

Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN DECEMBER 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 145,000 metric tons (t) in December 2025, an increase of 6% compared with production in November 2025 and an increase of 1% compared with production in December 2024 (table 1). In December 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, Germany, and Taiwan (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 December 2025 increased by 50% compared with imports in November 2025 and decreased by 66% compared with imports in December 2024. Chromium ferroalloy imports in December 2025 decreased by 21% compared with imports in November 2025 and were more than 9 times the number of imports in December 2024 (fig. 1, tables 1, 3).

Stainless steel imports in December 2025 decreased by 3% compared with imports in November 2025 and by 22% compared with those in December 2024. Stainless-steel scrap imports in December 2025 decreased by 9% compared with imports in November 2025 and increased by 2% compared with those in December 2024 (fig. 1, table 1).

Exports of stainless steel increased by 4% in December

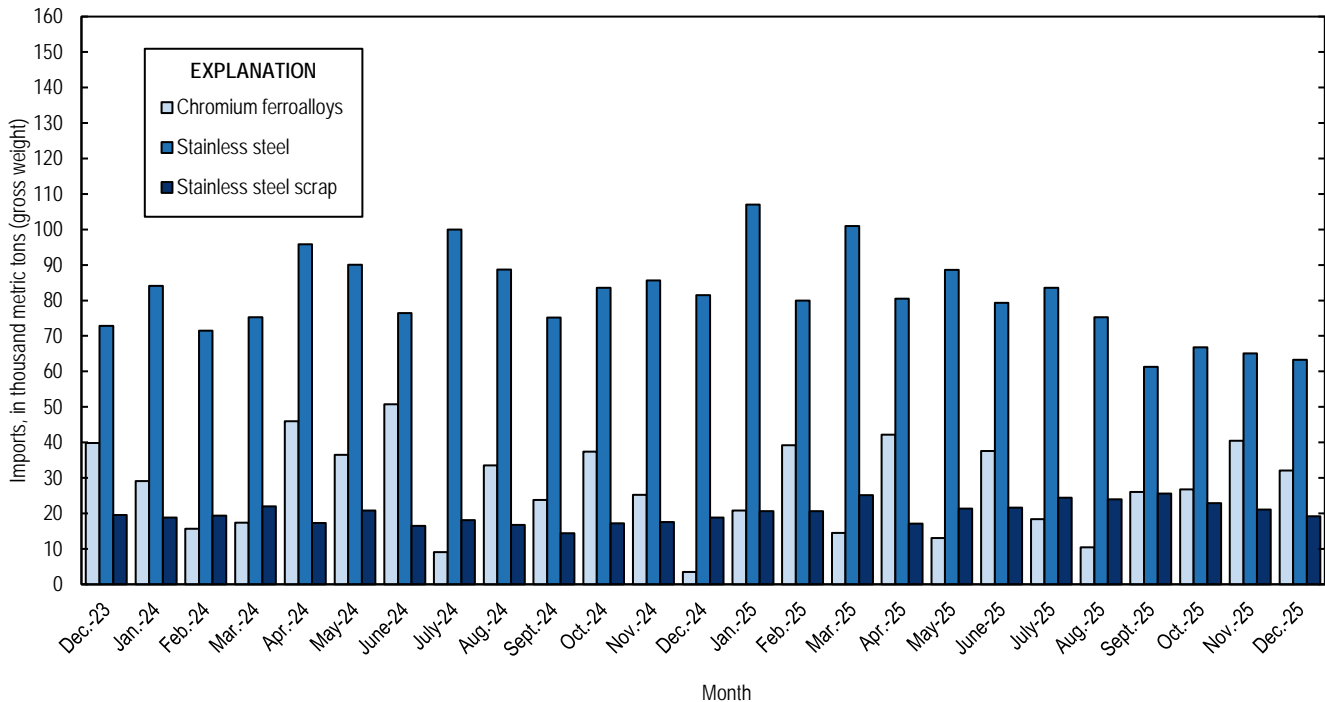


Figure 1. Chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless steel scrap imports from December 2023 through December 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

