

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MANGANESE IN JUNE 2001

In June, reported consumption of manganese ore containing 35% or more manganese, exclusive of that consumed at iron and steel plants, was estimated as 30,000 metric tons (t), which was an increase of about 11% compared with that for the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This brought the year-to-date total to 170,000 t. The figures for June increase to 32,400 t and 184,000 t, respectively, when estimates for annual respondents are added on the basis of 1999 data. Corresponding industry stocks of ore at the end of the month were estimated as 235,000 t, which includes an estimate for annual respondents on the basis of 1999 data. This was an increase of about 3% compared with the corresponding figure for stocks at the end of May.

Data for domestic consumption and stocks of manganese ferroalloys and metal will appear in a subsequent monthly report.

Foreign trade data for June will appear in a subsequent report. The data for May tabulated in this report indicate that, except for manganese dioxide, total quantities for the various categories of imports were the greatest for at least the past 7 to 11 months, depending on category. As metal, the total units imported were the greatest since November 1999. Among exports, shipments of manganese as ferromanganese were the greatest since February 2000. **Note:** For early availability, the trade data appearing in this report were placed on MINES FaxBack in preliminary form as of July 26. The FaxBack document number for the preliminary June trade data will be 420206.

The Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC) of the Defense Logistics Agency, U.S. Department of Defense, reported no cash disposals of manganese materials from the National Defense Stockpile in June. This was the first month since February that no disposals were reported. The DNSC's disposal report indicated a decrease of 1,603 t for disposals of natural battery-grade ore, which was the result of an inventory write-off.

Update

Production of manganese ferroalloys was being cut back and/or restructured in Brazil and Western Europe. The cutback in Brazil resulted from a Government program of power rationing that began June 1. This program called for a 25% reduction in energy use because of a depletion of hydropower that was brought on by severe drought conditions. As a consequence, production in 2001 of manganese and silicon ferroalloys by Cia. Vale do Rio Doce, the country's leading ferroalloy producer, could be reduced in excess of 40,000 t (Kepp, 2001).

In Europe, France's Eramet was making changes in the operation of plants it controlled in France, Italy, and Norway. In France, of the three blast furnaces for production of high-carbon ferromanganese at the coastal Boulogne-sur-Mer plant of Société du Ferromanganèse de Paris-Outreau, the only furnace to continue working was that recently refurbished to accept manganese sinter from Gabon. The other two were shut down, one temporarily for scheduled maintenance (TEX Report, 2001a). In Italy, production was suspended at the silicomanganese smelter at Cairo Montenotte, inland and to the west of Genoa in northwestern Italy. Capacity of this plant was 37,000 metric tons per year (TEX Report, 2001b). In Norway at the Sauda plant on the southwestern coast northeast of Stavanger, the smaller of three electric furnaces was shut down (TEX Report, 2001a). Of the changes by Eramet, those in France and Norway were effective as of the end of June, while that in Italy was effective from the end of May.

On June 29, BHP Ltd. of Australia and Billiton Plc of the United Kingdom completed their merger. The plans for the merger were announced in mid-March (Mining Journal, 2001a, b). The resulting BHP Billiton had a dual-listed structure in which BHP Billiton Ltd. was registered and listed in Australia and BHP Billiton Plc was registered in London and listed in South Africa and the United Kingdom. Manganese assets included in the merger were mines and smelters that in South Africa were being operated by Samancor Ltd. and in Australia

and Tasmania that were sold by BHP to Billiton in December 1998 and were being administered by Samancor. Under BHP Billiton, these assets were placed in the carbon-steel materials “Customer Sector Group,” which was one of seven such groups established.

References Cited

- Kepp, Michael, 2001, Brazilian ferroalloy output to decline in 2001: *American Metal Market*, v. 109, no. 127, July 2, p. 9.
- Mining Journal, 2001a, BHP and Billiton to merge: *Mining Journal*, v. 336, no. 8626, March 23, p. 209, 211.
- 2001b, BHP Billiton born: *Mining Journal*, v. 337, no. 8641, July 6, p. 16.
- TEX Report, 2001a, Eramet decided further shutdown of furnace for Mn ferroalloys at plants in Europe: *TEX Report*, June 8, p. 2.
- 2001b, Eramet stops Si-Mn production at Italian plant from end May: *TEX Report*, April 27, p. 4.

