

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SILICON IN FEBRUARY 2009

Preliminary data for February 2009 indicate that domestic production and net shipments of silicon ferroalloys, on a gross-weight basis, were 5% and 4% lower, respectively, compared with those in January 2009, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending stocks were 3% higher than those at the end of January. Stocks included adjustments in inventory and in-plant consumption of ferrosilicon to produce magnesium ferrosilicon and other miscellaneous alloys.

Production and net shipments of silicon ferroalloys during the first 2 months of 2009 decreased by 9% and 6%, respectively, compared with those during the same period in 2008. Production-related statistics for silicon metal were concealed to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

On a gross-weight basis, U.S. ferrosilicon and silicon metal exports in January 2009 were 24% and 5% lower, respectively, than those in December 2008. U.S. ferrosilicon and silicon metal exports in January 2009 were 25% higher and 32% lower, respectively, than those in January 2008.

On a gross-weight basis, U.S. ferrosilicon and silicon metal imports in January 2009 were 19% and 58% lower, respectively, than those in December 2008. U.S. ferrosilicon and silicon metal imports in January 2009 were 70% lower and 60% lower, respectively, than those in January 2008.

Prices

Prices for silicon materials in February 2009, in cents per pound, silicon content, are listed below.

50% Ferrosilicon prices¹

<u>Price Range</u>	<u>Average Low, Mid, and High Prices</u>
72.00-85.00	74.63-79.50-84.38

75% Ferrosilicon prices²

<u>Price Range</u>	<u>Average Price</u>
65.00-70.00	67.00

Silicon metal prices²

<u>Price Range</u>	<u>Average Price</u>
125.00-130.00	126.50

¹Source: Ryan's Notes, North American transaction price. Average prices reported for the price range.

²Source: Platts Metals Week, dealer import price. Average price reported for all transactions during the month.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND PRODUCER STOCKS OF SILICON ALLOYS AND METAL IN 2009^{1,2,3}

(Metric tons)

Material	Gross production ⁴		Net shipments		Stocks,
	February	Year to date	February	Year to date	February 28
Ferrosilicon, all grades ^{5,6}	20,100	41,300	16,800	34,200	24,000
Silicon metal, excludes semiconductor grades	W	W	W	W	W

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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

²Includes U.S. Geological Survey estimates.

³Data for silvery pig iron (less than 25% silicon) withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

⁴Includes in-plant consumption, as in production of magnesium ferrosilicon and other miscellaneous alloys.

⁵Ferrosilicon categories were aggregated to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

⁶Includes miscellaneous silicon alloys and other silicon products.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN JANUARY 2009^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Ferrosilicon:						
More than 55% silicon:						
Canada	260	156	\$310,000	260	156	\$310,000
Colombia	8	6	21,100	8	6	21,100
Mexico	219	155	313,000	219	155	313,000
Total	488	318	643,000	488	318	643,000
Other ferrosilicon:						
Australia	40	20	80,900	40	20	80,900
Canada	186	93	212,000	186	93	212,000
Colombia	11	5	23,800	11	5	23,800
Egypt	60	28	126,000	60	28	126,000
India	9	4	14,000	9	4	14,000
Mexico	147	64	249,000	147	64	249,000
Taiwan	1	(3)	7,400	1	(3)	7,400
Total	453	215	712,000	453	215	712,000
Total ferrosilicon	941	533	1,360,000	941	533	1,360,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2--Continued
 U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN JANUARY 2009^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Metal:						
More than 99.99% silicon:						
Canada	2	XX	\$105,000	2	XX	\$105,000
China	360	XX	22,400,000	360	XX	22,400,000
Denmark	7	XX	1,090,000	7	XX	1,090,000
Germany	316	XX	18,500,000	316	XX	18,500,000
Hong Kong	5	XX	1,000,000	5	XX	1,000,000
Japan	1,100	XX	81,600,000	1,100	XX	81,600,000
Korea, Republic of	213	XX	17,300,000	213	XX	17,300,000
Malaysia	3	XX	586,000	3	XX	586,000
Norway	400	XX	23,800,000	400	XX	23,800,000
Taiwan	45	XX	2,860,000	45	XX	2,860,000
Other (16 countries)	44	XX	3,410,000	44	XX	3,410,000
Total	2,500	2,500^e	173,000,000	2,500	2,500^e	173,000,000
99.00% - 99.99% silicon:						
Belgium	148	147	436,000	148	147	436,000
Costa Rica	1	1	5,700	1	1	5,700
Germany	21	20	29,100	21	20	29,100
Mexico	5	5	6,680	5	5	6,680
Poland	3	3	3,600	3	3	3,600
Spain	6	6	9,000	6	6	9,000
Taiwan	8	8	11,600	8	8	11,600
Total	192	190	501,000	192	190	501,000
Other silicon:						
Brazil	8	8	10,700	8	8	10,700
Canada	35	34	40,100	35	34	40,100
China	3	3	12,200	3	3	12,200
El Salvador	4	4	3,410	4	4	3,410
Japan	45	44	59,400	45	44	59,400
Philippines	(3)	(3)	6,740	(3)	(3)	6,740
South Africa	32	31	41,700	32	31	41,700
Taiwan	11	11	18,100	11	11	18,100
United Kingdom	2	2	9,910	2	2	9,910
Total	141	137	202,000	141	137	202,000
Total silicon metal	2,830	2,820	173,000,000	2,830	2,820	173,000,000

