

Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN MARCH 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 193,000 metric tons (t) in March 2025, an increase of 15% compared with production in February 2025 and an increase of 15% compared with production in March 2024 (table 1). In March 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 India (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 March 2025 decreased by 27% compared with those in February 2025 and were almost 5 times more than imports in March 2024. Chromium ferroalloy imports in March 2025 decreased by 63% compared with imports in February 2025 and decreased by 17% compared with imports in March 2024 (fig. 1, tables 1, 3). However, there were no imports of ferrochromium silicon or medium-carbon ferrochromium in March 2025.

Stainless steel imports in March 2025 increased by 26% compared with imports in February 2025 and increased by 34% compared with those in March 2024. Stainless-steel scrap imports in March 2025 increased by 22% compared with imports in February 2025 and increased by 14% compared

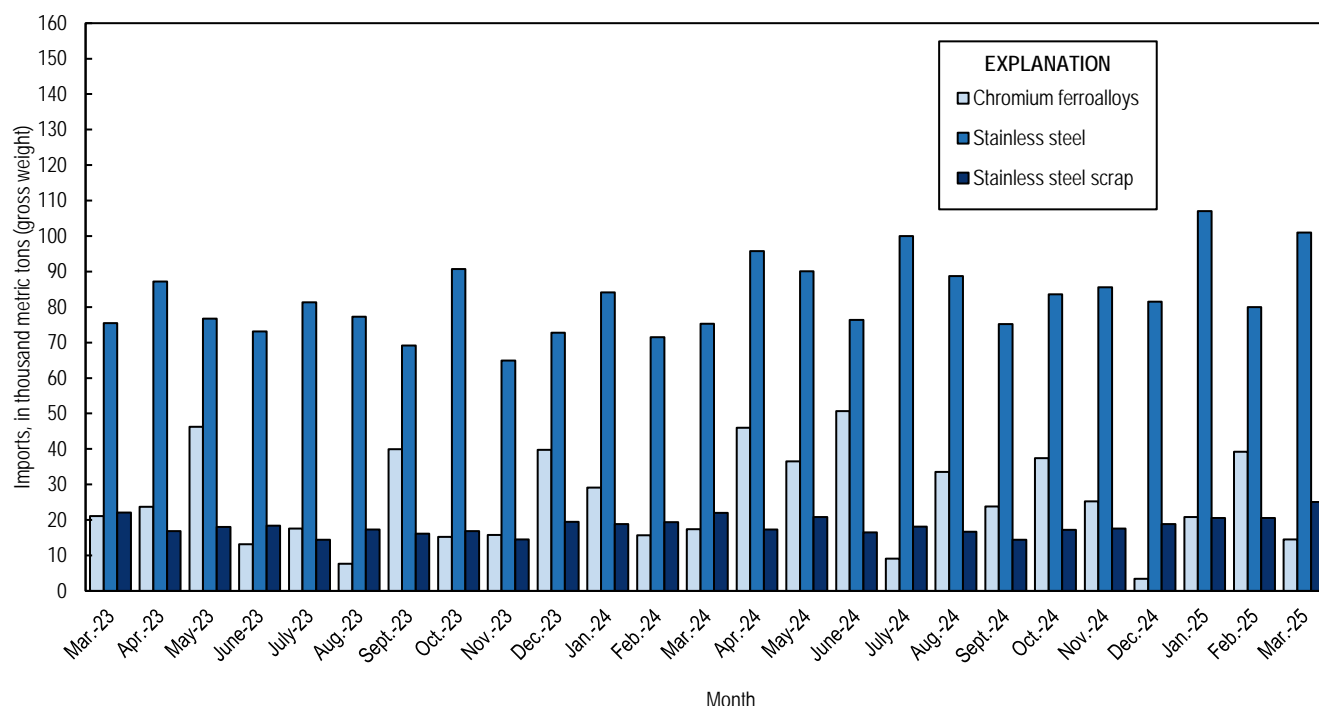


Figure 1. Chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless steel scrap imports from March 2023 through March 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

