Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:
Cris Candice Tuck, Iron and Steel Scrap Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
Telephone: (703) 648-4912
Email: ctuck@usgs.gov

Hoa P. Phamdang (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7965
Email: hphamdan@usgs.gov
Internet: https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys

IRON AND STEEL SCRAP IN JANUARY 2022

In January 2022, purchased steel scrap receipts decreased by 9%, recirculating scrap production increased by 18%, and iron and steel scrap consumption increased by 4% compared with those in December 2021. Stocks of purchased and home scrap increased 8% from those at the end of December 2021. In January 2022, pig iron production increased by 16% and consumption increased by 13% from those in December 2021 (table 1, fig. 1). Direct-reduced iron receipts decreased 23% and consumption decreased 21%.

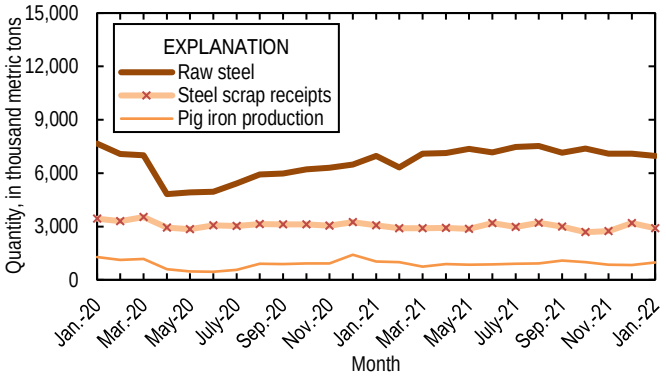

Figure 1. Monthly domestic production of raw steel, receipts of iron and steel scrap, and production of pig iron from January 2020 through January 2022. Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Iron and Steel Institute.

Exports of iron and steel scrap in January 2022 were essentially unchanged from those in December 2021 (fig. 2, table 4). Turkey was the leading destination for exports, accounting for 28% of the total tonnage, followed by Bangladesh (15%) and Mexico (10%) (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, (18%) and San Francisco, CA, (12%) (table 5).

Imports of iron and steel scrap in January 2022 decreased by 7% from those in December 2021 (fig. 2, table 7). Canada was the leading country of origin, accounting for 64% of the total tonnage of imports, followed by Mexico (13%) and Sweden (11%) (table 7). Detroit, MI, was the leading U.S. Customs district by tonnage of imports, accounting for 34% of the total, followed by Charleston, SC, (22%) and Seattle, WA, (15%) (table 8).

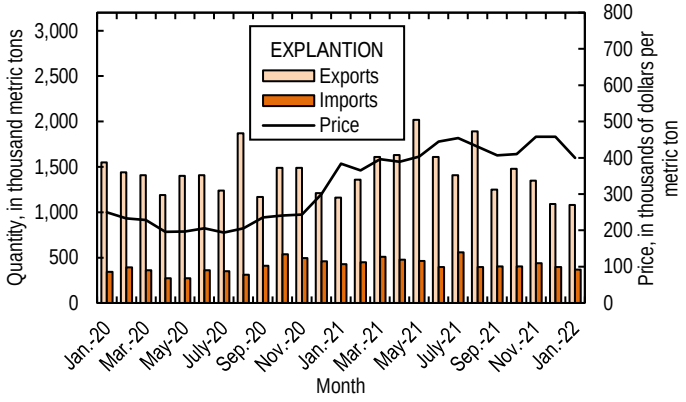

Figure 2. Monthly domestic imports and exports of iron and steel scrap and price for No. 1 heavy melting steel scrap from January 2020 through January 2022. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Fastmarkets AMM.

The daily average domestic raw steel production for January, as calculated from the American Iron and Steel Institute's monthly production data, was 224,000 metric tons, a slight decrease from that in December 2021 and essentially unchanged from that in January 2021. Raw steel production capability utilization was 79.8% in January 2022, down from 80.1% in December 2021 and up from 76.6% in January 2021 (table 10).

