Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN FEBRUARY 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 188,000 metric tons (t) in February 2026, a decrease of 3 percent compared with production in January 2026 and an increase of 12 percent compared with production in February 2025 (table 1). In February 2026, the leading import sources for ferrochromium into the United States were, in descending order of quantity by gross weight and chromium content, Kazakhstan, India, Germany, and Turkey (table 4). The leading import sources for chromium metal, in descending order of quantity by gross weight, were the United Kingdom, France, China, the Republic of Korea, and Spain (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 February 2026 decreased by 14 percent compared with imports in January 2026 and by 68 percent compared with imports in February 2025. Chromium ferroalloy imports in February 2026 decreased by 78 percent compared with imports in January 2026 and by 78 percent compared with imports in February 2025 (fig. 1, tables 1, 3).

Stainless steel imports in February 2026 decreased by 18 percent compared with imports in January 2026 and by 26 percent compared with those in February 2025. Stainless-steel scrap imports in February 2026 increased by 16 percent

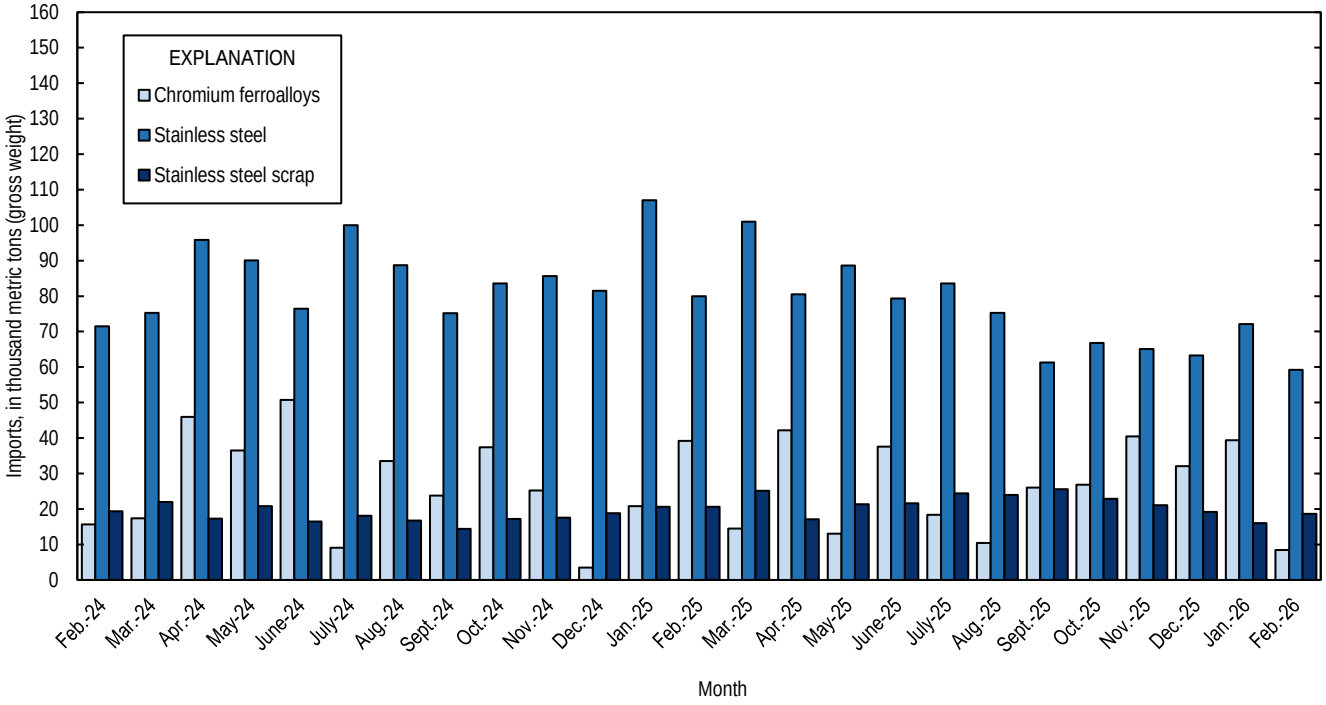

Figure 1. Chromium ferroalloys, stainless steel, and stainless steel scrap imports from February 2023 through February 2025. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

