Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN FEBRUARY 2025

Chromium is essential in the production of stainless steel by virtue of its abilities to impart corrosion and oxidation resistance, increase hardenability, improve wear resistance, and bolster strength at elevated temperatures. Stainless steel production was 168,000 metric tons (t) in February 2025, a decrease of 13% compared with production in January 2025 and about 2,000 t more than in February 2024 (table 1). In February 2025, the leading import sources for ferrochromium into the United States were, in descending order of quantity by gross weight and chromium content, South Africa, Kazakhstan, and Finland (table 4), whereas the leading import sources for chromium metal, in descending order of quantity by gross weight, were the United Kingdom, China, and France (table 5).

Imports of chromite ore, chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless-steel scrap commonly fluctuate from month to month (table 1). Imports of chromite ore in February 2025 were more than 3 times imports in January 2025 and more than 6 times imports in February 2024. Chromium ferroalloy imports in February 2025, including ferrochromium silicon, increased by 88% compared with imports in January 2025, and were more than double imports in February 2024 (fig. 1, tables 1, 3). Stainless steel imports in February 2025 decreased by 25% compared with imports in January 2025 and increased by 12% compared with those in February 2024. Stainless-steel scrap imports in February 2025 were unchanged compared with imports in January 2025 and increased by 6% compared with those in February 2024 (fig. 1, table 1).

Exports of stainless steel increased by 14% in February

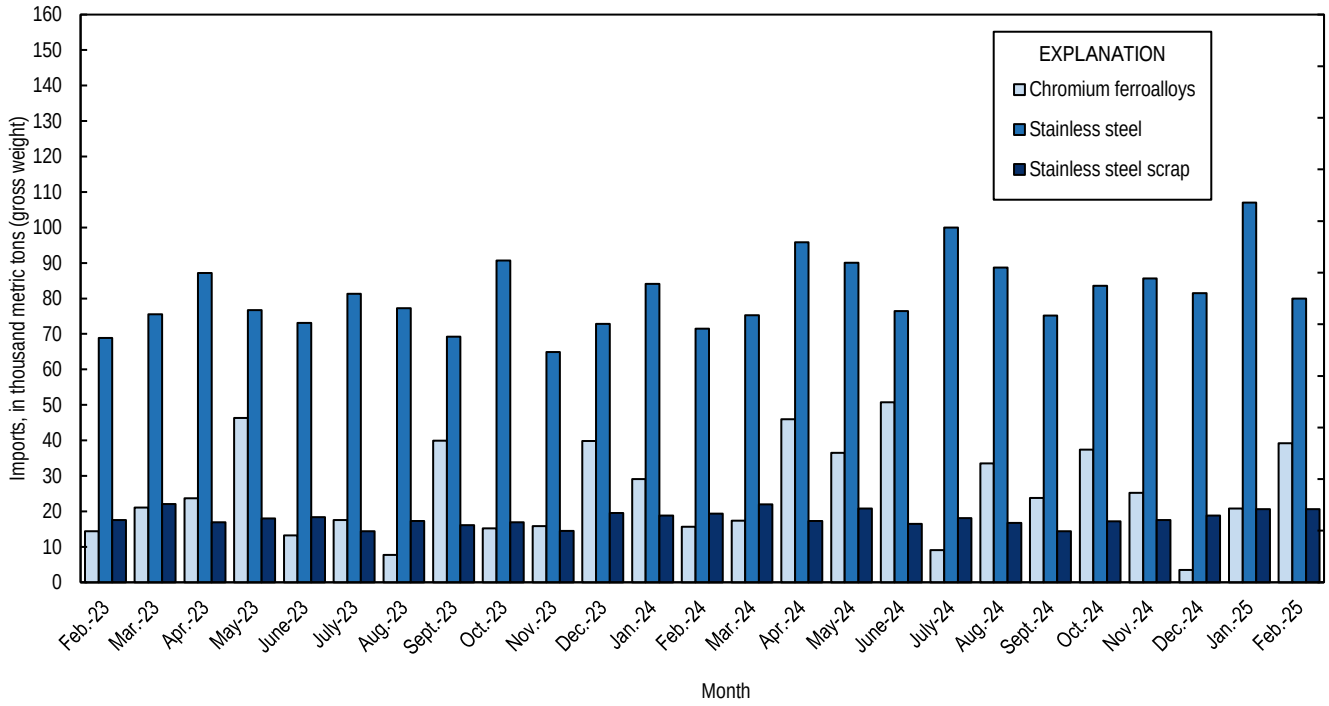

Figure 1. Chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless steel scrap imports from February 2023 through February 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

