

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON AND STEEL SCRAP IN MAY 2023

In May 2023, purchased steel scrap receipts were essentially unchanged, recirculating scrap production increased slightly, and iron and steel scrap consumption was unchanged compared with those in April. Stocks of purchased and home scrap were essentially unchanged from those at the end of April. In May 2023, pig iron production and consumption each increased by 3% from that in April. Direct-reduced iron receipts were unchanged and consumption was essentially unchanged from that in April (table 1, fig. 1).

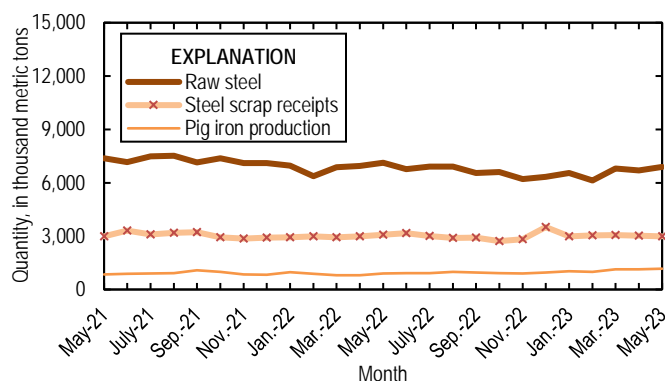


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production of raw steel, receipts of iron and steel scrap, and production of pig iron from May 2021 through May 2023. Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Iron and Steel Institute.

Exports of iron and steel scrap in May 2023 increased by 15% from those in April (fig. 2, table 4). In May 2023, Mexico was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 21% of the total tonnage, followed by Turkey (18%) and Bangladesh (12%) (table 4). Laredo, TX, and San Francisco, CA, were the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of exports, each accounting for 15% of the total, each, followed by New York City, NY, (14%) and Los Angeles, CA, (10%) (table 5).

Imports of iron and steel scrap in May 2023 decreased by 9% compared with those in April (fig. 2, table 7). Canada was the leading country of origin, accounting for 74% of the total tonnage of imports, followed by Mexico (11%) and Germany (7%) (table 7). Detroit, MI, was the leading U.S. Customs

district by tonnage of imports, accounting for 46% of the total, followed by Seattle, WA, (17%) and Laredo, TX, (7%) (table 8).

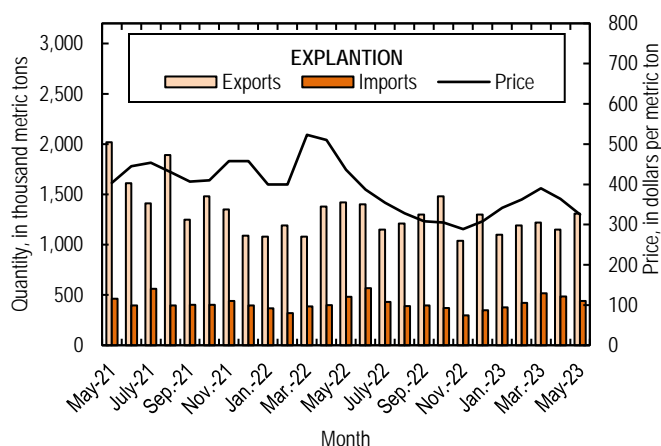


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron and steel scrap and price for No. 1 heavy melting steel scrap from May 2021 through May 2023. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Fastmarkets AMM.

The daily average domestic raw steel production for May, as calculated from the American Iron and Steel Institute's monthly production data, was 223,000 metric tons, unchanged from that in April and a 3% decrease from that in May 2022. Raw steel production capability utilization was 76.3% in May 2023, down from 76.5% in April and down from 81.1% in May 2022 (table 10).

Industry News

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce announced that the temporary suspension of tariffs on Ukrainian steel enacted under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended, will be extended by one year following a May 27 Presidential Proclamation intended to create export opportunities for the Ukrainian steel sector (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2023).

