

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
October 25, 2006

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

October 24, 2006

BHP BILLITON LIMITED

(ABN 49 004 028 077)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

180 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

3000 AUSTRALIA

(Address of principal executive offices)

BHP BILLITON PLC

(REG. NO. 3196209)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

ENGLAND AND WALES

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

NEATHOUSE PLACE, VICTORIA, LONDON,

UNITED KINGDOM

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F: Form 20-F Form 40-F

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Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1): []

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): []

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934: [] Yes [x] No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): n/a

24 October 2006
Number 27/06

BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

BHP Billiton today released its production report for the quarter ended 30 September 2006. Throughout this report, unless otherwise stated, production volumes refer to BHP Billiton share.

- Record quarterly production of aluminium from continuing operations.
- Iron ore production in line with the record production in the June 2006 quarter (excluding the Goldsworthy (Australia) suspension).
- Record quarterly production of manganese ore in response to stronger customer demand.
- Record quarterly production was achieved at Mozal (Mozambique), GEMCO (Australia), Zamzama (Pakistan), Paranam (Suriname) and Bayside (South Africa).
- Copper production negatively impacted by an industrial stoppage at Escondida (Chile).

	SEPT	SEPT Q06	SEPT Q06
	2006	vs	vs
PETROLEUM	QTR	SEPT Q05	JUNE Q06
Crude Oil & Condensate and Natural Gas Liquid ('000 bbl)	15,216	-2%	4%
Natural Gas (bcf)	91.83	-6%	-7%
Total Petroleum Products (million boe)	30.52	-4%	-2%

Total Petroleum Production

- Production was in line with both comparative periods.

Crude Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas Liquid

- Production from continuing operations was higher than the previous quarter. Successful infill drilling at North West Shelf (Australia) and Bass Strait (Australia) and reduced downtime at North West Shelf increased production during the quarter. This was partly offset by planned maintenance at Liverpool Bay (UK) and cessation of production from Typhoon / Boris (USA) in September 2005.

Natural Gas

- Scheduled and unscheduled maintenance in the UK and lower customer demand in Australia contributed to reduced production for the period. Record quarterly production was achieved at Zamzama in response to strong demand. Typhoon / Boris and the Moranbah Coal Bed Methane (Australia) operations have been sold and consequently production will be impacted in future periods.

	SEPT	SEPT Q06	SEPT Q06
	2006	vs	vs
ALUMINIUM	QTR	SEPT Q05	JUNE Q06
Alumina ('000 tonnes)	1,078	5%	1%
Aluminium ('000 tonnes)	337	1%	-2%

Alumina -

Production for the quarter ended September 2006 was higher than the September 2005 quarter. Ramp up of the Worsley Development Capital Project (Australia) and record production at Paranam contributed to the increased result. Stockpiled hydrate from the calciner outages at Alumar (Brazil) and Worsley decreased the current quarter's production.

Aluminium

- Quarterly production from continuing operations (excluding Valesul (Brazil)) was an all time record. Mozal, Bayside and Hillside (South Africa) continued to deliver strong production. Mozal and Bayside achieved quarterly production records and Hillside production equalled the previous record results in the December 2005 and June 2006 quarters.

	SEPT	SEPT Q06	SEPT Q06
	2006	vs	vs
BASE METALS	QTR	SEPT Q05	JUNE Q06
Copper ('000 tonnes)	249.9	-19%	-20%
Silver ('000 ounces)	7,349	-35%	-23%
Lead (tonnes)	48,977	-25%	-12%
Zinc (tonnes)	24,011	-18%	-13%

Uranium Oxide Concentrate (Uranium) (tonnes)	793	-27%	-8%
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Copper

- Production during the quarter was positively impacted by the successful commencement of the Sulphide Leach Project at Escondida (Chile) and strong production at Cerro Colorado (Chile). Production for the quarter was impacted by scheduled maintenance at Olympic Dam (Australia), strike action at Escondida and the sale of Tintaya (Peru) in June 2006.

Silver / Lead

- Production was in line with expectations, as we continue to progress the rehabilitation of ground support at Cannington (Australia).

Zinc

- In addition to the temporary partial closure at Cannington, production for the quarter was impacted by lower head grades at Cannington and Antamina (Peru).

Uranium

- Planned maintenance at the Olympic Dam smelter also impacted uranium production for the quarter.

