reports supports studies by organizations seeking to expand existing production lines, change individual product characteristics or engage in new manufacturing investment in Canada. The coverage of a market intelligence report is developed in close consultation with the client, and is tailored to meet their specific requirements. It is important to emphasize that this report does not attempt any assessment as to the feasibility of competing in a particular market.

Baseball and softball bats made of aluminum and wood are included in Harmonized System Commodity Code (H.S.) 9506.99.90.11 "Bats for Baseball or Softball, Finished". Only aluminum bats were analyzed in this report.

This analysis of aluminum baseball and softball bats is based on a detailed examination of Revenue Canada customs import documents for the period January to June 1991. The following H.S. import commodity code was analyzed:

Description	H.S. Commodity CodeAnalyzed
Bats for baseball or softball	
Finished	9506.99.90.11

Total imports of all types of bats for baseball and softball during the period analyzed (January to June 1991) amounted to \$3.3 million (377,000 units). Only \$2.2 million of this total is reported on due to the unavailability of Revenue Canada Customs Documents. Imports of aluminum baseball and softball bats during this period were valued at \$1.8 million. Shipments of wooden baseball and softball bats during the same period were valued at approximately \$400 thousand.

#### II. IMPORT TRENDS

Total imports for the year 1991 of baseball bats were valued at \$4.9 million.

#### IMPORTS OF BATS, BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

1988	3	1989	9	1996	<u>.</u>	199	1	Growth Rate  1988-1991
(No. 000)	(\$000)	(No. 000)	(\$000)	(No. 000)	(\$000)	(No. 000)	(\$000)	(%)
270	2 717	228	2 005	299	2 627	516	4 896	+21.7

The remainder of this report deals only with January to June 1991 imports of bats made of aluminum.

#### III. ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS

During the months of January to June 1991 imports of aluminum baseball and softball bats, as analyzed in this report, totalled 110 thousand units for a value of \$1.8 million.

The imports consisted of 54 thousand units valued at \$916 thousand identified as baseball bats and 53 thousand units valued at \$783 thousand identified as softball bats.

The most prominent size of both aluminum baseball and softball bats were 34 inches (86.4 cm) in length. These accounted for 46 thousand units valued at \$795 thousand; 35 inch (88.9 cm) bats accounted for 8 thousand units valued at \$313 thousand. Six thousand units valued at \$81 thousand could not be identified as to type because of insufficient information on the import documents. Refer to Appendix A for further details on imports by type, size and price range.

All shipments originated from the United States. The average unit price for aluminum baseball bats was \$17.06. Aluminum softball bats average unit price was \$14.77.

According to departmental sources, aluminum baseball and softball bats are not manufactured in Canada.

#### SUMMARY OF ALUMINUM BATS

	Basel	oall Bats	Softball	Bats	Ty <sub>l</sub> Not Ind		AII	Types
Size (inches)	<u>No.</u> (000)	<u>Value</u> (\$000)	<u>No.</u> (000)	<u>Value</u> (\$000)	<u>No.</u> (000)	<u>Value</u> (\$000)	<u>No.</u> (000)	<u>Value</u> (\$000)
Under 30	15.6	157.6	8.1	78.1	-	-	23.7	235.7
30	6.6	67.4	4.5	43.9	. <del>-</del>	-	11.1	111.3
31	1.4	25.6	1.6	19.9	-	•	3.0	45.5
32	1.7	28.5	2.0	26.6	-	-	3.7	55.1
33	5.0	65.3	3.7	50.6	· -	-	8.7	115.9
34	14.5	245.7	31.7	549.0	-	-	46.2	794.7
35	7.6	312.6	-	-	-	-	7.6	312.6
Not Known	<u>1.3</u>	13.0	<u>1.6</u>	<u>15.2</u>	<u>3.3</u>	<u>52.9</u>	6.2	<u>81.1</u>
TOTAL All Sizes	53.7	915.7	53.2	783.3	3.3	52.9	110.2	1 751.9

#### IV. MARKET OVERVIEW

Currently there are no manufacturers of aluminum or composite bats in Canada and there is only one manufacturer of wooden bats. Since there are also no manufacturers of the aluminum billets required for bat manufacturing, virtually all aluminum bats are imported in finished form, mostly from the U.S.A. In 1991, total imports of bats reached 516,000 units for a value of \$4.9 million. It is estimated that aluminum bats represented over 85 per cent of the \$4.9 million. The major sources of imported aluminum bats are Easton and Hillerich and Bradsby, both of which supply bats to their Canadian subsidiaries. Another significant supplier is American Modern Metals which will brand bats for various companies. Other aluminum bat suppliers are Worth, Mizuno and Marshall Clark (Powerflyte).

