

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON AND STEEL SCRAP IN MARCH 2021

In March 2021, purchased steel scrap receipts decreased slightly, recirculating scrap production decreased by 26%, and iron and steel scrap consumption decreased by 5% as compared with February. Stocks of purchased and home scrap were nearly unchanged from those at the end of February. In March, pig iron production decreased by 25% and consumption decreased by 20% from that in February (table 1, fig. 1). Direct-reduced iron receipts increased by 22%, and consumption increased by 17%.

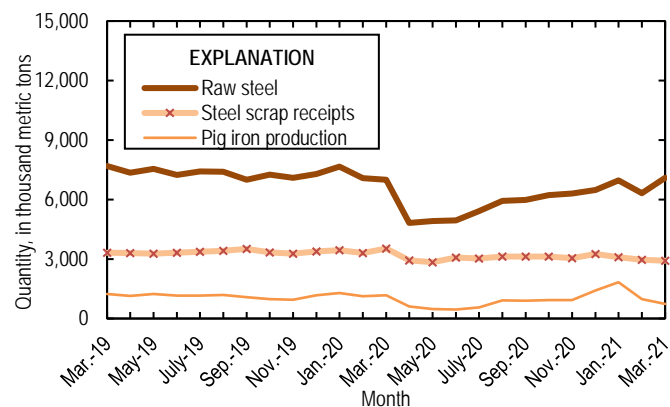


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production of raw steel, receipts of iron and steel scrap, and production of pig iron from March 2019 through March 2021. Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Iron and Steel Institute.

Exports of iron and steel scrap in March increased by 19% from those in February (fig. 2). Turkey was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 29% of the total tonnage, followed by Mexico (20%) and Taiwan (9%) (table 4). New York, NY, was the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of exports, accounting for 20% of the total, followed by Los Angeles, CA, (16%) and Laredo, TX (12%) (table 5).

Imports of iron and steel scrap in March increased by 14% from those in February (fig. 2). Canada was the leading country of origin, accounting for 67% of the total tonnage of imports, followed by Mexico and Netherlands (9% each) (table 7).

Detroit, MI, was the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of imports, accounting for 35% of the total, followed by Charleston, SC, (15%) and Seattle, WA (14%) (table 8).

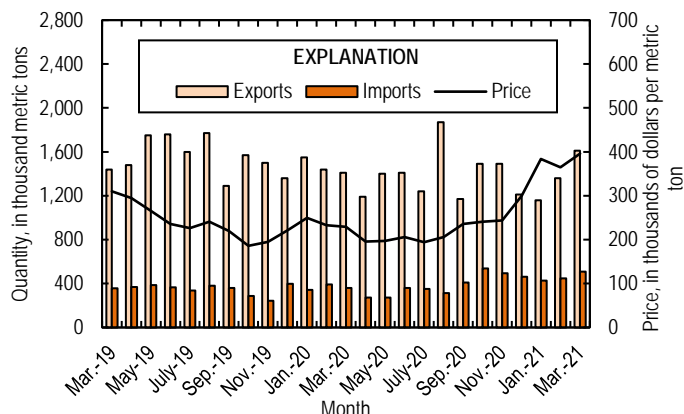


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron and steel scrap and price for No. 1 heavy melting steel scrap from March 2019 through March 2021. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and American Metal Market.

The daily average domestic raw steel production for March, as calculated from the American Iron and Steel Institute’s monthly production data, was 229,000 metric tons, a slight increase from those in February 2021 and March 2020. Raw steel production capability utilization was 78.0% in March, up from 76.8% in February and 75.3% in March 2020.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

