Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN OCTOBER 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 168,000 metric tons (t) in October 2025, an increase of 2% compared with production in September 2025 and an increase of 16% compared with production in October 2024 (table 1). In October 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). 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 October 2025 were 17,400 t compared with 1,580 t in September 2025, and 1,210 t in October 2024. Chromium ferroalloy imports in October 2025 increased by 3% compared with imports in September 2025 and decreased by 28% compared with imports in October 2024 (fig. 1, tables 1, 3).

Stainless steel imports in October 2025 increased by 9% compared with imports in September 2025 and decreased by 20% compared with those in October 2024. Stainless-steel scrap imports in October 2025 decreased by 10% compared with imports in September 2025 and increased by 33% compared with those in October 2024 (fig. 1, table 1).

Exports of stainless steel increased by 9% in October 2025 compared with those in September 2025 and decreased by 9%

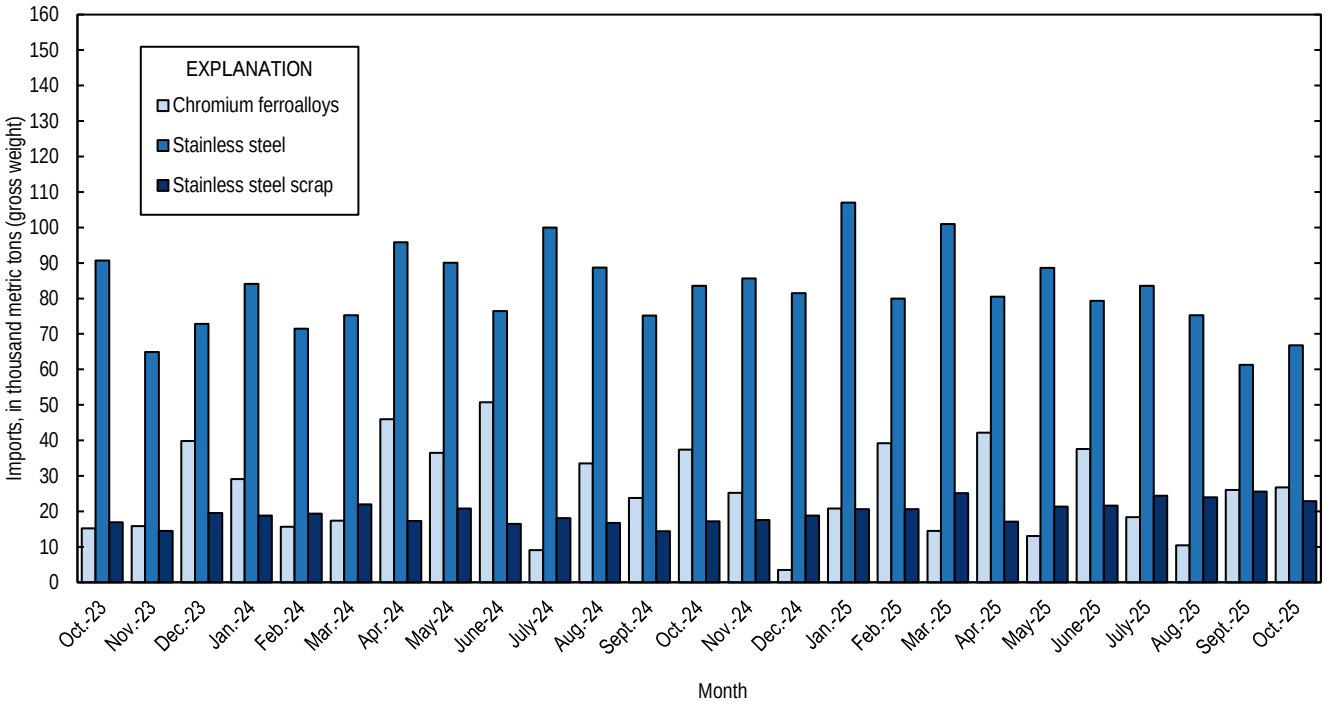

Figure 1. Chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless steel scrap imports from October 2023 through October 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