In 1991 it is estimated that there are almost 4.7 million registered ball players in Canada of which about 2.5 are registered in softball and 2.2 million in baseball. The baseball/softball equipment market continues to be healthy in Canada. There are strong indications that the market for aluminum bats should increase in coming years as an aging but active population spurs the continued growth of ball leagues and their derivatives such as slo-pitch, 3 and 5 pitch leagues, master leagues, etc. Aluminum bats are more durable and are considered to provide more contact power than a wooden bat. As such they are generally the bat of preference by both recreational and competitive players and are allowed in all leagues up to the major league baseball level. Thus it is the bat with the most potential to exploit this growth in the softball/baseball sector.

In terms of technology, the bat market is experiencing a number of technological advances. Although composite bats have been introduced, aluminum continues to be the most popular and innovations in aluminum alloys, end weighting, thin wall tubing, etc., continue to give impetus to this market.

The recent decision in February 1992 to remove tariffs from all countries on aluminum bats as part of the government's response to cross border shopping and the dramatic growth in the use of aluminum hockey stick shafts would indicate that the potential may now exist for a viable Canadian based manufacturing and/or processing operation to service this growing segment of the sporting goods market.

Mr. B. Van Zant Recreational and Household Products Directorate

## BY TYPE, SIZE AND PRICE RANGE JANUARY TO JUNE 1991

Туре	Si:		Price Range	Quantity	<u>Value</u>	Average Unit Price
	(in.)	(cm)	(\$)	(No.)	(\$)	(\$)
Baseball Bats	26	66.0	7.00 to 7.99	4 224	31 683	7.50
			8.00 to 8.99	1 482	12 251	8.27
		•	9.00 to 18.99	<u>1 050</u>	<u>15 069</u>	<u>14.35</u>
				6 756	59 003	8.73
	27	68.6	8.50 to 11.00	1 796	15 742	8.76
			12.50 to 32.00	280	<u>4 032</u>	<u>14.40</u>
				2 076	19 774	9.53
	28	71.1	7.00 to 13.50	776	9 193	11.85
			14.00 to 45.00	<u>260</u>	<u>8 238</u>	<u>31.68</u>
				1 036	17 431	16.83
	29	73.7	8.50 to 10.99	5 268	53 536	10.16
			11.00 to 42.00	<u>496</u>	<u>7 810</u>	<u>15.75</u>
				5 764	61 346	10.64
·	30	76.2	7.50 to 9.99	5 500	49 626	9.02
		,	10.00 to 15.00	379	4 665	12.31
			16.00 to 50.00	<u>684</u>	<u>13 120</u>	<u> 19.18</u>
				6 563	67 412	10.27
	31	78.7	8.50 to 10.49	204	1 911	9.37
			10.50 to 12.99	168	1 880	11.19
			13.00 to 15.49	213	3 039	14.27
			15.50 to 16.99	138	2 219	16.08
			17.00 to 50.00	<u>698</u>	<u>16 595</u>	<u>23.78</u>
				1 421	25 644	18.05
	32	81.3	7.50 to 10.49	651	5 857	9.00
			10.50 to 13.50	171	1 998	11.69
			14.00 to 17.00	212	3 347	15.79
•			18.00 to 19.00	377	7 129	18.91
		•	29.00 to 60.00	<u> 272</u>	<u>10 194</u>	<u>37.48</u>
				1 683	28 526	16.95
	33	83.8	9.00 to 11.00	3 563	37 357	10.48
			12.00 to 14.50	587	<b>7</b> 793	13.28
			15.50 to 16.49	264	4 234	16.04
	•		16.50 to 19.00	302	5 6 <b>7</b> 7	18.80
•			32.00 to 60.00	<u>268</u>	<u>10 276</u>	<u>38.34</u>
				4 984	65 <b>3</b> 36	13.11