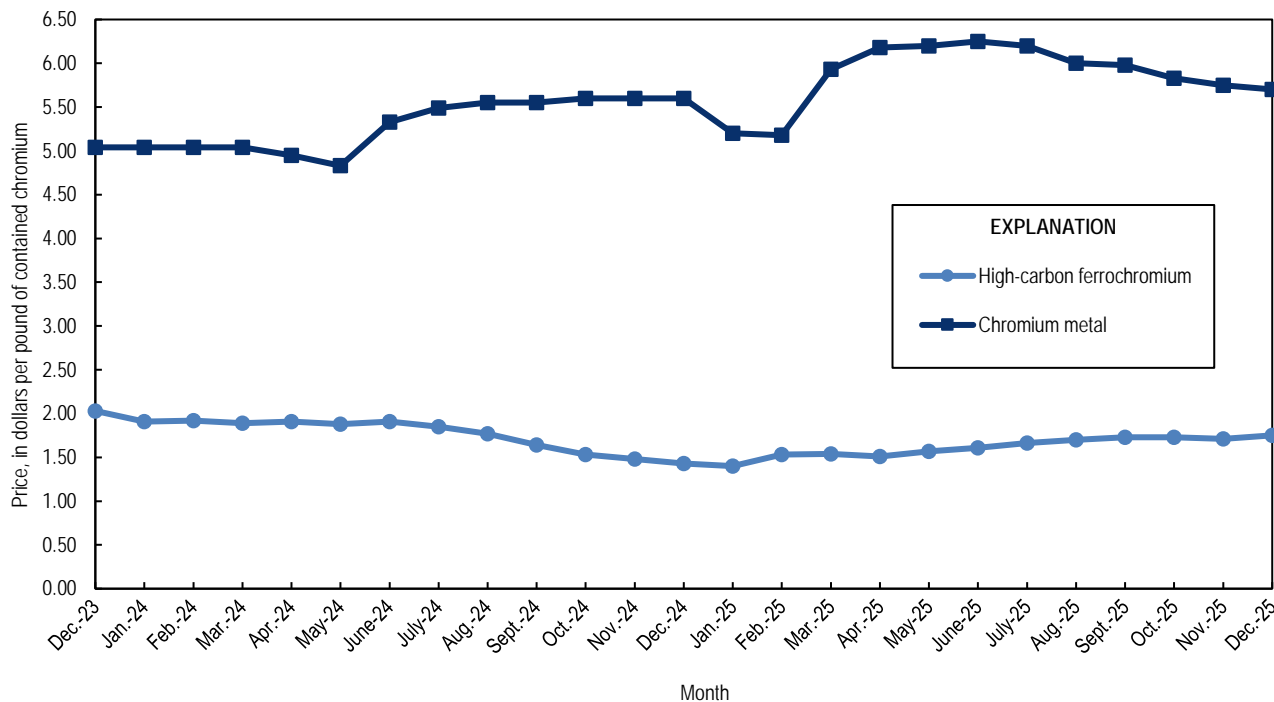


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (FeCr) and chromium metal from December 2023 through December 2025. Source: Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

2025 compared with those in November 2025 and decreased by 8% compared with those in December 2024. Exports of stainless-steel scrap decreased by 17% in December 2025 compared with those in November 2025 and by 6% compared with those in December 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 December 2025, the average U.S. price for chromium metal (99% chromium) average assessed price was \$5.70 per pound, a 1% decrease from the average price in November 2025 and an increase of 2% compared with the average price in December 2024. The U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (minimum 62% chromium) average assessed price was \$1.75 per pound of contained chromium in December 2025, a 2% increase from the average price in November 2025 and a 22% increase compared with the average price in December 2024 (fig. 2) (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 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.