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable.

¹Countries listed are the leading exporters in terms of year-to-date quantities (gross weight).

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

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN JANUARY 2009^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Ferrosilicon:						
55% - 80% silicon, more than 3% Ca:						
China	241	178	\$256,000	241	178	\$256,000
France	54	33	210,000	54	33	210,000
Total	295	211	465,000	295	211	465,000
55% - 80% silicon, other:						
Canada	588	440	1,210,000	588	440	1,210,000
China	2,690	2,040	2,840,000	2,690	2,040	2,840,000
France	341	236	994,000	341	236	994,000
Germany	34	24	154,000	34	24	154,000
India	38	28	120,000	38	28	120,000
Russia	1,200	897	1,800,000	1,200	897	1,800,000
United Kingdom	1	1	7,680	1	1	7,680
Venezuela	4,100	3,080	5,310,000	4,100	3,080	5,310,000
Total	8,980	6,740	12,400,000	8,980	6,740	12,400,000
Magnesium ferrosilicon:						
Argentina	75	31	261,000	75	31	261,000
Canada	472	216	940,000	472	216	940,000
China	51	23	87,300	51	23	87,300
Total	598	270	1,290,000	598	270	1,290,000
Other ferrosilicon, Canada	412	158	524,000	412	158	524,000
Total ferrosilicon	10,300	7,380	14,700,000	10,300	7,380	14,700,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3--Continued
 U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN JANUARY 2009^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Metal:						
More than 99.99% silicon:						
Canada	90	XX	\$3,820,000	90	XX	\$3,820,000
China	17	XX	170,000	17	XX	170,000
Czech Republic	1	XX	86,400	1	XX	86,400
Denmark	(3)	XX	85,100	(3)	XX	85,100
Germany	125	XX	9,180,000	125	XX	9,180,000
Italy	24	XX	1,110,000	24	XX	1,110,000
Japan	20	XX	1,510,000	20	XX	1,510,000
Norway	4	XX	227,000	4	XX	227,000
Singapore	(3)	XX	4,130	(3)	XX	4,130
Taiwan	(3)	XX	7,600	(3)	XX	7,600
Total	282	282 ^c	16,200,000	282	282 ^c	16,200,000
99.00% - 99.99% silicon:						
Australia	432	430	1,300,000	432	430	1,300,000
Brazil	1,470	1,260	3,710,000	1,470	1,260	3,710,000
Canada	758	752	1,560,000	758	752	1,560,000
Laos	630	627	1,830,000	630	627	1,830,000
Norway	1,010	1,000	3,430,000	1,010	1,000	3,430,000
South Africa	970	962	3,210,000	970	962	3,210,000
Sweden	5	5	41,900	5	5	41,900
Ukraine	180	178	513,000	180	178	513,000
Total	5,450	5,210	15,600,000	5,450	5,210	15,600,000
Other silicon:						
Canada	452	443	903,000	452	443	903,000
China	162	160	248,000	162	160	248,000
Japan	(3)	(3)	3,550	(3)	(3)	3,550
Norway	307	292	744,000	307	292	744,000
Philippines	72	70	129,000	72	70	129,000
Singapore	11	(3)	19,500	11	(3)	19,500
Ukraine	140	138	392,000	140	138	392,000
Total	1,140	1,100	2,440,000	1,140	1,100	2,440,000
Total silicon metal	6,870	6,600	34,200,000	6,870	6,600	34,200,000

^cEstimated. XX Not applicable.

¹Presentation of monthly data is based on the year-to-date quantities (gross weight) of the leading countries.

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

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.