Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:
Ruth F. Schulte, Chromium Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
Telephone: (703) 648-4963
Email: rschulte@usgs.gov

Hanyeh Yazdani (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7745
Email: hyazdani@usgs.gov

Internet: https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys

CHROMIUM IN AUGUST 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 195,000 metric tons (t) in August 2025, an increase of 9% compared with production in July 2025 and an increase of 19% compared with production in August 2024 (table 1). In August 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). The leading import sources for chromium metal, in descending order of quantity by gross weight, were the United Kingdom, France, 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 August 2025 increased by more than 4 times those in July 2025 and by more than 11 times those in August 2024. Chromium ferroalloy imports in August 2025 decreased by 43% compared with imports in July 2025 and by 69% compared with imports in August 2024 (fig. 1, tables 1, 3).

Stainless steel imports in August 2025 decreased by 10% compared with imports in July 2025 and by 15% compared with those in August 2024. Stainless-steel scrap imports in August 2025 decreased by 2% compared with imports in July 2025 and increased by 44% compared with those in August 2024 (fig. 1, table 1).

Exports of stainless steel increased by 79% in August 2025 compared with those in July 2025 and by 10% compared with

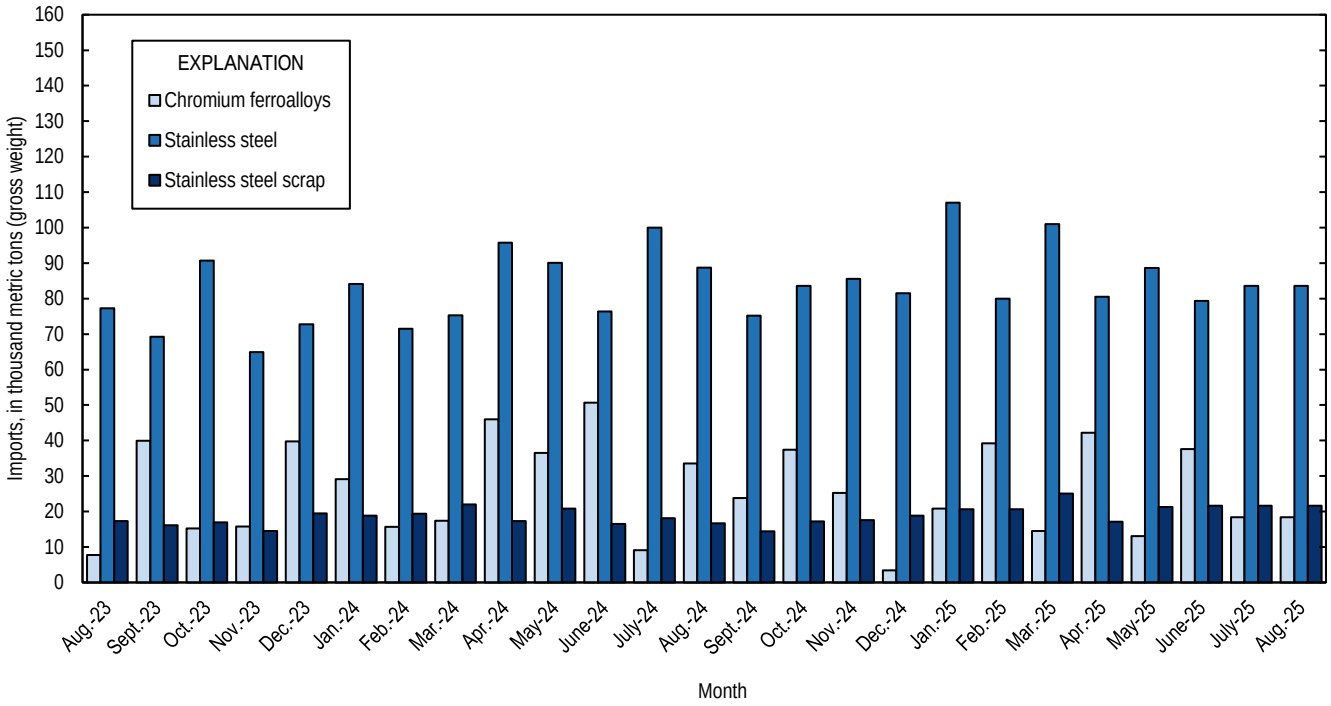

Figure 1. Chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless steel scrap imports from August 2023 through August 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