	SEPT	SEPT Q06	SEPT Q06
	2006	vs	vs
CARBON STEEL MATERIALS	QTR	SEPT Q05	JUNE Q06
Iron ore ('000 tonnes)	25,003	5%	-4%
Metallurgical Coal ('000 tonnes)	9,247	3%	0%
Manganese Ore ('000 tonnes)	1,509	9%	9%
Manganese Alloy ('000 tonnes)	153	10%	-13%

Iron Ore

- September 2006 quarterly production was in line with the record June 2006 quarter (excluding Goldsworthy). The ramp up of the Rapid Growth Project 2 (Australia), completed in June 2006, contributed to this strong result. Tie-in activity for Rapid Growth Project 3 (Australia), including the Goldsworthy suspension, contributed to lower overall production. Tie-in activity is expected to continue for the remainder of the year.

Metallurgical Coal

- Metallurgical coal production was in line with previous periods reflecting increased product differentiation in the market.

Manganese Ore

- Record quarterly production was achieved at GEMCO in response to stronger customer demand.

Manganese Alloy

- Production for the quarter was impacted by scheduled maintenance.

	SEPT	SEPT Q06	SEPT Q06
	2006	vs	vs
DIAMONDS & SPECIALTY PRODUCTS	QTR	SEPT Q05	JUNE Q06
Diamonds ('000 carats)	487	-43%	-16%
Fertiliser ('000 tonnes)	84.3	-66%	-40%

Diamonds

- The volume of ore processed at Ekati (Canada) was four percent higher than the September 2005 quarter. As Ekati transitions from open pit mining to predominantly underground mining the mix of ore processed will change from time to time. This has led to a reduced number of higher value carats recovered during the quarter.

Fertiliser -

The fertiliser business was sold effective 1 August 2006.

	SEPT	SEPT Q06	SEPT Q06
	2006	vs	vs
ENERGY COAL	QTR	SEPT Q05	JUNE Q06
Energy Coal ('000 tonnes)	21,782	-9%	0%

Energy Coal

- Production for the September 2006 quarter was in line with the June 2006 quarter. Production at Ingwe (South Africa) was two percent higher than the previous quarter despite unfavourable geological conditions and higher strip ratios. The Australian operations had their highest quarterly production since the record quarter in June 2005. Scheduled maintenance and challenging geological conditions at New Mexico Coal (USA) had a negative impact on production.

	SEPT	SEPT Q06	SEPT Q06
	2006	vs	vs
STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS	QTR	SEPT Q05	JUNE Q06
Nickel ('000 tonnes)	44.5	1%	7%

Nickel

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- Production for the September 2006 quarter was higher than the June 2006 quarter. The previous quarter was impacted by tie-in activity related to the expansion at Yabulu (Australia).

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: www.bhpbilliton.com

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BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION SUMMARY		QUARTER ENDED			QUARTER ENDED		% CHANGE	
		SEPT	JUNE	SEPT	SEPT	SEPT	vs	vs
		2005	2006	2006	2006	2005	SEPT Q05	JUNE Q06
PETROLEUM								
Crude oil & condensate	('000 bbl)	12,234	11,551	12,091	12,091	12,234	-1%	5%
Natural gas	(bcf)	97.65	98.59	91.83	91.83	97.65	-6%	-7%
Natural gas liquid	('000 bbl)	3,245	3,063	3,125	3,125	3,245	-4%	2%
Total Petroleum Products	(million boe)	31.75	31.04	30.52	30.52	31.75	-4%	-2%
ALUMINIUM								
Alumina	('000 tonnes)	1,028	1,072	1,078	1,078	1,028	5%	1%
Aluminium	('000 tonnes)	334	344	337	337	334	1%	-2%
BASE METALS								

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Copper	('000 tonnes)	308.9	311.7	249.9		249.9	308.9		-19%	-20%
Lead	(tonnes)	64,873	55,507	48,977		48,977	64,873		-25%	-12%
Zinc	(tonnes)	29,147	27,564	24,011		24,011	29,147		-18%	-13%
Gold	(ounces)	53,666	56,161	41,160		41,160	53,666		-23%	-27%
Silver	('000 ounces)	11,362	9,593	7,349		7,349	11,362		-35%	-23%
Uranium oxide concentrate	(tonnes)	1,088	865	793		793	1,088		-27%	-8%
Molybdenum	(tonnes)	573	538	719		719	573		25%	34%
CARBON STEEL MATERIALS										
Iron ore	('000 tonnes)	23,848	26,115	25,003		25,003	23,848		5%	-4%
Metallurgical coal	('000 tonnes)	8,986	9,224	9,247		9,247	8,986		3%	0%
Manganese ore	('000 tonnes)	1,387	1,389	1,509		1,509	1,387		9%	9%
Manganese alloy	('000 tonnes)	139	175	153		153	139		10%	-13%
DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS										
Diamonds	('000 carats)	852	583	487		487	852		-43%	-16%
Fertiliser	('000 tonnes)	244.9	141.3	84.3		84.3	244.9		-66%	-40%
ENERGY COAL										
Energy coal	('000 tonnes)	24,010	21,787	21,782		21,782	24,010		-9%	0%
STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS										
Nickel	('000 tonnes)	44.1	41.6	44.5		44.5	44.1		1%	7%
Throughout this report figures in italics indicate that this figure has been adjusted since it was previously reported.										

