

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON AND STEEL SCRAP IN JANUARY 2020

NOTICE

The U.S. Geological Survey plans to discontinue Tables 4 and 5 of the Iron and Steel Scrap Mineral Industry Surveys report. The last published report including those tables will be the Iron and Steel Scrap in July 2020. Information relating to Tables 4 and 5 will still be available in the iron and steel scrap chapter of the annual Minerals Yearbook, Volume I, Metals and Minerals. Prior to the proposed discontinuation date, please direct any comments or concerns to Elizabeth Sangine, Chief, Mineral Commodities Section, escottsangine@usgs.gov.

In January 2020, iron and steel scrap consumption and purchased steel scrap receipts increased slightly and pig iron production increased by 9% compared with those in December 2019 (fig. 1). Recirculating scrap production decreased by 7% compared with that in December 2019. Stocks of purchased and home scrap at the end of January 2020 were slightly less than those at the end of December 2019. In January 2020, pig iron consumption increased by 8% from that in December 2019 (table 1).

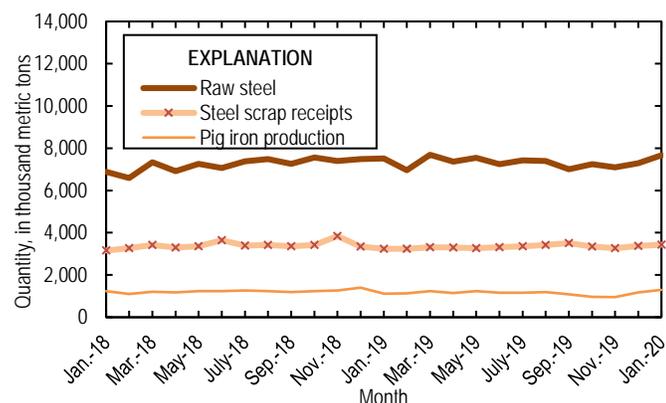


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production of raw steel, receipts of iron and steel scrap, and production of pig iron from January 2018 through January 2020. Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Iron and Steel Institute.

Exports of iron and steel scrap in January 2020 increased by 15% from those in December 2019 (fig. 2). Malaysia was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 24% of the total

tonnage, followed by Turkey (22%) and Taiwan (9%) (table 6). Los Angeles, CA, was the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of exports, accounting for 28% of the total, followed by New York City, NY, (16%) and Boston, MA, (8%) (table 7).

Imports of iron and steel scrap in January 2020 decreased by 14% from those in December 2019 (fig. 2). Canada was the leading country of origin, accounting for 74% of the total tonnage of imports, followed by Mexico (15%) and Sweden (9%) (table 9). Detroit, MI, was the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of imports, accounting for 49% of the total, followed by Laredo, TX, (11%) and Seattle, WA (10%) (table 10).

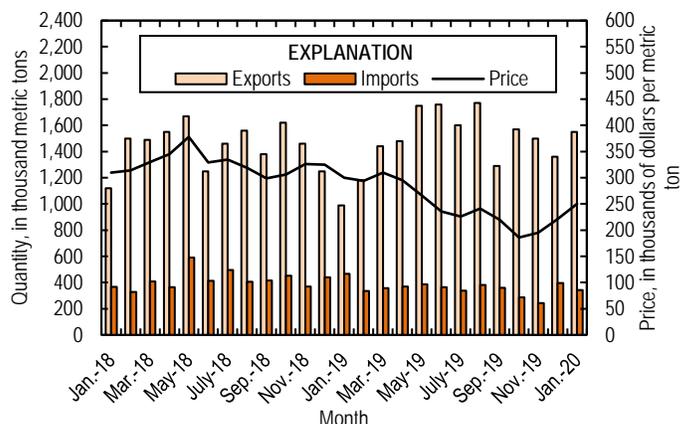


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron and steel scrap and price for No. 1 heavy melting steel scrap from January 2018 through January 2020. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and American Metal Market.