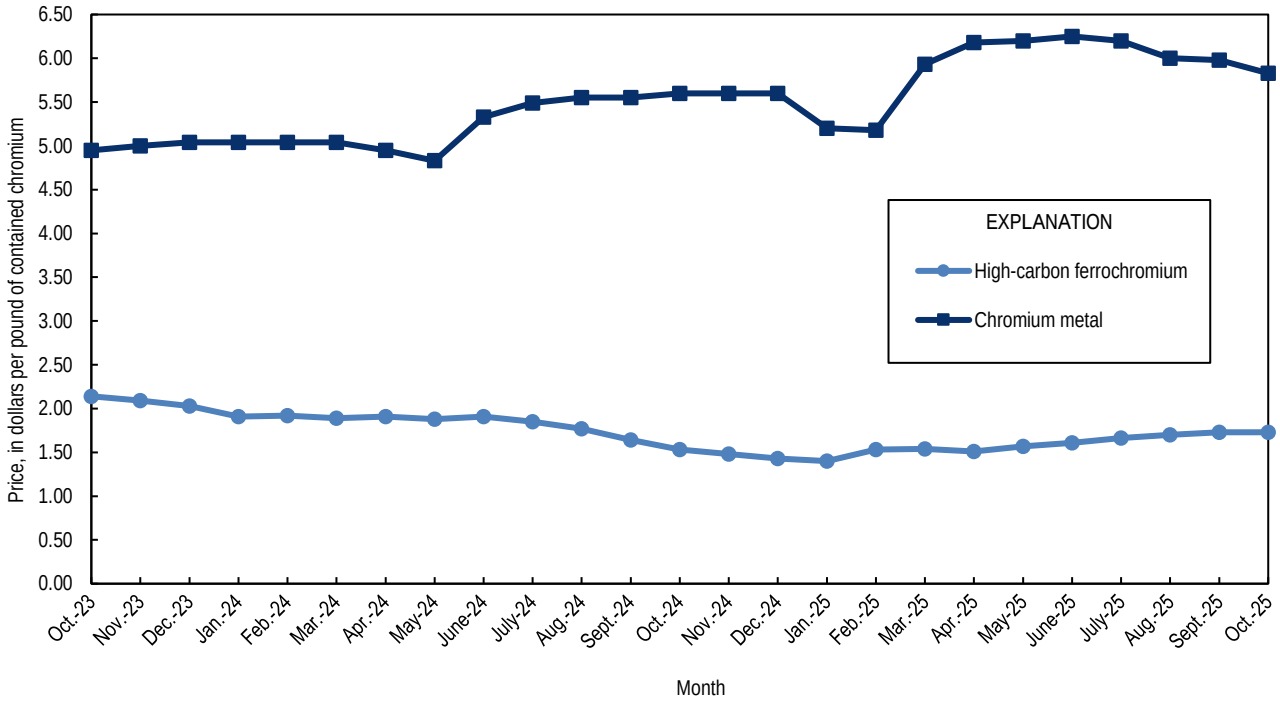

Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (FeCr) and chromium metal from October 2023 through October 2025. Source: Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

compared with those in October 2024. Exports of stainless-steel scrap increased by 13% in October 2025 compared with those in September 2025 and decreased by 29% compared with those in October 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 October 2025, the average U.S. price for chromium metal (99% chromium) average assessed price was $5.83 per pound, a 3% decrease from the average price in September 2025 and an increase of 4% compared with the average price in October 2024. The U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (mininum 62% chromium) average assessed price was $1.73 per pound of contained chromium in October 2025, unchanged from the average price in September 2025 and a 13% increase compared with the average price in October 2024 (fig. 2) (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025).

Industry News

Outokumpu Oyj (Finland) announced it would invest approximately $45 million to develop a pilot plant in New Hampshire that would produce high-purity chromium metal and enriched ferrochromium (>65% chromium) using advanced, low-carbon technology. The pilot plant was expected to be operational in the first half of 2027. Once the pilot plant was successful, an industrial-scale plant would be constructed with a planned combined production capacity of 10,000 metric tons per year. The anticipated timeline for the commercial plant to begin production would be in 2029-2030 (Outokumpu Oyj, 2025).

On October 3, the South Africa Department of Trade, Industry and Competition provided an official notice inviting public comment on its proposal to place chromite ore under export control by the International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa. The proposed export ban was a response to the decline in the South African value chain owing to rising electricity costs, global market pressures, and the unregulated export of raw chromite ore (Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, 2025, p. 3).

POSCO (Republic of South Korea) and Tsingshan Holding Group (China) announced a joint venture (where POSCO would own 44% and Tsingshan 56%) to build a new stainless-steel plant in Indonesia. The plant would have an annual production capacity of 2 million metric tons of stainless steel and construction was expected to begin in 2026 (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

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Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, 2025, Notice inviting public comment on the placing of chrome ore under control in terms of Section 6 of the International Trade Administration Act 71 of 2002: Pretoria, South Africa, Government Gazette Staatskoeran, October 3, v. 724, n. 53467, 8 p. (Accessed February 2, 2026, at https://gazettes.africa/akn/za/officialGazette/government-gazette/2025-10-03/53467/eng@2025-10-03.)

