

Mineral Industry Surveys

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IRON AND STEEL SCRAP IN APRIL 2021

In April 2021, purchased steel scrap receipts was essentially unchanged, recirculating scrap production increased by 14%, and iron and steel scrap consumption increased slightly as compared with March. Stocks of purchased and home scrap increased by 4% from those at the end of March. In April, pig iron production increased by 21% and consumption increased by 17% from that in March (table 1, fig. 1). Direct-reduced iron receipts increased by 52% and consumption increased by 40%.

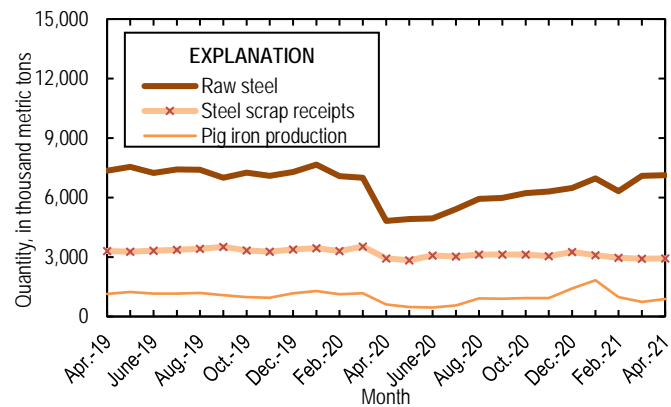


Figure 1. Monthly domestic production of raw steel, receipts of iron and steel scrap, and production of pig iron from April 2019 through April 2021. Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Iron and Steel Institute.

Exports of iron and steel scrap in April increased slightly from those in March (fig. 2). Mexico was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 15% of the total tonnage, followed by Malaysia (14%) and Turkey (13%) (table 4). New York, NY, was the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of exports, accounting for 21% of the total, followed by Los Angeles, CA, (13%) and San Francisco, CA (10%) (table 5).

Imports of iron and steel scrap in April decreased by 6% from those in March (fig. 2). Canada was the leading country of origin, accounting for 57% of the total tonnage of imports, followed by Netherlands (16%) and Mexico (10%) (table 7).

Detroit, MI, was the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of imports, accounting for 27% of the total, followed by Charleston, SC, (16%) and Seattle, WA (14%) (table 8).

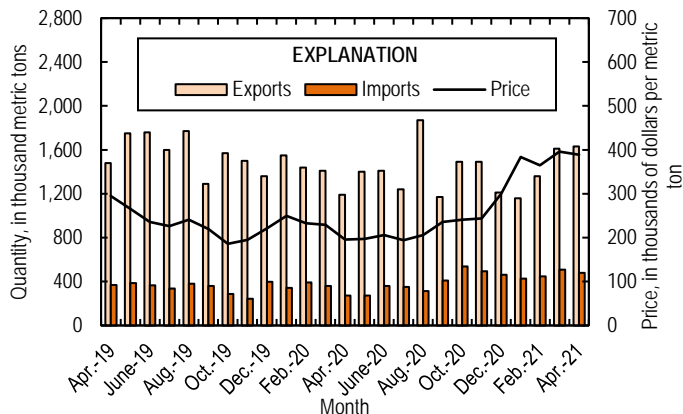


Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron and steel scrap and price for No. 1 heavy melting steel scrap from April 2019 through April 2021. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Fastmarket-AMM.

The daily average domestic raw steel production for April, as calculated from the American Iron and Steel Institute’s monthly production data, was 238,000 metric tons, a 4% increase from those in March 2021 and a 48% increase from those in April 2020. Raw steel production capability utilization was 80.8% in April, up from 78.0% in March and 55.4% in April 2020 (table 10).

