

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Christopher Candice Tuck, Iron and Steel Scrap Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-4912, Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: ctuck@usgs.gov

Hoa P. Phamdang (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-7965
 Fax: (703) 648-7975
 Email: hphamdan@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

IRON AND STEEL SCRAP IN JANUARY 2021

In January 2021, iron and steel scrap consumption decreased by 4%, recirculating scrap production was unchanged, and purchased steel scrap receipts decreased by 5% as compared to December 2020. Stocks of purchased and home scrap decreased slightly from those at the end of December 2020. In January, pig iron production increased by 30% and consumption was nearly unchanged from that in December 2020. Direct-reduced iron receipts decreased by 36%, and consumption decreased by 32% (table 1, fig. 1).

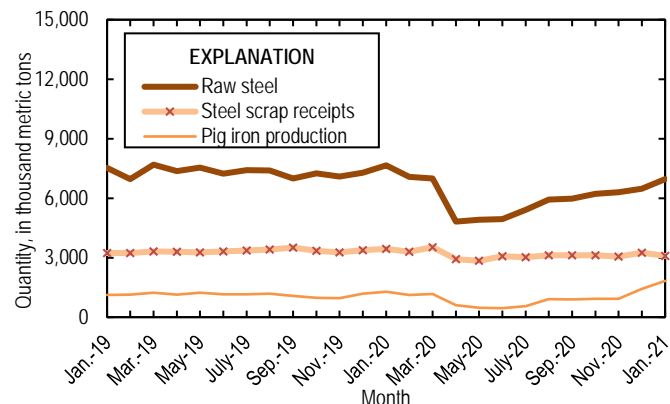


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production of raw steel, receipts of iron and steel scrap, and production of pig iron from January 2019 through January 2021. Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Iron and Steel Institute.

Exports of iron and steel scrap in January decreased by 4% from those in December 2020 (fig. 2). Turkey was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 23% of the total tonnage, followed by Mexico (19%) and Bangladesh (8%) (table 4). New York City, NY, was the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of exports, accounting for 19% of the total, followed by Philadelphia, PA, (12%) and Los Angeles, CA (9%) (table 5).

Imports of iron and steel scrap in January decreased by 7% from those in December 2020 (fig. 2). Canada was the leading country of origin, accounting for 83% of the total tonnage of

imports, followed by Mexico (9%) and Belgium (6%) (table 7). Detroit, MI, was the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of imports, accounting for 47% of the total, followed by Seattle, WA, (15%) and Buffalo, NY (9%) (table 8).

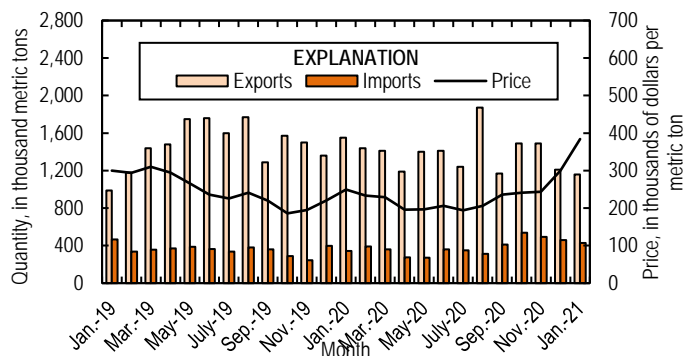


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron and steel scrap and price for No. 1 heavy melting steel scrap from January 2019 through January 2021. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and American Metal Market.

The daily average domestic raw steel production for January, as calculated from the American Iron and Steel Institute’s monthly production data, was 225,000 metric tons, an 8% increase from that in December 2020 and a 9% decrease from that in January 2019. Raw steel production capability utilization was 76.6% in January, up from 72.9% in December 2020 and down from 81.7% in January 2020. Continuous cast steel production accounted for 99.8% of total raw steel production in January (table 10).

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/nmic/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

	January 2021
Scrap:	
Receipts:	
From outside sources	3,090
From other own company plants	201
Production:	
Recirculating scrap	360
Obsolete scrap	11
Consumption (by type of furnace):	
Blast furnace	132
Basic oxygen process	332
Electric furnace	3,020
Other	88
Total consumption	3,570
Shipments	69
Stocks, end of period	3,580
Pig iron (includes hot metal):	
Receipts	156
Production	1,830
Consumption	1,590
Stocks, end of period	107
Direct-reduced iron: ³	
Receipts	165
Consumption	176
Stocks, end of period	163