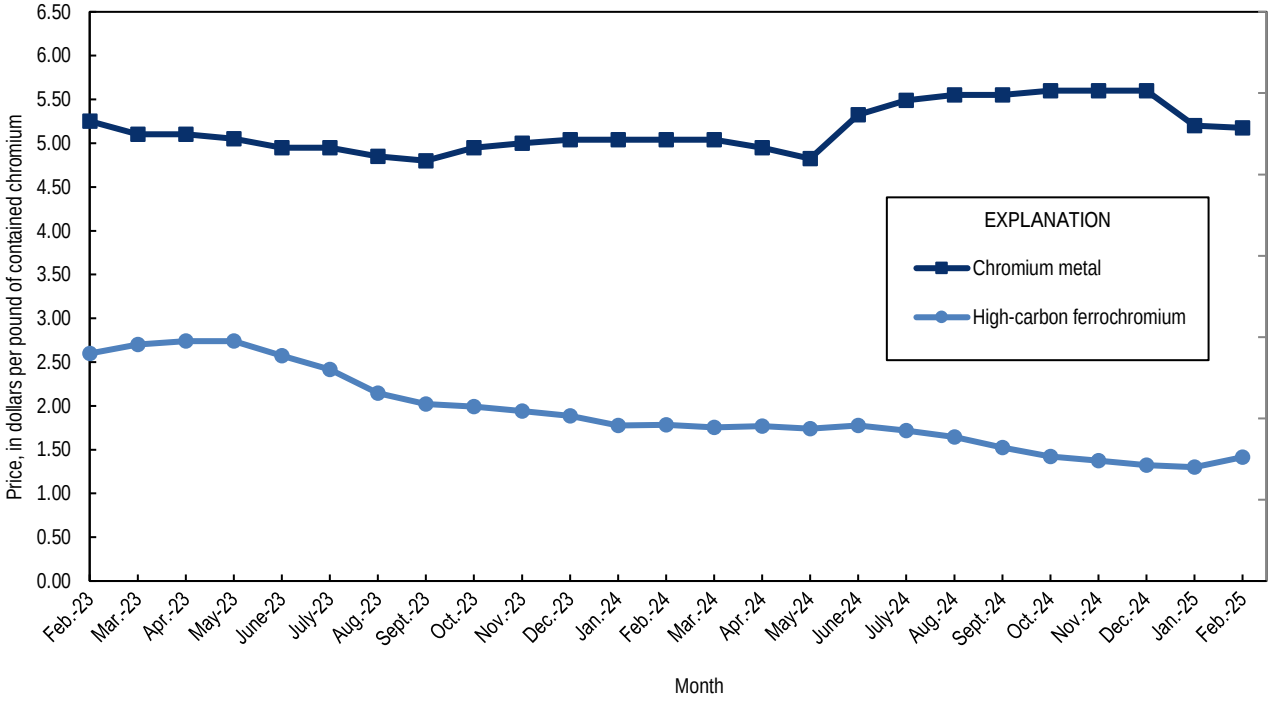

Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (FeCr) and chromium metal from February 2023 through February 2025. Source: Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

2025 compared with those in January 2025 and by 5% compared with those in February 2024. Exports of stainless-steel scrap increased by 24% in February 2025 compared with those in January 2025 and decreased by 22% compared with those in February 2024 (tables 1, 6). Exports of chromium metal, chromite ore, and chromium ferroalloys are likely re-exports, as the United States does not produce those materials.

In February 2025, the average U.S. price for chromium metal (99% chromium) average assessed price was $5.18 per pound, slightly down from $5.20 per pound in January 2025 but 3% more than the average assessed price in February 2024. The U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (mininum 62% chromium) average assessed price was $1.53 per pound of contained chromium in February 2025, 9% more than the average assessed price in January 2025 and 21% less than the average assessed price in February 2024 (fig. 2) (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025).

Industry News

The Meghalaya State Pollution Board (India) issued closure notices to six ferroalloy plants after residents of the Byrnihat area of northeastern India protested about pollution. The affected factories were operated by F W Ferrotech Pvt. Ltd., Khasi Alloys Ltd., Nalari Ferro Alloys Pvt. Ltd., Pawan Castings Meghalaya Pvt. Ltd., Shyam Century Ferrous Ltd., and SR (India) Bio Products Pvt. Ltd. Failure to comply with environmental regulations and pollution control methods would result in further legal action according to the closure notice (CRU Group, 2025).