The daily average domestic raw steel production for January 2020, as calculated from the American Iron and Steel Institute's monthly production data, was 247,000 metric tons, a 5% increase from that in December 2019 and slightly more than that in January 2019. Raw steel production capability utilization was 81.7% in January 2020, up from 78.5% in December 2019 and 80.4% in January 2019. Continuous cast steel production accounted for 99.8% of total raw steel production in January 2020 (table 12).

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TABLE 1
IRON AND STEEL SCRAP, PIG IRON,
AND DIRECT-REDUCED IRON STATISTICS FOR STEEL PRODUCERS^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

	January 2020
Scrap:	
Receipts:	
From outside sources	3,440
From other own company plants	234
Production:	
Recirculating scrap	387
Obsolete scrap	68
Consumption (by type of furnace):	
Blast furnace	141
Basic oxygen process	378
Electric furnace	3,460
Other	92
Total consumption	4,070
Shipments	126
Stocks, end of period	4,260
Pig iron (includes hot metal):	
Receipts	206
Production	1,290
Consumption	1,480
Stocks, end of period	449
Direct-reduced iron: ³	
Receipts	266
Consumption	219
Stocks, end of period	266

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes manufacturers of raw steel that also produce steel castings. January 2020 data are based on returns from 49% of consumer surveys, representing 59% of scrap consumption during this month, and estimates for nonrespondents of this survey.

³Includes direct-reduced iron, hot-briquetted iron, and iron carbide. Domestic production data are included in "Receipts."

TABLE 2
 RECEIPTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES, PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION,
 AND STOCKS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP, BY GRADE, FOR STEEL PRODUCERS^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Item	January 2020			Ending stocks
	Receipts of scrap from outside sources	Production of recirculating scrap	Consumption ³	
Carbon steel:				
Low-phosphorus plate and punchings	12	W	16	W
Cut structural and plate	410	W	467	356
No. 1 heavy melting steel	276	42	312	204
No. 2 heavy melting steel	383	29	443	223
No. 1 and electric furnace bundles	151	--	165	148
No. 2 and all other bundles	86	W	85	36
Electric furnace 1 foot and under	W	W	W	W
Railroad rails	18	--	18	11
Turnings and borings	161	W	166	213
Slag scrap	40	69	72	102
Shredded and fragmented	983	W	1,080	1,840
No. 1 busheling	402	W	463	290
Steel cans (post consumer)	W	W	W	W
All other carbon steel scrap	197	69	317	408
Stainless steel scrap	68	30	100	64
Alloy steel scrap	27	17	43	172
Ingot mold and stool scrap	W	W	3	2
Machinery and cupola cast iron	3	--	3	W
Cast iron borings	11	W	11	4
Motor blocks	--	--	--	W
Other iron scrap	129	20	157	80
Other mixed scrap	56	W	125	69
Total	3,440	387	4,070	4,260

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total." -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes manufacturers of raw steel that also produce steel castings.

³Includes recirculating scrap and home-generated obsolete scrap.

TABLE 3
 RECEIPTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES, PRODUCTION, AND CONSUMPTION OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP,
 BY REGION AND STATE, FOR STEEL PRODUCERS^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and State	January 2020		
	Receipts of scrap from brokers, dealers, and other outside sources	Production of home scrap (recirculating scrap resulting from current operations)	Consumption of purchased and home scrap ³
Mid-Atlantic and New England:			
New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania	288	47	340
North Central:			
Illinois and Indiana	452	42	557
Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin	241	17	271
Michigan	128	57	153
Ohio	450	94	530
Total	1,270	211	1,510
South Atlantic:			
Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	266	19	300
Virginia, West Virginia	286	20	318
Total	552	40	618
South Central:			
Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee	586	39	702
Arkansas and Texas	475	38	570
Total	1,060	78	1,270
Mountain and Pacific:			
California, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, Washington	263	11	331
Grand total	3,440	387	4,070

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes manufacturers of raw steel that also produce steel castings.

³Includes recirculating scrap and home-generated obsolete scrap.