TABLE 1
SELECTED U.S. FOREIGN TRADE IN MANGANESE 1/

(Metric tons, manganese content) 2/

	Imports for consumption			Exports		
	Ore and dioxide	Ferroalloy and metal	Total	Ore	Ferroalloy and metal	Total
2000:						
May	4,020	42,700	46,700	309	543	852
January-May	83,300	206,000	289,000	1,200	4,820	6,020
2001:						
January	23,400 3/	35,100	58,400	185	1,830	2,020
February	11,900	25,400	37,300	723 3/	383	1,110
March	24,600 3/	24,300 3/	48,900	425	645	1,070
April	23,100	34,800	57,900	138	630	768
May	28,600 3/	45,700	74,300	267	967	1,230
Total	112,000	165,000	277,000	1,740	4,460	6,190

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

2/ As reported except as estimated for imports of manganese dioxide and manganese waste and scrap and for exports from gross weights.

3/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF SILICOMANGANESE IN MAY 2001 1/

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Source	Gross weight	Mn content	Customs value	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Mn content	Customs value
Australia	6,170	4,100	\$2,230,000	19,700	13,100	\$7,410,000
Canada	56	37	12,300	93	61	20,500
India	12,300	8,060	4,870,000	33,500	21,600	13,300,000
Kazakhstan	2,770	1,890	1,180,000	18,000	12,200	7,340,000
Lithuania	--	--	--	4,000	2,710	1,720,000
Mexico	2,100	1,370	988,000	8,220	5,380	3,850,000
Norway	4,600	2,790	2,650,000	8,400	5,100	4,850,000
South Africa	5,730	3,850	2,180,000	35,200	23,600	13,200,000
Spain	--	--	--	600	371	407,000
Total	33,800	22,100	14,100,000	128,000	84,000	52,100,000
Total, general imports	33,800	22,100	14,100,000	128,000	84,000	52,100,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROMANGANESE IN MAY 2001 1/

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Source	Gross weight	Mn content	Customs value	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Mn content	Customs value
Low carbon:						
Canada	--	--	--	36	29	\$19,400
China	324	296	\$328,000	685	625	697,000
Italy	288	244	252,000	735	622	670,000
Japan	--	--	--	1	31	22,100
Mexico	300	240	224,000	1,220	981	934,000
Netherlands	--	--	--	21	17	18,700
Norway	912	744	736,000	1,250	1,010	1,050,000
South Africa	--	--	--	2,550	2,220	2,460,000
Total, low carbon	1,820	1,530	1,540,000	6,490	5,530	5,870,000
Total, general imports of low carbon	1,820	1,530	1,540,000	6,490	5,530	5,870,000
Medium carbon, 1%-2% C:						
Brazil	20	15	20,700	20	15	20,700
China	--	--	--	2,240	1,790	1,360,000
Germany	11	8	6,090	11	8	6,090
Mexico	1,130	895	820,000	6,380	5,130	4,470,000
Norway	1,030	839	557,000	1,030	839	557,000
South Africa	1,300	1,040	739,000	10,300	8,320	7,080,000
Spain	--	--	--	700	568	536,000
Total, m.c., 1%-2% C	3,490	2,800	2,140,000	20,600	16,700	14,000,000
Total, general imports of m.c., 1%-2% C	3,490	2,800	2,140,000	20,600	16,700	14,000,000
High carbon:						
Australia	3,410	2,620	985,000	14,900	11,400	5,510,000
Brazil	--	--	--	3,980	3,070	1,470,000
Canada	--	--	--	17	13	9,600
France	3,300	2,590	1,160,000	17,500	13,900	7,560,000
Germany	9	7	3,060	9	7	3,060
India	1,130	859	429,000	3,480	2,640	1,320,000
South Africa	14,300	11,100	5,070,000	24,800	19,300	9,370,000
Total, high carbon	22,100	17,200	7,650,000	64,700	50,400	25,300,000
Total, general imports of high carbon	22,100	17,200	7,650,000	64,700	50,400	25,300,000
Grand total	27,400	21,500	11,300,000	91,800	72,600	45,200,000
Grand total, general imports	27,400	21,500	11,300,000	91,800	72,600	45,200,000

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF MANGANESE ORE (20% OR MORE Mn) IN MAY 2001 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Source	20% - 47% Mn		47% or more Mn		Total	
	Gross weight	Mn content	Gross weight	Mn content	Gross weight	Mn content
Gabon	--	--	3,600 3/	10,500 3/	3,600	10,500
South Africa	11,600	4,160	26,600	12,500	38,100	16,700
Total	11,600	4,160	30,200	23,000	41,700	27,200
Year to date:						
Brazil	7,700	3,460	--	--	7,700	3,460
Gabon	14,300	6,310	121,000	76,000	136,000	82,300
Mexico	1,680	648	--	--	1,680	648
Morocco	--	--	20	11	20	11
South Africa	11,600	4,160	26,600	12,500	38,100	16,700
Total	35,300	14,600	148,000	88,500	183,000	103,000

-- Zero.

