

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MANGANESE IN MARCH 2009

Reported data regarding the amount of manganese ore consumed by U.S. firms in March 2009 and industry stocks at the end of the month were not available at the time of publication. However, net imports may be used as a rough indicator of near-term manganese ore consumption. On a gross weight basis, net imports of manganese ore in March 2009 were 49,500 metric tons (t), which was a 7% increase from the combined total in January and February 2009. Net imports of manganese ore in the first quarter of 2009 were 95,500 t, which was a 27% decrease from those during the fourth quarter of 2008, and a 13% increase from those during the first quarter of 2008.

Data for U.S. imports and exports for February 2009 are published in this issue. On a contained-weight basis, U.S. imports of manganese ore plus dioxide and manganese ferroalloys plus metal were 98% lower and 63% lower,

respectively, than those in January 2009. U.S. imports of manganese ore plus dioxide and manganese ferroalloys plus metal during the first two months of 2009 were 45% lower and 60% lower, respectively, than those during the same period in 2008 (table 1).

On a contained-weight basis, U.S. manganese ore and manganese ferroalloys plus metal exports for February 2009 were 84% higher and 74% higher, respectively, than those in January 2009. U.S. exports of manganese ore and manganese ferroalloys plus metal during the first two months of 2009 were 87% less and 489% more, respectively, than those during the same period in 2008 (table 1).

Prices

Prices for manganese materials in March 2009, manganese content, are listed below.

Ferroalloys prices¹

	<u>Price Range</u>	<u>Average Price</u>
High-carbon ferromanganese ²	1,100.00-1,350.00	1,246.88
Medium-carbon ferromanganese ³	100.00-118.00	111.63
Silicomanganese ³	40.00-47.00	42.88

Manganese metal and ore prices⁴

	<u>Price Range</u>	<u>Average Low, Mid, and High Prices</u>
Manganese metal ³	126.00-135.00	128.44-131.17-133.89
36%-39% Manganese ore ⁵	4.50-4.65	4.50-4.58-4.65
44% Manganese ore ⁵	5.00-5.50	5.00-5.25-5.50
48% Manganese ore ⁵	5.50-6.10	5.50-5.80-6.10

¹Source: Platts Metals Week, dealer import price; average prices reported for all transactions during the month.

²Dollars per gross ton.

³Cents per pound.

⁴Source: Ryan's Notes, cost and freight, China; average prices reported for the price range.

⁵Dollars per metric ton unit, contained manganese. To determine dollars per metric ton of ore (gross weight), multiply the manganese content percentage by the price; that is, by 48 when the manganese content is 48%.

TABLE 1
SELECTED U.S. FOREIGN TRADE IN MANGANESE¹

(Metric tons, manganese content)²

	Imports for consumption			Exports		
	Ore and dioxide	Ferroalloy and metal	Total	Ore	Ferroalloy and metal	Total
2008:						
February	43,700	47,200	90,900	45	556	601
January-February	47,600	125,000	173,000	2,250	1,140	3,390
2009:						
January	25,600	36,600	62,100	102	2,460	2,560
February	559	13,400	14,000	188	4,270	4,460
Total	26,100	50,000	76,100	290	6,730	7,020

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

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF SILICOMANGANESE IN FEBRUARY 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Source	Gross weight	Mn content	Customs value ²	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Mn content	Customs value ²
Australia	--	--	--	5,070	3,360	\$5,810,000
China	523	309	\$897,000	523	309	897,000
Georgia	4,000	2,800	3,920,000	4,000	2,800	3,920,000
Korea, Republic of	6,230	4,110	5,580,000	6,230	4,110	5,580,000
Norway	1	1	2,300	1	1	2,300
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	4,190	734	3,970,000
South Africa	3,750	2,360	5,250,000	15,300	9,960	23,600,000
Total	14,500	9,580	15,700,000	35,300	21,300	43,800,000

-- Zero.

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

²Customs value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing the material into the United States.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROMANGANESE IN FEBRUARY 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Source	Gross weight	Mn content	Customs value ²	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Mn content	Customs value ²
Low carbon:						
China	235	220	\$662,000	343	319	\$962,000
Korea, Republic of	1,700	1,380	2,770,000	1,700	1,380	2,770,000
South Africa	--	--	--	1,000	812	2,500,000
Total	1,940	1,600	3,430,000	3,040	2,510	6,230,000
Medium carbon, 1%-2% C:						
China	--	--	--	210	166	378,000
France	--	--	--	19	15	103,000
Korea, Republic of	64	51	148,000	64	51	148,000
Mexico	26	20	72,800	26	20	72,800
South Africa	635	512	2,140,000	6,780	5,420	18,000,000
Turkey	--	--	--	20	16	95,800
Total	725	583	2,360,000	7,110	5,690	18,800,000
High carbon:						
China	300	221	630,000	300	221	630,000
South Africa	18	14	35,400	21,600	16,600	33,700,000
Total	318	235	665,000	21,900	16,800	34,300,000
Grand total	2,980	2,420	6,460,000	32,100	25,000	59,400,000

-- Zero.

