

Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN SEPTEMBER 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 164,000 metric tons (t) in September 2025, a decrease of 16% compared with production in August 2025 and an increase of 1% compared with production in September 2024 (table 1). In September 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 September 2025 decreased by 96% compared with those in August 2025 and by 58% compared with those in September 2024. Chromium ferroalloy imports in September 2025 were more than double imports in August 2025 and increased by 9% compared with imports in September 2024 (fig. 1, tables 1, 3).

Stainless steel imports in September 2025 decreased by 19% compared with imports in August 2025 and by 18% compared with those in September 2024. Stainless-steel scrap imports in September 2025 increased by 6% compared with imports in August 2025 and by 78% compared with those in September 2024 (fig. 1, table 1).

Exports of stainless steel decreased by 32% in September

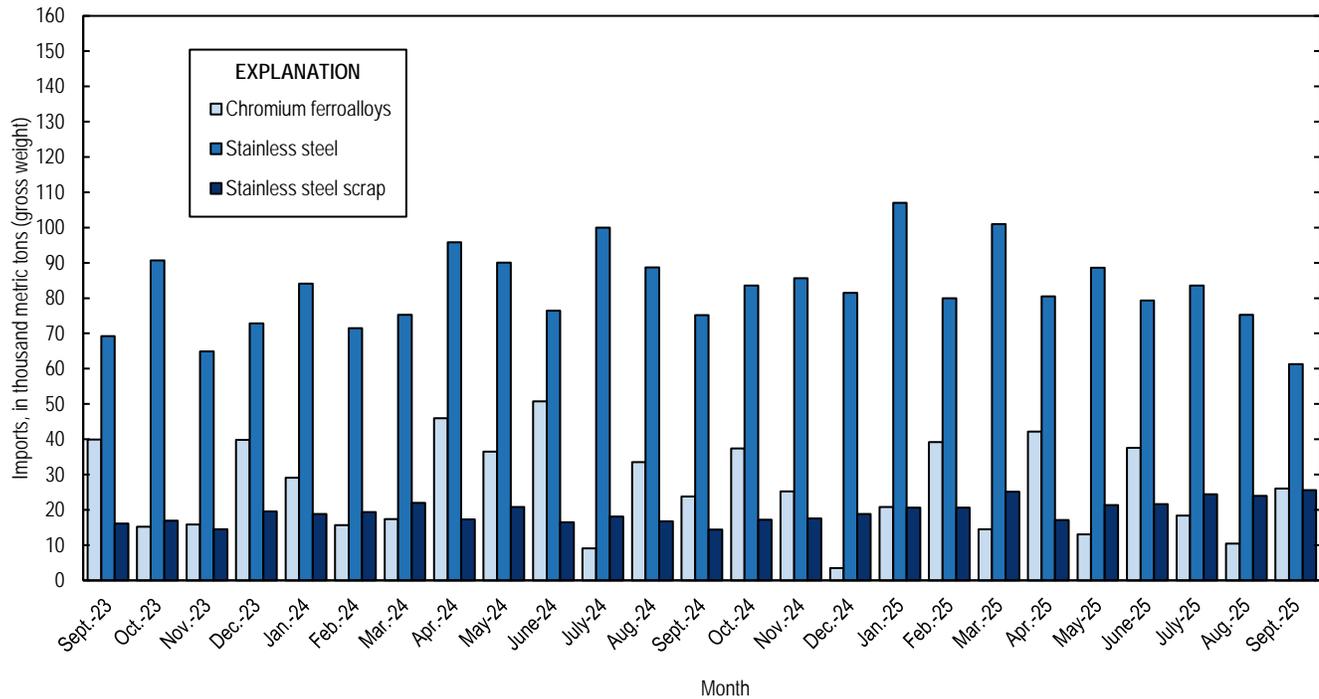


Figure 1. Chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless steel scrap imports from September 2023 through September 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