Outokumpu Oyj, 2025, Outokumpu invests approximately USD 45 million in a chromium metal and enriched ferrochrome pilot plant in the U.S.: Helsinki, Finland, Outokumpu Oyj, October 29. (Accessed February 2, 2026, at https://www.outokumpu.com/en/news/2025/outokumpu-invests-approximately-usd-45-million-in-a-chromium-metal-and-enriched-ferrochrome-pilot-plant-in-the-u,-d-,s,-d-,-3676522.)

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]	August	September	October	January–October[1]
U.S. production					
Stainless steel[2]	1,950,000	195,000	164,000	168,000	1,820,000
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	36,400	1,580	17,400	127,000
High-carbon ferrochromium[3]	289,000	8,080	21,500	22,700	215,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium[4]	90	17	14	0	336
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	2,000	238	0	27	1,400
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon	33,900	1,870	3,700	4,040	28,300
Ferrochromium silicon	3,110	215	702	0	3,600
Total ferroalloy imports	328,000	10,400	26,000	26,800	249,000
Chromium metal[5]	19,300	979	1,020	1,110	13,100
Stainless steel	1,010,000	75,300	61,300	66,800	823,000
Stainless-steel scrap	218,000	24,000	25,600	22,900	223,000
Exports (gross weight)					
Chromite ore	2,230	109	48	83	1,410
High-carbon ferrochromium[3]	1,720	0	0	25	620
Low-carbon ferrochromium[6]	246	0	0	5	221
Ferrochromium silicon	33	0	10	0	13
Total ferroalloy exports	2,000	0	10	30	854
Chromium metal[5]	531	42	36	16	331
Stainless steel	515,000	53,500	36,300	39,700	423,000
Stainless-steel scrap	369,000	20,100	24,000	27,200	224,000

[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							
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
September	48	39	10	3	13	36	1,270
October	83	76	30	15	80	16	659
January–October[3]	1,410	1,360	854	502	1,660	331	10,300

[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]	September	October	January–October[1]
Chromite ore, not more than 40% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	1,190	36	2,290	12,400
Chromic oxide content	458	14	447	2,590
Chromite ore, more than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	29,200	1,120	6,590	37,900
Chromic oxide content	12,600	513	2,830	16,400
Chromite ore, 46% or more chromic oxide				
Gross weight	83,400	419	8,510	76,400
Chromic oxide content	62,200	206	4,200	60,700
Chromite ore, total, all grades				
Gross weight	114,000	1,580	17,400	127,000
Chromic oxide content	75,300	733	7,480	79,700
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, not more than 0.5% carbon				
Gross weight	33,900	3,700	4,040	28,300
Chromium content	23,300	2,540	2,810	19,700
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon				
Gross weight	2,000	0	27	1,400
Chromium content	1,350	0	19	901
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, total				
Gross weight	35,900	3,700	4,060	29,700
Chromium content	24,600	2,540	2,830	20,600
Medium-carbon[2]				
Gross weight	90	14	0	336
Chromium content	62	8	0	184
High-carbon[3]				
Gross weight	289,000	21,500	22,700	215,000
Chromium content	158,000	11,400	12,200	117,000
Total ferrochromium, all grades				
Gross weight	325,000	25,300	26,800	245,000
Chromium content	183,000	13,900	15,000	138,000
Chromium metal				
Unwrought powders	17,000	832	788	9,610
Waste and scrap	429	69	72	745
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders	1,900	116	253	2,770
Total, all grades	19,300	1,020	1,110	13,100