Nucor Corp. planned to close the Nucor Steel Longview, LLC (Longview, TX) steel plate mill in the third quarter of 2023 as part of a larger reorganizing of the plate group, moving production to other mills. The existing plate group includes

discrete plate mills in North Carolina and Alabama, as well as the newly operational plate mill in Brandenburg, Kentucky, which came online in 2023, and is capable of producing discrete, coiled, and heat-treated plate (Nucor Corp., 2023)

References Cited

- Nucor Corp., 2023, Nucor announces plate mill group reorganization: Nucor Corp., press release, May 24. (Accessed September 20, 2023, at <https://nucor.com/news-release/19806>.)
- U.S. Department of Commerce, 2023, Secretary Raimondo announces presidential proclamation extending temporary suspension of 232 tariffs on Ukraine steel: U.S Department of Commerce, press release, May 31. (Accessed August 29, 2023, at <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2023/05/secretary-raimondo-announces-presidential-proclamation-extending>).

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TABLE 1
IRON AND STEEL SCRAP, PIG IRON, AND DIRECT-REDUCED IRON STATISTICS
FOR STEEL PRODUCERS, IN MAY 2023^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

	May	January–May ³
Scrap:		
Receipts:		
From outside sources	2,980	15,100
From other own company plants	184	880
Production:		
Recirculating scrap	325	1,660
Obsolete scrap	10	50
Consumption (by type of furnace):		
Blast furnace	134	599
Basic oxygen process	272	1,470
Electric furnace	3,070	15,300
Other	--	--
Total consumption	3,470	17,400
Shipments	29	164
Stocks, end of period	3,920	3,920
Pig iron (includes hot metal):		
Receipts	144	645
Production	1,170	5,460
Consumption	1,310	6,140
Stocks, end of period	708	708
Direct-reduced iron: ⁴		
Receipts	207	1,030
Consumption	203	1,060
Stocks, end of period	314	314

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes manufacturers of raw steel that also produce steel castings.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Includes direct-reduced iron, hot-briquetted iron, and iron carbide. Domestic production data are included in "Receipts."

TABLE 2
RECEIPTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES, PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND STOCKS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP, BY GRADE, FOR STEEL PRODUCERS, IN MAY 2023^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Item	May				January–May ³		
	Receipts of scrap from outside sources	Production of recirculating scrap	Consumption ⁴	Ending stocks	Receipts of scrap from outside sources	Production of recirculating scrap	Consumption ⁴
Carbon steel:							
Low-phosphorus plate and punchings	14	W	16	W	69	W	80
Cut structural and plate	258	28	296	336	1,310	142	1,470
No. 1 heavy melting steel	264	50	326	185	1,360	241	1,640
No. 2 heavy melting steel	332	27	383	243	1,660	131	1,890
No. 1 and electric furnace bundles	118	--	113	140	565	--	554
No. 2 and all other bundles	62	W	64	41	347	W	363
Electric furnace 1 foot and under (not bundles)	W	--	W	W	W	--	W
Railroad rails	18	W	19	97	90	W	93
Turnings and borings	140	W	140	208	680	W	694
Slag scrap	27	28	56	46	141	137	285
Shredded and fragmentized	890	W	961	1,560	4,590	W	4,850
No. 1 busheling	369	27	401	360	1,850	129	1,970
Steel cans scrap (post consumer)	W	W	10	293	W	W	52
All other carbon steel scrap	165	103	293	221	898	567	1,540
Stainless steel scrap	42	19	62	32	209	94	309
Alloy steel scrap	23	8	31	50	116	41	157
Ingot mold and stool scrap	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Machinery and cupola cast iron	4	--	W	W	W	--	W
Cast iron borings	12	--	12	W	59	W	61
Other iron scrap	67	12	71	31	286	52	287
Other mixed scrap	157	10	203	50	760	55	999
Total	2,980	325	3,470	3,920	15,100	1,660	17,400

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total." -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes manufacturers of raw steel that also produce steel castings.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Includes recirculating scrap.

TABLE 3
RECEIPTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES, PRODUCTION, AND CONSUMPTION OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP,
BY REGION AND STATE, FOR STEEL PRODUCERS, IN MAY 2023^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and State	May			January–May ³		
	Receipts of scrap from outside sources	Production of recirculating scrap	Consumption ⁴	Receipts of scrap from outside sources	Production of recirculating scrap	Consumption ⁴
Mid-Atlantic and New England:						
New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania	189	37	256	1,000	189	1,300
North Central:						
Illinois and Indiana	337	76	446	1,730	379	2,240
Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin	217	W	226	1,100	34	1,170
Michigan	38	W	43	190	23	216
Ohio	410	79	497	2,000	424	2,410
Total	1,000	167	1,210	5,010	860	6,040
South Atlantic:						
Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	260	W	289	1,350	W	1,450
Virginia, West Virginia	108	W	116	498	W	580
Total	368	17	405	1,850	83	2,030
South Central:						
Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee	648	49	746	3,390	241	3,720
Arkansas and Texas	469	36	521	2,350	188	2,640
Total	1,120	85	1,270	5,740	429	6,360
Mountain and Pacific:						
California, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, Washington	300	18	332	1,480	93	1,640
Grand total	2,980	325	3,470	15,100	1,660	17,400