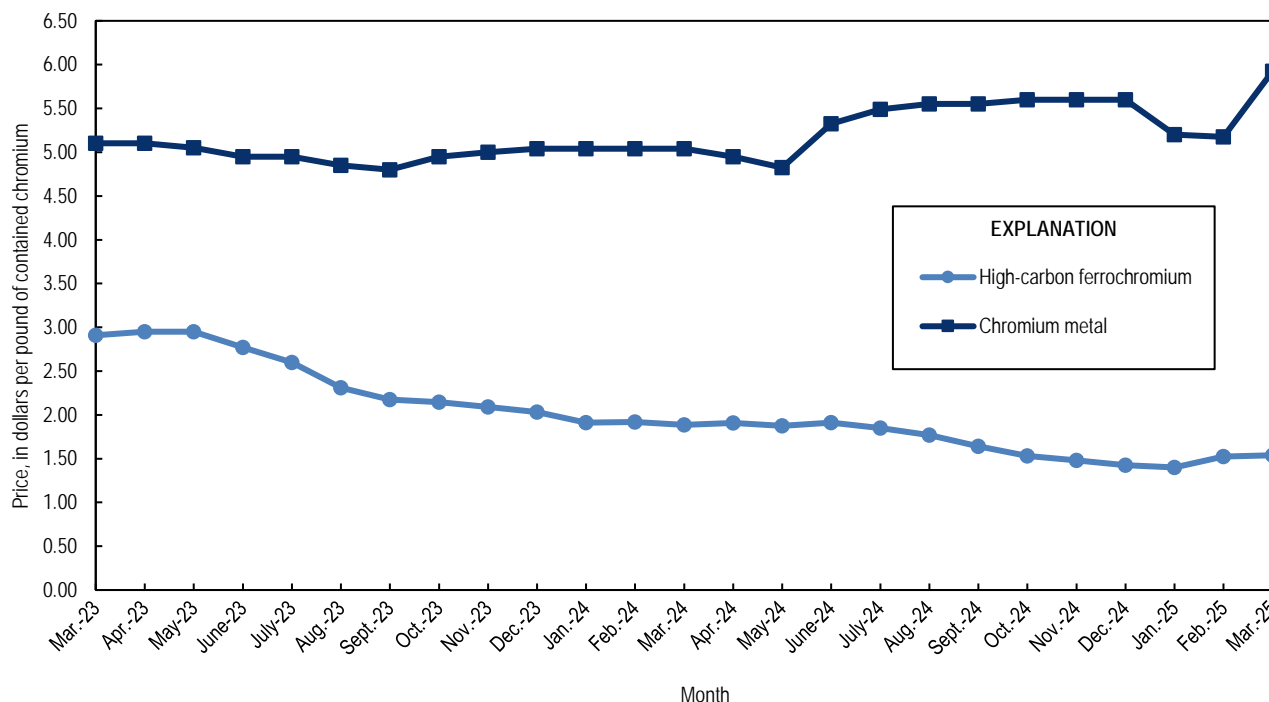


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (FeCr) and chromium metal from March 2023 through March 2025. Source: Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

with those in March 2024 (fig. 1, table 1).

Exports of stainless steel decreased by 7% in March 2025 compared with those in February 2025 and by 21% compared with those in March 2024. Exports of stainless-steel scrap increased by 9% in March 2025 compared with those in February 2025 and decreased by 25% compared with those in March 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 March 2025, the average U.S. price for chromium metal (99% chromium) average assessed price was \$5.93 per pound, 14% more than the average price in February 2025 and 18% more than the average price in March 2024. The U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (minimum 62% chromium) average assessed price was \$1.54 per pound of contained chromium in March 2025 compared with \$1.53 per pound of contained chromium in February 2025. Compared with the average assessed price in March 2024, the average price in March 2025 decreased by 19% (fig. 2) (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025).

Industry News

The Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials announced the sale of approximately 110 t (120 short tons) of chromium metal from its stockpile to CCMA, LLC, Exotech Inc., Traxys North America LLC, and Veritas Alloys & Metals LLC for \$1.23 million. The Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials also announced the sale of approximately 910 t (1,000 short tons) of ferrochromium to CCMA, Glencore Ltd., and Veritas Alloys & Metals for \$1.28 million (Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2025).

Jindal Stainless Ltd. (India) submitted a proposal to build a stainless-steel mill in Maharashtra State, India, that would have a capacity of 4 million metric tons of stainless steel per year. The mill would be constructed over 10 years and would

require an initial investment of approximately \$4.7 billion (INR 40,000 crore) (Jindal Stainless Ltd., 2025; Vlasov, 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.