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TABLE 1
IRON AND STEEL SCRAP, PIG IRON, AND DIRECT-REDUCED IRON STATISTICS FOR STEEL PRODUCERS, IN JANUARY 2022[1, 2]

(Thousand metric tons)

	January
Scrap:	
Receipts:	
From outside sources	2,900
From other own company plants	161
Production:	
Recirculating scrap	348
Obsolete scrap	12
Consumption (by type of furnace):	
Blast furnace	112
Basic oxygen process	278
Electric furnace	2,910
Other	69
Total consumption	3,370
Shipments	37
Stocks, end of period	4,040
Pig iron (includes hot metal):	
Receipts	154
Production	970
Consumption	1,130
Stocks, end of period	407
Direct-reduced iron:[3]	
Receipts	225
Consumption	207
Stocks, end of period	298

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

[2]Includes manufacturers of raw steel that also produce steel castings. January 2022 data are based on surveys, representing 53% of scrap consumption during this month, and estimates for nonrespondents of this survey.

[3]Includes 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 JANUARY 2022[1,2]

(Thousand metric tons)

Item	January			
	Receipts of scrap from outside sources	Production of recirculating scrap	Consumption[3]	Ending stocks
Carbon steel:				
Low-phosphorus plate and punchings	14	W	15	W
Cut structural and plate	249	W	287	358
No. 1 heavy melting steel	229	56	285	220
No. 2 heavy melting steel	323	23	369	250
No. 1 and electric furnace bundles	106	--	111	116
No. 2 and all other bundles	63	W	65	40
Electric furnace 1 foot and under (not bundles)	W	W	W	W
Railroad rails	18	7	18	96
Turnings and borings	139	W	142	205
Slag scrap	26	20	48	71
Shredded and fragmentized	925	W	989	1,620
No. 1 busheling	315	W	336	358
Steel cans (post consumer)	W	W	W	W
All other carbon steel scrap	189	104	303	189
Stainless steel scrap	55	27	83	37
Alloy steel scrap	23	8	31	57
Ingot mold and stool scrap	W	W	3	2
Machinery and cupola cast iron	4	--	4	W
Cast iron borings	13	W	13	4
Motor blocks	W	--	W	W
Other iron scrap	54	12	55	53
Other mixed scrap	147	W	193	53
Total	2,900	348	3,370	4,040

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

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

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

[3]Includes 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 JANUARY 2022[1, 2]

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and State	January		
	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	234	40	279
North Central:			
Illinois and Indiana	365	76	474
Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin	221	7	237
Michigan	38	5	43
Ohio	393	87	458
Total	1,020	175	1,210
South Atlantic:			
Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	254	W	281
Virginia and West Virginia	95	W	115
Total	350	11	397
South Central:			
Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee	581	65	639
Arkansas and Texas	427	37	508
Total	1,010	102	1,150
Mountain and Pacific:			
California, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, Washington	295	19	333
Grand total	2,900	348	3,370

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

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

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

[3]Includes recirculating scrap and home-generated obsolete scrap.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL SCRAP
BY SELECTED COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN JANUARY 2022[1, 2]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Country or locality	January	
	Quantity	Value
Australia	33	15,600
Bangladesh	166	63,100
Belgium	2	863
Canada	27	10,000
China	7	4,370
Ecuador	32	15,200
Egypt	64	29,000
Germany	1	861
Greece	41	18,400
Hong Kong	1	1,070
India	45	22,900
Indonesia	3	1,480
Japan	1	1,030
Korea, Republic of	32	17,700
Malaysia	21	24,300
Mexico	112	49,300
Pakistan	58	26,500
Peru	40	17,900
Philippines	4	4,810
Taiwan	70	32,000
Thailand	8	8,130
Turkey	300	136,000
Vietnam	12	5,250
Other[3]	2	2,570
Total	1,080	508,000

[1]Includes 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.