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes manufacturers of raw steel that also produce steel castings.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Includes recirculating scrap.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP BY SELECTED REGION AND COUNTRY
OR LOCALITY, IN MAY 2023^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Country or locality	May		January–May ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Bangladesh	152	65,000	533	219,000
Belgium	1	428	8	9,370
Canada	47	18,700	201	80,200
China	1	2,650	9	16,300
Ecuador	35	15,100	65	27,300
Greece	(4)	10	30	11,700
India	100	70,200	441	280,000
Italy	69	29,100	160	68,600
Korea, Republic of	44	20,200	160	74,000
Malaysia	14	14,000	59	66,300
Mexico	275	60,100	1,040	289,000
Morocco	23	9,510	41	15,700
Netherlands	(4)	496	3	5,810
Pakistan	23	18,000	103	76,000
Peru	107	42,900	285	116,000
Taiwan	97	38,900	469	202,000
Thailand	55	15,100	159	77,700
Turkey	233	93,600	1,500	609,000
Vietnam	10	3,910	553	225,000
Other ⁵	26	6,180	148	54,900
Total	1,310	524,000	5,960	2,520,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes tinplate and terneplate; excludes used rails for rerolling and other uses and ships, boats, and other vessels for scrapping. Export valuation is on a free-alongside-ship basis.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

⁵Includes countries with quantities of less than 500 metric tons for the current year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP BY REGION AND
SELECTED CUSTOMS DISTRICT, IN MAY 2023^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Customs district	May		January–May ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Baltimore, MD	15	8,970	196	102,000
Boston, MA	78	33,600	400	168,000
Buffalo, NY	13	6,640	33	21,400
Charleston, SC	4	3,590	20	18,300
Columbia–Snake, OR	55	25,500	303	131,000
Dallas–Forth Worth, TX	--	--	(4)	4
Detroit, MI	13	5,860	80	33,700
Duluth, MN	1	415	2	1,600
El Paso, TX	(4)	53	85	923
Honolulu, HI, and Anchorage, AK	25	9,990	56	22,600
Houston–Galveston, TX	20	15,600	100	73,100
Laredo, TX	199	30,600	530	132,000
Los Angeles, CA	129	61,400	711	330,000
Miami, FL	21	9,810	103	49,500
Mobile, AL	1	583	5	4,940
New Orleans, LA	1	993	4	3,900
New York City, NY	177	90,800	869	422,000
Norfolk, VA	13	13,400	152	101,000
Ogdensburg, NY	1	248	5	1,280
Pembina, ND	67	2,950	141	17,000
Philadelphia, PA	57	21,600	397	155,000
Portland, ME	15	5,890	60	23,700
Providence, RI	64	25,200	239	94,100
San Diego, CA	20	6,870	115	32,400
San Francisco, CA	197	81,000	690	283,000
San Juan, PR	9	3,280	106	34,400
Savannah, GA	16	13,400	73	61,100
Seattle, WA	35	17,700	243	110,000
St. Albans, VT	2	498	7	1,620
Tampa, FL	58	24,700	194	82,800
U.S. Virgin Islands	--	--	6	2,340
Other	10	2,810	36	9,230
Total	1,320	524,000	5,960	2,520,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes tinplate and terneplate; excludes used rails for rerolling and other uses and ships, boats, and other vessels for scrapping. Export valuation is on a free-alongside-ship basis.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP AND OTHER
FERROUS PRODUCTS BY GRADE, IN MAY 2023^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	May		January–May ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	542	206,000	2,440	978,000
No. 2 heavy melting steel	55	26,500	273	128,000
No. 1 bundles	33	1,830	95	14,300
No. 2 bundles	1	67	3	307
Shredded steel scrap	411	172,000	1,970	809,000
Borings, shovelings, and turnings	3	925	19	5,250
Cut plate and structural	52	22,200	298	131,000
Tinned iron or steel	7	1,640	50	8,860
Remelting scrap ingots	(4)	155	1	506
Cast iron	18	13,600	259	72,300
Other iron and steel	4	963	19	4,100
Total carbon steel and cast iron	1,130	445,000	5,430	2,150,000
Stainless steel	111	40,600	240	187,000
Other alloy steel	76	37,900	296	184,000
Total stainless and alloy steel	187	78,500	536	371,000
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel, and cast iron	1,310	524,000	5,960	2,520,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	--	--	3	422
Used rails	(4)	722	1	2,700
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	(4)	12	(4)	49
Total scrap exports	1,310	525,000	5,970	2,530,000
Exports of manufactured ferrous products,				
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	2	1,340	10	7,570
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	--	--	--	--
Alloy Pig Iron	(4)	32	(4)	104
Total pig iron	2	1,380	10	7,670
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	--	--	5	82
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	2	3,470	10	15,400
Powders of alloy steel	1	5,910	5	31,500
Other ferrous powders	5	8,630	25	36,900
Total DRI, granules, powders	8	18,000	45	83,900
Grand total	1,320	544,000	6,020	2,620,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Export valuation is on a free-alongside-ship basis.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP
BY SELECTED COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN MAY 2023^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Country or locality	May		January–May ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Canada	328	155,000	1,590	704,000
Cayman Islands	1	132	3	553
Colombia	(4)	11	1	443
Germany	29	13,900	92	39,000
Japan	3	45	10	301
Mexico	50	28,400	249	130,000
Netherlands	--	--	66	28,400
New Zealand	--	--	27	12,100
Portugal	--	--	14	5,610
Spain	--	--	12	4,990
Sweden	28	14,600	100	46,700
United Kingdom	--	--	69	33,900
Other ⁵	3	1,830	10	8,000
Total	441	214,000	2,240	1,010,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes tinplate and terneplate; excludes used rails for rerolling and other uses and ships, boats, and other vessels for scrapping. Import valuation is on a Customs basis.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

