

Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN APRIL 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 182,000 metric tons (t) in April 2025, a decrease of 5% compared with production in March 2025 and an increase of 10% compared with production in April 2024 (table 1). In April 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, Finland, and Kazakhstan (table 4), whereas the leading import sources for chromium metal, in descending order of quantity by gross weight, were France, the United Kingdom, and China (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 April 2025 decreased by 64% compared with those in March 2025 and by 44% compared with those in April 2024. Chromium ferroalloy imports in April 2025 were almost triple imports in March 2025 and decreased by 8% compared with imports in April 2024 (fig. 1, tables 1, 3).

Stainless steel imports in April 2025 decreased by 20% compared with imports in March 2025 and by 16% compared with those in April 2024. Stainless-steel scrap imports in April 2025 were 17,100 t, a 32% decrease compared with imports in March 2025, and less than the 17,300 t imported in April 2024 (fig. 1, table 1).

Exports of stainless steel were 53,400 t in April 2025, a 36% increase compared with those in March 2025 and more

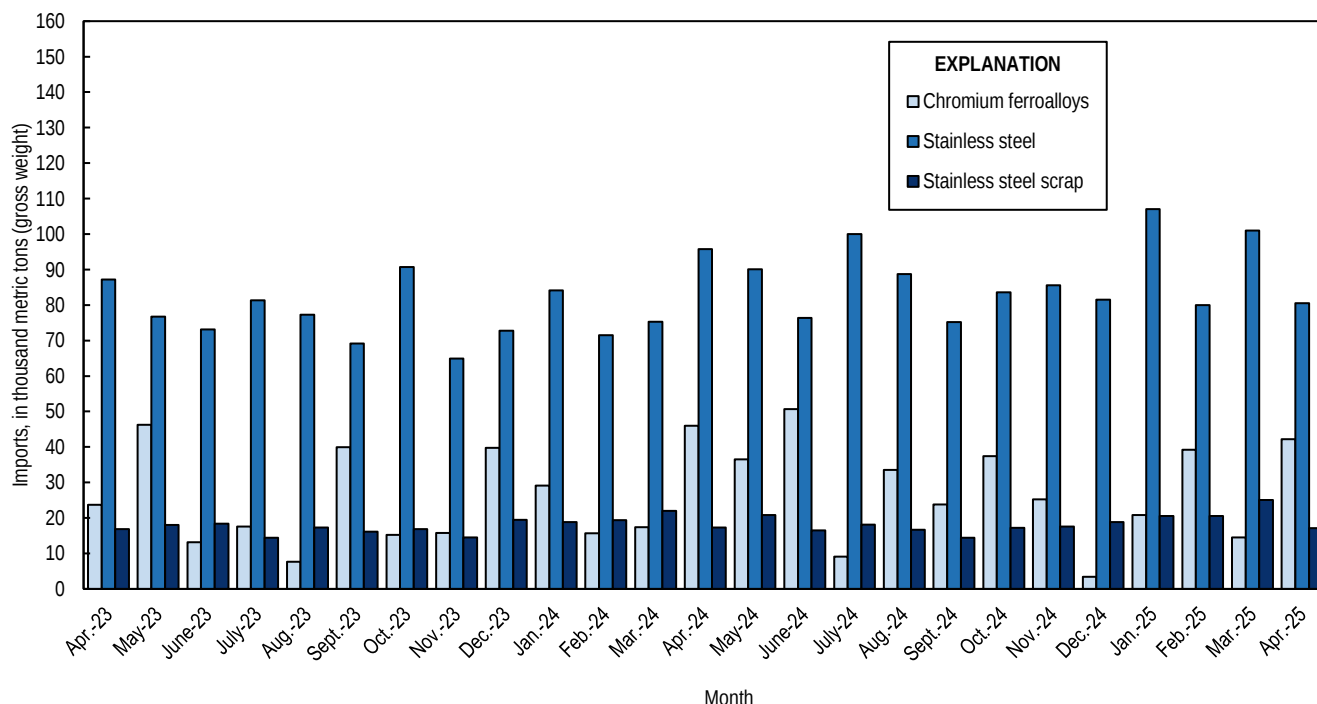


Figure 1. Chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless steel scrap imports from April 2023 through April 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

