

Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN JUNE 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 178,000 metric tons (t) in June 2025, a decrease of 10% compared with production in May 2025 and an increase of 5% compared with production in June 2024 (table 1). In June 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 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 June 2025 decreased by 70% compared with those in May 2025 and were more than six times those in June 2024. Chromium ferroalloy imports in June 2025 were more than double imports in May 2025 and decreased by 26% compared with imports in June 2024 (fig. 1, tables 1, 3).

Stainless steel imports in June 2025 decreased by 10% compared with imports in May 2025 and increased by 4% compared with those in June 2024. Stainless-steel scrap imports in June 2025 increased by 1% compared with imports in May 2025 and increased by 30% compared with those in June 2024 (fig. 1, table 1).

Exports of stainless steel decreased by 6% in June 2025 compared with those in May 2025 and decreased by 11%

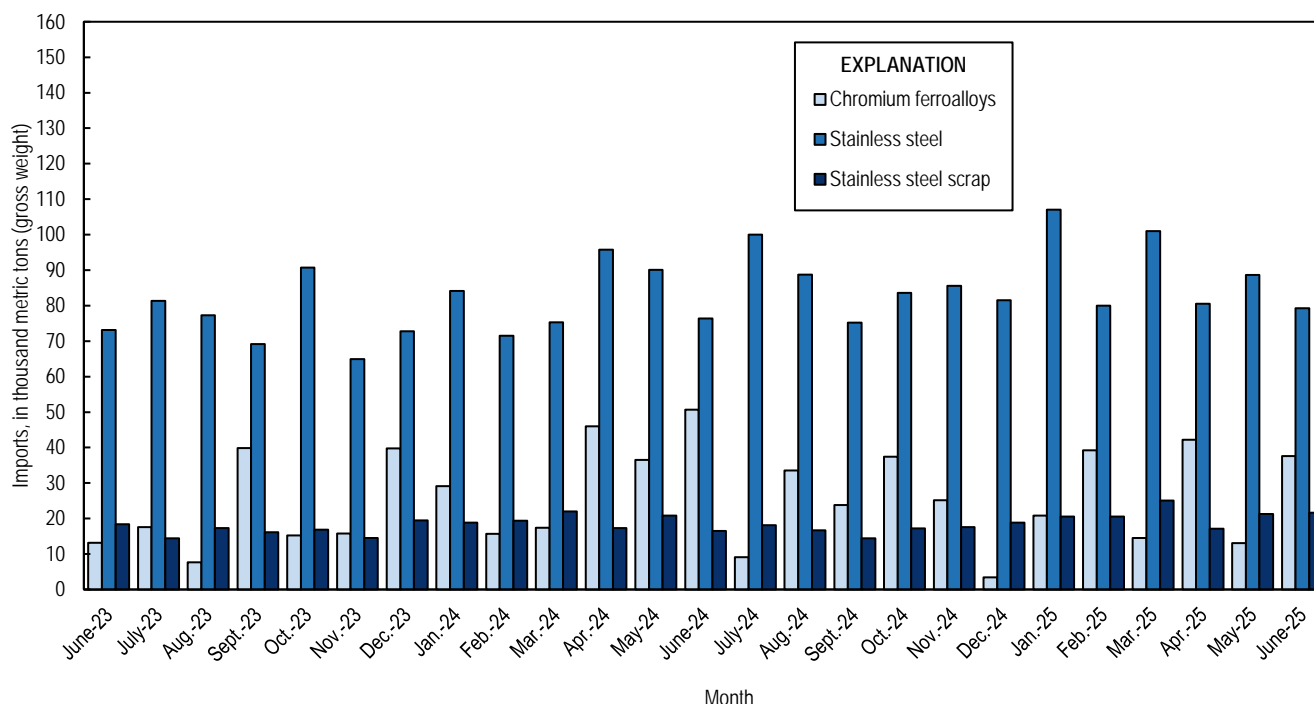


Figure 1. Chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless steel scrap imports from June 2023 through June 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