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

(Thousand metric tons)

	April 2021	January–April ³
Scrap:		
Receipts:		
From outside sources	2,930	11,800
From other own company plants	196	750
Production:		
Recirculating scrap	296	1,240
Obsolete scrap	12	40
Consumption (by type of furnace):		
Blast furnace	121	489
Basic oxygen process	284	1,230
Electric furnace	2,880	11,500
Other	93	363
Total consumption	3,370	13,600
Shipments	36	218
Stocks, end of period	3,640	3,640
Pig iron (includes hot metal):		
Receipts	183	662
Production	888	3,630
Consumption	1,060	4,240
Stocks, end of period	365	365
Direct-reduced iron: ⁴		
Receipts	251	1,060
Consumption	220	933
Stocks, end of period	336	336

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. April 2021 data are based on returns from 56% 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 APRIL 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Item	April 2021				January–April 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	55	W	61
Cut structural and plate	248	W	291	283	1,000	139	1,170
No. 1 heavy melting steel	240	38	286	151	952	142	1,100
No. 2 heavy melting steel	331	21	371	256	1,320	80	1,490
No. 1 and electric furnace bundles	107	--	99	130	447	--	436
No. 2 and all other bundles	66	W	71	28	280	W	284
Electric furnace 1 foot and under (not bundles)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Railroad rails	16	7	17	96	61	W	62
Turnings and borings	148	W	153	177	604	W	620
Slag scrap	28	24	53	97	134	165	233
Shredded and fragmentized	886	W	981	1,430	3,630	W	3,970
No. 1 busheling	330	W	342	272	1,380	W	1,460
Steel cans (post consumer)	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
All other carbon steel scrap	208	105	317	275	812	403	1,250
Stainless steel scrap	54	27	82	38	217	107	329
Alloy steel scrap	24	8	32	55	95	32	129
Ingot mold and stool scrap	W	W	3	2	W	W	13
Machinery and cupola cast iron	2	--	2	W	W	--	W
Cast iron borings	12	W	12	5	47	W	49
Motor blocks	W	--	W	--	W	--	W
Other iron scrap	64	15	59	79	188	38	212
Other mixed scrap	140	W	177	32	540	28	673
Total	2,930	296	3,370	3,640	11,800	1,240	13,600

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 APRIL 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and State	April 2021			January–April 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	238	40	284	948	160	1,130
North Central:						
Illinois and Indiana	381	74	473	1,540	297	1,910
Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin	221	7	233	910	43	973
Michigan	38	4	44	290	131	326
Ohio	411	81	474	1,460	262	1,690
Total	1,050	164	1,220	4,200	729	4,910
South Atlantic:						
Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	256	W	292	1,080	W	1,160
Virginia, West Virginia	95	W	110	388	W	463
Total	351	18	402	1,470	63	1,630
South Central:						
Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee	527	28	609	2,340	124	2,710
Arkansas and Texas	467	28	534	1,670	96	1,940
Total	995	56	1,140	4,010	220	4,650
Mountain and Pacific:						
California, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, Washington	292	17	321	1,180	66	1,270
Grand total	2,930	296	3,370	11,800	1,240	13,600

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 APRIL 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Region and country or locality	April 2021		January–April ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Bangladesh	48	18,800	284	115,000
Belgium	2	902	3	1,680
Brazil	(4)	6	92	34,800
Canada	91	24,300	296	83,800
Cayman Islands	(4)	158	1	686
China	8	5,460	32	23,700
Ecuador	35	14,300	97	41,400
Egypt	120	46,300	218	84,400
Germany	1	721	6	3,020
Greece	33	14,600	65	26,900
Guatemala	--	--	13	5,860
Hong Kong	3	3,560	13	14,000
India	95	30,400	228	107,000
Indonesia	2	634	6	2,240
Italy	68	30,000	68	30,100
Japan	2	1,510	6	6,830
Korea, Republic of	69	28,100	167	70,000
Kuwait	--	--	12	4,170
Malaysia	234	43,400	498	170,000
Mexico	243	69,700	1,080	368,000
Netherlands	(4)	223	1	943
Pakistan	47	27,900	209	111,000
Peru	--	--	122	54,800
Philippines	2	1,250	11	6,860
Russia	(4)	219	1	727
Singapore	(4)	79	1	734
Spain	(4)	473	3	1,160
Sweden	(4)	1,400	1	3,320
Taiwan	116	45,700	469	185,000
Thailand	22	16,300	119	72,800
Turkey	205	88,200	1,220	473,000
United Arab Emirates	(4)	295	3	1,870
United Kingdom	(4)	394	1	824
Vietnam	181	74,200	400	160,000
Other ⁵	1	469	2	1,600
Total	1,630	590,000	5,750	2,270,000

-- Zero.