Outokumpu Oyj (Finland) announced its decision not to invest in the expansion of its stainless steel cold rolling capacity in the U.S. after announcing plans to expand in August 2023. Results from an extended feasbility study were cited as part of the reason for its decision. However, Outokumpu would continue to operate its existing stainless-steel operations in Alabama, which included existing cold-rolling operations, hot-rolling operations, and a melt shop (Outokumpu Oyj, 2025).

The Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials announced the sale of approximately 73 t (80 short tons) of chromium metal from its stockpile to Traxys North America LLC and Veritas Alloys & Metals LLC for $850,000. The Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials also announced the sale of approximately 1,050 t (1,161 short tons) of ferrochromium to an undisclosed company for $1.62 million (Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2025).

Industry Participation

Industry participation is key to the publication of aggregated totals of domestic chromium statistics, such as components of U.S. supply and consumption of chromium materials. The U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Minerals Information Center canvasses the nonfuel mining and mineral processing industry in the United States for data on mineral production, consumption, recycling, stocks, and shipments. Reporting is voluntary, and the USGS greatly appreciates the data provided by companies participating in the surveys throughout the United States. The data that companies provide are the foundation upon which the USGS builds its minerals information publications. Unless authorization is granted for release, the data furnished are aggregated to avoid disclosing company proprietary data and are treated as confidential by the Department of the Interior.

Companies may report on a monthly, quarterly, semiannual, and (or) annual basis, depending on the frequency of the surveys. Canvass forms are mailed shortly after the end of the reporting period and are requested to be returned within 15 to 30 days. In addition to reporting by paper canvass forms,

companies can electronically submit data to contribute to this valuable effort. Companies already registered with the USGS can sign up to report electronically by selecting the "Sign up" link at https://mids.er.usgs.gov. To notify the USGS of a new operation, or for further information on registering for electronic submissions, visit https://mids.er.usgs.gov. The surveys that collect data for chromium materials include the USGS iron and steel scrap survey, which has a canvas code of G01, and the USGS consolidated consumers report, with a canvas code of G05. For more information on how to participate in the chromium surveys, please contact Ruth Schulte using the contact information listed above.

A worksheet has been added to the Excel table files that includes a button to remove text and numerical footnotes from data cells. This will allow users to only have numbers in data cells. Please see the worksheet titled RemoveTextButton for instructions in how to use the tool. Note: you must download the excel file in order to use the tool.

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References Cited

CRU Group, 2025, Six ferroalloy plants ordered to close in India due to pollution: CRU Group, February 7. (Accessed April 14, 2025, via https://www.crugroup.com/.)

Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025, Prices & data: Argus Media Group, February 28. (Accessed March 18, 2025, via https://www.argusmedia.com/metals.)

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Outokumpu Oyj, 2025, Outokumpu has decided not to invest in cold rolling capacity expansion in the U.S. at this point in time: Helsinki, Finland, Outokumpu Oyj press release, February 13. (Accessed April 29, 2025, at https://www.outokumpu.com/en/news/2025/outokumpu-has-decided-not-to-invest-in-cold-rolling-capacity-expansion-in-the-u,-d-,s,-d-,-at-this-point-of-time-3548891.)

Table 1. Salient United States chromium statistics.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. W, withheld to avoid closing company proprietary data. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (https://usatrade.census.gov/).]

Product	2024		2025		
	December	January–December[1]	January	February	January–February[1]
U.S. production					
Stainless steel[2]	143,000	1,950,000	192,000	168,000	360,000
Components of U.S. supply					
Stainless steel scrap receipts	W	606,000	W	W	W
Stainless steel scrap consumption	W	959,000	W	W	W
Imports for consumption					
Chromite ore	22,300	97,700	3,560	13,000	16,500
Chromium ferroalloys					
More than 4% carbon	557	289,000	17,400	37,100	54,500
More than 3% but not more than 4% carbon	0	90	20	0	20
More than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	0	2,000	300	0	300
Not more than 0.5% carbon	2,890	33,900	2,420	1,310	3,730
Ferrochromium silicon	0	3,110	679	795	1,470
Total ferroalloy imports	3,450	328,000	20,800	39,200	60,100
Chromium metal[3]	1,440	19,300	2,500	1,150	3,650
Stainless steel	81,500	1,010,000	107,000	80,000	187,000
Stainless steel scrap	18,800	218,000	20,600	20,600	41,200
Exports					
Chromite ore	101	2,230	82	96	178
Chromium ferroalloys					
High-carbon ferrochromium	60	1,720	78	163	241
Low-carbon ferrochromium	57	246	20	0	20
Ferrochromium silicon	0	33	0	0	0
Total ferroalloy exports	117	2,000	97	163	261
Chromium metal	15	531	18	28	47
Stainless steel	35,100	513,000	37,200	42,300	79,500
Stainless steel scrap	23,500	377,000	17,100	21,200	38,300