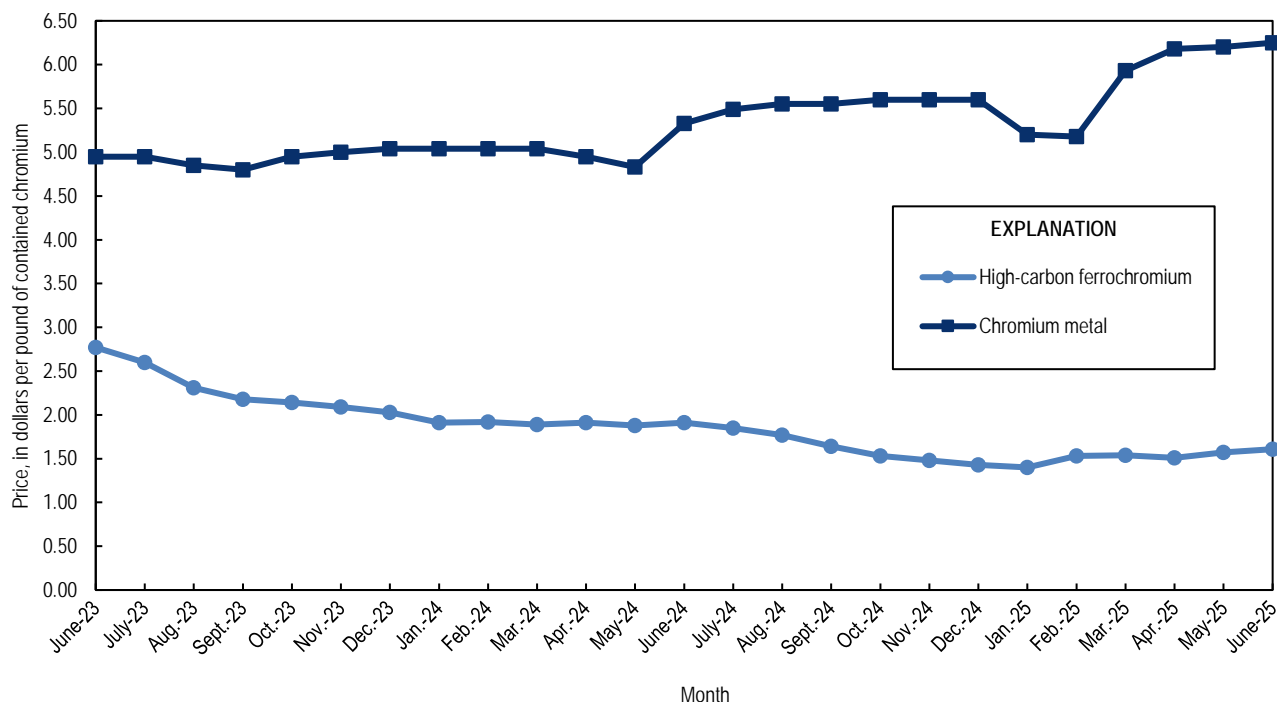


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (FeCr) and chromium metal from June 2023 through June 2025. Source: Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

compared with those in June 2024. Exports of stainless-steel scrap increased by 5% in June 2025 compared with those in May 2025 and decreased by 37% compared with those in June 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 June 2025, the average U.S. price for chromium metal (99% chromium) average assessed price was \$6.25 per pound, an increase from \$6.20 in May 2025 and an increase of 17% compared with the average price in June 2024. The U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (minimum 62% chromium) average assessed price was \$1.61 per pound of contained chromium in June 2025, a 3% increase compared the average price in May 2025 and a 16% decrease compared with the average price in June 2024 (fig. 2) (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025).

Industry News

The Glencore-Merafe Chrome Venture plc (the “Venture”) (South Africa), a joint venture between Glencore plc (Switzerland) and Merafe Resources Ltd. (South Africa), announced a temporary suspension of its ferrochromium smelting operations in South Africa. The Boshhoek Smelter was suspended on May 1, and the Lion and Wonderkop Smelters were suspended on May 31. The temporary suspensions would allow the Venture to perform essential maintenance at the Wonderkop and Boshhoek Smelters while the Lion Smelter would undergo annual maintenance and planned renovations. Challenges facing the ferrochromium industry in South Africa were cited as reasons for the temporary suspensions, but no additional details were provided (Glencore plc, 2025).

Afarak Group SE (Finland) announced the sale of its Zeerust chromium mine in South Africa to Plantcor Mining and Plant Hire, a private miner and mining services company

based in South Africa, for approximately \$2.25 million (1.94 million €). Afarak planned to continue to operate its Vlakpoort and Mecklenburg chromium mines in South Africa (CRU Group, 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, June 30. (Accessed August 21, 2025, via <https://www.argusmedia.com/metals>.)

