

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON AND STEEL SCRAP IN FEBRUARY 2021

In February 2021, purchased steel scrap receipts decreased by 4%, recirculating scrap production decreased by 4%, and iron and steel scrap consumption decreased slightly compared with those in January 2021. Stocks of purchased and home scrap in February decreased slightly from those at the end of January. In February, pig iron production decreased by 46% and consumption decreased by 29% from that in January. Direct-reduced iron receipts decreased by 18%, and consumption decreased by 24% from those in January (table 1, fig. 1).

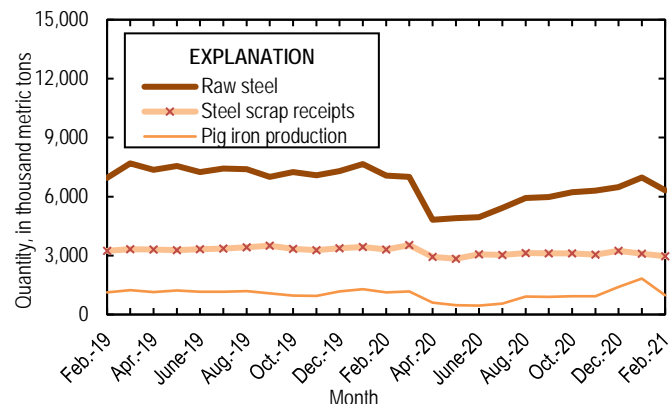


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production of raw steel, receipts of iron and steel scrap, and production of pig iron from February 2019 through February 2021. Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Iron and Steel Institute.

Exports of iron and steel scrap in February increased by 17% from those in January (fig. 2). Mexico was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 22% of the total tonnage, followed by Turkey (21%) and Taiwan (9%) (table 4). Los Angeles, CA, was the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of exports, accounting for 16% of the total, followed by San Francisco, CA, and Boston, MA (11% each) (table 5).

Imports of iron and steel scrap in February increased by 5% from those in January (fig. 2). Canada was the leading country of origin, accounting for 69% of the total tonnage of imports,

followed by Mexico (9%) and the United Kingdom (7%) (table 7). Detroit, MI, was the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of imports, accounting for 40% of the total, followed by New Orleans, LA, (21%) and Seattle, WA (15%) (table 8).

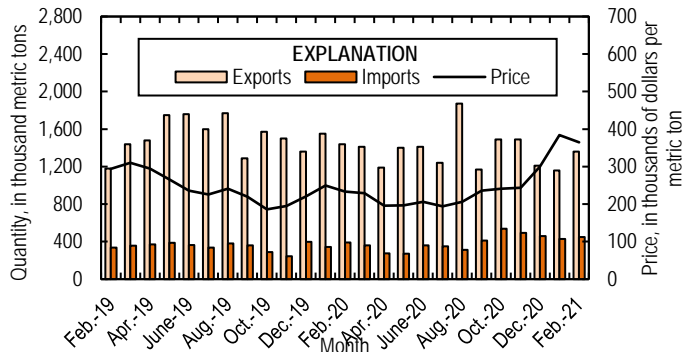


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron and steel scrap and price for No. 1 heavy melting steel scrap from February 2019 through February 2021. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and American Metal Market.

The daily average domestic raw steel production for February, as calculated from the American Iron and Steel Institute’s monthly production data, was 226,000 metric tons, nearly unchanged from that in January and a 7% decrease from that in February 2020. Raw steel production capability utilization was 76.8% in February, up from 76.6% in January and down from 81.3% in February 2020. Continuous cast steel production accounted for 99.8% of total raw steel production in February (table 10).