References Cited

- Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025, Prices & data: Argus Media Group, March 31. (Accessed June 3, 2025, via <https://www.argusmedia.com/metals>.)
- Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2025, DLA Strategic Materials announces BOA sales for March 2025: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center announcement DLA-SM-25-3265, April 8. (Accessed June 3, 2025, at https://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/Strategic%20Materials/Announcements/3265%20BOA%20All%20March%202025%20Sales.pdf?ver=b0x_OI4gxMGZLDU7N2IFTQ%3d%3d.)
- Jindal Stainless Ltd., 2025, Jindal Stainless announces financial results for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2025: New Delhi, India, Jindal Stainless Ltd. press release, May 8. (Accessed June 3, 2025, at <https://www.jindalstainless.com/press-releases/jindal-stainless-announces-financial-results-for-the-quarter-and-financial-year-ended-march-31-2025/>.)
- Vlasov, Yuriy, 2025, Jindal Stainless makes pitch for mega-mill: CRU Group, March 28. (Accessed June 3, 2025, via <https://www.crugroup.com/>.)

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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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			
	January–December ¹	January	February	March	January–March ¹
U.S. production					
Stainless steel ²	1,950,000	192,000	168,000	193,000	553,000
Components of U.S. supply					
Stainless steel scrap receipts	606,000	W	W	W	W
Stainless steel scrap consumption	959,000	W	W	W	W
Imports for consumption					
Chromite ore	97,700	3,560	13,000	9,390	25,900
Chromium ferroalloys					
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	289,000	17,400	37,100	11,500	66,100
Medium-carbon ferrochromium ⁴	90	20	0	0	20
Low-carbon ferrochromium ⁵ , more than 0.5% but not more than 0.5% carbon	2,000	300	0	150	450
Low-carbon ferrochromium ⁵ , not more than 0.5% carbon	33,900	2,420	1,310	2,830	6,560
Ferrochromium silicon	3,110	679	795	0	1,470
Total ferroalloy imports	328,000	20,800	39,200	14,500	74,600
Chromium metal ⁶					
Total	19,300	2,500	1,150	1,560	5,210
Stainless steel					
Stainless steel	1,010,000	107,000	80,000	101,000	288,000
Stainless steel scrap	218,000	20,600	20,600	25,100	66,300
Exports					
Chromite ore	2,230	82	96	409	587
Chromium ferroalloys					
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	1,720	78	163	208	449
Low-carbon ferrochromium ⁵	246	20	0	62	81
Ferrochromium silicon	33	0	0	0	0
Total ferroalloy exports	2,000	97	163	270	530
Chromium metal ⁶					
Total	531	18	28	32	77
Stainless steel					
Stainless steel	513,000	37,200	42,300	39,400	119,000
Stainless steel scrap	377,000	17,100	21,200	23,100	61,400

¹May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).

²Data 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.

³Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

⁴Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon.

⁵Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

⁶Includes 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. 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							
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	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
March	409	382	270	162	490	32	1,140
January–March ³	587	578	530	318	922	78	2,560

¹Includes low- and high-carbon ferrochromium and ferrochromium silicon.²Includes chromium metal, waste and scrap, and unwrought powders.³May 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	February	March	January–March ¹
Chromite ore, not more than 40% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	1,190	1,140	3,460	4,660
Chromic oxide content	458	210	644	876
Chromite ore, more than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	29,200	2,510	3,110	8,710
Chromic oxide content	12,600	1,100	1,340	3,790
Chromite ore, 46% or more chromic oxide				
Gross weight	67,400	9,300	2,830	12,500
Chromic oxide content	45,100	5,350	2,440	8,050
Chromite ore, total, all grades				
Gross weight	97,700	13,000	9,390	25,900
Chromic oxide content	58,200	6,660	4,430	12,700
Ferrochromium, low-carbon², not more than 0.5% carbon				
Gross weight	33,900	1,310	2,830	6,560
Chromium content	23,300	928	1,990	4,600
Ferrochromium, low-carbon², more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon				
Gross weight	2,000	0	150	450
Chromium content	1,350	0	93	280
Ferrochromium, low-carbon², total				
Gross weight	35,900	1,310	2,980	7,010
Chromium content	24,600	928	2,080	4,880
Medium-carbon³				
Gross weight	90	0	0	20
Chromium content	62	0	0	14
High-carbon⁴				
Gross weight	289,000	37,100	11,500	66,100
Chromium content	158,000	19,100	6,440	36,500
Total, all grades				
Gross weight	325,000	38,400	14,500	73,100
Chromium content	183,000	20,000	8,520	41,400
Chromium metal				
Unwrought powders	17,000	879	1,220	4,180
Waste and scrap	429	6	33	84
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders	1,910	265	308	948
Total, all grades	19,300	1,150	1,560	5,210

¹May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).

²Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

³Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon.