CRU Group, 2025, Afarak disposes of mine: CRU Group, June 30. (Accessed July 15, 2025, via <https://www.crugroup.com/>.)
Glencore plc, 2025, Operational update—Temporary suspension of production operations at Boshoeck, Wonderkop and Lion smelters: Baar, Switzerland, Glencore plc press release, June 13. (Accessed August 21, 2025, at <https://www.glencore.com/south-africa/Save-SA-Smelters/Operational-Update--Temporary-Suspension>.)

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. Data are in metric tons. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>).]

Product	2024	2025			
	January–December ¹	April	May	June	January–June ¹
U.S. production					
Stainless steel ²	1,950,000	182,000	198,000	178,000	1,110,000
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	3,350	26,000	7,890	63,100
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	289,000	39,600	9,180	32,500	147,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium ⁴	90	26	172	3	221
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	2,000	0	335	325	1,110
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon	33,900	2,530	2,730	4,700	16,500
Ferrochromium silicon	3,110	0	669	0	2,140
Total ferroalloy imports	328,000	42,200	13,100	37,600	167,000
Chromium metal ⁵	19,300	1,340	1,080	1,090	8,720
Stainless steel	1,010,000	80,500	88,600 ^r	79,300	536,000
Stainless-steel scrap	218,000	17,100	21,300	21,600	126,000
Exports					
Chromite ore	2,230	106	154	234	1,080
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	1,720	0	91	55	594
Low-carbon ferrochromium ⁶	246	80	22	11	194
Ferrochromium silicon	33	0	3	0	3
Total ferroalloy exports	2,000	80	116	66	791
Chromium metal ⁵	531	50	46	42	216
Stainless steel	515,000	53,400	46,800	44,100	263,000
Stainless-steel scrap	369,000	20,900	24,200	25,500	132,000

^rRevised.

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							
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
June	234	218	65	37	109	42	1,090
January–June³	1,080	1,050	792	470	1,480	216	6,450

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/>).]

Product	2024	2025		
	January– December ¹	May	June	January– June ¹
Chromite ore, not more than 40% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	1,190	1,580	1,470	7,770
Chromic oxide content	458	308	477	1,690
Chromite ore, more than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	29,200	3,850	3,720	19,200
Chromic oxide content	12,600	1,660	1,650	8,360
Chromite ore, 46% or more chromic oxide				
Gross weight	83,400	20,600	2,710	36,200
Chromic oxide content	62,200	20,100	1,330	29,600
Chromite ore, total, all grades				
Gross weight	114,000	26,000	7,890	63,100
Chromic oxide content	75,300	22,000	3,450	39,700
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, not more than 0.5% carbon				
Gross weight	33,900	2,730	4,700	16,500
Chromium content	23,300	1,920	3,270	11,500
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon				
Gross weight	2,000	335	325	1,110
Chromium content	1,350	223	200	703
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, total				
Gross weight	35,900	3,060	5,030	17,600
Chromium content	24,600	2,140	3,470	12,200
Medium-carbon²				
Gross weight	90	172	3	221
Chromium content	62	93	2	123
High-carbon³				
Gross weight	289,000	9,180	32,500	147,000
Chromium content	158,000	5,660	16,900	79,900
Total ferrochromium, all grades				
Gross weight	325,000	12,400	37,600	165,000
Chromium content	183,000	7,900	20,300	92,200
Chromium metal				
Unwrought powders	17,000	694	759	6,520
Waste and scrap	429	126	92	334
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders	1,900	258	243	1,870
Total, all grades	19,300	1,080	1,090	8,720

