

Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN JANUARY 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 194,000 metric tons (t) in January 2026, an increase of 34 percent compared with production in December 2025 and an increase of 1 percent compared with production in January 2025 (table 1). In January 2026, the leading import sources for ferrochromium into the United States were, in descending order of quantity by gross weight, 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 January 2026 decreased by 36 percent compared with imports in December 2025 and increased by 36 percent compared with imports in January 2025. Chromium ferroalloy imports in January 2026 increased by 23 percent compared with imports in December 2025 and by 89 percent compared with imports in January 2025 (fig. 1, tables 1, 3).

Stainless steel imports in January 2026 increased by 14 percent compared with imports in December 2025 and decreased by 33 percent compared with those in January 2025. Stainless-steel scrap imports in January 2026 decreased by 17 percent compared with imports in December 2025 and by 23 percent compared with imports in January 2025.

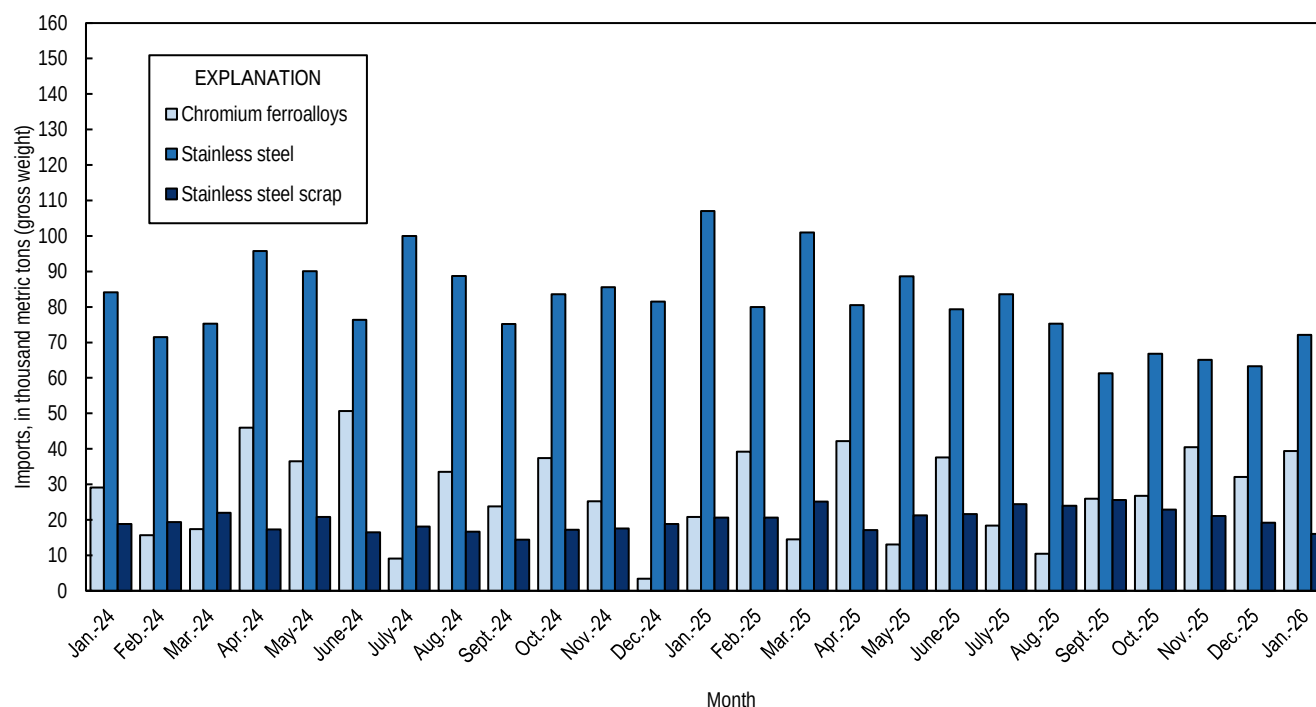


Figure 1. Chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless steel scrap imports from January 2024 through January 2026. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