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

[3]Includes countries with January 2022 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, IN JANUARY 2022[1, 2]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Region and customs district	January	
	Quantity	Value
Canada–United States border:		
Buffalo, NY	6	3,360
Detroit, MI	8	4,350
Duluth, MN	2	307
Ogdensburg, NY	1	383
Pembina, ND	1	396
Other	8	1,190
Total	26	9,980
East coast:		
Baltimore, MD	45	11,800
Boston, MA	44	20,800
Charleston, SC	5	4,370
Miami, FL	42	15,200
New York City, NY	227	114,000
Norfolk, VA	40	27,300
Philadelphia, PA	123	55,300
Portland, ME	1	498
Providence, RI	20	9,510
Savannah, GA	16	11,600
St. Albans, VT	1	336
Wilmington, NC	(3)	35
Total	565	271,000
Gulf coast and Mexico–United States border (includes Caribbean territories):		
El Paso, TX	(3)	73
Houston–Galveston, TX	24	15,600
Laredo, TX	45	19,300
Mobile, AL	1	559
New Orleans, LA	1	1,270
Nogales, AZ	(3)	45
San Juan, PR	3	877
Tampa, FL	5	2,300
Total	79	40,000
West coast and Hawaii:		
Columbia–Snake, OR	1	703
Honolulu, HI	2	1,280
Los Angeles, CA	197	96,300
San Diego, CA	17	6,030
San Francisco, CA	125	60,200
Seattle, WA	70	22,700
Total	412	187,000
Grand total	1,080	508,000

[1]Includes 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.

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

[3]Less 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 JANUARY 2022[1, 2]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	January	
	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	393	179,000
No. 2 heavy melting steel	69	34,100
No. 1 bundles	40	6,200
No. 2 bundles	12	1,360
Shredded steel scrap	420	182,000
Borings, shovelings, and turnings	7	2,300
Cut plate and structural	46	22,000
Tinned iron or steel	5	1,400
Remelting scrap ingots	2	1,010
Cast iron	29	21,700
Other iron and steel	3	649
Total carbon steel and cast iron	1,030	452,000
Stainless steel	15	25,700
Other alloy steel	41	30,700
Total stainless and alloy steel	57	56,400
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel, and cast iron	1,080	508,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	(3)	16
Used rails	(3)	84
Total scrap exports	1,080	508,000
Exports of manufactured ferrous products:		
Pig iron < or = 0.5% phosphorus	(3)	107
Total pig iron	(3)	107
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	1	76
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	1	2,720
Powders of alloy steel	1	5,870
Other ferrous powders	6	7,280
Total DRI, granules, powders	9	16,000
Grand total	1,090	524,000

[1]Export valuation is on a free-alongside-ship basis.
[2]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[3]Less 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 JANUARY 2022[1, 2]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Country or locality	January	
	Quantity	Value
Canada	235	122,000
Cayman Islands	1	184
Germany	1	197
Japan	2	119
Mexico	48	30,000
Netherlands	39	20,800
Sweden	42	21,400
Other[3]	1	798
Total	368	196,000

[1]Includes 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.
[2]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[3]Includes countries with January 2022 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, IN JANUARY 2022[1, 2]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Customs district	January	
	Quantity	Value
Buffalo, NY	28	21,600
Charleston, SC	81	42,300
Chicago, IL	5	1,350
Detroit, MI	125	70,900
Duluth, MN	4	1,490
El Paso, TX	5	2,380
Houston–Galveston, TX	1	200
Laredo, TX	30	19,800
Miami, FL	1	403
Mobile, AL	4	3,920
New Orleans, LA	2	160
Nogales, AZ	3	1,480
Pembina, ND	16	7,900
San Diego, CA	7	2,430
Seattle, WA	56	18,100
St. Albans, VT	1	442
Other	1	1,050
Total	368	196,000

[1]Includes 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.

