

Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN MAY 2025

Chromium is an essential feedstock in the production of stainless steel owing to its abilities to impart corrosion and oxidation resistance, increase hardenability, improve wear resistance, and bolster strength at elevated temperatures. Stainless steel production was 198,000 metric tons (t) in May 2025, an increase of 9% compared with production in April 2025 and an increase of 8% compared with production in May 2024 (table 1). In May 2025, the leading import sources for ferrochromium into the United States were, in descending order of quantity by gross weight and chromium content, Kazakhstan, South Africa, and Germany (table 4). 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 May 2025 were more than seven times those in April 2025 and more than three times those in May 2024. Chromium ferroalloy imports in May 2025 decreased by 69% compared with imports in April 2025 and decreased by 64% compared with imports in May 2024 (fig. 1, tables 1, 3).

Stainless steel imports in May 2025 increased by 10% compared with imports in April 2025 and decreased slightly compared with those in May 2024. Stainless-steel scrap imports in May 2025 increased by 24% compared with imports in April 2025 and increased slightly compared with those in May 2024 (fig. 1, table 1).

Exports of stainless steel decreased by 12% in May 2025 compared with those in April 2025 and increased by 8%

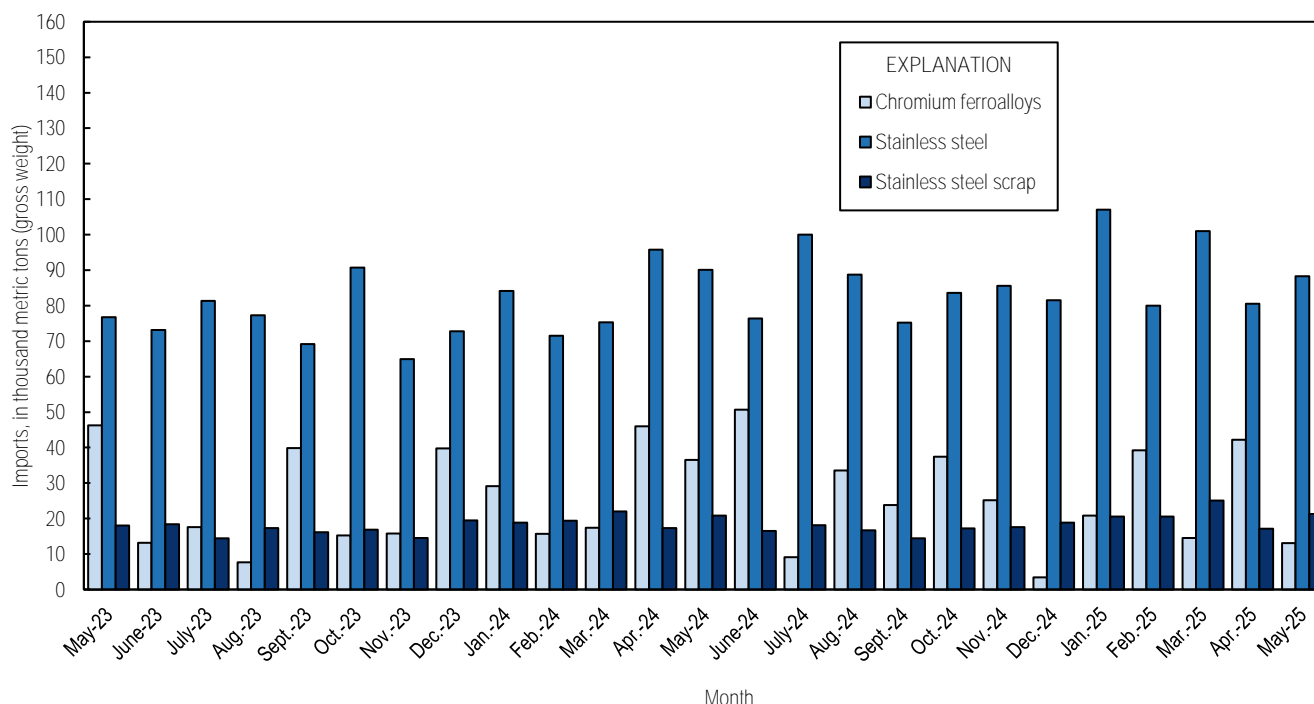


Figure 1. Chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless steel scrap imports from May 2023 through May 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