⁴Ferrochromium 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	March			January-March 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 ferrochromium³						
Brazil	540	290	\$467	1,990	1,090	\$2,070
Finland	0	0	0	8,000	4,180	9,470
India	1,620	954	2,140	1,640	968	2,200
Kazakhstan	3,590	2,480	6,220	12,500	8,680	24,600
Oman	0	0	0	108	65	163
South Africa	5,780	2,710	5,010	41,800	21,500	42,600
Total	11,500	6,440	13,800	66,100	36,500	81,100
Medium-carbon ferrochromium⁴						
India	0	0	0	20	14	107
Total	0	0	0	20	14	107
Low-carbon ferrochromium⁵, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon						
Brazil	150	93	391	450	280	1,170
Total	150	93	391	450	280	1,170
Low-carbon ferrochromium⁵, not more than 0.5% carbon						
China	(⁶)	(⁶)	3	(⁶)	(⁶)	3
Germany	1,100	762	5,500	2,510	1,740	12,600
India	133	85	428	438	276	1,370
Japan	201	141	1,090	623	436	3,440
Kazakhstan	1,320	947	3,820	2,830	2,030	9,190
Sweden	0	0	0	2	1	21
Turkey	75	52	235	161	113	564
Total	2,830	1,990	11,100	6,560	4,600	27,200
All grades						
Brazil	690	383	858	2,440	1,370	3,250
China	(⁶)	(⁶)	3	(⁶)	(⁶)	3
Finland	0	0	0	8,000	4,180	9,470
Germany	1,100	762	5,500	2,510	1,740	12,600
India	1,750	1,040	2,560	2,090	1,260	3,680
Japan	201	141	1,090	623	436	3,440
Kazakhstan	4,910	3,430	10,000	15,400	10,700	33,800
Oman	0	0	0	108	65	163
South Africa	5,780	2,710	5,010	41,800	21,500	42,600
Sweden	0	0	0	2	1	21
Turkey	75	52	235	161	113	564
Total	14,500	8,520	25,300	73,100	41,400	110,000

¹May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).

²Customs 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.

³Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

⁴Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon.

⁵Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

⁶Less than ½ unit.

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	March		January-March ¹	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Unwrought powders				
China	405	\$3,550	2,400	\$21,000
France	0	0	7	415
Germany	118	844	232	1,670
India	35	387	75	824
Mexico	1	16	5	53
Russia	0	0	(³)	2
South Africa	0	0	18	50
United Kingdom	657	9,780	1,440	22,000
Total	1,220	14,600	4,180	46,000
Waste and scrap				
Canada	23	237	29	288
China	0	0	10	40
Taiwan	0	0	15	76
United Kingdom	10	78	30	138
Total	33	315	84	542
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders				
China	21	468	235	2,460
France	192	2,640	555	7,340
Germany	(³)	43	1	79
Israel	(³)	3	(³)	3
Japan	(³)	10	1	30
Spain	94	518	136	744
Taiwan	(³)	17	(³)	51
United Kingdom	0	0	20	181
Total	308	3,700	948	10,900
All grades				
Canada	23	237	29	288
China	427	4,010	2,650	23,500
France	192	2,640	562	7,750
Germany	119	887	233	1,750
India	35	387	75	824
Israel	(³)	3	(³)	3
Japan	(³)	10	1	30
Mexico	1	16	5	53
Russia	0	0	(³)	2
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	94	518	136	744
Taiwan	(³)	17	15	127
United Kingdom	667	9,860	1,490	22,300
Total	1,560	18,600	5,210	57,500

¹May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).

²Customs 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.

³Less 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	March		January-March ¹	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Exports				
Ingot	1,020	\$6,480	2,610	\$18,100
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	28,100	78,900	86,200	237,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,730	43,700	10,900	104,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	180	878	546	3,240
Other bars and rods	2,700	43,900	8,240	128,000
Wire	330	14,000	1,180	39,000
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	3,390	41,500	9,310	115,000
Total	39,400	229,000	119,000	644,000
Stainless steel scrap	23,100	28,300	61,400	71,200
Grand total	62,500	258,000	180,000	716,000
Imports				
Ingot	18,400	49,000	46,700	127,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	38,700	105,000	108,000	305,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,960	18,000	13,200	56,900
Bars and rods in irregular coils	3,300	13,500	8,380	36,700
Other bars and rods	11,700	56,700	35,500	175,000
Wire	3,930	19,100	11,500	53,800
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	21,100	121,000	64,400	394,000
Total	101,000	382,000	288,000	1,150,000
Stainless steel scrap	25,100	27,500	66,300	75,900
Grand total	126,000	410,000	354,000	1,220,000

¹May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).

²Export 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.