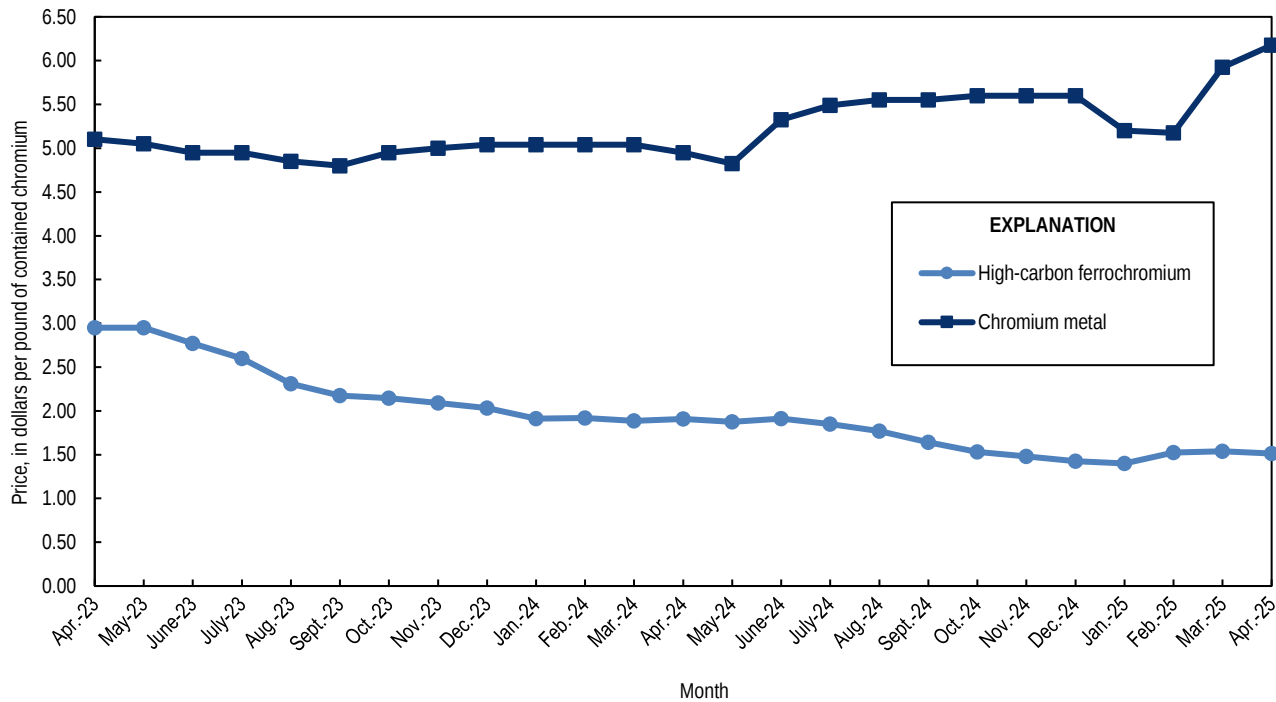


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (FeCr) and chromium metal from April 2023 through April 2025. Source: Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

than the 52,900 t exported in April 2024. Exports of stainless-steel scrap decreased by 10% in April 2025 compared with those in March 2025 and by 20% compared with those in April 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 April 2025, the average U.S. price for chromium metal (99% chromium) average assessed price was \$6.18 per pound, an increase of 4% compared with the average price in March 2025 and an increase of 25% compared with the average price in April 2024. The U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (minimum 62% chromium) average assessed price was \$1.51 per pound of contained chromium in April 2025, a slight decrease compared the average price in March 2025 and a 21% decrease compared with the average price in April 2024 (fig. 2) (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025b).

Industry News

AMG Critical Materials N.V. (Netherlands) announced the approval of a capital investment of \$15 million for the construction of a aluminothermic chromium metal production facility in the United States. The plant would have an annual production capacity of 6,500 t of chromium metal and be located in New Castle, PA. AMG expected the plant to be operational in the first quarter of 2026 (AMG Critical Materials N.V., 2025).

The Department of Commerce ordered a continuation of antidumping duty orders on imports of strontium chromate (SrCrO_4) from Austria and France owing to the likelihood of a material injury to industry in the United States if removed (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2025). Strontium chromate is a light yellow powder that contains chromium and is used as a metal protective coating to prevent corrosion, provide color in polyvinyl resins, or as a colorant in pyrotechnics.

The Glencore–Merafe Chrome Venture (South Africa)

announced it would place its ferrochromium smelters at Boshhoek and Wonderkop under care and maintenance starting in May 2025 owing to declining profit margins. Essential maintenance would continue at the smelters but production would cease until market conditions improved (Glencore, 2025, p. 6).