### BY TYPE, SIZE AND PRICE RANGE JANUARY TO JUNE 1991 (Cont'd)

<u>Type</u>	<u>Si</u> (in.)	<u>ze</u> (cm)	Price Range (\$)	Quantity (No.)	<u>Value</u> (\$)	Average <u>Unit Price</u> (\$)
Baseball Bats (contd)	34	86.4	6.00 to 11.00 12.00 to 15.99 16.00 to 17.00 17.50 to 18.99 19.00 to 22.50 27.00 to 39.99 40.00 to 41.99 42.00 to 60.00	3 298 2 566 6 115 380 473 1 284 80 	31 605 38 606 100 246 7 136 9 545 41 341 3 321 13 865 245 664	9.58 15.05 16.39 18.78 20.18 32.20 41.51 46.68 16.95
	35 Not k	88.9 ( <b>n</b> own	15.50 to 46.00 4.00 to 72.00	7 647 1 259	312 588 13 021	40.88 10.34
TOTAL - Baseball Bat	ts			53 682	915 745	17.06
Softball Bats	26	66.0	7.50 to 8.99 9.00 to 14.00	1 411 <u>253</u> 1 664	11 994 <u>2 560</u> 14 554	8.50 <u>10.12</u> 8.75
	27	68.6	8.50 to 10.50	3 460	31 920	9.23
	28	71.1	8.50 to 10.99 11.00 to 12.00	967 <u>1 182</u> 2 149	9 714 <u>13 711</u> 23 425	10.05 <u>11.60</u> 10.90
	29	73.7	7.00 to 9.50 10.00 to 15.50	135 <u>647</u> 782	1 234 <u>6 978</u> 8 212	9.14 <u>10.79</u> 10.50
	30	76.2	8.50 to 8.99 9.00 to 10.50 11.00 to 17.00	1 620 2 468 <u>440</u> 4 528	14 485 23 456 <u>5 987</u> 43 929	8.94 9.50 <u>13.61</u> 9.70
	31	78.7	9.00 to 10.49 10.50 to 36.00	830 <u>730</u> 1 560	8 206 <u>11 650</u> 19 855	9.89 <u>15.96</u> 12.73

### BY TYPE, SIZE AND PRICE RANGE JANUARY TO JUNE 1991 (Cont'd)

<u>Type</u>	<u>Si</u> (in.)	<u>ze</u> (cm)	Price Range (\$)	Quantity (No.)	<u>Value</u> (\$)	Average <u>Unit Price</u> (\$)
Softball Bats (cont'd)	32	81.3	8.50 to 10.50 11.00 to 14.50 15.00 to 16.99 17.00 to 45.00	935 493 501 <u>105</u> 2 034	8 902 5 919 8 322 <u>3 455</u> 26 597	9.52 12.01 16.61 <u>32.90</u> 13.08
	33	83.8	9.00 to 10.50 12.00 to 13.99 14.00 to 17.00 18.00 to 57.00	1 560 541 1 386 175 3 662	14 740 6 836 22 282 <u>6 747</u> 50 605	9.45 12.64 16.08 <u>38.55</u> 13.82
	34 Not I	86.4 Known	3.50 to 7.50 8.50 to 10.49 10.50 to 12.49 12.50 to 12.99 13.00 to 14.99 15.00 to 15.99 16.00 to 16.99 17.00 to 18.00 19.00 to 22.50 25.00 to 29.99 32.00 to 39.99 40.00 to 46.00 48.00 to 80.00	1 277 1 253 5 048 11 365 2 137 1 699 2 300 469 1 794 476 1 022 2 073	7 537 12 134 58 034 143 400 31 442 26 500 38 571 8 231 38 011 12 709 35 284 92 654 44 480 548 985	5.90 9.68 11.50 12.62 14.71 15.60 16.77 17.55 21.19 26.70 34.52 44.70 59.31 17.34
TOTAL - Softball Bat	s			53 047	783 242	14.77
Not Known	Not I	Known	8.00 to 99.00	3 252	52 926	16.27
TOTAL - Not Known				3 252	52 926	16.27 "
TOTAL - ALL BATS				109 981	1 751 913	15.93

## CANADIAN IMPORTERS JANUARY TO JUNE 1991

(H.S. 9506.99.90.11)

Importers of aluminum baseball and softball bats during the period January to June 1991, as indicated in this report, are listed below in alphabetical order. Where the importer is not the same as the consignee, (i.e. the recipient of the goods shipped), the name of the consignee rather than that of the importer is listed. The importer or consignee is not necessarily the end-user of the product.