Reference Cited

Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025, Prices & data: Argus Media group, December 31. (Accessed March 5, 2026, via <https://www.argusmedia.com/metals.>)

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	October	November	December	January– December ¹
U.S. production					
Stainless steel ²	1,950,000	168,000	137,000	145,000	2,100,000
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	17,400	5,010	7,530	139,000
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	289,000	22,700	32,900	24,400	273,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium ⁴	90	0	5	13	354
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	2,000	27	288	0	1,690
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon	33,900	4,040	7,390	6,850	42,600
Ferrochromium silicon	3,110	0	0	807	4,400
Total ferroalloy imports	328,000	26,800	40,500	32,100	322,000
Chromium metal ⁵	19,300	1,110	1,430	1,020	15,600
Stainless steel	1,010,000	66,800	65,100	63,300	952,000
Stainless-steel scrap	218,000	22,900	21,100	19,200	263,000
Exports (gross weight)					
Chromite ore	2,230	83	80	137	1,630
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	1,720	25	11	18	650
Low-carbon ferrochromium ⁶	246	5	0	2	223
Ferrochromium silicon	33	0	0	0	13
Total ferroalloy exports	2,000	30	11	20	885
Chromium metal ⁵	531	16	26	81	437
Stainless steel	515,000	39,700	31,300	32,400	486,000
Stainless-steel scrap	369,000	27,200	26,900	22,200	273,000

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							
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
October	83	76	30	15	80	16	659
November	80	83	11	7	27	26	1,100
December	137	111	20	12	53	81	1,540
January–December³	1,630	1,560	885	521	1,740	437	13,000

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	November	December	January– December ¹
Chromite ore, not more than 40% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	1,190	1,030	1,470	14,900
Chromic oxide content	458	197	278	3,070
Chromite ore, more than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	29,200	2,420	5,810	46,100
Chromic oxide content	12,600	1,040	2,500	20,000
Chromite ore, 46% or more chromic oxide				
Gross weight	83,400	1,560	244	78,200
Chromic oxide content	62,200	879	209	61,800
Chromite ore, total, all grades				
Gross weight	114,000	5,010	7,530	139,000
Chromic oxide content	75,300	2,120	2,990	84,800
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, not more than 0.5% carbon				
Gross weight	33,900	7,390	6,850	42,600
Chromium content	23,300	5,130	4,730	29,600
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon				
Gross weight	2,000	288	0	1,690
Chromium content	1,350	197	0	1,100
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, total				
Gross weight	35,900	7,680	6,850	44,300
Chromium content	24,600	5,320	4,730	30,700
Medium-carbon²				
Gross weight	90	5	13	354
Chromium content	62	3	7	194
High-carbon³				
Gross weight	289,000	32,900	24,400	273,000
Chromium content	158,000	19,700	13,400	150,000
Total ferrochromium, all grades				
Gross weight	325,000	40,500	31,200	317,000
Chromium content	183,000	25,100	18,200	181,000
Chromium metal				
Unwrought powders	17,000	846	598	11,100
Waste and scrap	429	99	123	967
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders	1,900	488	302	3,560
Total, all grades	19,300	1,430	1,020	15,600

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	December			January-December 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	333	230	\$785	10,500	7,170	\$20,300
Brazil	0	0	0	1,990	1,090	2,070
Finland	6,750	4,160	7,510	33,800	18,300	38,000
Gabon	0	0	0	12	8	46
India	595	347	864	10,900	6,560	14,800
Kazakhstan	2,790	1,900	6,450	50,100	34,500	98,600
Oman	378	237	646	2,680	1,670	4,430
South Africa	13,500	6,540	14,800	161,000	79,900	169,000
Sweden	0	0	0	589	397	1,360
Turkey	0	0	0	536	344	933
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	72	47	97
Total	24,400	13,400	31,100	273,000	150,000	349,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium⁴						
China	13	7	51	334	180	510
India	0	0	0	20	14	107
Total	13	7	51	354	194	616
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	56	39	139
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	556	393	1,730
Sweden	0	0	0	75	47	248
Total	0	0	0	1,690	1,100	4,540
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	925	637	4,440	12,500	8,670	61,400
India	416	204	1,200	2,140	1,250	6,170
Japan	201	140	992	1,970	1,370	10,400
Kazakhstan	1,460	1,050	5,900	12,600	9,060	44,000
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	3,850	2,700	9,010	12,400	8,610	31,800
Total	6,850	4,730	21,500	42,600	29,600	156,000
All grades						
Albania	333	230	785	10,500	7,170	20,300
Brazil	0	0	0	3,820	2,220	6,290
China	13	7	51	355	195	606
Finland	6,750	4,160	7,510	33,800	18,300	38,000
Gabon	0	0	0	12	8	46
Germany	925	637	4,440	12,500	8,670	61,400
India	1,010	551	2,060	13,100	7,860	21,200
Japan	201	140	992	1,970	1,370	10,400
Kazakhstan	4,250	2,950	12,300	63,300	43,900	144,000
Netherlands	0	0	0	50	35	145
Oman	378	237	646	2,740	1,700	4,640
Singapore	0	0	0	(⁵)	(⁵)	5
South Africa	13,500	6,540	14,800	161,000	79,900	169,000
Sweden	0	0	0	666	445	1,620
Turkey	3,850	2,700	9,010	12,900	8,960	32,800
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	72	47	97
Total	31,200	18,200	52,600	317,000	181,000	511,000