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TABLE 1
 IRON AND STEEL SCRAP, PIG IRON, AND DIRECT-REDUCED IRON STATISTICS
 FOR STEEL PRODUCERS, IN FEBRUARY 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

	February 2021	January–February ³
Scrap:		
Receipts:		
From outside sources	2,970	6,040
From other own company plants	179	373
Production:		
Recirculating scrap	347	696
Obsolete scrap	12	16
Consumption (by type of furnace):		
Blast furnace	126	252
Basic oxygen process	345	677
Electric furnace	2,920	5,900
Other	93	181
Total consumption	3,480	7,010
Shipments	78	148
Stocks, end of period	3,530	3,530
Pig iron (includes hot metal):		
Receipts	157	309
Production	986	2,010
Consumption	1,130	2,280
Stocks, end of period	347	347
Direct-reduced iron: ⁴		
Receipts	135	297
Consumption	134	308
Stocks, end of period	141	286

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. February 2021 data are based on returns from 55% of consumer surveys, representing 57% of scrap consumption during this month, and estimates for nonrespondents of this survey.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Includes 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, IN FEBRUARY 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Item	February 2021				January–February ³		
	Receipts of scrap from outside sources	Production of recirculating scrap	Consumption ⁴	Ending stocks	Receipts of scrap from outside sources	Production of recirculating scrap	Consumption ⁴
Carbon steel:							
Low-phosphorus plate and punchings	14	W	16	W	28	W	31
Cut structural and plate	262	W	306	287	530	70	609
No. 1 heavy melting steel	236	37	275	159	482	74	556
No. 2 heavy melting steel	327	19	366	245	660	39	739
No. 1 and electric furnace bundles	121	--	116	111	243	--	237
No. 2 and all other bundles	75	W	78	27	147	W	151
Electric furnace 1 foot and under (not bundles)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Railroad rails	15	7	15	96	30	W	30
Turnings and borings	149	W	154	178	301	W	311
Slag scrap	38	66	71	106	75	132	139
Shredded and fragmented	897	W	1,010	1,440	1,850	W	2,030
No. 1 busheling	354	W	381	226	715	W	773
Steel cans (post consumer)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
All other carbon steel scrap	199	94	313	229	397	196	625
Stainless steel scrap	56	27	85	40	112	54	169
Alloy steel scrap	24	8	32	55	48	16	64
Ingot mold and stool scrap	W	W	3	2	W	W	6
Machinery and cupola cast iron	2	--	2	W	W	--	W
Cast iron borings	12	W	12	5	24	W	25
Motor blocks	--	--	--	W	W	--	W
Other iron scrap	42	12	54	53	86	22	110
Other mixed scrap	141	W	175	40	284	18	364
Total	2,970	347	3,480	3,530	6,040	696	7,010

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.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Includes 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, IN FEBRUARY 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and State	February 2021			January–February ³		
	Receipts of scrap from outside sources	Production of recirculating scrap	Consumption ⁴	Receipts of scrap from outside sources	Production of recirculating scrap	Consumption ⁴
Mid-Atlantic and New England:						
New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania	248	43	299	501	86	603
North Central:						
Illinois and Indiana	390	76	484	807	153	994
Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin	242	19	269	464	29	504
Michigan	103	61	116	213	123	239
Ohio	368	67	459	719	138	878
Total	1,100	224	1,330	2,200	443	2,620
South Atlantic:						
Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	261	W	292	535	W	580
Virginia, West Virginia	92	W	117	196	W	242
Total	353	15	409	732	29	822
South Central:						
Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee	611	28	706	1,270	69	1,470
Arkansas and Texas	356	18	412	712	36	825
Total	967	46	1,120	1,980	105	2,290
Mountain and Pacific:						
California, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, Washington	299	17	326	617	34	677
Grand total	2,970	347	3,480	6,040	696	7,010

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.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Includes recirculating scrap and home-generated obsolete scrap.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP BY SELECTED REGION AND COUNTRY
OR LOCALITY, IN FEBRUARY 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Region and country or locality	February 2021		January–February ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Bangladesh	108	48,600	200	80,400
Belgium	(4)	355	1	673
Brazil	31	13,400	61	23,700
Canada	60	16,400	131	38,200
China	4	3,590	8	8,700
Ecuador	61	27,100	61	27,100
Egypt	--	--	57	23,600
Germany	4	1,230	4	1,560
Guatemala	13	5,860	13	5,860
Hong Kong	3	3,480	4	6,030
India	39	25,300	91	48,700
Indonesia	3	1,000	3	1,140
Japan	1	1,500	3	3,020
Korea, Republic of	7	3,970	48	21,300
Kuwait	--	--	12	4,170
Malaysia	84	40,200	149	79,300
Mexico	295	127,000	510	212,000
Netherlands	(4)	283	1	493
Pakistan	46	23,800	103	51,300
Peru	65	29,900	91	41,000
Philippines	5	2,540	6	3,930
Taiwan	118	48,500	200	82,300
Thailand	17	13,000	70	36,600
Turkey	284	111,000	549	201,000
United Arab Emirates	1	568	2	1,120
Vietnam	105	43,400	130	51,700
Other ⁵	2	1,490	3	3,250
Total	1,360	593,000	2,510	1,060,000