	March	January–March ³
Scrap:		
Receipts:		
From outside sources	2,910	8,880
From other own company plants	184	554
Production:		
Recirculating scrap	258	943
Obsolete scrap	12	28
Consumption (by type of furnace):		
Blast furnace	116	368
Basic oxygen process	271	948
Electric furnace	2,820	8,630
Other	90	270
Total consumption	3,290	10,200
Shipments	34	181
Stocks, end of period	3,510	3,510
Pig iron (includes hot metal):		
Receipts	170	479
Production	735	2,750
Consumption	901	3,180
Stocks, end of period	345	345
Direct-reduced iron: ⁴		
Receipts	165	461
Consumption	157	464
Stocks, end of period	180	180

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. March 2021 data are based on returns from 54% of consumer surveys, representing 56% 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 MARCH 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Item	March				January–March 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	15	W	42	W	46
Cut structural and plate	243	W	288	282	754	106	878
No. 1 heavy melting steel	235	30	267	137	712	103	818
No. 2 heavy melting steel	330	20	384	244	988	59	1,120
No. 1 and electric furnace bundles	102	--	106	127	340	--	337
No. 2 and all other bundles	68	W	62	33	214	W	212
Electric furnace 1 foot and under (not bundles)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Railroad rails	15	7	15	96	45	W	46
Turnings and borings	155	W	157	178	456	W	467
Slag scrap	28	12	42	57	106	141	180
Shredded and fragmentized	908	W	974	1,450	2,740	W	2,990
No. 1 busheling	351	W	360	271	1,050	W	1,120
Steel cans (post consumer)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
All other carbon steel scrap	208	104	308	251	604	298	928
Stainless steel scrap	54	27	82	38	163	80	247
Alloy steel scrap	24	8	32	55	72	24	96
Ingot mold and stool scrap	W	W	3	2	W	W	9
Machinery and cupola cast iron	2	--	2	W	W	--	W
Cast iron borings	12	W	12	5	35	W	37
Motor blocks	--	--	--	W	W	--	W
Other iron scrap	39	1	43	45	124	23	153
Other mixed scrap	116	W	132	11	401	20	496
Total	2,910	258	3,290	3,510	8,880	943	10,200

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 MARCH 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and State	March			January–March 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	240	40	286	711	120	850
North Central:						
Illinois and Indiana	392	74	493	1,160	222	1,440
Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska,						
Wisconsin	224	7	236	689	35	741
Michigan	38	4	44	252	127	282
Ohio	333	43	342	1,050	181	1,220
Total	987	128	1,120	3,150	565	3,690
South Atlantic:						
Georgia, North Carolina,						
South Carolina	288	W	289	823	W	869
Virginia, West Virginia	96	W	111	292	W	353
Total	384	17	400	1,120	45	1,220
South Central:						
Alabama, Kentucky,						
Mississippi, Tennessee	541	27	637	1,810	96	2,100
Arkansas and Texas	493	31	580	1,200	67	1,410
Total	1,030	59	1,220	3,020	164	3,510
Mountain and Pacific,						
California, Colorado,						
Oregon, Utah, Washington	269	15	275	886	49	952
Grand total	2,910	258	3,290	8,880	943	10,200

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 MARCH 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Region and country or locality	March		January–March ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Bangladesh	37	16,000	236	96,500
Belgium	(4)	103	1	776
Brazil	32	11,100	92	34,800
Canada	75	21,300	205	59,500
China	16	9,560	24	18,300
Ecuador	(4)	64	62	27,100
Egypt	41	14,500	98	38,100
Germany	1	734	5	2,300
Greece	32	12,200	32	12,300
Guatemala	--	--	13	5,860
Hong Kong	6	4,390	11	10,400
India	42	28,400	133	77,000
Indonesia	1	459	4	1,600
Japan	1	2,300	4	5,330
Korea, Republic of	51	20,600	99	41,900
Kuwait	--	--	12	4,170
Malaysia	115	47,200	264	126,000
Mexico	330	86,300	839	298,000
Netherlands	(4)	226	1	720
Pakistan	59	31,900	162	83,200
Peru	32	13,900	122	54,800
Philippines	3	1,680	10	5,610
Russia	(4)	176	1	508
Singapore	1	536	1	655
Spain	2	535	2	683
Sweden	(4)	722	1	1,920
Taiwan	152	57,200	353	140,000
Thailand	27	19,900	97	56,500
Turkey	462	184,000	1,010	385,000
United Arab Emirates	1	456	2	1,570
Vietnam	89	34,400	219	86,100
Other ⁵	1	836	2	2,190
Total	1,610	622,000	4,120	1,680,000