The JSC Novotroitsk Plant of Chromium Chemicals (Russia) shut down operations in March owing to the inability to obtain chromium compounds and chromite ore following European sanctions imposed in February. Production of chromium metal was also halted at the Kluchevsky Ferroalloy Plant in Russia in the second half of 2024 owing to an insufficient supply of chromium oxide (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025a; Barkhush, 2025; Directorate–General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, 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

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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.

List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.

Table 1. Salient United States chromium statistics.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons. W, withheld to avoid closing company proprietary data. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>). Revised data are marked with a superscript "r".]

Product	2024	2025			
	January–December ¹	February	March	April	January–April ¹
U.S. production					
Stainless steel ²	1,950,000	168,000	193,000	182,000	735,000
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	114,000 ^r	13,000	9,390	3,350	29,300
Chromium ferroalloys					
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	289,000	37,100	11,500	39,600	106,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium ⁴	90	0	0	26	46
Low-carbon ferrochromium ⁵ , more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	2,000	0	150	0	450
Low-carbon ferrochromium ⁵ , not more than 0.5% carbon	33,900	1,310	2,830	2,530	9,090
Ferrochromium silicon	3,110	795	0	0	1,470
Total ferroalloy imports	328,000	39,200	14,500	42,200	117,000
Chromium metal⁶					
Total	19,300	1,150	1,560	1,340	6,550
Stainless steel					
Stainless steel	1,010,000	80,000	101,000	80,500	369,000
Stainless steel scrap	218,000	20,600	25,100	17,100	83,400
Exports					
Chromite ore	2,230	96	409	106	693
Chromium ferroalloys					
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	1,720	163	208	0	449
Low-carbon ferrochromium ⁵	246	0	62	80	161
Ferrochromium silicon	33	0	0	0	0
Total ferroalloy exports	2,000	163	270	80	610
Chromium metal⁶					
Total	531	28	32	50	128
Stainless steel					
Stainless steel	515,000 ^r	42,300	39,400	53,400	172,000
Stainless steel scrap	369,000 ^r	21,200	23,100	20,900	82,300

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/>). Revised data are marked with a superscript "r".]

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							
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	201 ^r	64	239 ^r	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	2,320	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
April	106	101	80	53	294	50	1,590
January–April³	693	679	610	371	1,220	128	4,140

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. Data are in metric tons. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>). Revised data are marked with a superscript "r".]

Product	2024	2025		
	January–December ¹	March	April	January–April ¹
Chromite ore, not more than 40% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	1,190	3,460	72	4,730
Chromic oxide content	458	644	28	904
Chromite ore, more than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	29,200	3,110	2,910	11,600
Chromic oxide content	12,600	1,340	1,260	5,050
Chromite ore, 46% or more chromic oxide				
Gross weight	83,400 ^r	2,830	368	12,900
Chromic oxide content	62,200 ^r	2,440	182	8,230
Chromite ore, total, all grades				
Gross weight	114,000 ^r	9,390	3,350	29,300
Chromic oxide content	75,300 ^r	4,430	1,470	14,200
Ferrochromium, low-carbon², not more than 0.5% carbon				
Gross weight	33,900	2,830	2,530	9,090
Chromium content	23,300	1,990	1,720	6,310
Ferrochromium, low-carbon², more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon				
Gross weight	2,000	150	0	450
Chromium content	1,350	93	0	280
Ferrochromium, low-carbon², total				
Gross weight	35,900	2,980	2,530	9,540
Chromium content	24,600	2,080	1,720	6,590
Medium-carbon³				
Gross weight	90	0	26	46
Chromium content	62	0	14	28
High-carbon⁴				
Gross weight	289,000	11,500	39,600	106,000
Chromium content	158,000	6,440	20,800	57,300
Total, all grades				
Gross weight	325,000	14,500	42,200	115,000
Chromium content	183,000	8,520	22,600	63,900
Chromium metal				
Unwrought powders	17,000	1,220	893	5,070
Waste and scrap	429	33	32	117
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders	1,900 ^r	308	416	1,360
Total, all grades	19,300	1,560	1,340	6,550