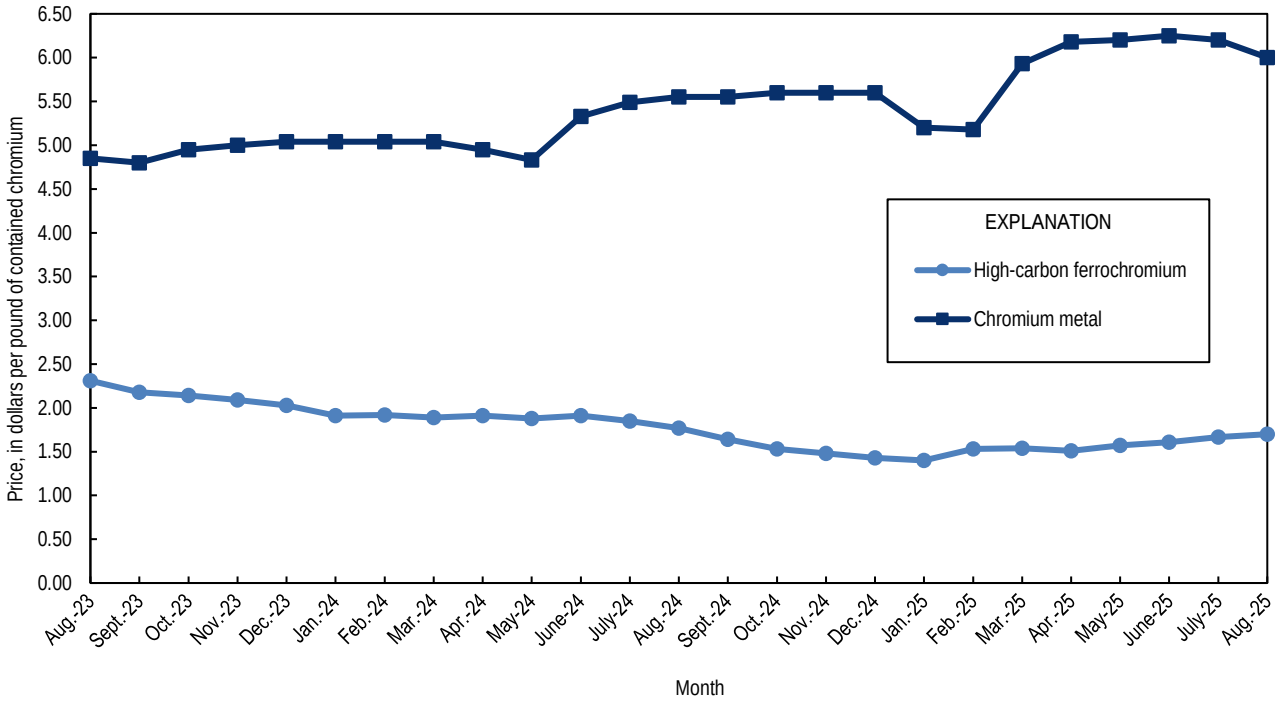

Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (FeCr) and chromium metal from August 2023 through August 2025. Source: Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

those in August 2024. Exports of stainless steel scrap decreased by 3% in August 2025 compared with those in July 2025 and by 40% compared with those in August 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 August 2025, the average U.S. price for chromium metal (99% chromium) average assessed price was $6.00 per pound, a 3% decrease from the average price in July 2025 and an increase of 8% compared with the average price in August 2024. The U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (mininum 62% chromium) average assessed price was $1.70 per pound of contained chromium in August 2025, a 2% increase compared the average price in July 2025 and a 4% decrease compared with the average price in August 2024 (fig. 2) (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025).

Industry News

A chromite processing plant in the Mohammad Agha district of Logar, Afghanistan, was commissioned in August 2025. The plant has the capability to process an average of 100 metric tons per day, which could equate to 36,500 metric tons per year of chromite. Chromite ore mined in Afghanistan was previously sent out of the country for futher processing (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, August 31. (Accessed December 9, 2025, via https://www.argusmedia.com/metals.)

CRU Group, 2025, Chromite plant inaugurated in Afghanistan: London, United Kingdom, CRU Group, August 20. (Accessed September 5, 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.