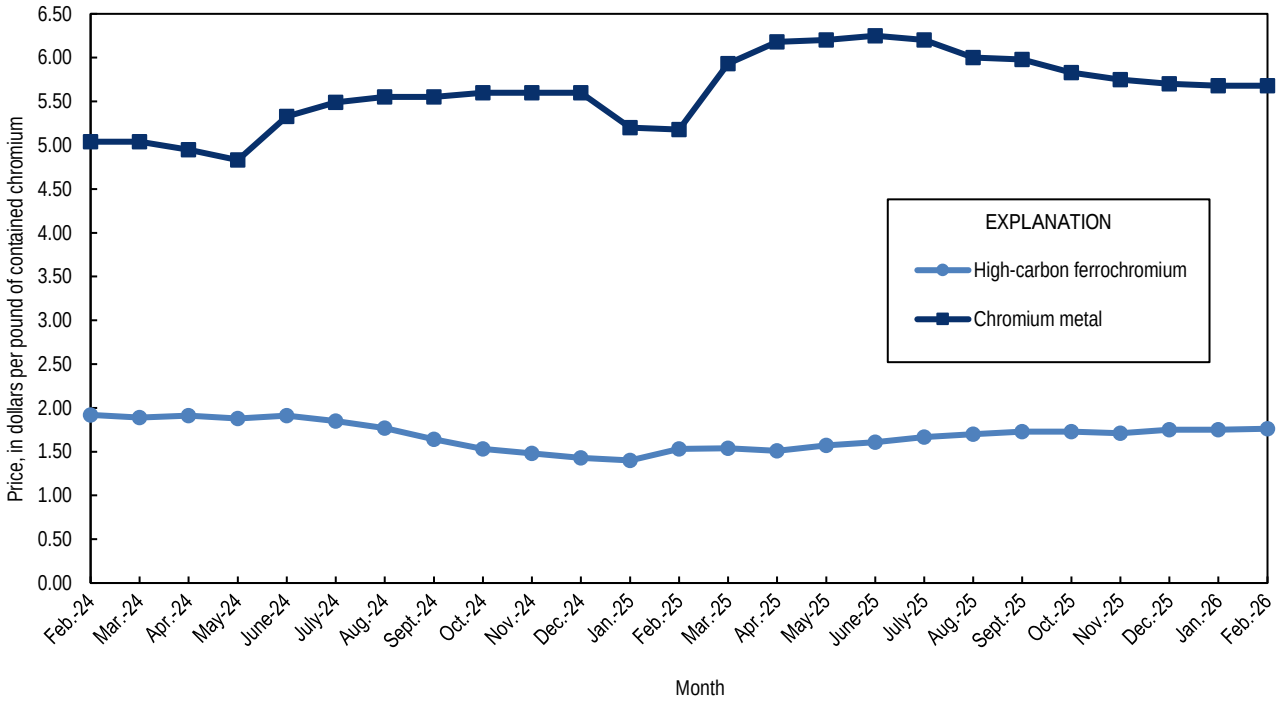

Figure 2. Average monthly prices for U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (FeCr) and chromium metal from February 2024 through February 2026. Source: Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

compared with imports in January 2026 and decreased by 10 percent compared with those in February 2025 (fig. 1, table 1).

Exports of stainless steel increased by 53 percent in February 2026 compared with those in January 2026 and by 8 percent compared with those in February 2025. Exports of stainless-steel scrap increased by 15 percent in February 2026 compared with those in January 2026 and by 13 percent compared with those in February 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 February 2026, the average U.S. price for chromium metal (99 percent chromium) average assessed price was $5.68 per pound, unchanged from the average price in January 2026 and an increase of 10 percent compared with the average price in February 2025. The U.S. high-carbon ferrochromium (mininum 62 percent chromium) average assessed price was $1.76 per pound of contained chromium in February 2026, a 1 percent increase from the average price in January 2026 and a 16 percent increase compared with the average price in February 2025 (fig. 2) (Argus Media, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets, 2025).

Industry News

The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) announced the establishment of Project Vault, a supply chain initiative to establish a U.S. Strategic Critical Minerals Reserve, which would include chromium materials. The reserve would be independently governed in a public-private partnership where raw critical minerals would be stored in various facilities throughout the United States. The EXIM Board of Directors approved a Direct Loan of up to $10 billion for long-term financing to original equipment manufacturers and private sector capital ventures related to the project (Export-Import Bank of the United States, 2026).