¹Includes tinsplate 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 APRIL 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Region and customs district	April 2021		January–April ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Canada–United States border:				
Buffalo, NY	8	4,350	34	15,600
Chicago, IL	(4)	144	2	764
Detroit, MI	36	6,220	84	19,800
Duluth, MN	1	911	6	3,560
Great Falls, MT	3	1,020	8	2,660
Ogdensburg, NY	2	343	9	1,550
Pembina, ND	23	9,630	88	33,600
Other	11	1,340	46	5,150
Total	85	24,000	277	82,600
East coast:				
Baltimore, MD	37	18,200	146	62,200
Boston, MA	146	58,000	470	190,000
Charleston, SC	13	8,930	51	32,400
Miami, FL	28	12,900	150	65,500
New York City, NY	343	83,400	1,030	376,000
Norfolk, VA	17	14,300	128	67,300
Philadelphia, PA	97	40,900	403	153,000
Portland, ME	13	5,850	36	14,500
Providence, RI	--	--	117	44,000
Savannah, GA	13	9,710	61	36,900
St. Albans, VT	2	359	5	1,130
Wilmington, NC	(4)	149	1	629
Total	709	253,000	2,600	1,040,000
Gulf coast and Mexico–United States border (includes Caribbean territories):				
El Paso, TX	18	7,090	86	34,100
Houston–Galveston, TX	33	20,700	110	64,600
Laredo, TX	150	33,200	523	139,000
Mobile, AL	1	763	3	2,150
New Orleans, LA	41	1,580	74	18,200
Nogales, AZ	(4)	63	1	326
San Juan, PR	19	6,860	60	21,300
Tampa, FL	61	28,000	160	69,600
Total	324	98,300	1,020	350,000
West coast and Hawaii:				
Columbia–Snake, OR	69	31,200	244	106,000
Honolulu, HI, and Anchorage, AK	3	1,070	37	13,500
Los Angeles, CA	207	93,100	787	358,000
San Diego, CA	23	7,380	93	29,700
San Francisco, CA	164	61,300	482	191,000
Seattle, WA	45	20,700	208	94,900
Total	510	215,000	1,850	794,000
Grand total	1,630	590,000	5,750	2,270,000

-- 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 APRIL 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	April 2021		January–April ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	409	178,000	1,670	660,000
No. 2 heavy melting steel	55	23,300	234	102,000
No. 1 bundles	7	2,740	142	18,500
No. 2 bundles	2	175	8	1,040
Shredded steel scrap	453	188,000	1,710	714,000
Borings, shoveling and turnings	1	335	5	1,660
Cut plate and structural	59	25,600	208	86,200
Tinned iron or steel	9	3,940	35	13,400
Remelting scrap ingots	(4)	112	17	751
Cast iron	305	42,600	586	171,000
Other iron and steel	192	71,900	781	296,000
Total carbon steel and cast iron	1,490	536,000	5,400	2,060,000
Stainless steel	17	21,100	71	82,200
Other alloy steel	119	32,200	281	122,000
Total stainless and alloy steel	137	53,400	353	204,000
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel and cast iron	1,630	590,000	5,750	2,270,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	(4)	5	(4)	11
Used rails	1	1,640	1	2,060
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	(4)	12	(4)	48
Total scrap exports	1,630	591,000	5,750	2,270,000
Exports of manufactured ferrous products,				
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	(4)	180	2	1,370
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	--	--	(4)	9
Total pig iron	(4)	180	2	1,380
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	2	62	4	175
Spongy iron products, not DRI	1	376	74	29,000
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	1	2,510	6	10,900
Powders of alloy steel	1	6,760	6	26,100
Other ferrous powders	7	8,640	29	36,500
Total DRI, granules, powders	13	18,300	120	103,000
Grand total	1,640	610,000	5,870	2,380,000