-- 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 MARCH 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Region and customs district	March		January–March ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Canada–United States border:				
Buffalo, NY	11	3,960	27	11,300
Chicago	1	454	2	619
Detroit, MI	22	6,330	47	13,500
Duluth, MN	2	1,120	5	2,650
Great Falls, MT	2	669	5	1,630
Ogdensburg, NY	2	393	7	1,200
Pembina, ND	19	7,240	65	23,900
Other	13	1,480	35	3,810
Total	72	21,600	192	58,700
East coast:				
Baltimore, MD	39	18,600	109	44,000
Boston, MA	84	32,800	325	132,000
Charleston, SC	13	9,020	38	23,500
Miami, FL	53	23,400	122	52,600
New York City, NY	325	132,000	692	292,000
Norfolk, VA	48	24,600	111	53,000
Philadelphia, PA	145	55,800	306	112,000
Portland, ME	3	598	23	8,690
Providence, RI	90	34,300	117	44,000
Savannah, GA	17	10,300	48	27,200
St. Albans, VT	2	319	4	771
Wilmington, NC	(4)	263	1	480
Total	817	342,000	1,890	790,000
Gulf coast and Mexico–United States border (includes Caribbean territories):				
El Paso, TX	26	10,400	68	27,000
Houston–Galveston, TX	28	14,900	77	43,800
Laredo, TX	200	35,600	373	106,000
Mobile, AL	(4)	335	3	1,380
New Orleans, LA	3	2,350	33	16,600
Nogales, AZ	(4)	88	1	263
San Juan, PR	8	2,290	41	14,400
Tampa, FL	30	10,100	99	41,600
Total	296	76,100	694	251,000
West coast and Hawaii:				
Columbia–Snake, OR	36	15,400	175	75,200
Honolulu, HI, and Anchorage, AK	30	10,700	35	12,500
Los Angeles, CA	252	108,000	580	265,000
San Diego, CA	29	8,900	70	22,300
San Francisco, CA	66	29,200	318	130,000
Seattle, WA	14	9,490	163	74,200
Total	426	182,000	1,340	579,000
Grand total	1,610	622,000	4,120	1,680,000

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.

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 MARCH 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	March		January–March ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	525	195,000	1,260	482,000
No. 2 heavy melting steel	73	30,900	180	78,900
No. 1 bundles	114	7,850	135	15,800
No. 2 bundles	3	316	6	862
Shredded steel scrap	389	159,000	1,260	527,000
Borings, shoveling and turnings	1	271	4	1,320
Cut plate and structural	84	35,200	150	60,600
Tinned iron or steel	9	3,540	26	9,460
Remelting scrap ingots	(4)	354	17	639
Cast iron	128	49,800	281	128,000
Other iron and steel	191	82,100	589	224,000
Total carbon steel and cast iron	1,520	564,000	3,910	1,530,000
Stainless steel	19	22,300	54	61,000
Other alloy steel	73	35,400	162	89,800
Total stainless and alloy steel	92	57,800	216	151,000
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel and cast iron	1,610	622,000	4,120	1,680,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	--	--	(4)	6
Used rails	(4)	286	(4)	428
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	--	--	(4)	36
Total scrap exports	1,610	622,000	4,120	1,680,000
Exports of manufactured ferrous products,				
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	2	1,100	2	1,190
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	(4)	9	(4)	9
Total pig iron	2	1,110	2	1,200
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	(4)	16	2	113
Spongy iron products, not DRI	40	16,200	74	28,600
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	2	4,360	5	8,400
Powders of alloy steel	2	7,030	5	19,300
Other ferrous powders	6	9,690	22	27,900
Total DRI, granules, powders	50	37,300	107	84,300
Grand total	1,660	660,000	4,230	1,770,000