-- Zero.

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.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

⁵Includes countries with quantities of less than 500 metric tons for the current year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP BY REGION AND
SELECTED CUSTOMS DISTRICT, IN FEBRUARY 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Region and customs district	February 2021		January–February ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Canada–United States border:				
Buffalo, NY	7	2,830	16	7,340
Chicago	(4)	146	(4)	165
Detroit, MI	13	3,130	25	7,200
Duluth, MN	1	713	3	1,530
Great Falls, MT	2	678	3	962
Ogdensburg, NY	1	198	5	810
Pembina, ND	20	7,310	46	16,700
Other	10	1,050	21	2,330
Total	55	16,100	120	37,000
East coast:				
Baltimore, MD	58	19,800	70	25,400
Boston, MA	146	65,900	241	99,000
Charleston, SC	12	7,430	25	14,500
Miami, FL	36	15,100	70	29,200
New York City, NY	144	66,100	367	160,000
Norfolk, VA	49	16,800	63	28,300
Philadelphia, PA	24	11,200	161	56,100
Portland, ME	17	7,210	20	8,100
Providence, RI	--	--	27	9,740
Savannah, GA	18	9,230	31	16,900
St. Albans, VT	1	185	2	452
Wilmington, NC	(4)	100	(4)	217
Total	506	219,000	1,080	448,000
Gulf coast and Mexico–United States border (includes Caribbean territories):				
El Paso, TX	19	7,850	42	16,600
Houston–Galveston, TX	33	16,800	49	28,900
Laredo, TX	83	33,700	173	70,600
Mobile, AL	2	499	2	1,050
New Orleans, LA	29	13,500	30	14,200
Nogales, AZ	(4)	97	1	175
San Juan, PR	17	6,280	33	12,100
Tampa, FL	29	13,300	69	31,500
Total	211	91,900	398	175,000
West coast and Hawaii:				
Columbia–Snake, OR	108	49,400	139	59,800
Honolulu, HI, and Anchorage, AK	2	955	4	1,760
Los Angeles, CA	222	103,000	328	157,000
San Diego, CA	22	6,760	42	13,400
San Francisco, CA	154	70,400	253	101,000
Seattle, WA	77	34,700	149	64,700
Total	584	266,000	915	397,000
Grand total	1,360	593,000	2,510	1,060,000

-- Zero.

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.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP AND OTHER
FERROUS PRODUCTS BY GRADE, IN FEBRUARY 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	February 2021		January–February ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	360	147,000	737	287,000
No. 2 heavy melting steel	44	22,200	107	48,100
No. 1 bundles	13	4,920	21	7,910
No. 2 bundles	1	134	3	545
Shredded steel scrap	549	245,000	868	368,000
Borings, shovelings and turnings	2	684	3	1,050
Cut plate and structural	20	8,560	65	25,400
Tinned iron or steel	7	3,020	17	5,920
Remelting scrap ingots	(4)	60	16	286
Cast iron	91	37,800	153	78,700
Other iron and steel	208	78,200	398	142,000
Total carbon steel and cast iron	1,300	548,000	2,390	965,000
Stainless steel	16	18,900	34	38,700
Other alloy steel	43	26,200	89	54,400
Total stainless and alloy steel	59	45,100	123	93,100
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel and cast iron	1,360	593,000	2,510	1,060,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	--	--	(4)	6
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	(4)	154	(4)	177
Total scrap exports	1,360	593,000	2,510	1,060,000
Exports of manufactured ferrous products,				
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	(4)	47	(4)	91
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	--	--	2	97
Spongy iron products, not DRI	(4)	154	34	12,400
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	1	1,980	3	4,030
Powders of alloy steel	2	6,480	3	12,300
Other ferrous powders	8	9,130	16	18,200
Total DRI, granules, powders	11	17,700	57	47,100
Grand total	1,370	611,000	2,570	1,110,000