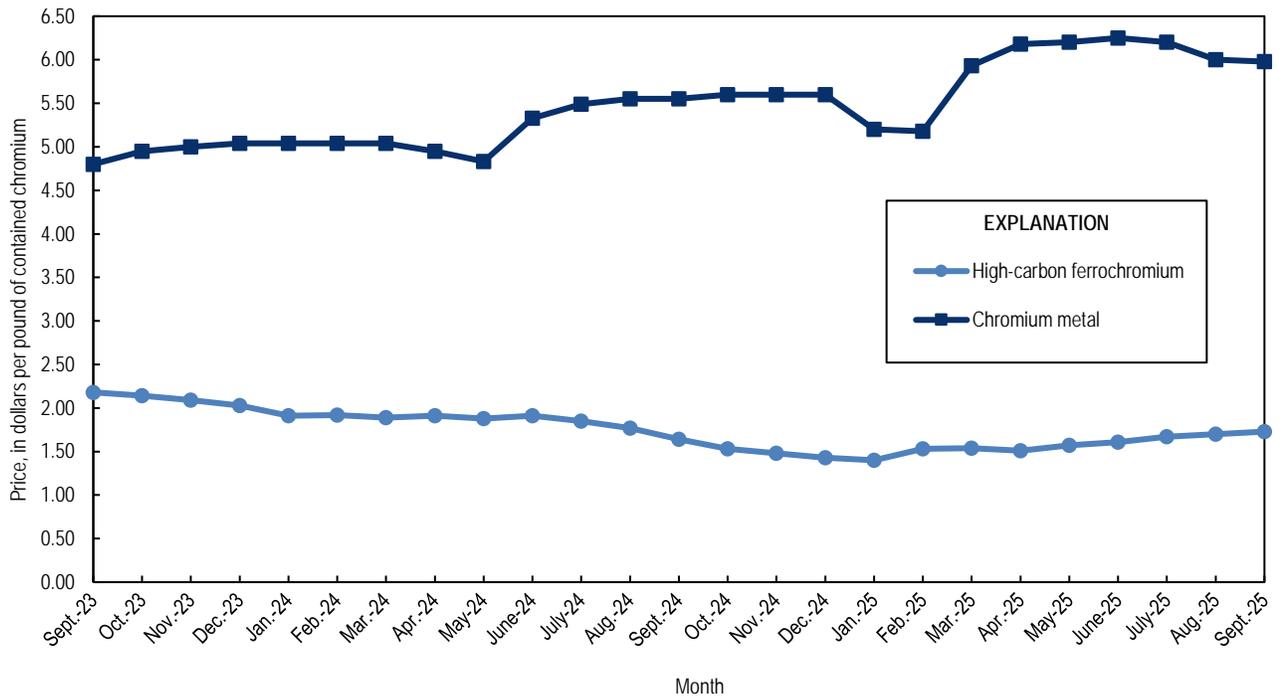


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (FeCr) and chromium metal from September 2023 through September 2025. Source: Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

2025 compared with those in August 2025 and increased by 4% compared with those in September 2024. Exports of stainless steel scrap increased by 19% in September 2025 compared with those in August 2025 and decreased by 40% compared with those in September 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 September 2025, the average U.S. price for chromium metal (99% chromium) average assessed price was \$5.98 per pound, a decrease from \$6.00 in August 2025 and an increase of 8% compared with the average price in September 2024. The U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (minimum 62% chromium) average assessed price was \$1.73 per pound of contained chromium in September 2025, a 2% increase compared the average price in August 2025 and a 5% increase compared with the average price in September 2024 (fig. 2) (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025).

Industry News

Outokumpu Oyj (Finland) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Boston Metal to develop a partnership using chromic oxide and chromite feedstock from the Kemi Mine in Finland. Boston Metal would allow Outokumpu to utilize its molten oxide electrolysis process technology and Outokumpu would provide supply chain support to Boston Metal (Outokumpu Oyj, 2025).

Kazchrome (Kazakhstan), a subsidiary of Eurasian Resources Group (Luxembourg), commissioned a flotation unit to increase extraction of chromium from waste material at its Donskoy mining operations in Kazakhstan. The flotation unit would process 1.7 million metric tons per year of sludge, and have a production capacity of approximately 400,000 metric tons of chromium concentrates per year (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, September 30. (Accessed January 7, 2026, via <https://www.argusmedia.com/metals>.)
- CRU Group, 2025, ERG to increase chromium output by processing more waste: London, United Kingdom, CRU Group, September 29. (Accessed January 7, 2026, via <https://www.crugroup.com/>.)
- Outokumpu Oyj, 2025, Outokumpu and Boston Metal sign a Memorandum of Understanding to optimize metals production: Helsinki, Finland, Outokumpu Oyj, September 9. (Accessed January 7, 2026, at <https://www.outokumpu.com/en/news/2025/outokumpu-and-boston-metal>.)