-- 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 MARCH 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Country or locality	March		January–March ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Belgium	--	--	48	15,000
Canada	340	141,000	1,000	406,000
Cayman Islands	(4)	64	1	333
China	2	289	4	572
Colombia	(4)	677	1	994
Germany	11	4,000	18	6,060
Japan	5	50	19	324
Malaysia	(4)	44	1	137
Mexico	44	23,900	124	65,100
Netherlands	44	16,600	44	16,700
Poland	12	5,830	22	8,910
Russia	(4)	517	1	1,640
Singapore	1	209	2	271
Spain	--	--	16	4,950
Sweden	15	7,380	15	7,390
United Kingdom	31	15,800	63	27,600
Other ⁵	1	964	3	2,680
Total	509	217,000	1,380	564,000

-- Zero.

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.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

⁵Includes 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 MARCH 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Customs district	March		January–March ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Buffalo, NY	39	24,600	110	62,200
Charleston, SC	76	32,500	84	35,100
Chicago, IL	(4)	106	5	793
Cleveland, OH	12	1,010	12	1,330
Detroit, MI	176	80,000	553	241,000
Duluth, MN	19	7,290	46	17,100
El Paso, TX	4	1,490	10	3,640
Great Falls, MT	1	365	4	920
Houston–Galveston, TX	3	1,620	7	3,210
Laredo, TX	29	17,400	83	46,200
Miami, FL	1	240	3	912
Minneapolis, MN	(4)	31	1	124
Mobile, AL	4	2,760	15	9,660
New Orleans, LA	43	17,100	168	53,800
Nogales, AZ	2	607	5	1,500
Ogdensburg, NY	1	954	4	2,420
Pembina, ND	18	7,880	53	22,300
San Diego, CA	6	1,710	13	4,140
Seattle, WA	73	19,000	204	54,300
St. Albans, VT	1	332	5	1,740
Other	1	634	2	2,010
Total	509	217,000	1,380	564,000

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 MARCH 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	March		January–March ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	21	6,380	52	15,500
No. 2 heavy melting steel	9	2,590	28	8,140
No. 1 bundles	180	84,600	431	188,000
No. 2 bundles	5	1,730	18	7,060
Shredded steel scrap	57	15,500	155	48,500
Borings, shovelings and turnings	9	3,010	29	10,100
Cut plate and structural	21	6,950	68	22,500
Tinned iron or steel	22	9,780	67	28,000
Remelting scrap ingots	--	--	(4)	180
Cast iron	10	3,420	35	11,400
Other iron and steel	77	23,700	247	74,000
Total carbon steel and cast iron	410	158,000	1,130	413,000
Stainless steel	23	29,600	69	80,600
Other alloy steel	76	30,100	185	70,300
Total stainless and alloy steel	99	59,800	254	151,000
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel and cast iron	509	217,000	1,380	564,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	5	604	5	604
Used rails	--	--	(4)	117
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	(4)	124	(4)	744
Total scrap imports	514	218,000	1,390	566,000
Imports of manufactured ferrous products:				
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	(4)	60	(4)	111
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	462	228,000	1,250	588,000
Alloy pig iron	(4)	85	(4)	184
Total pig iron	463	229,000	1,250	588,000
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	416	150,000	911	304,000
Spongy iron products, not DRI	(4)	104	(4)	545
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	2	3,570	8	9,220
Powders of alloy steel	6	11,700	15	27,300
Other ferrous powders	3	6,080	10	18,800
Total DRI, granules, powders	427	171,000	944	360,000
Grand total	1,400	618,000	3,580	1,510,000

-- 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:						
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
March	7,100	20,400	78.0	77.1	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:				
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
March	401.96	395.61	423.17	416.49

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

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