-- 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.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less 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, IN FEBRUARY 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Country or locality	February 2021		January–February ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Belgium	23	8,840	48	15,000
Canada	307	130,000	661	265,000
Cayman Islands	1	132	1	269
China	1	68	2	283
Germany	6	1,860	7	2,060
Japan	10	83	14	273
Mexico	41	21,700	80	41,100
Poland	10	3,080	10	3,080
Singapore	1	62	1	62
Spain	16	4,950	16	4,950
United Kingdom	32	11,800	32	11,800
Other ⁴	2	2,080	4	3,290
Total	448	184,000	875	347,000

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

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Includes countries with quantities of less than 500 metric tons for the current year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP
BY SELECTED CUSTOMS DISTRICT, IN FEBRUARY 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Customs district	February 2021		January–February ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Buffalo, NY	33	20,400	70	37,600
Charleston, SC	(4)	141	8	2,600
Chicago, IL	(4)	65	5	688
Detroit, MI	179	79,300	377	161,000
Duluth, MN	10	4,260	27	9,840
El Paso, TX	2	1,070	5	2,150
Great Falls, MT	1	152	2	555
Houston–Galveston, TX	2	1,080	4	1,590
Laredo, TX	26	14,600	54	28,800
Miami, FL	1	332	2	672
Mobile, AL	8	4,590	11	6,900
New Orleans, LA	96	30,400	125	36,700
Nogales, AZ	1	424	3	888
Ogdensburg, NY	1	715	3	1,470
Pembina, ND	15	6,480	35	14,400
San Diego, CA	4	1,090	7	2,430
Seattle, WA	67	17,400	131	35,300
St. Albans, VT	2	889	4	1,410
Other	1	911	1	1,800
Total	448	184,000	875	347,000

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.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP AND OTHER
FERROUS PRODUCTS BY GRADE, IN FEBRUARY 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	February 2021		January–February ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	13	4,140	31	9,110
No. 2 heavy melting steel	8	2,490	19	5,550
No. 1 bundles	165	67,700	250	103,000
No. 2 bundles	6	2,170	14	5,330
Shredded steel scrap	44	15,500	98	33,000
Borings, shovelings and turnings	8	3,010	20	7,080
Cut plate and structural	23	7,710	47	15,500
Tinned iron or steel	18	7,360	45	18,200
Remelting scrap ingots	(4)	38	(4)	180
Cast iron	7	2,450	25	8,020
Other iron and steel	75	22,000	171	50,300
Total carbon steel and cast iron	369	135,000	720	256,000
Stainless steel	26	28,800	45	51,000
Other alloy steel	54	20,800	109	40,200
Total stainless and alloy steel	79	49,600	155	91,200
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel and cast iron	448	184,000	875	347,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	--	--	--	--
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	(4)	607	(4)	737
Total scrap imports	448	185,000	875	348,000
Imports of manufactured ferrous products:				
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	(4)	51	(4)	51
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	432	215,000	783	360,000
Alloy pig iron	(4)	46	(4)	99
Total pig iron	432	215,000	783	360,000
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	207	69,600	495	155,000
Spongy iron products, not DRI	(4)	195	(4)	441
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	2	2,870	6	5,650
Powders of alloy steel	5	8,340	9	15,600
Other ferrous powders	3	6,590	7	12,700
Total DRI, granules, powders	217	87,600	517	189,000
Grand total	1,100	487,000	2,180	896,000

-- Zero.

¹Import valuation is on a Customs basis.

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

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less 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:						
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
February	6,320	13,300	76.8	76.7	99.8	99.7

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:				
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
February	371.23	365.37	508.08	500.06

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.

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