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

²Customs value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing the material into the United States.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MANGANESE ORE (20% OR MORE Mn) IN FEBRUARY 2009^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Source	Gross weight	Mn content	Customs value ³	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Mn content	Customs value ³
More than 20%, but less than 47% manganese	--	--	--	--	--	--
47% or more manganese:						
China	--	--	--	156	95	\$141,000
Gabon	--	--	--	46,500	24,800	17,500,000
Total	--	--	--	46,600	24,900	17,700,000

-- Zero.

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

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

³Customs value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing the material into the United States.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MANGANESE DIOXIDE IN FEBRUARY 2009¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Source	Quantity	Customs value ²	Year to date	
			Quantity	Customs value ²
Belgium	20	\$69,600	40	\$134,000
Brazil	18	31,900	56	95,600
India	--	--	(3)	4,740
Japan	205	589,000	524	1,460,000
Singapore	10	16,700	30	50,200
South Africa	679	1,140,000	1,430	2,610,000
Total	931	1,840,000	2,080	4,360,000

-- Zero.

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

²Customs value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing the material into the United States.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MANGANESE METAL IN FEBRUARY 2009¹

(Metric tons)

Source	Gross weight	Customs value ²	Year to date	
			Gross weight	Customs value ²
Unwrought flake:				
China	454	\$1,220,000	1,490	\$3,480,000
South Africa	132	268,000	189	383,000
Total	586	1,490,000	1,680	3,870,000
Unwrought powder:				
China	120	462,000	160	550,000
South Africa	--	--	19	90,600
Total	120	462,000	179	641,000
Unwrought, other:				
Brazil	7	23,800	7	23,800
China	532	1,150,000	1,490	2,990,000
Germany	113	388,000	143	514,000
United Kingdom	6	20,400	6	20,400
South Africa	--	--	19	90,600
Total	659	1,590,000	1,670	3,640,000
Other manganese, wrought:				
Canada	11	31,200	15	40,500
China	40	115,000	73	207,000
Mexico	25	135,000	66	359,000
Total	76	281,000	154	607,000
Grand total	1,440	3,820,000	3,680	8,750,000

-- Zero.

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

²Customs value generally represent a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing the material into the United States.

Note: Imports for consumption of metallic waste and scrap totaled 5 metric tons, all of which was from Canada, to give a year-to-date total of 17 metric tons.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF MANGANESE ORE (20% OR MORE Mn), FERROMANGANESE, SILICOMANGANESE,
AND MANGANESE METAL BY COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION IN FEBRUARY 2009¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Country	Ferromanganese,											
	Manganese ore		2% or less C				More than 2% C		Silicomanganese		Manganese metal ²	
	February	Year to date	February	Year to date	February	Year to date	February	Year to date	February	Year to date		
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	
Australia	--	--	--	--	160	160	--	--	--	--	--	
Brazil	--	--	--	--	100	100	--	--	--	--	--	
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	50	
Canada	191	302	475	1,890	1,250	1,780	464	503	3	3	3	
Chile	--	--	--	--	80	80	--	--	--	--	--	
China	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13	
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	21	
France	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	
Germany	64	131	--	--	--	--	--	--	14	36	36	
Guyana	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	9	--	--	83	135	135	
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15	15	15	
Ireland	--	--	--	--	8	8	--	--	--	--	--	
Japan	--	--	--	--	505	757	--	--	60	193	193	
Korea, Republic of	118	144	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	942	1,060	--	--	--	--	--	
Mexico	--	--	761	1,050	74	133	16	29	--	20	20	
Netherlands	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Norway	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15	15	15	
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	402	402	--	--	--	--	--	
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	
Total	376	579	1,240	2,940	3,530	4,490	480	532	191	507	507	

-- Zero.

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

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

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. FOREIGN TRADE IN SELECTED MANGANESE CHEMICALS IN FEBRUARY 2009, BY CLASS¹

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	360	\$373	Mexico 190; \$211	792	\$822	Mexico 419; \$547
Manganites, manganates, and other permanganates	--	--	--	--	--	--
Potassium permanganate	75	248	Czech Republic 57; \$196	131	443	Czech Republic 113; \$390
Sodium permanganate	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sulfates, basket category, including manganese sulfate	3,100	4,000	Mexico 1,660; \$2,430	7,840	9,250	China 3,680; \$3,120
Exports:						
Manganese dioxide	624	683	Canada 405; \$315	1,270	1,300	Canada 907; \$748
Manganese oxides other than dioxide	680	720	Canada 316; \$131	1,070	1,230	Canada 535; \$235
Manganites, manganates, and other permanganates	26	62	Canada 23; \$47	34	80	Canada 32; \$65
Potassium permanganate	60	239	Mexico 41; \$185	151	551	Mexico 79; \$337
Sodium permanganate	38	92	Belgium 19; \$52	68	150	Belgium 19; \$52
Sulfates, basket category, including manganese sulfate	1,620	1,340	Canada 1,320; \$752	2,880	2,520	Canada 2,300; \$1,380

-- Zero.

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

²For imports, Customs value; for exports, free alongside ship value.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.