BHP BILLITON ATTRIBUTABLE PRODUCTION											
										QUARTER ENDED	
			BHP Billiton	SEPT	DEC	MARCH	JUNE	SEPT		SEPT	SEPT
			Interest	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006		2006	2005
PETROLEUM											

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Production									
	Crude oil & condensate	('000 bbl)	12,234	11,202	10,886	11,551	12,091	12,091	12,234
	Natural gas	(bcf)	97.65	86.35	77.85	98.59	91.83	91.83	97.65
	NGL (a)	('000 bbl)	3,245	2,672	2,448	3,063	3,125	3,125	3,245
	Total Petroleum Products	(million boe)	31.75	28.26	26.31	31.04	30.52	30.52	31.75
ALUMINIUM									
ALUMINA									
Production ('000 tonnes)									
	Worsley	86%	689	663	717	694	704	704	689
	Suriname	45%	227	219	228	247	253	253	227
	Alumar	36%	112	130	130	131	121	121	112
	Total		1,028	1,012	1,075	1,072	1,078	1,078	1,028
ALUMINIUM									
Production ('000 tonnes)									
	Hillside	100%	172	177	174	177	177	177	172
	Bayside	100%	41	46	46	46	49	49	41
	Alumar	46.3%	45	45	44	44	44	44	45
	Valesul (b)	45.5%	11	10	11	11	-	-	11
	Mozal	47%	65	66	65	66	67	67	65
	Total		334	344	340	344	337	337	334
BASE METALS (c)									
COPPER									
Payable metal in concentrate ('000 tonnes)									
	Escondida	57.5%	168.6	169.0	168.2	165.2	129.7	129.7	168.6
	Antamina	33.8%	27.9	34.3	32.9	29.1	29.0	29.0	27.9
	Tintaya (d)	100%	17.3	18.1	16.2	12.9	-	-	17.3
	Total		213.8	221.4	217.3	207.2	158.7	158.7	213.8
Cathode ('000 tonnes)									
	Escondida	57.5%	19.6	20.0	15.4	11.7	17.5	17.5	19.6
	Cerro Colorado	100%	14.5	21.5	28.1	30.0	30.0	30.0	14.5
	Tintaya (d)	100%	9.7	9.9	9.1	6.1	-	-	9.7
	Pinto Valley	100%	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2
	Olympic Dam	100%	49.1	53.5	47.1	54.6	41.6	41.6	49.1
	Total		95.1	107.0	101.8	104.5	91.2	91.2	95.1

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LEAD										
Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)										
	Cannington	100%	64,873	77,187	68,754	55,507	48,977		48,977	64,873
	Total		64,873	77,187	68,754	55,507	48,977		48,977	64,873
ZINC										
Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)										
	Cannington	100%	14,188	18,780	20,885	14,926	10,426		10,426	14,188
	Antamina	33.8%	14,959	5,148	7,534	12,638	13,585		13,585	14,959
	Total		29,147	23,928	28,419	27,564	24,011		24,011	29,147
	Refer footnotes on page 4.									
BASE METALS (continued)										
GOLD										
Payable metal in concentrate (ounces)										
	Escondida	57.5%	19,194	19,200	17,877	23,567	17,049		17,049	19,194
	Tintaya (d)	100%	8,048	8,200	8,032	4,958	-		-	8,048
	Olympic Dam (refined gold)	100%	26,424	27,300	26,186	27,636	24,111		24,111	26,424
	Total		53,666	54,700	52,095	56,161	41,160		41,160	53,666
SILVER										
Payable metal in concentrate ('000 ounces)										
	Escondida	57.5%	795	945	714	925	724		724	795
	Antamina	33.8%	642	859	865	808	713		713	642
	Tintaya (d)	100%	167	168	138	119	-		-	167
	Cannington	100%	9,579	11,672	9,693	7,503	5,714		5,714	9,579
	Olympic Dam (refined silver)	100%	179	222	245	238	198		198	179
	Total		11,362	13,866	11,655	9,593	7,349		7,349	11,362
URANIUM OXIDE CONCENTRATE										
Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)										
	Olympic Dam	100%	1,088	1,070	913	865	793		793	1,088