[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	October			January-October[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	5,000	2,650	5,450	23,000	12,100	25,700
Gabon	0	0	0	12	8	46
India	263	163	358	9,520	5,820	13,000
Kazakhstan	3,590	2,450	7,150	40,200	27,700	76,500
Oman	378	239	627	2,030	1,260	3,340
South Africa	13,500	6,660	15,300	137,000	68,100	143,000
Sweden	0	0	0	589	397	1,360
Turkey	0	0	0	334	218	636
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	72	47	97
Total	22,700	12,200	28,900	215,000	117,000	265,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium[4]						
China	0	0	0	316	170	438
India	0	0	0	20	14	107
Total	0	0	0	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	27	19	87	56	39	139
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	344	242	1,080
Total	27	19	87	1,400	901	3,640
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	1,200	832	5,530	10,400	7,210	51,600
India	239	154	599	1,330	787	3,830
Japan	241	168	1,140	1,770	1,230	9,420
Kazakhstan	1,150	826	4,600	9,940	7,150	33,300
Netherlands	0	0	0	50	35	145
Oman	0	0	0	63	38	209
Singapore	0	0	0	(5)	(5)	5
Sweden	0	0	0	2	1	21
Turkey	1,200	831	3,580	3,930	2,730	11,500
Total	4,040	2,810	15,400	28,300	19,700	112,000
All grades						
Albania	0	0	0	155	101	242
Brazil	0	0	0	3,820	2,220	6,290
China	0	0	0	336	185	535
Finland	5,000	2,650	5,450	23,000	12,100	25,700
Gabon	0	0	0	12	8	46
Germany	1,200	832	5,530	10,400	7,210	51,600
India	529	336	1,040	10,900	6,660	17,000
Japan	241	168	1,140	1,770	1,230	9,420
Kazakhstan	4,750	3,280	11,800	50,500	35,100	111,000
Netherlands	0	0	0	50	35	145
Oman	378	239	627	2,090	1,300	3,550
Singapore	0	0	0	(5)	(5)	5
South Africa	13,500	6,660	15,300	137,000	68,100	143,000
Sweden	0	0	0	591	398	1,380
Turkey	1,200	831	3,580	4,270	2,940	12,100
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	72	47	97
Total	26,800	15,000	44,500	245,000	138,000	381,000

[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	October		January-October[1]	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)
Unwrought powders				
China	85	$727	3,750	$32,800
France	0	0	42	1,210
Germany	23	177	780	5,620
India	45	595	256	2,960
Italy	0	0	(3)	8
Japan	(3)	13	(3)	13
Kazakhstan	0	0	(3)	7
Mexico	2	22	35	411
Russia	0	0	180	1,270
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	0	0	23	107
United Kingdom	632	9,250	4,530	70,700
Total	788	10,800	9,610	115,000
Waste and scrap				
Canada	22	193	123	1,140
China	0	0	13	187
Estonia	0	0	5	135
Germany	0	0	(3)	4
Japan	0	0	3	25
Mexico	(3)	2	4	23
Singapore	0	0	3	29
Sweden	0	0	20	136
Taiwan	0	0	22	179
United Kingdom	50	283	553	2,960
Total	72	478	745	4,820
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders				
China	(3)	26	305	3,860
France	210	2,360	2,040	27,400
Germany	(3)	53	24	528
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	42	2,500	43	2,630
United Kingdom	0	0	20	181
Total	253	4,940	2,770	36,700
All grades				
Canada	22	193	123	1,140
China	86	752	4,070	36,800
Estonia	0	0	5	135
France	210	2,360	2,080	28,600
Germany	24	231	804	6,150
India	45	595	256	2,960
Israel	0	0	(3)	3
Italy	0	0	(3)	15
Japan	(3)	13	4	80
Kazakhstan	0	0	(3)	7
Malaysia	0	0	2	41
Mexico	2	25	38	433
Russia	0	0	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	42	2,500	64	2,810
United Kingdom	682	9,530	5,100	73,800
Total	1,110	16,200	13,100	157,000

[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	October		January-October[1]	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value[2] (thousand dollars)
Exports				
Ingot	1,640	$7,400	10,400	$60,700
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	28,400	73,600	315,000	817,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	4,060	30,300	38,500	388,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	110	1,130	1,300	10,000
Other bars and rods	1,900	37,100	22,700	402,000
Wire	548	12,800	3,960	125,000
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	3,070	37,600	30,900	387,000
Total	39,700	200,000	423,000	2,190,000
Stainless-steel scrap	27,200	35,400	224,000	275,000
Grand total	66,900	235,000	647,000	2,460,000
Imports				
Ingot	12,500	29,000	127,000	311,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	21,500	54,700	304,000	827,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	2,970	12,800	40,100	170,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	2,680	9,790	27,800	118,000
Other bars and rods	8,590	41,000	108,000	504,000
Wire	3,420	15,700	39,300	178,000
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	15,000	91,400	178,000	1,060,000
Total	66,800	254,000	823,000	3,170,000
Stainless-steel scrap	22,900	25,000	223,000	257,000
Grand total	89,700	279,000	1,050,000	3,420,000

[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.