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 2021 data are based on returns from 56% 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 2021			Ending stocks
	Receipts of scrap from outside sources	Production of recirculating scrap	Consumption ³	
Carbon steel:				
Low-phosphorus plate and punchings	14	W	15	W
Cut structural and plate	265	W	307	297
No. 1 heavy melting steel	252	37	286	156
No. 2 heavy melting steel	348	20	374	261
No. 1 and electric furnace bundles	124	--	123	107
No. 2 and all other bundles	72	W	73	29
Electric furnace 1 foot and under (not bundles)	W	W	W	W
Railroad rails	15	--	15	9
Turnings and borings	152	W	157	176
Slag scrap	36	65	68	87
Shredded and fragmentized	955	W	1,040	1,460
No. 1 busheling	362	W	391	249
Steel cans (post consumer)	W	W	W	W
All other carbon steel scrap	199	100	313	236
Stainless steel scrap	57	27	85	39
Alloy steel scrap	24	8	32	56
Ingot mold and stool scrap	W	W	3	2
Machinery and cupola cast iron	2	--	3	W
Cast iron borings	12	W	13	5
Motor blocks	W	--	W	W
Other iron scrap	122	19	143	100
Other mixed scrap	70	W	117	84
Total	3,090	360	3,570	3,580

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 2021		
	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	274	44	310
North Central:			
Illinois and Indiana	419	76	515
Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin	216	15	245
Michigan	118	63	132
Ohio	351	74	419
Total	1,110	229	1,310
South Atlantic:			
Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	275	W	287
Virginia, West Virginia	110	W	130
Total	385	11	418
South Central:			
Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee	660	38	764
Arkansas and Texas	356	18	412
Total	1,020	57	1,180
Mountain and Pacific:			
California, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, Washington	313	18	358
Grand total	3,090	360	3,570

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

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

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Region and country or locality	January 2021	
	Quantity	Value
Bangladesh	91	31,800
Brazil	30	10,300
Canada	71	21,800
China	4	5,110
Egypt	57	23,600
Hong Kong	2	2,560
India	52	23,300
Indonesia	1	140
Japan	2	1,520
Korea, Republic of	41	17,400
Kuwait	12	4,170
Malaysia	66	39,100
Mexico	215	85,300
Pakistan	57	27,500
Peru	25	11,100
Philippines	1	1,390
Taiwan	82	33,800
Thailand	53	23,600
Turkey	265	90,000
United Arab Emirates	1	549
Vietnam	24	8,340
Other ³	3	2,630
Total	1,160	465,000

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 with January 2021 quantities of less than 500 metric tons.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
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 2021	
	Quantity	Value
Canada–United States border:		
Buffalo, NY	8	4,510
Chicago, IL	(3)	20
Detroit, MI	12	4,070
Duluth, MN	1	818
Great Falls, MT	1	284
Ogdensburg, NY	4	612
Pembina, ND	26	9,380
Other	12	1,270
Total	65	21,000
East coast:		
Baltimore, MD	12	5,630
Boston, MA	94	33,100
Charleston, SC	12	7,060
Miami, FL	34	14,100
New York City, NY	223	94,100
Norfolk, VA	15	11,500
Philadelphia, PA	137	44,900
Portland, ME	3	884
Providence, RI	27	9,740
Savannah, GA	13	7,710
St. Albans, VT	1	267
Wilmington, NC	(3)	117
Total	571	229,000
Gulf coast and Mexico–United States border (includes Caribbean territories):		
El Paso, TX	22	8,750
Houston–Galveston, TX	16	12,100
Laredo, TX	90	36,900
Mobile, AL	1	549
New Orleans, LA	1	793
Nogales, AZ	(3)	78
San Juan, PR	17	5,860
Tampa, FL	40	18,200
Total	187	83,300
West coast and Hawaii:		
Columbia–Snake, OR	32	10,400
Honolulu, HI, and Anchorage, AK	2	800
Los Angeles, CA	106	53,500
San Diego, CA	20	6,650
San Francisco, CA	99	30,300
Seattle, WA	72	30,000
Total	331	132,000
Grand total	1,160	465,000

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 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP AND
OTHER FERROUS PRODUCTS BY GRADE^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	January 2021	
	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	376	140,000
No. 2 heavy melting steel	62	25,900
No. 1 bundles	8	2,990
No. 2 bundles	2	411
Shredded steel scrap	318	122,000
Borings, shavings and turnings	1	367
Cut plate and structural	46	16,900
Tinned iron or steel	9	2,900
Remelting scrap ingots	16	226
Cast iron	62	40,900
Other iron and steel	190	64,000
Total carbon steel and cast iron	1,090	417,000
Stainless steel	18	19,800
Other alloy steel	46	28,200
Total stainless and alloy steel	64	48,000
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel and cast iron	1,160	465,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	(3)	6
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	(3)	23
Total scrap exports	1,160	465,000
Exports of manufactured ferrous products:		
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	(3)	43
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	--	--
Pig iron alloy	--	--
Total pig iron	(3)	43
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	2	97
Spongy iron products, not DRI	33	12,300
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	1	2,060
Powders of alloy steel	1	5,830
Other ferrous powders	8	9,040
Total DRI, granules, powders	46	29,300
Grand total	1,200	494,000