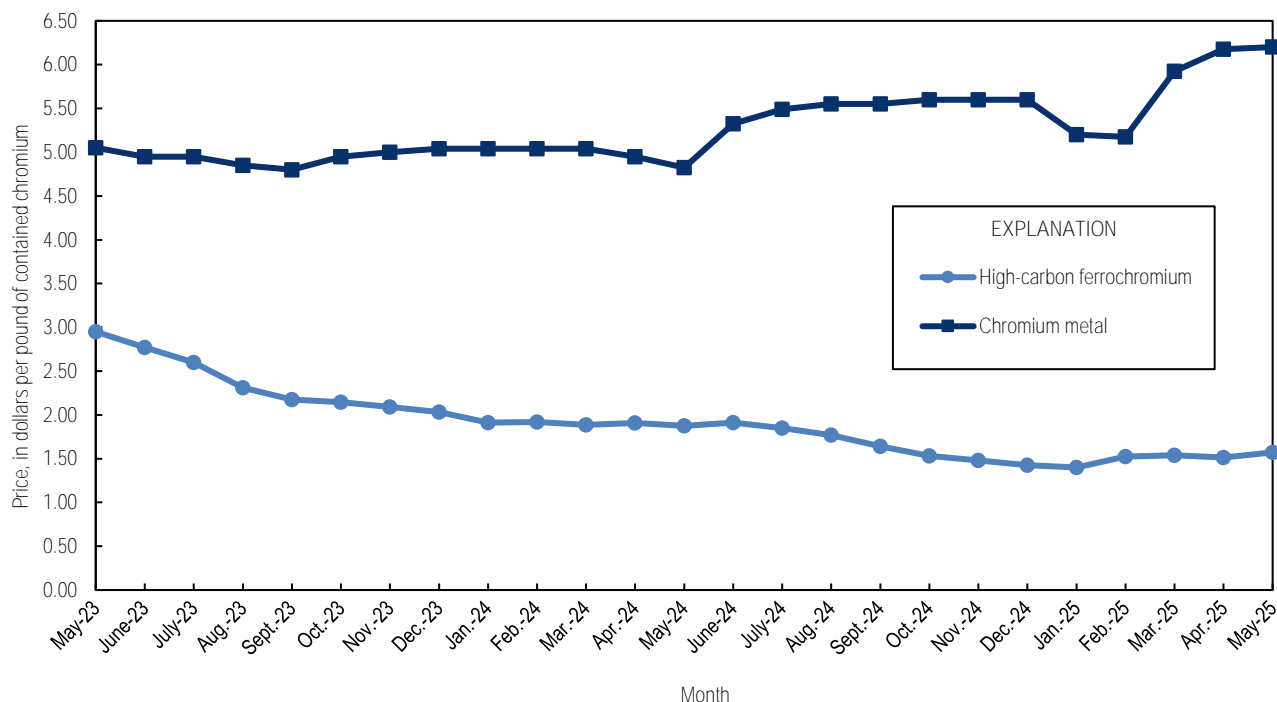


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (FeCr) and chromium metal from May 2023 through May 2025. Source: Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

compared with those in May 2024. Exports of stainless-steel scrap increased by 16% in May 2025 compared with those in April 2025 and decreased by 13% compared with those in May 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 May 2025, the average U.S. price for chromium metal (99% chromium) average assessed price was \$6.20 per pound, an increase from \$6.18 in April 2025 and an increase of 28% compared with the average price in May 2024. The U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (minimum 62% chromium) average assessed price was \$1.57 per pound of contained chromium in May 2025, a 4% increase compared the average price in April 2025 and a 16% decrease compared with the average price in May 2024 (fig. 2) (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025).

Industry News

The Critical Minerals and Metals Strategy of South Africa was approved by the Minister of the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources in May. Of the 21 commodities evaluated, chromite ore was identified as being a highly-critical mineral in South Africa for the transition to renewable energy, environmental and social concerns, geopolitical concerns, industrialization, strategic concerns, supply chain vulnerabilities, and technological advances (Government of South Africa, 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. Data may be withheld or estimated, as marked in the accompanying tables, owing to lack of industry response or to withhold proprietary data.

Companies may report on a monthly, quarterly, semiannual, and (or) annual basis, depending on the frequency of the surveys. 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, May 31. (Accessed July 21, 2025, via <https://www.argusmedia.com/metals>.)
- Government of South Africa, 2025, Minister Gwede Mantashe—Approval of Critical Minerals and Metals Strategy for South Africa and draft Mineral Resources Development Bill of 2025: Cape Town, South Africa, Government of South Africa news release, May 20. (Accessed July 21, 2025, at <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/minister-gwede-mantashe-approval-critical-minerals-and-metals-strategy-south>.)