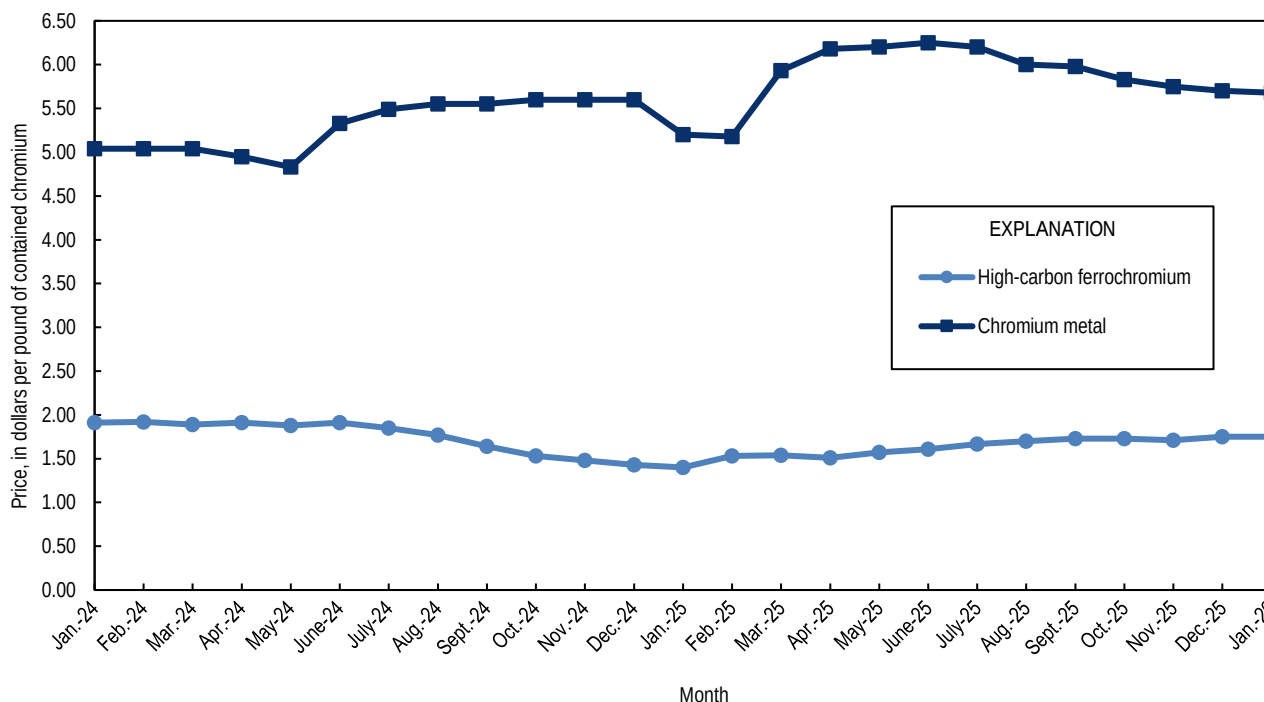


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (FeCr) and chromium metal from January 2024 through January 2026. Source: Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

percent compared with those in January 2025 (fig. 1, table 1).

Exports of stainless steel decreased by 8 percent in January 2026 compared with those in December 2025 and by 20 percent compared with those in January 2025. Exports of stainless-steel scrap decreased by 6 percent in January 2026 compared with those in December 2025 and increased by 22 percent compared with those in January 2025 (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 January 2026, the average U.S. price for chromium metal (99 percent chromium) average assessed price was \$5.68 per pound, a decrease from \$5.70 in December 2025 and an increase of 9 percent compared with the average price in January 2025. The U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (minimum 62 percent chromium) average assessed price was \$1.75 per pound of contained chromium in January 2026, unchanged from the average price in December 2025 and a 25 percent increase compared with the average price in January 2025 (fig. 2) (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025).

Industry News

In January 2026, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) determined imports of chromium trioxide (Harmonized Tariff Schedule subheading 2819.10.00) from India and Turkey were sold at less than fair value and that imports of chromium trioxide from India were subsidized by the government of India. Preliminary countervailing duties were instituted in September 2025 until the ITC could make its final determination (U.S. International Trade Commission, 2026, p. 1).