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. 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	July	August	September	January–September ¹
U.S. production					
Stainless steel ²	1,950,000	178,000	195,000	164,000	1,650,000
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	8,240	36,400	1,580	109,000
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	289,000	15,600	8,080	21,500	193,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium ⁴	90	84	17	14	336
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	2,000	25	238	0	1,370
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon	33,900	2,200	1,870	3,700	24,300
Ferrochromium silicon	3,110	536	215	702	3,600
Total ferroalloy imports	328,000	18,400	10,400	26,000	222,000
Chromium metal ⁵	19,300	1,300	979	1,020	12,000
Stainless steel	1,010,000	83,600	75,300	61,300	757,000
Stainless-steel scrap	218,000	24,400	24,000	25,600	200,000
Exports (gross weight)					
Chromite ore	2,230	87	109	48	1,330
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	1,720	1	0	0	595
Low-carbon ferrochromium ⁶	246	22	0	0	216
Ferrochromium silicon	33	1	0	10	13
Total ferroalloy exports	2,000	23	0	10	825
Chromium metal ⁵	531	20	42	36	315
Stainless steel	515,000	29,900	53,500	36,300	383,000
Stainless-steel scrap	369,000	20,900	20,100	24,000	197,000

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							
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–December³	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
September	48	39	10	3	13	36	1,270
January–September³	1,330	1,280	825	487	1,580	315	9,660

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			
	January–December ¹	August	September	January–September ¹
Chromite ore, not more than 40% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	1,190	36	36	10,100
Chromic oxide content	458	14	14	2,140
Chromite ore, more than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	29,200	5,690	1,120	31,300
Chromic oxide content	12,600	2,450	513	13,600
Chromite ore, 46% or more chromic oxide				
Gross weight	83,400	30,600	419	67,900
Chromic oxide content	62,200	26,300	206	56,500
Chromite ore, total, all grades				
Gross weight	114,000	36,400	1,580	109,000
Chromic oxide content	75,300	28,800	733	72,200
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, not more than 0.5% carbon				
Gross weight	33,900	1,870	3,700	24,300
Chromium content	23,300	1,320	2,540	16,900
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon				
Gross weight	2,000	238	0	1,370
Chromium content	1,350	164	0	882
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, total				
Gross weight	35,900	2,110	3,700	25,700
Chromium content	24,600	1,480	2,540	17,800
Medium-carbon²				
Gross weight	90	17	14	336
Chromium content	62	9	8	184
High-carbon³				
Gross weight	289,000	8,080	21,500	193,000
Chromium content	158,000	4,260	11,400	105,000
Total ferrochromium, all grades				
Gross weight	325,000	10,200	25,300	219,000
Chromium content	183,000	5,750	13,900	123,000
Chromium metal				
Unwrought powders	17,000	544	832	8,820
Waste and scrap	429	220	69	673
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders	1,900	215	116	2,520
Total, all grades	19,300	979	1,020	12,000