[1]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).
[2]Data on stainless steel production reported by American Iron and Steel Institute; monthly, quarterly, and year–to–date production of stainless and heat-resisting raw steel.
[3]Includes waste and scrap and other.

Table 2. U.S. exports of chromite, chromium ferroalloys, and metal.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Revised data are marked with a superscript "r". Source: U.S. Census Bureau (https://usatrade.census.gov/).]

Period	Chromite ore		Chromium ferroalloys[1]			Chromium metal[2]	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Content (metric tons)	Value (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value (thousand dollars)
2024							
February	293	201	110	62	176	12	507
March	229	184	130	42	118	24	829
April	204	172	58	28	98	38	809
May	389	422	277	80	244	44	1,730
June	145	141	160	51	141	19	611
July	59	50	202	64	241	21	804
August	328	250	206	76	183	24	496
September	77	80	396 r	117	355	67	1,230
October	90	80	31	18	55	29	744
November	179	135	90	54	179	28	1,060
December	101	105	117	65	278	15	576
January–December[3]	2,230	1,950	2,000	739	2,330	531	11,400
2025							
January	82	82	97	58	174	18	494
February	96	114	163	98	259	28	927
January–February[3]	178	197	261	156	432	47	1,420

[1]Includes low- and high-carbon ferrochromium and ferrochromium silicon.

[2]Includes chromium metal, waste and scrap, and unwrought powders.

[3]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).

Table 3. U.S. imports for consumption of chromite ore, ferrochromium, and chromium metal.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (https://usatrade.census.gov/).]

Product	2024	2025		
	January–December[1]	January	February	January–February[1]
Chromite ore, not more than 40% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	1,190	57	1,140	1,200
Chromic oxide content	458	22	210	232
Chromite ore, more than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	29,200	3,090	2,510	5,600
Chromic oxide content	12,600	1,360	1,100	2,450
Chromite ore, 46% or more chromic oxide				
Gross weight	67,400	420	9,300	9,720
Chromic oxide content	45,100	256	5,350	5,610
Chromite ore, total, all grades				
Gross weight	97,700	3,560	13,000	16,500
Chromic oxide content	58,200	1,640	6,660	8,290
Ferrochromium, low-carbon[2], not more than 0.5% carbon				
Gross weight	33,900	2,420	1,310	3,730
Chromium content	23,300	1,680	928	2,610
Ferrochromium, low-carbon[2], more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon				
Gross weight	2,000	300	0	300
Chromium content	1,350	187	0	187
Ferrochromium, low-carbon[2], total				
Gross weight	35,900	2,720	1,310	4,030
Chromium content	24,600	1,870	928	2,800
Medium-carbon[3]				
Gross weight	90	20	0	20
Chromium content	62	14	0	14
High-carbon[4]				
Gross weight	289,000	17,400	37,100	54,500
Chromium content	158,000	10,900	19,100	30,000
Total, all grades				
Gross weight	325,000	20,200	38,400	58,600
Chromium content	183,000	12,800	20,000	32,800
Chromium metal				
Unwrought powders	17,000	2,080	879	2,960
Waste and scrap	429	45	6	51
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought p	1,900	375	265	640
Total, all grades	19,300	2,500	1,150	3,650

[1]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).
[2]Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.
[3]Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon.
[4]Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

Table 4. U.S. imports for consumption of ferrochromium in 2025, by grade and country or locality.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (https://usatrade.census.gov/).]