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, 2026, Prices & data: Argus Media group, January 31, accessed March 17, 2026, via <https://www.argusmedia.com/metals>.
- U.S. International Trade Commission, 2026, Chromium trioxide from India and Turkey—Investigation Nos. 701-TA-779 and 731-TA-1765-1766 (preliminary): Washington, DC, U.S. International Trade Commission, Publication 5968, January, 198 p., accessed March 17, 2026, at https://www.usitc.gov/publications/701_731/pub5968.pdf.

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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GENERAL INFORMATION

This publication is provided by the National Minerals Information Center (NMIC), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Includes data available through April 13, 2026, unless otherwise noted.

NMIC data included in Excel tables of the Minerals Yearbook Chapters and Minerals Industry Surveys are considered preliminary, for informational purposes only. Comprehensive data releases and list services for NMIC publications are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center>. Data in these tables may not include granular footnotes.

Unless otherwise noted, totals, United States (U.S.) data, and estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices and unit values; may not add to totals shown. Data may include revisions to previously published data.

FOOTNOTES AND TERMINOLOGY

Year-to-date indicates the sum of all months or quarters for the given year to the given period.

Estimated data contained in a row or column are marked with a superscript "e." Preliminary data contained in a row or column are marked with a superscript "p."

Do, ditto. NA, not available. No., number. W, withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. —, not applicable. <0.5, less than half a unit.

Cr- Chemical symbol and abbreviation for Chromium.

TRADE DATA

Trade data is sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>). "HTS" indicates the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States code.

"Schedule B" indicates the Schedule B of the United States number.

Imports refers to "imports for consumption." Import valuation is customs value, free-alongside-ship basis.

Exports refers to "domestic exports." Export valuation is on a free-alongside-ship basis.

CONTACT

For questions on this report, please contact Ruth Schulte, rschulte@usgs.gov.

If you are an industry producer or consumer and would like to contribute to NMIC industry surveys, please contact Hanyeh Yazdani, hyazdani@usgs.gov.

Table 1. Salient United States chromium statistics.
[Data are in metric tons.]

Product	2025			2026, January
	November	December	January– December ¹	
U.S. production				
Stainless steel ²	137,000	145,000	2,100,000	194,000
Components of U.S. supply				
Stainless-steel scrap receipts	W	W	W	W
Stainless-steel scrap consumption	W	W	W	W
Imports for consumption (gross weight)				
Chromite ore	5,010	7,530	139,000	4,830
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	32,900	24,400	273,000	32,400
Medium-carbon ferrochromium ⁴	5	13	354	9
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	288	0	1,690	111
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon	7,390	6,850	42,600	6,650
Ferrochromium silicon	0	807	4,400	215
Total ferroalloy imports	40,500	32,100	322,000	39,400
Chromium metal ⁵	1,430	1,020	15,600	826
Stainless steel	65,100	63,300	952,000	72,100
Stainless-steel scrap	21,100	19,200	263,000	16,000
Exports (gross weight)				
Chromite ore	80	137	1,630	114
High-carbon ferrochromium ³	11	18	650	30
Low-carbon ferrochromium ⁶	0	2	223	1
Ferrochromium silicon	0	0	13	0
Total ferroalloy exports	11	20	885	31
Chromium metal ⁵	26	81	437	40
Stainless steel	31,300	32,400	486,000	29,800
Stainless-steel scrap	26,900	22,200	273,000	20,900

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 in metric tons and thousand dollars.]

Period	Chromite ore		Chromium ferroalloys ¹			Chromium metal ²	
	Gross weight	Value	Gross weight	Content	Value	Gross weight	Value
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–December	1,630	1,560	885	521	1,740	437	13,000
2026							
January	114	105	31	15	86	40	1,090

¹Includes low- and high-carbon ferrochromium and ferrochromium silicon.

²Includes chromium metal, waste and scrap, and unwrought powders.

Table 3. U.S. imports for consumption of chromite ore, ferrochromium, and chromium metal.
[Data are in metric tons.]