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. W, withheld to avoid closing company proprietary data.]

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>).]

Product	2024	2025			
	January– December ¹	March	April	May	January– May ¹
U.S. production					
Stainless steel ²	1,950,000	193,000	182,000	198,000	933,000
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	9,390	3,350	26,000	55,300
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	289,000	11,500	39,600	9,180	115,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium ⁴	90	0	26	172	218
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	2,000	150	0	335	785
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon	33,900	2,830	2,530	2,730	11,800
Ferrochromium silicon	3,110	0	0	669	2,140
Total ferroalloy imports	328,000	14,500	42,200	13,100	130,000
Chromite metal ⁵	19,300	1,560	1,340	1,080	7,630
Stainless steel	1,010,000	101,000	80,500	88,300	457,000
Stainless-steel scrap	218,000	25,100	17,100	21,300	105,000
Exports					
Chromite ore	2,230	409	106	154	847
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	1,720	208	0	91	540
Low-carbon ferrochromium ⁶	246	62	80	22	184
Ferrochromium silicon	33	0	0	3	3
Total ferroalloy exports	2,000	270	80	116	727
Chromite metal ⁵	531	32	50	46	174
Stainless steel	515,000	39,400	53,400	46,800	219,000
Stainless-steel scrap	369,000	23,100	20,900	24,200	107,000
Chromium metal⁶					
Total	531	32	50	46	174

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.⁵Includes waste and scrap and other.⁶Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

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							
May	389	\$422	277	80	\$244	44	\$1,730
June	145	141	160	51	141	19	611
July	59	50	201	64	239	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
May	154	152	116	61	154	46	1,210
January–May ³	847	831	726	433	1,370	174	5,360

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	April	May	January– May ¹
Chromite ore, not more than 40% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	1,190	72	1,580	6,310
Chromic oxide content	458	28	308	1,210
Chromite ore, more than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	29,200	2,910	3,850	15,500
Chromic oxide content	12,600	1,260	1,660	6,710
Chromite ore, 46% or more chromic oxide				
Gross weight	83,400	368	20,600	33,500
Chromic oxide content	62,200	182	20,100	28,300
Chromite ore, total, all grades				
Gross weight	114,000	3,350	26,000	55,300
Chromic oxide content	75,300	1,470	22,000	36,200
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, not more than 0.5% carbon				
Gross weight	33,900	2,530	2,730	11,800
Chromium content	23,300	1,720	1,920	8,230
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon				
Gross weight	2,000	0	335	785
Chromium content	1,350	0	223	503
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, total				
Gross weight	35,900	2,530	3,060	12,600
Chromium content	24,600	1,720	2,140	8,730
Medium-carbon²				
Gross weight	90	26	172	218
Chromium content	62	14	93	121
High-carbon³				
Gross weight	289,000	39,600	9,180	115,000
Chromium content	158,000	20,800	5,660	63,000
Total ferrochromium, all grades				
Gross weight	325,000	42,200	12,400	128,000
Chromium content	183,000	22,600	7,900	71,800
Chromium metal				
Unwrought powders	17,000	893	694	5,770
Waste and scrap	429	32	126	242
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders	1,900	416	258	1,620
Total, all grades	19,300	1,340	1,080	7,630

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

²Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon.

