

Jamaican alumina refinery resumes production

A bauxite refinery in Jamaica that closed last year because of the economic crisis has reopened and will hire 629 workers.

The Ewarton Alumina Refinery is expected to produce an initial 321,000 tons (291,000 metric tons) of alumina for the remainder of the year.

The reopening follows government negotiations with Russia's UC Rusal company, the world's biggest aluminum producer and the refinery's majority shareholder.

The plant reopened after a \$60 million investment by Rusal.

Energy Minister James Robertson said in a statement Thursday that the economy lost more than \$1 billion after three of four refineries closed last year.

Jamaica is one of the world's largest producers of bauxite, the main ore used in aluminum.