Product	2025		2026, January
	December	January– December ¹	
Chromite ore, not more than 40% chromic oxide			
Gross weight	1,470	14,900	879
Chromic oxide content	278	3,070	169
Chromite ore, more than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide			
Gross weight	5,810	46,100	1,980
Chromic oxide content	2,500	20,000	850
Chromite ore, 46% or more chromic oxide			
Gross weight	244	78,200	1,980
Chromic oxide content	209	61,800	919
Chromite ore, total, all grades			
Gross weight	7,530	139,000	4,830
Chromic oxide content	2,990	84,800	1,940
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, not more than 0.5% carbon			
Gross weight	6,850	42,600	6,650
Chromium content	4,730	29,600	4,680
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon			
Gross weight	0	1,690	111
Chromium content	0	1,100	79
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, total			
Gross weight	6,850	44,300	6,760
Chromium content	4,730	30,700	4,760
Medium-carbon ²			
Gross weight	13	354	9
Chromium content	7	194	5
High-carbon ³			
Gross weight	24,400	273,000	32,400
Chromium content	13,400	150,000	17,500
Total ferrochromium, all grades			
Gross weight	31,200	317,000	39,200
Chromium content	18,200	181,000	22,300
Chromium metal			
Unwrought powders	598	11,100	505
Waste and scrap	123	967	54
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders	302	3,560	267
Total, all grades	1,020	15,600	826

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 2026, by grade and country or locality.

[Data are in metric tons and thousand dollars.]

Grade and country or locality	January		
	Gross weight	Content	Value
High-carbon ferrochromium¹			
India	2,420	1,450	3,360
Kazakhstan	8,550	5,680	21,900
Oman	54	35	102
Singapore	54	34	80
South Africa	21,400	10,300	23,700
Total	32,400	17,500	49,200
Medium-carbon ferrochromium²			
China	9	5	37
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon			
Kazakhstan	111	79	464
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon			
Germany	683	476	3,550
India	285	187	743
Japan	162	112	696
Kazakhstan	2,860	2,060	12,100
Turkey	2,640	1,830	8,360
Vietnam	21	15	99
Total	6,650	4,680	25,500
All grades			
China	9	5	37
Germany	683	476	3,550
India	2,700	1,640	4,100
Japan	162	112	696
Kazakhstan	11,500	7,820	34,500
Oman	54	35	102
Singapore	54	34	80
South Africa	21,400	10,300	23,700
Turkey	2,640	1,830	8,360
Vietnam	21	15	99
Total	39,200	22,300	75,200

¹Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

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

Table 5. U.S. imports for consumption of chromium metal in 2026 by grade and by country or locality.
[Data are in metric tons and thousand dollars.]

Grade and country or locality	January	
	Gross weight	Value
Unwrought powders		
China	145	1,620
Germany	61	483
Japan	<0.5	7
Korea, Republic of	19	189
United Kingdom	279	3,700
Total	505	6,000
Waste and scrap		
Canada	3	25
Mexico	1	5
United Kingdom	50	198
Total	54	229
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders		
China	1	104
France	171	2,300
Germany	<0.5	12
Japan	35	2,340
Taiwan	59	3,820
Total	267	8,580
All grades		
Canada	3	25
China	146	1,730
France	171	2,300
Germany	61	494
Japan	36	2,350
Korea, Republic of	19	189
Mexico	1	5
Taiwan	59	3,820
United Kingdom	329	3,890
Total	826	14,800

Table 6. U.S. stainless steel trade, by product, in 2026.
[Data are in metric tons and thousand dollars.]

Stainless steel product	January	
	Gross weight	Value
Exports		
Ingot	811	4,990
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	21,200	67,300
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,420	23,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	71	634
Other bars and rods	2,080	45,400
Wire	472	13,300
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	1,740	25,300
Total	29,800	180,000
Stainless-steel scrap	20,900	25,600
Grand total	50,600	205,000
Imports		
Ingot	15,200	35,500
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	25,200	59,800
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,290	12,800
Bars and rods in irregular coils	1,300	6,920
Other bars and rods	9,270	42,700
Wire	2,840	12,100
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	14,900	81,700
Total	72,100	252,000
Stainless-steel scrap	16,000	18,600
Grand total	88,000	270,000