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, February 26, accessed May 12, 2026, via https://www.argusmedia.com/metals.

Export-Import Bank of the United States, 2026, EXIM approves Project Vault loan to launch America's strategic critical minerals reserve and support manufacturing jobs: Washington DC, Export-Import Bank of the United States press release, February 2, accessed on May 11, 2026, at https://exim.gov/news/project-vault?_gl=1*z4jhc5*_gcl_au*MTg5MTUxMzMxNy4xNzc4NTA3ODQz.

List Services

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.

Data Release

This report is considered preliminary and for informational purposes only. Raw data from this and other reports from the National Minerals Information Center are available at https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/6a4550bd1ba49bba33a320d2.

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		
	December	January–December[1]	January	February	Year-to-date
U.S. production					
Stainless steel[2]	145,000	2,100,000	194,000	188,000	382,000
Components of U.S. supply					
Stainless-steel scrap receipts	W	W	W	W	W
Stainless-steel scrap consumption	W	W	W	W	W
Imports for consumption (gross weight)					
Chromite ore	7,530	139,000	4,830	4,150	8,990
High-carbon ferrochromium[3]	24,400	273,000	32,400	4,620	37,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium[4]	13	354	9	17	26
Low-carbon ferrochromium, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	0	1,690	111	0	111
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon	6,850	42,600	6,650	3,690	10,300
Ferrochromium silicon	807	4,400	215	146	361
Total ferroalloy imports	32,100	322,000	39,400	8,470	47,900
Chromium metal[5]	1,020	15,600	826	877	1,700
Stainless steel	63,300	952,000	72,100	59,200	131,000
Stainless-steel scrap	19,200	263,000	16,000	18,600	34,500
Exports (gross weight)					
Chromite ore	137	1,630	114	134	248
High-carbon ferrochromium[3]	18	650	30	13	42
Low-carbon ferrochromium[6]	2	223	1	16	16
Ferrochromium silicon	0	13	0	0	0
Total ferroalloy exports	20	885	31	28	59
Chromium metal[5]	81	437	40	18	58
Stainless steel	32,400	486,000	29,800	45,600	75,300
Stainless-steel scrap	22,200	273,000	20,900	24,100	44,900

[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 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				
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[3]	1,630	1,560	885	521	1,740	437	13,000
			2026				
January	114	105	31	15	86	40	1,090
February	134	118	28	13	80	18	690
Year-to-date	248	223	59	28	165	58	1,780

[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 in metric tons.]

Product	2025	2026		
	January–December[1]	January	February	Year-to-date
Chromite ore, not more than 40% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	14,900	879	130	1,010
Chromic oxide content	3,070	169	24	193
Chromite ore, more than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide				
Gross weight	46,100	1,980	3,620	5,600
Chromic oxide content	20,000	850	1,560	2,410
Chromite ore, 46% or more chromic oxide				
Gross weight	78,200	1,980	402	2,380
Chromic oxide content	61,800	919	393	1,310
Chromite ore, total, all grades				
Gross weight	139,000	4,830	4,150	8,990
Chromic oxide content	84,800	1,940	1,980	3,910
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, not more than 0.5% carbon				
Gross weight	42,600	6,650	3,690	10,300
Chromium content	29,600	4,680	2,610	7,290
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon				
Gross weight	1,690	111	0	111
Chromium content	1,100	79	0	79
Ferrochromium, low-carbon, total				
Gross weight	44,300	6,760	3,690	10,500
Chromium content	30,700	4,760	2,610	7,370
Medium-carbon[2]				
Gross weight	354	9	17	26
Chromium content	194	5	9	14
High-carbon[3]				
Gross weight	273,000	32,400	4,620	37,000
Chromium content	150,000	17,500	3,080	20,600
Total ferrochromium, all grades				
Gross weight	317,000	39,200	8,330	47,500
Chromium content	181,000	22,300	5,700	28,000
Chromium metal				
Unwrought powders	11,100	505	595	1,100
Waste and scrap	967	54	54	108
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought p	3,560	267	228	495
Total, all grades	15,600	826	877	1,700

[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 2026, by grade and country or locality.
[Data are in metric tons and thousand dollars.]