⁵Includes countries with quantities of less than 500 metric tons for the current year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP
BY SELECTED CUSTOMS DISTRICT, IN MAY 2023^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Customs district	May		January–May ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Baltimore, MD	--	--	1	382
Buffalo, NY	21	11,800	107	61,600
Charleston, SC	1	190	188	80,000
Chicago, IL	(4)	368	6	2,540
Cleveland, OH	(4)	114	(4)	590
Detroit, MI	202	106,000	1,000	473,000
Duluth, MN	9	3,640	46	17,900
El Paso, TX	5	2,480	21	10,600
Great Falls, MT	1	443	8	3,200
Houston-Galveston, TX	(4)	133	1	1,490
Laredo, TX	32	18,800	162	89,600
Miami, FL	2	611	9	2,360
Mobile, AL	31	17,300	39	24,200
New Orleans, LA	30	13,700	175	76,000
New York City, NY	(4)	186	(4)	1,310
Nogales, AZ	4	2,040	24	10,100
Ogdensburg, NY	2	1,840	9	10,200
Pembina, ND	19	7,930	95	39,300
San Diego, CA	7	2,470	32	10,100
Seattle, WA	73	23,100	307	95,700
St. Albans, VT	1	358	4	1,430
Other	2	813	3	2,110
Total	441	214,000	2,240	1,010,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes tinplate and terneplate; excludes used rails for rerolling and other uses and ships, boats and other vessels for scrapping. Import valuation is on a Customs basis.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP AND OTHER
FERROUS PRODUCTS BY GRADE, IN MAY 2023^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	May		January–May ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	13	4,430	68	23,400
No. 2 heavy melting steel	12	4,970	55	20,200
No. 1 bundles	112	59,400	664	313,000
No. 2 bundles	7	2,500	32	13,100
Shredded steel scrap	78	37,800	410	183,000
Borings, shovelings, and turnings	5	1,300	23	6,760
Cut plate and structural	18	5,960	92	30,000
Tinned iron or steel	22	8,760	124	51,600
Remelting scrap ingots	(4)	122	1	556
Cast iron	7	2,460	84	31,500
Other iron and steel	91	38,500	348	130,000
Total carbon steel and cast iron	365	166,000	1,900	803,000
Stainless steel	18	21,800	90	108,000
Other alloy steel	59	25,900	250	103,000
Total stainless and alloy steel	77	47,700	340	210,000
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel, and cast iron	441	214,000	2,240	1,010,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	--	--	(4)	3
Used rails	1	166	2	623
Used rails, nonalloyed	--	--	--	--
Used rails other	(4)	15	(4)	512
Total scrap imports	442	214,000	2,240	1,010,000
Imports of manufactured ferrous products:				
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	--	--	(4)	8
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	390	208,000	1,680	890,000
Alloy pig iron	--	--	(4)	23
Total pig iron	390	208,000	1,680	890,000
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	318	97,100	1,420	460,000
Spongy iron products, not DRI	(4)	401	1	1,370
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	2	2,810	8	15,100
Powders of alloy steel	5	12,400	26	60,600
Other ferrous powders	4	9,380	18	44,100
Total DRI, granules, powders	329	122,000	1,470	582,000
Grand total	1,160	545,000	5,400	2,490,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Import valuation is on a Customs basis.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10
U.S. RAW STEEL PRODUCTION, RAW STEEL CAPABILITY UTILIZATION,
AND CONTINUOUS CAST STEEL PRODUCTION¹