TABLE 4
RECEIPTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP, BY REGION AND GRADE,
FOR STEEL PRODUCERS^{1, 2, 3, 4}

(Thousand metric tons)

Item	January 2020				
	Mid-Atlantic and New England	North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Mountain and Pacific
Carbon steel:					
Low-phosphorus plate and punchings	9	W	--	W	W
Cut structural and plate	24	114	W	132	W
No. 1 heavy melting steel	33	118	40	61	23
No. 2 heavy melting steel	7	86	W	152	W
No. 1 and electric furnace bundles	W	90	W	39	W
No. 2 and all other bundles	8	55	W	W	W
Electric furnace 1 foot and under (not bundles)	--	W	--	W	--
Railroad rails	W	W	--	4	W
Turnings and borings	14	54	32	53	7
Slag scrap	6	28	W	W	W
Shredded and fragmentized	57	307	175	353	91
No. 1 busheling	45	149	W	173	2
Steel cans (post consumer)	W	W	--	--	--
All other carbon steel scrap	26	139	W	25	2
Stainless steel scrap	W	W	--	W	--
Alloy steel scrap	2	23	--	W	--
Ingot mold and stool scrap	--	W	--	--	--
Machinery and cupola cast iron	W	W	W	W	--
Cast iron borings	W	W	W	--	W
Motor blocks	--	W	--	W	--
Other iron scrap	5	50	--	W	W
Other mixed scrap	W	19	W	4	W
Total	288	1,270	552	1,060	263

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total." -- Zero.

¹Scrap received from brokers, dealers, and other outside sources.

²A breakout of the States within each region is provided in Table 3.

³Includes manufacturers of raw steel that also produce steel castings.

⁴Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP BY REGION AND GRADE,
FOR STEEL PRODUCERS^{1,2,3}

(Thousand metric tons)

Item	January 2020				
	Mid-Atlantic and New England	North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Mountain and Pacific
Carbon steel:					
Low-phosphorus plate and punchings	10	W	--	W	W
Cut structural and plate	26	132	W	130	W
No. 1 heavy melting steel	35	143	39	70	25
No. 2 heavy melting steel	12	91	116	182	W
No. 1 and electric furnace bundles	W	99	W	45	W
No. 2 and all other bundles	8	54	W	W	W
Electric furnace 1 foot and under (not bundles)	--	W	--	W	--
Railroad rails	W	W	W	4	W
Turnings and borings	15	55	34	54	7
Slag scrap	9	49	W	10	W
Shredded and fragmented	53	328	183	420	91
No. 1 busheling	47	157	W	226	2
Steel cans (post consumer)	W	W	--	--	--
All other carbon steel scrap	40	229	W	41	3
Stainless steel scrap	46	W	--	W	--
Alloy steel scrap	10	25	W	W	--
Ingot mold and stool scrap	--	2	--	W	--
Machinery and cupola cast iron	W	W	W	W	--
Cast iron borings	W	W	W	--	W
Motor blocks	--	--	--	--	--
Other iron scrap	7	64	--	W	W
Other mixed scrap	W	31	W	3	W
Total	340	1,510	618	1,270	331

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total." -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²A breakout of the States within each region is provided in Table 3.

³Includes manufacturers of raw steel that also produce steel castings.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP
BY SELECTED COUNTRY OR LOCALITY^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Country or locality	January 2020	
	Quantity	Value
Bangladesh	66	18,000
Belgium	2	964
Canada	79	16,900
China	3	2,920
Germany	4	1,310
Greece	31	9,060
Hong Kong	4	3,370
India	71	31,500
Indonesia	4	1,190
Italy	1	290
Japan	2	1,520
Korea, Republic of	57	17,100
Kuwait	27	5,970
Malaysia	373	29,800
Mexico	133	34,100
Pakistan	44	20,300
Philippines	3	1,590
Russia	1	347
Saudi Arabia	36	8,720
Taiwan	145	49,000
Thailand	50	21,000
Turkey	343	95,200
United Arab Emirates	1	370
Vietnam	74	22,600
Other ³	2	1,230
Total	1,550	394,000