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	June			January-June 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	0	0	\$0	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	641	424	1,050	4,180	2,530	5,860
Kazakhstan	3,930	2,690	6,130	25,500	17,600	47,100
Oman	80	52	150	1,520	936	2,460
South Africa	27,600	13,500	27,700	95,800	48,000	97,600
Sweden	295	199	647	295	199	647
Turkey	0	0	0	72	47	145
Total	32,500	16,900	35,700	147,000	79,900	176,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium⁴						
China	3	2	12	201	108	206
India	0	0	0	20	14	107
Total	3	2	12	221	123	312
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon						
Brazil	325	200	760	925	573	2,240
India	0	0	0	29	20	52
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	156	109	527
Total	325	200	760	1,110	703	2,820
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon						
Brazil	162	101	355	827	507	1,800
China	0	0	0	21	15	96
Germany	1,310	904	6,680	6,490	4,510	32,900
India	297	181	746	765	483	2,280
Japan	84	56	441	1,070	745	5,840
Kazakhstan	2,000	1,440	5,640	5,760	4,150	18,200
Netherlands	0	0	0	50	35	145
Oman	0	0	0	20	8	58
Singapore	0	0	0	(⁵)	(⁵)	5
Sweden	0	0	0	2	1	21
Turkey	850	587	2,410	1,510	1,050	4,430
Total	4,700	3,270	16,300	16,500	11,500	65,800
All grades						
Albania	0	0	0	54	34	82
Brazil	487	300	1,120	3,740	2,170	6,120
China	3	2	12	222	123	302
Finland	0	0	0	18,000	9,440	20,200
Gabon	0	0	0	12	8	46
Germany	1,310	904	6,680	6,490	4,510	32,900
India	938	605	1,790	4,990	3,050	8,300
Japan	84	56	441	1,070	745	5,840
Kazakhstan	5,930	4,130	11,800	31,400	21,900	65,900
Netherlands	0	0	0	50	35	145
Oman	80	52	150	1,540	944	2,520
Singapore	0	0	0	(⁵)	(⁵)	5
South Africa	27,600	13,500	27,700	95,800	48,000	97,600
Sweden	295	199	647	297	200	668
Turkey	850	587	2,410	1,580	1,090	4,580
Total	37,600	20,300	52,800	165,000	92,200	245,000

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	June		January-June ¹	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Unwrought powders				
China	242	\$2,110	3,200	\$27,900
France	2	138	37	1,060
Germany	144	1,050	659	4,750
India	20	216	120	1,320
Italy	0	0	(³)	8
Mexico	19	229	26	313
Russia	0	0	80	586
South Africa	0	0	18	50
United Kingdom	331	5,510	2,390	37,900
Total	759	9,250	6,520	73,900
Waste and scrap				
Canada	9	77	61	565
China	0	0	10	40
Germany	(³)	4	(³)	4
Japan	1	12	1	12
Mexico	1	5	2	15
Singapore	3	29	3	29
Sweden	20	136	20	136
Taiwan	0	0	22	179
United Kingdom	58	243	215	1,150
Total	92	505	334	2,130
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders				
China	25	271	301	3,460
France	172	2,340	1,240	17,400
Germany	1	57	22	339
Israel	0	0	(³)	3
Japan	0	0	1	30
Malaysia	0	0	(³)	28
Spain	46	255	279	1,530
Taiwan	(³)	9	(³)	93
United Kingdom	0	0	20	181
Total	243	2,930	1,870	23,000
All grades				
Canada	9	77	61	565
China	267	2,380	3,510	31,400
France	174	2,480	1,280	18,400
Germany	145	1,110	682	5,100
India	20	216	120	1,320
Israel	0	0	(³)	3
Italy	0	0	(³)	8
Japan	1	12	2	42
Malaysia	0	0	(³)	28
Mexico	20	234	29	328
Russia	0	0	80	586
Singapore	3	29	3	29
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	46	255	279	1,530
Sweden	20	136	20	136
Taiwan	(³)	9	22	272
United Kingdom	389	5,750	2,620	39,200
Total	1,090	12,700	8,720	99,000

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.

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	June		January-June ¹	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Exports				
Ingot	863	\$5,285	5,989	\$36,244
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	33,000	82,600	197,000	507,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	4,260	46,200	23,500	243,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	118	775	864	5,840
Other bars and rods	2,240	41,900	15,200	255,000
Wire	397	13,700	2,400	76,600
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	3,280	36,000	18,900	232,000
Total	44,100	226,000	263,000	1,360,000
Stainless steel scrap	25,500	30,000	132,000	157,000
Grand total	69,600	256,000	395,000	1,510,000
Imports				
Ingot	9,700	21,400	79,300	202,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	32,300	83,800	205,000	560,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,930	18,000	25,100	110,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	3,000	11,400	18,100	78,200
Other bars and rods	9,470	41,600	67,700	324,000
Wire	4,220	18,700	24,000	111,000
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	16,700	93,400	117,000	697,000
Total	79,300	288,000	536,000	2,080,000
Stainless steel scrap	21,600	27,000	126,000	144,000
Grand total	101,000	315,000	662,000	2,230,000

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.