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	Total		1,088	1,070	913	865	793		793	1,088
MOLYBDENUM										
Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)										
	Antamina	33.8%	573	772	632	538	719		719	573
	Total		573	772	632	538	719		719	573
CARBON STEEL MATERIALS										
IRON ORE (e)										
Production ('000 tonnes)										
	Mt Newman Joint Venture	85%	6,234	6,166	5,884	6,490	7,394		7,394	6,234
	Goldsworthy Joint Venture	85%	1,393	1,669	1,371	1,808	806		806	1,393
	Area C Joint Venture	85%	4,286	4,969	3,332	5,401	4,821		4,821	4,286
	Yandi Joint Venture	85%	8,409	8,372	8,561	8,854	8,504		8,504	8,409
	Jimblebar (f)	85%	1,645	1,569	1,549	1,607	1,490		1,490	1,645
	Samarco	50%	1,881	1,865	1,802	1,955	1,988		1,988	1,881
	Total		23,848	24,610	22,499	26,115	25,003		25,003	23,848
METALLURGICAL COAL (g)										
Production ('000 tonnes)										
	BMA	50%	6,693	6,441	5,972	6,474	6,657		6,657	6,693
	BHP Mitsui Coal (h)	80%	726	710	763	850	873		873	726
	Illawarra	100%	1,567	1,822	1,725	1,900	1,717		1,717	1,567
	Total		8,986	8,973	8,460	9,224	9,247		9,247	8,986
MANGANESE ORES										
Saleable production ('000 tonnes)										
	South Africa (i)	60%	566	529	532	673	644		644	566
	Australia (i)	60%	821	749	694	716	865		865	821
	Total		1,387	1,278	1,226	1,389	1,509		1,509	1,387
	Refer footnotes on page 4.									
CARBON STEEL MATERIALS (cont'd)										
MANGANESE ALLOYS										
Saleable production ('000 tonnes)										

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	South Africa (i)	60%	79	105	119	131	93		93	79
	Australia (i)	60%	60	60	54	44	60		60	60
	Total		139	165	173	175	153		153	139
DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS										
DIAMONDS										
Production ('000 carats)										
	Ekati™	80%	852	614	512	583	487		487	852
FERTILISER										
Production ('000 tonnes)										
	Southern Cross Fertiliser Operations (j)	100%	244.9	252.6	222.5	141.3	84.3		84.3	244.9
ENERGY COAL										
Production ('000 tonnes)										
	South Africa	100%	14,549	12,940	11,605	12,854	13,151		13,151	14,549
	USA	100%	4,561	4,065	2,829	3,891	3,467		3,467	4,561
	Australia	100%	2,568	2,045	1,897	2,636	2,766		2,766	2,568
	Colombia	33%	2,332	2,237	2,341	2,406	2,398		2,398	2,332
	Total		24,010	21,287	18,672	21,787	21,782		21,782	24,010
STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS										
NICKEL										
Production ('000 tonnes)										
	CMSA	99.8%	12.8	13.0	12.9	12.8	12.7		12.7	12.8
	Yabulu	100%	6.1	5.9	7.0	4.3	7.3		7.3	6.1
	Nickel West	100%	25.2	30.1	20.3	24.5	24.5		24.5	25.2
	Total		44.1	49.0	40.2	41.6	44.5		44.5	44.1
	(a) LPG and Ethane are now reported as Natural Gas Liquids (NGL), consistent with petroleum industry practice. Product-specific conversions will be made and NGL will be reported in barrels of oil equivalent (boe). Comparative period information has been restated.									
	(b) BHP Billiton completed the sale of Valesul on 1 July 2006.									
	(c) Metal production is reported on the basis of payable metal.									
	(d) BHP Billiton sold Tintaya effective from June 1, 2006.									
	(e) Iron ore production is reported on a wet tonnes basis.									
	(f) From October 1, 2005 Jimblebar production is disclosed on an 85% saleable production basis, prior production is disclosed at 100%.									
	(g) Metallurgical coal production is reported on the basis of saleable product. Production figures include some thermal coal.									
	(h) Shown on 100% basis. BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 80%.									