³Ferrochromium 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	May			January-May 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						
Albania	54	34	\$82	54	34	\$82
Brazil	0	0	0	1,990	1,090	2,070
Finland	0	0	0	18,000	9,440	20,200
Gabon	0	0	0	12	8	46
India	762	451	1,200	3,540	2,110	4,810
Kazakhstan	4,520	3,120	8,250	21,600	14,900	41,000
Oman	756	475	1,270	1,440	884	2,310
South Africa	3,020	1,530	3,730	68,200	34,400	69,900
Turkey	72	47	145	72	47	145
Total	9,180	5,660	14,700	115,000	63,000	141,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium⁴						
China	172	93	93	198	107	194
India	0	0	0	20	14	107
Total	172	93	93	218	121	301
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon						
Brazil	150	93	309	600	374	1,480
India	29	20	52	29	20	52
Kazakhstan	156	109	527	156	109	527
Total	335	223	887	785	503	2,060
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon						
Brazil	108	66	226	665	407	1,450
China	0	0	0	21	15	96
Germany	1,400	971	7,120	5,180	3,610	26,200
India	24	20	134	468	302	1,540
Japan	261	183	1,420	985	689	5,400
Kazakhstan	917	665	3,280	3,760	2,710	12,600
Netherlands	0	0	0	50	35	145
Oman	0	0	0	20	8	58
Singapore	(⁵)	(⁵)	5	(⁵)	(⁵)	5
Sweden	0	0	0	2	1	21
Turkey	20	14	74	656	459	2,030
Total	2,730	1,920	12,300	11,800	8,230	49,500
All grades						
Albania	54	34	82	54	34	82
Brazil	258	159	535	3,250	1,870	5,000
China	172	93	93	219	122	291
Finland	0	0	0	18,000	9,440	20,200
Gabon	0	0	0	12	8	46
Germany	1,400	971	7,120	5,180	3,610	26,200
India	815	491	1,390	4,050	2,440	6,500
Japan	261	183	1,420	985	689	5,400
Kazakhstan	5,590	3,900	12,100	25,500	17,700	54,100
Netherlands	0	0	0	50	35	145
Oman	756	475	1,270	1,460	892	2,370
Singapore	(⁵)	(⁵)	5	(⁵)	(⁵)	5
South Africa	3,020	1,530	3,730	68,200	34,400	69,900
Sweden	0	0	0	2	1	21
Turkey	92	61	219	728	506	2,170
Total	12,400	7,900	27,900	128,000	71,800	192,000

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.

⁵Less 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	May		January-May ¹	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Unwrought powders				
China	262	\$2,310	2,960	\$25,700
France	2	138	34	917
Germany	120	880	515	3,710
India	(³)	6	100	1,100
Italy	0	0	(³)	8
Mexico	1	10	7	84
Russia	0	0	80	586
South Africa	0	0	18	50
United Kingdom	309	5,080	2,050	32,400
Total	694	8,420	5,770	64,600
Waste and scrap				
Canada	17	151	52	487
China	0	0	10	40
Mexico	2	10	2	10
Taiwan	0	0	22	179
United Kingdom	107	621	157	905
Total	126	783	242	1,620
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders				
China	20	344	276	3,190
France	171	2,610	1,070	15,000
Germany	(³)	71	21	282
Israel	0	0	(³)	3
Japan	0	0	1	30
Malaysia	(³)	17	(³)	28
Spain	65	354	233	1,270
Taiwan	(³)	26	(³)	84
United Kingdom	0	0	20	181
Total	258	3,430	1,620	20,100
All grades				
Canada	17	151	52	487
China	282	2,650	3,240	29,000
France	174	2,750	1,100	15,900
Germany	120	951	537	3,990
India	(³)	6	100	1,100
Israel	0	0	(³)	3
Italy	0	0	(³)	8
Japan	0	0	1	30
Malaysia	(³)	17	(³)	28
Mexico	3	20	9	95
Russia	0	0	80	586
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	65	354	233	1,270
Taiwan	(³)	26	22	263
United Kingdom	416	5,700	2,230	33,500
Total	1,080	12,600	7,630	86,300

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	May		January-May ¹	
	Gross weight	Value ²	Gross weight	Value ²
	(metric tons)	(thousand dollars)	(metric tons)	(thousand dollars)
Exports				
Ingot	992	\$5,880	5,130	\$31,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	35,800	87,300	164,000	424,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	4,220	43,800	19,300	197,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	76	916	746	5,070
Other bars and rods	2,200	40,200	13,000	213,000
Wire	424	13,500	2,000	62,900
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	3,150	39,000	15,600	196,000
Total	46,800	231,000	219,000	1,130,000
Stainless steel scrap	24,200	29,700	107,000	127,000
Grand total	71,100	260,000	326,000	1,260,000
Imports				
Ingot	12,900	30,100	69,600	180,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	34,000	90,800	173,000	477,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	4,130	18,600	21,100	92,100
Bars and rods in irregular coils	2,880	12,400	15,100	66,900
Other bars and rods	11,900	55,200	58,200	282,000
Wire	4,560	21,100	19,800	91,900
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	17,900	109,000	100,000	603,000
Total	88,300	337,000	457,000	1,790,000
Stainless steel scrap	21,300	22,100	105,000	117,000
Grand total	110,000	359,000	562,000	1,910,000

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.