#### IMPORT MARKET CONCENTRATION

Principal <u>Consignees/Importers</u> (By Value)	Cumulative <u>Value</u> (\$000)	Cumulative % of Total Value
3	1 329	76
6	1 496	85
10	1 639	94
All Importers (20)	1 752	100

There were 20 known consignees/importers of aluminum baseball and softball bats during the period January to June 1991. The top three consignees/importers accounted for \$1.3 million or 76 per cent of the total dollar value of imports.

NOTE: This list includes all importers except individuals.

#### Name

Canadian Tire Corp. Ltd. Daignault Rolland Co. Ltd. Easton Sport Canada Inc. Frikon Industries Ltd. G.D. Kirsch Sales Agency Ltd. H. Douglas Brown Enterprises Ltd. Hillerich & Bradsby of Canada Ltd. Irwin Toy Ltd. Jelinek Sports Ltd. National Sports Dist. Ltd. Paris Glove of Canada Ltd. Prostock Athletic Supply Ltd. Rawlings Canada Ltd. R & I Sports Ltd. Spalding of Canada Ltd. Sport Hattem Inc. Tournament Sports Ltd. Toys-R-US (Canada) Ltd. White Rock Renegades Ltd. Wilson Sports Ltd.

#### <u>Address</u>

Willowdale, Ont. Montréal, Qué. Ville St. Laurent, Qué. Mississauga, Ont. Edmonton, Alta. St. George, Ont. Wallaceburg, Ont. Toronto, Ont. Oakville, Ont. Pickering, Ont. Montréal, Qué. Burnaby, B.C. Mississauga, Ont. Thunder Bay, Ont. Concord, Ont. St. Herome, Qué. Kitchener, Ont. Concord, Ont. Vancouver, B.C. Belleville, Ont.

# FOREIGN EXPORTERS TO CANADA JANUARY TO JUNE 1991 (H.S. 9506.99.90.11)

Major exporters to Canada of aluminum baseball and softball bats during the period January to June 1991, shown in this report, are listed in descending order of dollar value. These exporters accounted for 95 per cent of the total analyzed value of \$1.8 million.

Name	<u>Address</u>		Value of Imports (\$000)
Easton Sports Inc.	Salt Lake City, UT Burlingame, CA	)	
Hillerich & Bradsby Co. Inc.	Jeffersonville, IND	ý	1 467*
American Modern Metals	Kearny, NJ	)	
Marshall Clark Mfg. Corp.	Kearny, NJ		91
Worth Sports Co.	Tullahoma, TN	)	
Mizuno Sports Inc.	San Francisco, CA	)	106*
Pacer Sports Inc.	Phoenixville, PA	)	
			,

TOTAL 1 664

<sup>\*</sup> Aggregated to preserve confidentiality of Canadian importers

#### CANADIAN AND FOREIGN TARIFFS

(H.S. 9506.99.90.11)

Aluminum baseball and softball bats included in this report are dutiable under the following Canadian tariff item:

		Tariff Treatment - 1991				
Tariff ltem	Description of Goods	Most Favoured Nation Tariff	General Preferential <u>Tariff</u>	United States <u>Tariff</u>		
9506.99.90	Bats for baseball or softball, finished	11.8%	7.5%	8.2%*		
	On and after January 1, 1992			7%*		
	Bats for baseball or softball, finished, aluminum					
	On and after February 13, 1992	Free	Free	Free		

Note: As of February 13, 1992, in response to cross border shopping, a decision was made to remove tariffs from all countries on  $\underline{\text{aluminum}}$  bats.

Enquiries concerning tariffs should be directed to the nearest Revenue Canada Customs and Excise office as listed on page two of this report.

<sup>\*</sup> Under the FTA, the U.S. and Canadian tariffs have been reduced to 0% effective July 1991 for  $\underline{\text{aluminum}}$  bats only.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Effective May 1, 1991, the Market Intelligence Division of the Services to Business Branch of Industry, Science and Technology Canada became the Office of Primary Interest (OPI) for dISTCovery. This service, developed by the New Brunswick Regional Office, is being implemented on a national basis and is available in most regional offices.

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For more information on this service, contact the Market Intelligence Division at (613) 954-4970 or the nearest ISTC Regional Office listed at the end of this publication.



OR

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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