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	December		January-December ¹	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Unwrought powders				
China	12	\$96	3,780	\$33,000
France	(³)	4	42	1,210
Germany	81	657	927	6,960
India	40	524	335	4,000
Italy	0	0	(³)	8
Japan	0	0	(³)	13
Kazakhstan	0	0	(³)	7
Mexico	23	272	64	754
Russia	0	0	180	1,270
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	0	0	23	107
United Kingdom	443	6,250	5,680	87,000
Total	598	7,800	11,100	134,000
Waste and scrap				
Canada	31	209	164	1,430
China	0	0	13	187
Estonia	0	0	5	135
Germany	0	0	(³)	4
Japan	0	0	3	31
Mexico	0	0	4	28
Singapore	0	0	3	29
Sweden	0	0	20	136
Taiwan	0	0	22	179
United Kingdom	92	464	733	3,980
Total	123	673	967	6,140
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders				
China	1	84	316	4,150
France	152	2,140	2,560	33,800
Germany	1	90	25	636
Israel	0	0	(³)	3
Italy	0	0	(³)	49
Japan	25	2,330	56	4,080
Malaysia	0	0	2	41
Russia	0	0	12	223
Spain	46	245	395	2,150
Taiwan	77	4,890	183	11,100
United Kingdom	0	0	20	181
Total	302	9,780	3,560	56,400
All grades				
Canada	31	209	164	1,430
China	13	180	4,110	37,400
Estonia	0	0	5	135
France	152	2,150	2,600	35,000
Germany	81	748	951	7,600
India	40	524	335	4,000
Israel	0	0	(³)	3
Italy	0	0	1	57
Japan	25	2,330	59	4,130
Kazakhstan	0	0	(³)	7
Malaysia	0	0	2	41
Mexico	23	272	68	782
Russia	0	0	192	1,500
Singapore	0	0	3	29
South Africa	0	0	18	50
Spain	46	245	418	2,250
Sweden	0	0	20	136
Taiwan	77	4,890	204	11,300
United Kingdom	534	6,710	6,440	91,100
Total	1,020	18,300	15,600	197,000

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	December		January-December ¹	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Exports				
Ingot	1,180	\$5,120	12,500	\$71,100
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	23,600	63,800	361,000	941,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,030	25,400	44,800	437,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	64	357	1,460	11,300
Other bars and rods	1,840	33,800	26,200	467,000
Wire	343	11,700	4,770	150,000
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	2,350	32,000	35,800	456,000
Total	32,400	172,000	486,000	2,530,000
Stainless-steel scrap	22,200	30,700	273,000	341,000
Grand total	54,600	203,000	760,000	2,870,000
Imports				
Ingot	11,300	25,200	151,000	365,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	23,300	61,800	349,000	944,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	2,810	11,800	45,600	194,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	1,190	5,750	30,900	133,000
Other bars and rods	9,340	45,000	126,000	590,000
Wire	2,620	11,600	45,500	206,000
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	12,700	84,100	204,000	1,220,000
Total	63,300	245,000	952,000	3,650,000
Stainless-steel scrap	19,200	20,800	263,000	302,000
Grand total	82,500	266,000	1,220,000	3,960,000

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.