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/).]

Product	2024	2025			
	January–December[1]	June	July	August	January–August[1]
U.S. production					
Stainless steel[2]	1,950,000	178,000	178,000	195,000	1,490,000
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 (gross weight)					
Chromite ore	114,000	7,890	8,240	36,400	108,000
High-carbon ferrochromium[3]	289,000	32,500	15,600	8,080	171,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium[4]	90	3	84	17	322
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	2,000	325	25	238	1,370
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon	33,900	4,700	2,200	1,870	20,600
Ferrochromium silicon	3,110	0	536	215	2,890
Total ferroalloy imports	328,000	37,600	18,400	10,400	196,000
Chromium metal[5]	19,300	1,090	1,300	979	11,000
Stainless steel	1,010,000	79,300	83,600	75,300	695,000
Stainless-steel scrap	218,000	21,600	24,400	24,000	175,000
Exports (gross weight)					
Chromite ore	2,230	234	87	109	1,280
High-carbon ferrochromium[3]	1,720	55	1	0	595
Low-carbon ferrochromium[6]	246	11	22	0	216
Ferrochromium silicon	33	0	1	0	3
Total ferroalloy exports	2,000	65	23	0	815
Chromium metal[5]	531	42	20	42	278
Stainless steel	515,000	44,100	29,900	53,500	347,000
Stainless-steel scrap	369,000	25,500	20,900	20,100	173,000

[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]Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

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

[5]Includes waste and scrap and other.

[6]Ferrochromium 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							
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
July	87	84	23	14	86	20	812
August	109	111	0	0	0	42	1,130
January–August[3]	1,280	1,240	815	483	1,570	278	8,390

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

Product	2024	2025		
	January–December[1]	July	August	January–August[1]
Chromite ore, not more than 40% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	1,190	2,280	36	10,100
Chromic oxide content	458	427	14	2,130
Chromite ore, more than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	29,200	5,310	5,690	30,200
Chromic oxide content	12,600	2,280	2,450	13,100
Chromite ore, 46% or more chromic oxide				
Gross weight	83,400	653	30,600	67,500
Chromic oxide content	62,200	353	26,300	56,300
Chromite ore, total, all grades				
Gross weight	114,000	8,240	36,400	108,000
Chromic oxide content	75,300	3,060	28,800	71,500
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, not more than 0.5% carbon				
Gross weight	33,900	2,200	1,870	20,600
Chromium content	23,300	1,530	1,320	14,300
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon				
Gross weight	2,000	25	238	1,370
Chromium content	1,350	15	164	882
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, total				
Gross weight	35,900	2,230	2,110	22,000
Chromium content	24,600	1,540	1,480	15,200
Medium-carbon[2]				
Gross weight	90	84	17	322
Chromium content	62	45	9	177
High-carbon[3]				
Gross weight	289,000	15,600	8,080	171,000
Chromium content	158,000	9,200	4,260	93,300
Total ferrochromium, all grades				
Gross weight	325,000	17,900	10,200	193,000
Chromium content	183,000	10,800	5,750	109,000
Chromium metal				
Unwrought powders	17,000	921	544	7,990
Waste and scrap	429	50	220	604
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders	1,900	324	215	2,400
Total, all grades	19,300	1,300	979	11,000