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	September			January-September 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	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	634	1,280	9,260	5,650	12,600
Kazakhstan	4,210	2,890	9,100	36,600	25,200	69,300
Oman	0	0	0	1,650	1,020	2,710
South Africa	16,000	7,690	16,500	124,000	61,500	127,000
Sweden	0	0	0	589	397	1,360
Turkey	262	171	492	334	218	636
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	72	47	97
Total	21,500	11,400	27,400	193,000	105,000	237,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium⁴						
China	14	8	55	316	170	438
India	0	0	0	20	14	107
Total	14	8	55	336	184	545
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon						
Brazil	0	0	0	1,000	620	2,420
India	0	0	0	29	20	52
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	344	242	1,080
Total	0	0	0	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	1,230	852	5,720	9,190	6,380	46,000
India	120	22	340	1,090	633	3,230
Japan	94	60	465	1,530	1,060	8,280
Kazakhstan	1,570	1,130	5,880	8,790	6,320	28,700
Netherlands	0	0	0	50	35	145
Oman	43	30	151	63	38	209
Singapore	0	0	0	(⁵)	(⁵)	5
Sweden	0	0	0	2	1	21
Turkey	650	453	1,950	2,730	1,900	7,900
Total	3,700	2,540	14,500	24,300	16,900	96,400
All grades						
Albania	0	0	0	155	101	242
Brazil	0	0	0	3,820	2,220	6,290
China	14	8	55	336	185	535
Finland	0	0	0	18,000	9,440	20,200
Gabon	0	0	0	12	8	46
Germany	1,230	852	5,720	9,190	6,380	46,000
India	1,210	655	1,620	10,400	6,320	16,000
Japan	94	60	465	1,530	1,060	8,280
Kazakhstan	5,770	4,020	15,000	45,700	31,800	99,100
Netherlands	0	0	0	50	35	145
Oman	43	30	151	1,710	1,060	2,920
Singapore	0	0	0	(⁵)	(⁵)	5
South Africa	16,000	7,690	16,500	124,000	61,500	127,000
Sweden	0	0	0	591	398	1,380
Turkey	912	624	2,440	3,060	2,110	8,540
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	72	47	97
Total	25,300	13,900	41,900	219,000	123,000	337,000

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	September		January-September ¹	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Unwrought powders				
China	120	\$1,070	3,660	\$32,000
France	2	138	42	1,210
Germany	49	398	757	5,440
India	6	59	211	2,360
Italy	0	0	(³)	8
Kazakhstan	0	0	(³)	7
Mexico	1	11	33	388
Russia	100	689	180	1,270
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	0	0	23	107
United Kingdom	554	8,250	3,890	61,500
Total	832	10,600	8,820	104,000
Waste and scrap				
Canada	3	24	101	952
China	1	81	13	187
Estonia	5	135	5	135
Germany	(³)	0	(³)	4
Japan	2	13	3	25
Mexico	1	5	3	20
Singapore	0	0	3	29
Sweden	0	0	20	136
Taiwan	0	0	22	179
United Kingdom	57	239	503	2,680
Total	69	498	673	4,340
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders				
China	2	139	305	3,840
France	114	1,680	1,830	25,100
Germany	(³)	37	23	475
Israel	0	0	(³)	3
Italy	0	0	(³)	7
Japan	0	0	1	42
Malaysia	0	0	2	41
Russia	0	0	12	223
Spain	0	0	326	1,780
Taiwan	0	0	(³)	125
United Kingdom	0	0	20	181
Total	116	1,860	2,520	31,800
All grades				
Canada	3	24	101	952
China	123	1,290	3,980	36,000
Estonia	5	135	5	135
France	117	1,820	1,870	26,300
Germany	49	435	780	5,920
India	6	59	211	2,360
Israel	0	0	(³)	3
Italy	0	0	(³)	15
Japan	2	13	4	67
Kazakhstan	0	0	(³)	7
Malaysia	0	0	2	41
Mexico	2	16	36	408
Russia	100	689	192	1,500
Singapore	0	0	3	29
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	0	0	349	1,890
Sweden	0	0	20	136
Taiwan	0	0	22	303
United Kingdom	611	8,490	4,420	64,300
Total	1,020	13,000	12,000	140,000

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	September		January-September ¹	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Exports				
Ingot	1,190	\$6,380	8,740	\$53,300
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	26,400	71,200	287,000	744,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,490	37,800	34,400	358,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	106	1,220	1,190	8,910
Other bars and rods	1,840	34,500	20,800	365,000
Wire	329	9,450	3,410	112,000
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	3,030	36,900	27,800	349,000
Total	36,300	197,000	383,000	1,990,000
Stainless-steel scrap	24,000	29,300	197,000	239,000
Grand total	60,300	227,000	580,000	2,230,000
Imports				
Ingot	11,300	26,400	114,000	282,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	18,300	50,100	282,000	772,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,610	14,300	37,100	157,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	1,000	4,550	25,100	108,000
Other bars and rods	8,800	38,700	99,000	463,000
Wire	4,040	17,700	35,800	163,000
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	14,200	79,400	163,000	966,000
Total	61,300	231,000	757,000	2,910,000
Stainless-steel scrap	25,600	26,200	200,000	233,000
Grand total	86,800	257,000	957,000	3,140,000

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.