[2]Data 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, IN JANUARY 2022[1, 2]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Item	January	
	Quantity	Value
No. 1 heavy melting steel	13	5,210
No. 2 heavy melting steel	10	3,950
No. 1 bundles	114	62,500
No. 2 bundles	3	1,430
Shredded steel scrap	43	20,100
Borings, shovelings, and turnings	4	1,340
Cut plate and structural	11	4,370
Tinned iron or steel	19	8,720
Remelting scrap ingots	(3)	222
Cast iron	13	4,840
Other iron and steel	69	27,600
Total carbon steel and cast iron	299	140,000
Stainless steel	19	30,600
Other alloy steel	50	25,000
Total stainless and alloy steel	69	55,700
Total carbon, stainless, alloy steel, and cast iron	368	196,000
Ships, boats, and other vessels for breaking up (for scrapping)	--	--
Used rails, nonalloyed	(3)	27
Used rails for rerolling and other uses	(3)	689
Total scrap imports	368	197,000
Imports of manufactured ferrous products:		
Pig iron > or = 0.5% phosphorus	637	341,000
Alloy pig iron	(3)	66
Total pig iron	637	341,000
Direct-reduced iron (DRI)	300	118,000
Spongy iron products, not DRI	(3)	1,120
Granules for abrasive cleaning and other uses	2	3,620
Powders of alloy steel	4	8,820
Other ferrous powders	4	7,660
Total DRI, granules, powders	310	139,000
Grand total	1,320	677,000

-- Zero.

[1]Import valuation is on a Customs basis.

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

[3]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10
U.S. RAW STEEL PRODUCTION, RAW STEEL CAPABILITY UTILIZATION,
AND CONTINUOUS CAST STEEL PRODUCTION[1]

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]
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
May	7,370	34,900	81.0	78.7	99.8	99.8
June	7,170	42,100	83.0	79.4	99.8	99.8
July	7,480	49,500	84.4	80.1	99.8	99.8
August	7,520	57,100	84.8	80.7	99.8	99.8
September	7,150	64,200	83.3	81.0	99.8	99.8
October	7,380	71,600	83.2	81.2	99.8	99.8
November	7,100	78,700	82.7	81.3	99.8	99.8
December	7,100	85,800	80.1	81.2	99.8	99.8
2022, January	6,970	6,970	79.8	79.8	99.8	99.8

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.
[2]May 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
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
May	410.08	403.60	568.14	559.17
June	452.46	445.31	568.14	559.17
July	461.67	454.38	500.00	492.10
August	438.33	431.41	581.71	572.52
September	413.33	406.80	631.97	621.99
October	416.67	410.09	621.36	611.55
November	465.00	457.66	525.36	517.06
December	465.00	457.66	566.23	557.29
Average, January–December	423.40	416.71	542.52	533.96
2022, January	406.67	400.25	517.30	509.13

[1]Prices are for No. 1 heavy melting steel scrap. Source: Fastmarket-AMM.
[2]Prices are Brazilian basic pig iron, free on board, New Orleans, LA. Source: U.S. Census

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

TABLE 12
U.S. IRON AND STEEL SCRAP RECEIPTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES, PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON, AND DIRECT-REDUCED IRON (DRI) CONSUMPTION[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Receipts of scrap from outside sources		Pig iron production		DRI consumption	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2021:						
January	3,070	3,070	1,030	1,030	249	249
February	2,900	5,970	986	2,010	204	453
March	2,910	8,880	735	2,750	260	713
April	2,920	11,800	888	3,630	220	933
May	2,860	14,700	844	4,480	231	1,160
June	3,190	17,900	875	5,350	236	1,400
July	2,980	20,800	897	6,250	214	1,610
August	3,200	24,000	924	7,170	248	1,860
September	2,990	27,000	1,080	8,250	258	2,120
October	2,680	29,700	990	9,240	237	2,360
November	2,740	32,500	851	10,100	235	2,590
December	3,190	35,600	836	10,900	262	2,850
2022, January	2,900	2,900	970	970	207	207

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