Grade and country or locality	February			January-February[1]		
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Content (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Content (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)
High-carbon ferrochromium[3]						
Brazil	0	0	0	1,450	801	1,610
Finland	3,000	1,560	3,540	8,000	4,180	9,470
India	0	0	0	20	14	62
Kazakhstan	4,100	2,830	7,520	8,950	6,200	18,400
Oman	0	0	0	108	65	163
South Africa	30,000	14,700	31,000	36,000	18,800	37,500
Total	37,100	19,100	42,100	54,500	30,000	67,300
Medium-carbon ferrochromium[4]						
India	0	0	0	20	14	107
Total	0	0	0	20	14	107
Low-carbon ferrochromium[5], more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon						
Brazil	0	0	0	300	187	784
Total	0	0	0	300	187	784
Low-carbon ferrochromium[5], not more than 0.5% carbon						
Germany	713	498	3,590	1,410	979	7,060
India	25	25	125	305	191	947
Japan	281	197	1,550	422	296	2,350
Kazakhstan	231	164	781	1,510	1,080	5,370
Sweden	0	0	0	2	1	21
Turkey	61	43	229	86	61	328
Total	1,310	928	6,280	3,730	2,610	16,100
All grades						
Brazil	0	0	0	1,750	988	2,390
Finland	3,000	1,560	3,540	8,000	4,180	9,470
Germany	713	498	3,590	1,410	979	7,060
India	25	25	125	345	219	1,120
Japan	281	197	1,550	422	296	2,350
Kazakhstan	4,330	3,000	8,300	10,500	7,280	23,800
Oman	0	0	0	108	65	163
South Africa	30,000	14,700	31,000	36,000	18,800	37,500
Sweden	0	0	0	2	1	21
Turkey	61	43	229	86	61	328
Total	38,400	20,000	48,400	58,600	32,800	84,200

[1]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).
[2]Customs import value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing the merchandise into the United States.
[3]Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.
[4]Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon.
[5]Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

Table 5. U.S. imports for consumption of chromium metal in 2025 by grade and by country or locality. [Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (https://usatrade.census.gov/).]

Grade and country or locality	February		January-February[1]	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)
Unwrought powders				
China	300	2,810	2,000	17,500
France	5	277	7	415
Germany	69	499	114	826
India	0	0	40	437
Mexico	1	16	3	37
Russia	0	0	(3)	2
South Africa	0	0	18	50
United Kingdom	503	8,040	779	12,200
Total	879	11,600	2,960	31,500
Waste and scrap				
Canada	6	50	6	50
China	0	0	10	40
Taiwan	0	0	15	76
United Kingdom	0	0	20	60
Total	6	50	51	226
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders				
China	48	408	214	1,990
France	173	2,320	363	4,700
Germany	(3)	6	(3)	36
Japan	(3)	10	1	20
Spain	23	128	42	226
Taiwan	(3)	35	(3)	35
United Kingdom	20	172	20	181
Total	265	3,070	640	7,190
All grades				
Canada	6	50	6	50
China	348	3,220	2,220	19,500
France	178	2,590	371	5,110
Germany	69	505	114	862
India	0	0	40	437
Japan	(3)	10	1	20
Mexico	1	16	3	37
Russia	0	0	(3)	2
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	23	128	42	226
Taiwan	(3)	35	15	111
United Kingdom	523	8,210	819	12,500
Total	1,150	14,800	3,650	38,900

[1]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).
[2]Customs import value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing the merchandise into the United States.
[3]Less than ½ unit.

Table 6. U.S. stainless steel trade, by product, in 2025.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (https://usatrade.census.gov/).]

Stainless steel product	February		January-February[1]	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)
Exports				
Ingot	647	5,010	1,600	11,600
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	31,900	81,600	58,100	159,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,660	28,800	7,200	59,900
Bars and rods in irregular coils	121	1,020	366	2,360
Other bars and rods	2,400	35,200	5,540	84,100
Wire	393	11,500	849	24,900
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	3,240	38,600	5,910	73,500
Total	42,300	202,000	79,500	415,000
Stainless steel scrap	21,200	22,700	38,300	42,900
Grand total	63,600	225,000	118,000	458,000
Imports				
Ingot	13,400	37,200	28,300	77,600
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	26,300	74,000	69,600	200,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	4,000	18,100	9,270	38,900
Bars and rods in irregular coils	2,520	9,490	5,080	23,200
Other bars and rods	11,400	57,400	23,800	119,000
Wire	3,490	16,000	7,620	34,600
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	18,900	121,000	43,300	272,000
Total	80,000	333,000	187,000	765,000
Stainless steel scrap	20,600	21,500	41,200	48,400
Grand total	101,000	355,000	228,000	814,000

[1]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).
[2]Export value is free alongside ship. Import value is Customs import value,which generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing the merchandise into the United States.