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

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

[3]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	August			January-August[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]						
Albania	0	0	$0	155	101	$242
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	1,090	703	1,500	8,170	5,020	11,300
Kazakhstan	485	332	847	32,400	22,300	60,200
Oman	134	86	247	1,650	1,020	2,710
South Africa	6,000	2,890	6,090	108,000	53,800	111,000
Sweden	294	198	708	589	397	1,360
Turkey	0	0	0	72	47	145
United Arab Emirates	72	47	97	72	47	97
Total	8,080	4,260	9,500	171,000	93,300	209,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium[4]						
China	17	9	66	302	163	383
India	0	0	0	20	14	107
Total	17	9	66	322	177	490
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon						
Brazil	50	31	119	1,000	620	2,420
India	0	0	0	29	20	52
Kazakhstan	188	133	554	344	242	1,080
Total	238	164	673	1,370	882	3,550
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon						
Brazil	0	0	0	827	507	1,800
China	0	0	0	21	15	96
Germany	421	292	2,160	7,960	5,530	40,300
India	153	95	482	972	611	2,890
Japan	60	42	323	1,440	998	7,820
Kazakhstan	1,070	764	3,140	7,220	5,200	22,800
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	175	122	525	2,080	1,440	5,950
Total	1,870	1,320	6,630	20,600	14,300	81,900
All grades						
Albania	0	0	0	155	101	242
Brazil	50	31	119	3,820	2,220	6,290
China	17	9	66	322	178	479
Finland	0	0	0	18,000	9,440	20,200
Gabon	0	0	0	12	8	46
Germany	421	292	2,160	7,960	5,530	40,300
India	1,250	798	1,990	9,190	5,670	14,400
Japan	60	42	323	1,440	998	7,820
Kazakhstan	1,740	1,230	4,540	40,000	27,800	84,100
Netherlands	0	0	0	50	35	145
Oman	134	86	247	1,670	1,030	2,770
Singapore	0	0	0	(5)	(5)	5
South Africa	6,000	2,890	6,090	108,000	53,800	111,000
Sweden	294	198	708	591	398	1,380
Turkey	175	122	525	2,150	1,490	6,100
United Arab Emirates	72	47	97	72	47	97
Total	10,200	5,750	16,900	193,000	109,000	295,000

[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]Less 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	August		January-August[1]	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)
Unwrought powders				
China	41	$608	3,540	$31,000
France	0	0	40	1,070
Germany	25	205	708	5,040
India	35	439	205	2,310
Italy	0	0	([3])	8
Kazakhstan	0	0	([3])	7
Mexico	1	11	32	377
Russia	0	0	80	586
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	23	107	23	107
United Kingdom	420	6,510	3,340	53,200
Total	544	7,880	7,990	93,700
Waste and scrap				
Canada	9	100	98	928
China	2	55	12	106
Germany	0	0	([3])	4
Japan	0	0	1	12
Mexico	0	0	2	15
Singapore	0	0	3	29
Sweden	0	0	20	136
Taiwan	0	0	22	179
United Kingdom	209	1,070	446	2,440
Total	220	1,220	604	3,850
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders				
China	1	73	303	3,700
France	210	2,570	1,720	23,400
Germany	1	89	23	438
Israel	0	0	([3])	3
Italy	0	0	([3])	7
Japan	([3])	12	1	42
Malaysia	2	13	2	41
Russia	2	28	12	223
Spain	0	0	326	1,780
Taiwan	([3])	24	([3])	125
United Kingdom	0	0	20	181
Total	215	2,810	2,400	29,900
All grades				
Canada	9	100	98	928
China	43	736	3,860	34,800
France	210	2,570	1,760	24,500
Germany	25	294	731	5,480
India	35	439	205	2,310
Israel	0	0	([3])	3
Italy	0	0	([3])	15
Japan	([3])	12	2	54
Kazakhstan	0	0	([3])	7
Malaysia	2	13	2	41
Mexico	1	11	34	392
Russia	2	28	92	809
Singapore	0	0	3	29
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	23	107	349	1,890
Sweden	0	0	20	136
Taiwan	([3])	24	22	303
United Kingdom	629	7,580	3,810	55,800
Total	979	11,900	11,000	127,000

[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	August		January-August[1]	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)
Exports				
Ingot	791	$5,840	7,550	$47,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	43,600	105,000	260,000	673,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,770	42,600	30,900	320,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	137	1,280	1,080	7,690
Other bars and rods	1,830	36,500	19,000	331,000
Wire	290	12,300	3,080	103,000
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	3,090	40,500	24,800	312,000
Total	53,500	244,000	347,000	1,790,000
Stainless-steel scrap	20,100	26,100	173,000	210,000
Grand total	73,600	270,000	520,000	2,000,000
Imports				
Ingot	12,300	26,400	103,000	255,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	27,700	75,000	264,000	722,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,710	14,900	33,500	143,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	2,110	9,840	24,100	104,000
Other bars and rods	11,100	48,700	90,200	424,000
Wire	3,820	16,800	31,800	145,000
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	14,600	89,100	149,000	887,000
Total	75,300	281,000	695,000	2,680,000
Stainless-steel scrap	24,000	28,900	175,000	206,000
Grand total	99,300	310,000	870,000	2,890,000

[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.