¹Includes tinplate and terneplate; excludes used rails for rerolling and other uses and ships, boats, and other vessels for scrapping. Export valuation is on a free-alongside-ship basis.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes countries and (or) localities with January 2020 quantities of less than 500 metric tons.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP BY REGION AND
SELECTED CUSTOMS DISTRICT^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Region and customs district	January 2020	
	Quantity	Value
Canada–United States border:		
Buffalo, NY	7	2,540
Chicago, IL	17	113
Detroit, MI	24	4,230
Duluth, MN	1	239
Great Falls, MT	4	658
Ogdensburg, NY	1	256
Pembina, ND	29	7,710
Other	7	890
Total	90	16,600
East coast:		
Baltimore, MD	8	3,930
Boston, MA	120	23,900
Charleston, SC	8	4,760
Miami, FL	29	12,000
New York City, NY	246	81,300
Norfolk, VA	10	7,320
Philadelphia, PA	61	16,100
Portland, ME	5	430
Providence, RI	59	15,000
Savannah, GA	41	6,220
St. Albans, VT	1	235
Wilmington, NC	(3)	84
Total	589	171,000
Gulf coast and Mexico–United States border (includes Caribbean territories):		
El Paso, TX	19	5,300
Houston–Galveston, TX	41	15,700
Laredo, TX	70	18,200
Mobile, AL	1	430
New Orleans, LA	5	2,670
San Juan, PR	5	1,340
Tampa, FL	36	12,000
Total	176	55,600
West coast and Hawaii:		
Columbia–Snake, OR	53	9,800
Honolulu, HI, and Anchorage, AK	2	590
Los Angeles, CA	442	83,900
San Diego, CA	12	2,180
San Francisco, CA	113	28,600
Seattle, WA	76	25,600
Total	698	151,000
Grand total	1,550	394,000

¹Includes tinplate and terneplate; excludes used rails for rerolling and other uses and ships, boats, and other vessels for scrapping. Export valuation is on a free-alongside-ship basis.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP AND
OTHER FERROUS PRODUCTS BY GRADE^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	January 2020	
	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	429	117,000
No. 2 heavy melting steel	52	20,500
No. 1 bundles	5	1,450
No. 2 bundles	25	7,260
Shredded steel scrap	304	83,800
Borings, shovelings and turnings	1	175
Cut plate and structural	45	13,400
Tinned iron or steel	9	2,290
Remelting scrap ingots	1	475
Cast iron	458	56,700
Other iron and steel	157	46,800
Total carbon steel and cast iron	1,490	350,000
Stainless steel	35	25,000
Other alloy steel	32	19,200
Total stainless and alloy steel	67	44,200
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel and cast iron	1,550	394,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	(3)	38
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	(3)	176
Total scrap exports	1,550	394,000
Exports of manufactured ferrous products:		
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	(3)	44
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	--	--
Pig iron alloy	--	--
Total pig iron	(3)	44
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	44	14,700
Spongy iron products, not DRI	(3)	242
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	2	2,860
Powders of alloy steel	1	6,020
Other ferrous powders	11	7,600
Total DRI, granules, powders	58	31,400
Grand total	1,610	426,000

-- Zero.

¹Export valuation is on a free-alongside-ship basis.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9
 U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON AND
 STEEL SCRAP BY SELECTED COUNTRY OR LOCALITY^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Country or locality	January 2020	
	Quantity	Value
Canada	253	72,700
Germany	2	71
Japan	1	67
Mexico	50	16,200
Netherlands	3	249
Russia	2	497
Sweden	30	8,850
Other ³	1	619
Total	342	99,200

¹Includes tinplate and terneplate; excludes used rails for rerolling and other uses and ship, boats, and other vessels for scrapping. Import

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes countries and (or) localities with January 2020 quantities of less than 500 metric tons.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON AND
STEEL SCRAP BY SELECTED CUSTOMS DISTRICT^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Customs district	January 2020	
	Quantity	Value
Buffalo, NY	30	12,100
Chicago, IL	1	207
Cleveland, OH	1	244
Detroit, MI	167	46,400
Duluth, MN	3	844
El Paso, TX	4	1,260
Great Falls, MT	1	185
Houston–Galveston, TX	1	172
Laredo, TX	36	11,700
Mobile, AL	33	10,400
New Orleans, LA	5	303
Nogales, AZ	2	491
Ogdensburg, NY	1	270
Pembina, ND	14	4,290
San Diego, CA	5	1,210
Seattle, WA	35	8,060
St. Albans, VT	2	478
Other	1	679
Total	342	99,200