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	(i)	Shown on 100% basis. BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 60%.									
	(j)	BHP Billiton completed the sale of Southern Cross Fertiliser operations on 1 August 2006.									
PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT											
											QUARTER ENDED
				SEPT	DEC	MAR	JUNE	SEPT		SEPT	SEPT
				2005	2005	2006	2006	2006		2006	2005
PETROLEUM											
BHP Billiton attributable production unless otherwise stated.											
CRUDE OIL & CONDENSATE ('000 barrels)											
	Bass Strait			3,720	3,584	3,414	3,964	3,847		3,847	3,720
	Minerva			34	26	18	20	23		23	34
	North West Shelf - condensate			1,370	1,405	1,263	1,091	1,350		1,350	1,370
	North West Shelf - Wanaea/Cossack			1,149	979	751	1,111	1,634		1,634	1,149
	Griffin			436	344	204	296	323		323	436
	Pakistan			49	54	59	60	61		61	49
	Typhoon/Boris (a)			306	23	-	-	-		-	306
	Mad Dog			440	604	549	698	528		528	440
	Other Americas (b)			123	161	68	68	78		78	123
	Angostura			998	1,018	1,080	1,191	1,174		1,174	998
	Liverpool Bay			1,160	1,161	1,278	1,199	931		931	1,160
	Bruce/Keith			254	256	209	182	178		178	254
	Ohanet			483	353	389	426	357		357	483
	ROD			1,712	1,234	1,604	1,245	1,607		1,607	1,712
	Total			12,234	11,202	10,886	11,551	12,091		12,091	12,234
NATURAL GAS (billion cubic feet)											
	Bass Strait			35.93	21.12	18.26	34.43	33.54		33.54	35.93
	Minerva			10.30	8.14	5.78	6.36	7.73		7.73	10.30
	North West Shelf - Domestic			3.97	3.81	3.55	4.63	3.54		3.54	3.97
	North West Shelf - LNG			21.19	23.16	21.15	22.70	21.68		21.68	21.19
	Griffin			0.56	0.41	0.12	0.19	0.49		0.49	0.56
	Moranbah Coal Bed Methane (c)			1.65	1.73	1.75	1.86	1.12		1.12	1.65
	Illawarra Coal Bed Methane			1.12	1.60	1.50	1.35	1.50		1.50	1.12
	Pakistan			7.32	8.40	8.52	9.02	9.14		9.14	7.32
	Typhoon/Boris (a)			0.46	0.01	-	-	-		-	0.46
	Mad Dog			0.08	0.12	0.11	0.25	0.17		0.17	0.08
	Other Americas (b)			1.89	1.00	1.78	2.34	2.55		2.55	1.89
	Bruce/Keith			5.81	6.28	6.52	5.40	4.21		4.21	5.81

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	Liverpool Bay		7.37	10.57	8.81	10.06	6.16		6.16	7.37
	Total		97.65	86.35	77.85	98.59	91.83		91.83	97.65
NGL ('000 barrels) (d)										
	Bass Strait		2,193	1,719	1,574	2,254	2,224		2,224	2,193
	North West Shelf		460	465	410	349	444		444	460
	Bruce/Keith		159	176	94	59	138		138	159
	Ohanet		433	312	370	401	319		319	433
	Total		3,245	2,672	2,448	3,063	3,125		3,125	3,245
TOTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS										
			31.75	28.26	26.31	31.04	30.52		30.52	31.75
(million barrels of oil equivalent) (e)										
(a) Typhoon/ Boris production was suspended in September 2005 following severe hurricane damage sustained to the Typhoon platform. The sale of Typhoon/ Boris, including the Littleburn field, is pending US Minerals Management Service approval.										
(b) BHP Billiton sold its interests in the Green Canyon 18 and 60 fields with effect from January 16, 2006.										
(c) BHP Billiton completed the sale of its interest in Moranbah Coal Bed Methane in September 2006 quarter.										
(d) LPG and Ethane are now reported as Natural Gas Liquids (NGL), consistent with petroleum industry practice. Product-specific conversions will be made and NGL will be reported in barrels of oil equivalent (boe). Comparative period information has been restated.										
(e) Total barrels of oil equivalent (boe) conversions are based on 6000 cf of natural gas equals 1 boe.										
PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT										
										QUARTER ENDED
										SEPT
										DEC
										MAR
										JUNE
										SEPT
										SEPT
										SEPT
										2005
										2005
										2006
										2006
										2006
										2006
										2006
										2005
ALUMINIUM										
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.										
('000 tonnes)										
ALUMINA										
Production										
	Worsley, Australia		689	663	717	694	704		704	689
	Paranam, Suriname		227	219	228	247	253		253	227
	Alumar, Brazil		112	130	130	131	121		121	112
	Total		1,028	1,012	1,075	1,072	1,078		1,078	1,028
Sales										