-- 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 7
 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 2021	
	Quantity	Value
Belgium	25	6,210
Canada	354	135,000
Cayman Islands	1	137
China	1	215
Germany	1	196
Japan	4	190
Mexico	39	19,400
Other ³	1	1,210
Total	427	163,000

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 with January 2021 quantities of less than 500 metric tons.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
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 2021	
	Quantity	Value
Buffalo, NY	38	17,200
Charleston, SC	7	2,460
Chicago, IL	5	623
Detroit, MI	199	81,900
Duluth, MN	16	5,580
El Paso, TX	3	1,080
Great Falls, MT	2	403
Houston–Galveston, TX	2	509
Laredo, TX	28	14,200
Miami, FL	1	340
Mobile, AL	3	2,310
New Orleans, LA	29	6,260
Nogales, AZ	2	464
Ogdensburg, NY	2	754
Pembina, ND	21	7,950
San Diego, CA	3	1,340
Seattle, WA	65	17,900
St. Albans, VT	2	516
Other	1	887
Total	427	163,000

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 9
U.S. IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP AND OTHER
FERROUS PRODUCTS BY GRADE^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	January 2021	
	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	17	4,970
No. 2 heavy melting steel	11	3,060
No. 1 bundles	85	35,800
No. 2 bundles	8	3,160
Shredded steel scrap	54	17,400
Borings, shoveling and turnings	12	4,060
Cut plate and structural	24	7,820
Tinned iron or steel	27	10,900
Remelting scrap ingots	(3)	142
Cast iron	17	5,570
Other iron and steel	95	28,300
Total carbon steel and cast iron	352	121,000
Stainless steel	19	22,100
Other alloy steel	56	19,400
Total stainless and alloy steel	75	41,600
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel and cast iron	427	163,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	--	--
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	(3)	130
Total scrap imports	427	163,000
Imports of manufactured ferrous products:		
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	--	--
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	351	145,000
Alloy pig iron	(3)	53
Total pig iron	351	145,000
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	288	85,100
Spongy iron products, not DRI	(3)	246
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	4	2,780
Powders of alloy steel	5	7,250
Other ferrous powders	3	6,090
Total DRI, granules, powders	299	101,000
Grand total	1,080	409,000

-- 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 10
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 to date ²	Monthly	Year to date ²	Monthly	Year to date ²
2020:						
January	7,660	7,660	81.7	81.7	99.8	99.8
February	7,070	14,700	81.3	81.9	99.8	99.8
March	7,000	21,700	75.3	79.6	99.8	99.8
April	4,820	26,500	55.4	73.7	99.7	99.8
May	4,910	31,500	54.6	69.9	99.7	99.7
June	4,950	36,400	56.8	67.8	99.7	99.7
July	5,420	41,800	60.3	66.7	99.7	99.7
August	5,930	47,800	65.9	66.6	99.8	99.8
September	5,980	53,700	68.6	66.8	99.8	99.9
October	6,220	60,000	70.1	67.1	99.8	99.8
November	6,300	66,300	73.3	67.7	99.8	99.8
December	6,480	72,700	72.9	68.1	99.8	99.8
2021, January	6,970	6,970	76.6	76.6	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 11
COMPOSITE PRICES FOR STEEL SCRAP AND PIG IRON

Period	Steel Scrap ¹		Pig Iron ²	
	\$/lt	\$/t	\$/lt	\$/t
2020:				
January	253.62	249.61	317.30	312.29
February	237.23	233.48	317.30	312.29
March	232.67	229.00	324.92	319.79
April	199.49	196.34	332.75	327.49
May	199.84	196.68	324.28	319.16
June	208.85	205.55	304.40	299.59
July	197.12	194.01	304.40	299.59
August	209.05	205.75	327.75	322.57
September	240.24	236.45	272.50	268.20
October	244.48	240.62	272.50	268.20
November	248.28	244.36	333.35	328.09
December	304.43	299.62	333.35	328.09
Average, January–December	231.28	227.62	313.73	308.78
2021, January	390.18	384.02	537.00	528.52

¹Prices are for No. 1 heavy melting steel scrap. Source: Fastmarket-AMM.

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.