-- 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 APRIL 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Country or locality	April 2021		January–April ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Belgium	--	--	48	15,000
Canada	271	118,000	1,270	524,000
Cayman Islands	(4)	10	1	343
China	1	222	5	794
Colombia	(4)	704	1	1,700
Czechia	2	2,560	2	2,630
Estonia	2	1,530	2	2,040
Germany	9	148	27	6,210
India	(4)	150	1	348
Japan	(4)	58	19	381
Malaysia	(4)	26	1	162
Mexico	50	28,400	174	93,400
Netherlands	76	35,900	120	52,500
Poland	5	7,440	27	16,400
Russia	(4)	493	1	2,140
Singapore	1	103	3	374
Spain	--	--	16	4,950
Sweden	29	13,400	44	20,800
United Kingdom	32	16,600	95	44,200
Other ⁵	2	1,510	4	3,410
Total	479	227,000	1,860	792,000

-- Zero.

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.

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 APRIL 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Customs district	April 2021		January–April ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Baltimore, MD	1	845	2	1,990
Buffalo, NY	36	20,700	145	82,900
Charleston, SC	76	36,000	160	71,000
Chicago, IL	5	1,220	10	2,010
Cleveland, OH	(4)	90	12	1,420
Detroit, MI	128	63,800	681	305,000
Duluth, MN	12	5,160	58	22,300
El Paso, TX	5	2,000	15	5,640
Great Falls, MT	1	291	5	1,210
Houston–Galveston, TX	2	1,950	9	5,160
Laredo, TX	32	18,600	114	64,800
Miami, FL	1	474	4	1,390
Minneapolis, MN	(4)	26	1	149
Mobile, AL	45	31,900	60	41,600
New Orleans, LA	39	13,400	206	67,300
New York City, NY	1	1,270	1	1,450
Nogales, AZ	2	837	7	2,330
Ogdensburg, NY	2	1,190	6	3,620
Pembina, ND	17	7,180	69	29,500
San Diego, CA	5	1,680	18	5,820
Seattle, WA	69	18,000	273	72,200
St. Albans, VT	1	381	6	2,120
Other	(4)	222	1	911
Total	479	227,000	1,860	792,000

¹Includes tinsplate 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 APRIL 2021^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	April 2021		January–April ³	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	17	4,640	68	20,100
No. 2 heavy melting steel	8	2,980	37	11,100
No. 1 bundles	173	85,100	603	273,000
No. 2 bundles	10	3,680	29	10,700
Shredded steel scrap	34	11,300	189	59,800
Borings, shovelings and turnings	7	2,250	36	12,300
Cut plate and structural	24	8,400	91	30,900
Tinned iron or steel	17	7,270	84	35,300
Remelting scrap ingots	(4)	66	(4)	246
Cast iron	14	4,230	49	15,700
Other iron and steel	78	25,400	326	99,500
Total carbon steel and cast iron	382	155,000	1,510	569,000
Stainless steel	30	42,200	99	123,000
Other alloy steel	67	29,800	252	100,000
Total stainless and alloy steel	97	72,000	351	223,000
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel and cast iron	479	227,000	1,860	792,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	(4)	4	5	608
Used rails	--	--	(4)	117
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	1	997	1	997
Used rails other	(4)	62	(4)	806
Total scrap imports	480	228,000	1,870	794,000
Imports of manufactured ferrous products:				
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	(4)	58	(4)	169
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	476	233,000	1,720	821,000
Alloy pig iron	(4)	126	(4)	309
Total pig iron	476	233,000	1,720	821,000
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	302	104,000	1,210	408,000
Spongy iron products, not DRI	(4)	234	1	779
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	2	3,230	10	12,400
Powders of alloy steel	5	9,930	21	37,300
Other ferrous powders	4	8,270	14	27,000
Total DRI, granules, powders	314	125,000	1,260	486,000
Grand total	1,270	587,000	4,850	2,100,000

-- 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:						
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	99.8
March	7,100	20,400	78.0	77.1	99.8	99.8
April	7,130	27,500	80.8	78.0	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:				
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
April	394.84	388.60	479.13	471.56

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

²Prices are Brazilian basic pig iron, free on board, New Orleans, LA. Source: U.S. Census

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