¹Includes tinplate and terneplate; excludes used rails for rerolling and other uses and ships, boats and other vessels for scrapping. Import valuation is on a Customs basis.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 11
U.S. IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP AND OTHER
FERROUS PRODUCTS BY GRADE^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	January 2020	
	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	16	4,160
No. 2 heavy melting steel	8	2,330
No. 1 bundles	74	20,500
No. 2 bundles	7	1,830
Shredded steel scrap	21	5,510
Borings, shovelings and turnings	6	1,220
Cut plate and structural	12	2,870
Tinned iron or steel	14	4,700
Remelting scrap ingots	(3)	37
Cast iron	10	2,690
Other iron and steel	108	27,600
Total carbon steel and cast iron	277	73,400
Stainless steel	17	14,000
Other alloy steel	48	11,800
Total stainless and alloy steel	65	25,800
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel and cast iron	342	99,200
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	--	--
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	6	1,780
Total scrap imports	348	101,000
Imports of manufactured ferrous products:		
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	--	--
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	655	201,000
Alloy pig iron	(3)	30
Total pig iron	655	201,000
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	248	66,000
Spongy iron products, not DRI	(3)	782
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	2	2,560
Powders of alloy steel	5	7,550
Other ferrous powders	3	5,520
Total DRI, granules, powders	258	82,400
Grand total	1,260	385,000

-- Zero.

¹Import valuation is on a Customs basis.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 12
U.S. RAW STEEL PRODUCTION, RAW STEEL CAPABILITY UTILIZATION,
AND CONTINUOUS CAST STEEL PRODUCTION¹

Period	Raw steel production, thousand metric tons		Raw steel capability utilization, percent		Continuous cast steel production, percent	
	Monthly	Year	Monthly	Year	Monthly	Year
		to date ²		to date ²		to date ²
2019:						
January	7,520	7,520	80.4	80.4	98.1	98.1
February	6,960	14,500	82.4	81.3	99.7	99.7
March	7,690	22,200	82.2	81.6	99.8	99.7
April	7,360	29,500	81.3	81.5	99.8	99.8
May	7,550	37,100	80.8	81.4	99.8	99.8
June	7,240	44,300	80.1	81.2	99.7	99.7
July	7,420	51,700	79.4	80.9	99.8	99.7
August	7,400	59,100	79.1	80.7	99.8	99.8
September	7,000	66,100	77.4	80.3	99.8	99.7
October	7,250	73,400	78.0	80.1	99.7	99.7
November	7,090	80,500	78.8	80.0	99.8	99.8
December	7,290	87,800	78.5	79.8	99.8	99.8
2020, January	7,660	7,660	81.7	81.7	99.8	99.8

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²May include revisions to previously published data.

Source: American Iron and Steel Institute.

TABLE 13
COMPOSITE PRICES FOR STEEL SCRAP AND PIG IRON

Period	Steel Scrap ¹		Pig Iron ²	
	\$/lt	\$/t	\$/lt	\$/t
2019:				
January	305.19	300.37	395.27	389.03
February	298.33	293.62	385.38	379.29
March	314.84	309.87	375.48	369.55
April	299.44	294.71	313.15	308.20
May	270.53	266.26	377.94	371.97
June	240.17	236.38	336.49	331.18
July	229.54	225.91	328.61	323.42
August	244.69	240.83	354.49	348.89
September	223.33	219.80	355.72	350.10
October	189.38	186.39	306.23	301.39
November	198.46	195.33	301.27	296.51
December	224.73	221.18	301.27	296.51
Average, January–December	253.22	249.22	344.28	338.84
2020, January	253.62	249.61	317.30	312.29

¹Prices are for No. 1 heavy melting steel scrap. Source: American Metal Market.

²Prices are Brazilian basic pig iron, free on board, New Orleans, LA. Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Series was revised in January 2019 to reflect the new source of data.

Note: Long tons = lt; metric tons = t.