1/ Quantities for general imports and imports for consumption are identical.

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

3/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MANGANESE DIOXIDE AND MANGANESE METAL IN MAY 2001 1/

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Source	Manganese dioxide				Manganese metal			
	Quantity	Customs value	Year to date		Unwrought		Other	
			Quantity	Customs value	Quantity	Year to date	Quantity	Year to date
Australia	1,440	\$2,070,000	8,020	\$12,700,000	--	--	--	2
Belgium	18	26,800	236	332,000	--	--	--	--
Canada	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
China	144	140,000	525	512,000	420	1,240	20	54
France	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	17
Germany	(2/)	3,960	40	144,000	177	833	10	18
Greece	--	--	563	728,000	--	--	--	--
India	--	--	1	3,130	--	--	37	170
Ireland	370	537,000	2,720	3,740,000	--	--	--	--
Japan	18	66,300	244	471,000	--	--	--	3
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	5
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	19	69
Morocco	--	--	1	2,530	--	--	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	24
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	385
South Africa	286	404,000	1,760	2,480,000	1,330	5,360	--	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	84	196	--	--
United Kingdom	6	11,000	6	11,000	--	69	--	(2/)
Total	2,290	3,250,000	14,100	21,100,000	2,010	7,690	98	747
Total, general imports	2,290	3,250,000	14,100	21,100,000	2,010	7,620	98	807

-- Zero.

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

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Imports for consumption of metallic manganese waste and scrap totaled 56 tons, all of which was from Canada, to give a year-to-date total of 463 tons.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF MANGANESE ORE (20% OR MORE Mn), FERROMANGANESE,
SILICOMANGANESE, AND MANGANESE METAL BY COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION IN 2001 1/

(Metric tons, gross weight)

	Manganese ore		Ferromanganese, 2% or less C		Silicomanganese		Manganese metal 2/	
	May	Year to date	May	Year to date	May	Year to date	May	Year to date
Australia	19	74	--	--	--	5	--	2
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19
Brazil	--	46	--	--	--	15	--	--
Canada	428	1,250	498	839	25	158	6	24
Chile	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
France	--	--	--	--	4	4	--	29
Germany	--	395	--	--	--	--	--	58
Hong Kong	21	21	--	--	--	--	--	1
Ireland	--	137	--	--	--	--	--	--
Italy	47	125	--	--	--	--	--	1
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	158
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	6
Mexico	--	--	51	116	9	2,340	41	103
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	4	18	36	199
Norway	--	139	--	--	--	--	--	--
Saudi Arabia	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	8	--	--
Sweden	19	38	--	--	--	--	18	54
Switzerland	--	34	--	--	--	--	--	--
Taiwan	--	53	--	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	--	1,140	--	--	--	--	--	--
Venezuela	--	16	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	533	3,480	549	959	43	2,540	103	671

-- Zero.

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

2/ Includes manganese-aluminum, some other alloys, and waste and scrap.

Note: Exports of ferromanganese with more than 2% carbon totaled 509 tons, all of which went to Canada, to give a year-to-date total of 1,710 tons.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. FOREIGN TRADE IN SELECTED MANGANESE CHEMICALS IN MAY 2001, BY CLASS 1/

Class	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Principal sources and destinations: gross weight (metric tons); value 2/ (thousands)	Year to date		
				Gross weight (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Principal sources and destinations: gross weight (metric tons); value 2/ (thousands)
Imports for consumption:						
Manganese oxides other than dioxide	54	\$151	South Africa 34; \$89	370	\$644	South Africa 225; \$370
Sulfates, basket category, including manganese sulfate	2,410	1,370	China 1,330; \$411	15,000	8,680	Mexico 6,220; \$3,310
Potassium permanganate	122	235	India 74; \$141	719	1,390	India 362; \$686
Manganites, manganates, and other permanganates	--	--	XX	33	146	Germany 17; \$113
Exports:						
Manganese dioxide	397	622	Canada 90; \$29	1,920	2,510	Canada 853; \$350
Manganese oxides other than dioxide	621	490	Canada 330; \$131	3,050	3,410	Canada 1,240; \$493
Sulfates, basket category, including manganese sulfate	2,530	1,030	Canada 2,060; \$485	12,000	6,640	Canada 9,520; \$2,340
Potassium permanganate	227	410	Spain 150; \$280	698	1,410	Spain 365; \$668
Manganites, manganates, and other permanganates	71	488	Mexico 40; \$271	207	1,280	Mexico 61; \$522

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

2/ For imports, Customs value; for exports, f.a.s. value.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.