Grade and country or locality	February			Year-to-date[1]		
	Gross weight	Content	Value	Gross weight	Content	Value
High-carbon ferrochromium[2]						
India	1,210	755	1,770	3,630	2,210	5,130
Kazakhstan	3,300	2,260	8,510	11,900	7,930	30,400
Oman	100	65	199	154	100	301
Singapore	0	0	0	54	34	80
South Africa	0	0	0	21,400	10,300	23,700
Total	4,620	3,080	10,500	37,000	20,600	59,600
Medium-carbon ferrochromium[3]						
China	17	9	65	26	14	102
Low-carbon ferrochromium[5], more than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon						
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	111	79	464
Low-carbon ferrochromium, not more than 0.5% carbon						
Germany	428	301	2,230	1,110	777	5,780
India	411	275	1,070	696	462	1,820
Japan	223	154	1,190	385	266	1,890
Kazakhstan	2,250	1,620	9,470	5,110	3,680	21,600
Turkey	378	262	1,320	3,020	2,090	9,680
Vietnam	0	0	0	21	15	99
Total	3,690	2,610	15,300	10,300	7,290	40,800
All grades						
China	17	9	65	26	14	102
Germany	428	301	2,230	1,110	777	5,780
India	1,620	1,030	2,850	4,320	2,670	6,950
Japan	223	154	1,190	385	266	1,890
Kazakhstan	5,560	3,880	18,000	17,100	11,700	52,400
Oman	100	65	199	154	100	301
Singapore	0	0	0	54	34	80
South Africa	0	0	0	21,400	10,300	23,700
Turkey	378	262	1,320	3,020	2,090	9,680
Vietnam	0	0	0	21	15	99
Total	8,330	5,700	25,800	47,500	28,000	101,000

[1]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).
[2]Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.
[3]Ferrochromium 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	February		Year-to-date[1]	
	Gross weight	Value	Gross weight	Value
Unwrought powders				
China	40	554	185	2,180
Germany	0	0	61	483
India	10	111	10	111
Japan	0	0	<0.5	7
Korea, Republic of	47	713	66	903
Mexico	2	20	2	20
United Kingdom	496	6,800	775	10,500
Total	595	8,200	1,100	14,200
Waste and scrap				
Canada	12	86	16	112
Japan	10	97	10	97
Mexico	<0.5	3	1	8
United Kingdom	31	133	81	331
Total	54	319	108	548
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders				
Canada	8	109	8	109
China	1	55	2	159
France	175	2,100	346	4,400
Germany	1	110	1	121
Japan	0	0	35	2,340
Spain	42	223	42	223
Taiwan	2	175	61	4,000
Total	228	2,770	495	11,300
All grades				
Canada	20	196	23	221
China	41	609	187	2,340
France	175	2,100	346	4,400
Germany	1	110	63	604
India	10	111	10	111
Japan	10	97	45	2,440
Korea, Republic of	47	713	66	903
Mexico	2	22	3	28
Spain	42	223	42	223
Taiwan	2	175	61	4,000
United Kingdom	528	6,930	857	10,800
Total	877	11,300	1,700	26,100

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

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

Stainless steel product	February		Year-to-date[1]	
	Gross weight	Value	Gross weight	Value
Exports				
Ingot	597	5,140	1,410	10,100
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	36,500	90,400	57,700	158,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,370	29,800	6,790	52,800
Bars and rods in irregular coils	64	1,030	135	1,660
Other bars and rods	1,910	37,300	3,980	82,700
Wire	438	11,500	910	24,800
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	2,680	33,000	4,420	58,300
Total	45,600	208,000	75,300	388,000
Stainless-steel scrap	24,100	34,000	44,900	59,600
Grand total	69,600	242,000	120,000	448,000
Imports				
Ingot	13,800	31,400	29,000	66,900
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	21,700	54,200	47,000	114,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	2,860	11,900	6,150	24,700
Bars and rods in irregular coils	650	2,500	1,960	9,420
Other bars and rods	6,500	29,600	15,800	72,300
Wire	2,560	11,200	5,400	23,300
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	11,100	60,600	26,000	142,000
Total	59,200	201,000	131,000	453,000
Stainless-steel scrap	18,600	20,800	34,500	39,500
Grand total	77,800	222,000	166,000	492,000

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