Period	Raw steel production, thousand metric tons		Raw steel capability utilization, percent		Continuous cast steel production, percent	
	Monthly	Year to date ²	Monthly	Year to date ²	Monthly	Year to date ²
2022:						
May	7,120	34,300	81.1	80.5	99.7	99.7
June	6,760	41,000	79.6	80.3	99.7	99.7
July	6,910	47,900	78.1	80.0	99.7	99.7
August	6,910	54,900	78.0	79.7	99.7	99.7
September	6,550	61,400	76.4	79.4	99.7	99.7
October	6,610	68,000	73.7	78.8	99.7	99.7
November	6,200	74,200	71.5	78.1	99.6	99.7
December	6,330	80,500	70.6	77.5	99.7	99.7
2023:						
January	6,550	6,550	73.0	73.0	99.6	99.6
February	6,120	12,700	75.5	74.2	99.7	99.7
March	6,800	19,500	75.7	74.7	99.7	99.7
April	6,690	26,200	76.5	75.1	99.7	99.7
May	6,900	33,100	76.3	75.4	99.7	99.7

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²May include revisions to previously published data.

Source: American Iron and Steel Institute.

TABLE 11
COMPOSITE PRICES FOR STEEL SCRAP AND PIG IRON

Period	Steel Scrap ¹		Pig Iron ²	
	\$/lt	\$/t	\$/lt	\$/t
2022:				
May	443.33	436.33	566.12	557.18
June	393.33	387.12	753.47	741.57
July	360.00	354.31	742.36	730.64
August	333.33	328.07	974.43	959.04
September	313.33	308.38	618.84	609.07
October	310.00	305.11	924.99	910.38
November	293.33	288.70	511.23	503.16
December	313.33	308.38	662.89	652.42
Average, January–December	385.28	379.19	662.64	652.18
2023:				
January	346.67	341.20	560.18	551.33
February	368.33	362.51	439.42	432.48
March	396.67	390.41	600.00	590.53
April	370.00	364.16	492.25	484.48
May	330.00	324.79	510.73	502.67

¹Prices are for No. 1 heavy melting steel scrap. Source: Fastmarkets-AMM.

²Prices are Brazilian basic pig iron, free on board, New Orleans, LA. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Note: Long tons = lt; metric tons = t.

TABLE 12
U.S. IRON AND STEEL SCRAP RECEIPTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES, PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON,
AND DIRECT-REDUCED IRON (DRI) CONSUMPTION¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period ²	Receipts of scrap from outside sources		Pig iron production		DRI consumption	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2022:						
May	3,080	14,900	903	4,350	291	1,290
June	3,170	18,100	920	5,270	309	1,600
July	2,990	21,100	922	6,200	262	1,860
August	2,900	24,000	988	7,180	264	2,130
September	2,910	26,900	950	8,130	187	2,310
October	2,720	29,600	918	9,050	190	2,500
November	2,830	32,400	898	9,950	184	2,690
December	3,510	35,900	956	10,900	202	2,890
2023:						
January	2,980	2,980	1,030	1,030	219	219
February	3,050	6,040	986	2,020	212	431
March	3,060	9,090	1,140	3,160	213	644
April	3,020	12,100	1,140	4,290	205	848
May	2,980	15,100	1,170	5,460	203	1,060

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²May include revisions to previously published data.