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	April			January-April 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	0	0	\$0	1,990	1,090	\$2,070
Finland	10,000	5,260	10,800	18,000	9,440	20,200
Gabon	12	8	46	12	8	46
India	1,140	686	1,410	2,770	1,650	3,600
Kazakhstan	4,490	3,110	8,110	17,000	11,800	32,700
Oman	573	343	877	681	408	1,040
South Africa	23,400	11,400	23,600	65,200	32,900	66,200
Total	39,600	20,800	44,800	106,000	57,300	126,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium⁴						
China	26	14	101	26	14	101
India	0	0	0	20	14	107
Total	26	14	101	46	28	208
Low-carbon ferrochromium⁵, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon						
Brazil	0	0	0	450	280	1,170
Total	0	0	0	450	280	1,170
Low-carbon ferrochromium⁵, not more than 0.5% carbon						
Brazil	557	341	1,220	557	341	1,220
China	20	15	93	21	15	96
Germany	1,280	895	6,530	3,790	2,640	19,100
India	6	6	29	444	282	1,400
Japan	101	70	539	724	506	3,980
Kazakhstan	22	16	105	2,850	2,040	9,300
Netherlands	50	35	145	50	35	145
Oman	20	8	58	20	8	58
Sweden	0	0	0	2	1	21
Turkey	475	332	1,390	636	445	1,950
Total	2,530	1,720	10,100	9,090	6,310	37,300
All grades						
Brazil	557	341	1,220	3,000	1,710	4,470
China	46	29	194	47	29	198
Finland	10,000	5,260	10,800	18,000	9,440	20,200
Gabon	12	8	46	12	8	46
Germany	1,280	895	6,530	3,790	2,640	19,100
India	1,140	692	1,440	3,240	1,950	5,110
Japan	101	70	539	724	506	3,980
Kazakhstan	4,520	3,120	8,210	19,900	13,800	42,000
Netherlands	50	35	145	50	35	145
Oman	593	351	935	701	416	1,100
South Africa	23,400	11,400	23,600	65,200	32,900	66,200
Sweden	0	0	0	2	1	21
Turkey	475	332	1,390	636	445	1,950
Total	42,200	22,600	55,000	115,000	63,900	165,000

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.

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	April		January-April ¹	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Unwrought powders				
China	291	\$2,450	2,690	\$23,400
France	24	364	32	779
Germany	163	1,160	395	2,830
India	25	273	100	1,100
Italy	(³)	8	(³)	8
Mexico	2	22	6	74
Russia	80	584	80	586
South Africa	0	0	18	50
United Kingdom	308	5,300	1,740	27,300
Total	893	10,200	5,070	56,200
Waste and scrap				
Canada	6	49	35	336
China	0	0	10	40
Taiwan	7	103	22	179
United Kingdom	20	146	50	284
Total	32	297	117	839
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders				
China	21	382	256	2,840
France	344	5,080	899	12,400
Germany	20	132	21	210
Israel	0	0	(³)	3
Japan	0	0	1	30
Malaysia	(³)	11	(³)	11
Spain	31	173	168	916
Taiwan	(³)	7	(³)	58
United Kingdom	0	0	20	181
Total	416	5,780	1,360	16,700
All grades				
Canada	6	49	35	336
China	311	2,830	2,960	26,300
France	368	5,440	930	13,200
Germany	184	1,290	416	3,040
India	25	273	100	1,100
Israel	0	0	(³)	3
Italy	(³)	8	(³)	8
Japan	0	0	1	30
Malaysia	(³)	11	(³)	11
Mexico	2	22	6	74
Russia	80	584	80	586
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	31	173	168	916
Taiwan	7	110	22	237
United Kingdom	328	5,450	1,810	27,800
Total	1,340	16,200	6,550	73,700

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	April		January-April ¹	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Exports				
Ingot	1,520	\$6,990	4,130	\$25,100
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	41,600	99,700	128,000	337,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	4,130	49,700	15,100	153,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	124	914	670	4,150
Other bars and rods	2,520	44,500	10,800	172,000
Wire	398	10,400	1,580	49,400
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	3,130	42,200	12,400	157,000
Total	53,400	254,000	172,000	899,000
Stainless steel scrap	20,900	26,200	82,300	97,400
Grand total	74,300	281,000	255,000	996,000
Imports				
Ingot	10,000	23,600	56,700	150,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	30,700	81,200	139,000	386,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,790	16,700	17,000	73,500
Bars and rods in irregular coils	3,820	17,800	12,200	54,500
Other bars and rods	10,900	51,500	46,300	227,000
Wire	3,690	17,000	15,200	70,800
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	17,600	100,000	82,100	494,000
Total	80,500	308,000	369,000	1,460,000
Stainless steel scrap	17,100	19,300	83,400	95,300
Grand total	97,600	328,000	452,000	1,550,000

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.