Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN JUNE 2014

On the basis of gross weight, consumption of chromium ferroalloys and metal in June 2014 decreased slightly compared with that of May 2014. Consumption in June 2014 increased slightly compared with that of June 2013.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. salient chromium statistics, U.S. Government stockpile inventory of chromium materials in June 2014, consumption by end use and by material, consumer stocks of chromium ferroalloys and metal at the end of June 2014, and U.S. foreign trade data for selected chromium-containing materials in June 2014.

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TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT CHROMIUM STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, gross weight)

	2013[p]	2014			
	January–December[2]	April	May	June	January–June[2]
Production, stainless steel[3]	2,030,000	195,000	196,000	216,000	1,160,000
Components of U.S. supply:					
Stainless steel scrap receipts	882,000	75,200	73,500	77,700	448,000
Stainless steel scrap consumption	1,300,000	109,000	108,000	110,000	652,000
Imports for consumption:					
Chromite ore	173,000	447	8,350	30,700	76,900
Ferrochromium:					
More than 4% carbon	416,000	48,000	63,100	55,100	290,000
More than 3% but not more than 4% carbon	370	2	--	--	30
More than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	13,800	1,600	--	4,520	8,150
Not more than 0.5% carbon	36,500	2,840	3,940	2,660	21,900
Ferrochromium silicon	12,000	5,160	--	40	9,810
Total ferroalloy imports	478,000	57,600	67,000	62,300	330,000
Chromium metal[4]	13,700	2,690	1,540	1,170	8,990
Stainless steel	570,000	58,600	58,900	55,800	320,000
Stainless steel scrap	226,000	28,800	32,700	33,500	177,000
Distribution of U.S. supply:					
Consumption, industry, chromium products	422,000	36,100	36,600	36,300	217,000
Exports:					
Chromite ore	8,530	1,050	503	553	3,080
Chromium ferroalloys:					
High-carbon ferrochromium	4,460	239	335	572	2,020
Low-carbon ferrochromium	379	9	59	22	381
Ferrochromium silicon	16	--	--	--	--
Total ferroalloy exports	4,850	247	394	594	2,400
Chromium metal	856	63	114	62	390
Stainless steel	603,000	55,700	60,000	74,400	344,000
Stainless steel scrap	644,000	51,300	49,000	46,500	272,000
Stocks at end of period:					
Consumer, industry, chromium ferroalloys and metal	9,770	10,500	10,200	10,000	10,000
Government stockpile:					
Chromium ferroalloys	132,000	121,000	119,000	117,000	117,000
Chromium metal	4,090	4,040	4,000	4,000	4,000

[p]Preliminary. -- Zero.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).
[3]Data on stainless steel production reported by American Iron and Steel Institute; monthly, quarterly, and year-to-date production of stainless and heat-resisting raw steel.
[4]Includes waste and scrap and other.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF CHROMIUM PRODUCTS[1,2]

(Metric tons, gross weight unless otherwise noted)

	2014		
	May	June	January–June[3]
Consumption by end use:			
Steel:			
Carbon steel	189 r	138	1,190
High-strength low-alloy steel	148	134	894
Stainless and heat-resisting steel	32,100	31,800	191,000
Unspecified steel[4]	3,640	3,620	20,500
Superalloys	435 r	431	2,620
Other alloys and uses[5]	95	99	567
Total	36,600	36,300	217,000
Total, chromium content	20,900	20,800	124,000
Consumption by material:			
Low-carbon ferrochromium	2,000	1,950	11,900
High-carbon ferrochromium	32,000	31,700	190,000
Ferrochromium silicon	W	W	W
Chromium metal	162 r	160	1,010
Chromite ore	W	W	W
Chromium-aluminum alloy	W	W	W
Other chromium materials	W	W	W
Total	36,600	36,300	217,000
Total, chromium content	20,900	20,800	124,000
Consumer stocks:			
Low-carbon ferrochromium	1,560	1,580	1,580
High-carbon ferrochromium	7,750	7,650	7,650
Ferrochromium silicon	W	W	W
Chromium metal	49	48	48
Chromium-aluminum alloy	W	W	W
Other chromium materials	W	W	W
Total	10,200	10,000	10,000
Total, chromium content	5,910 r	5,850	5,850

[r]Revised. 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 estimates.
[3]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).
[4]Includes electrical, full alloy, tool, and unspecified steel end uses.
[5]Includes cast irons, welding and alloy hard-facing rods and materials, wear- and corrosion-resistant alloys, and aluminum, copper, magnetic, nickel, and other alloys.

TABLE 3
U.S. GOVERNMENT STOCKPILE INVENTORY OF
CHROMIUM MATERIALS[1,2]

(Metric tons)

Period	Chromium ferroalloys		Chromium metal
	High-carbon ferro-chromium	Low-carbon ferro-chromium	
2013:			
June	90,200	46,500	4,090
July	90,000	46,000	4,090
August	90,000	46,000	4,090
September	88,600	45,600	4,090
October	88,600	45,600	4,090
November	86,300	45,300	4,090
December	85,100	44,300	4,090
2014:			
January	82,300	43,500	4,090
February	81,000	43,300	4,090
March	81,000	42,300	4,040
April	79,500	41,700	4,040
May	77,600	41,100	4,000
June	77,200	40,200	4,000

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.
[2]These Government stocks are reported by the Defense Logistics Agency, DLA Strategic Materials in Inventory of Stockpile Materials D–1, which reports uncommitted inventory. Uncommitted inventory is that inventory for which there is no sales contact. Committed inventory is that inventory for which there is a sales contract, however, the material has not yet been shipped. For chromium materials, the D–1 report includes chromium materials that (1) meet specifications and are held in excess of goal and (2) do not meet specifications and are held in excess of goal. The D–1 report excludes chromium materials that are committed and awaiting shipment.

Source: Defense Logistics Agency, DLA Strategic Materials.

TABLE 4

U.S. EXPORTS OF CHROMITE ORE, CHROMIUM FERROALLOYS, AND METAL[1]

Period	Chromite ore		Chromium ferroalloys[2]			Chromium metal[3]	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Chromium content (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
2013:							
June	308	$225	417	217	$738	89	$2,220
July	363	209	475	241	730	88	1,970
August	210	148	212	105	342	61	1,510
September	82	114	375	153	537	104	1,790
October	130	129	357	214	717	30	862
November	253	122	365	203	607	132	1,950
December	233	157	308	157	514	39	990
January–December[4]	8,530	3,040	4,850	2,500	7,300	856	19,000
2014:							
January	221	154	367	176	711	53	1,470
February	427	203	445	174	691	45	1,210
March	322	157	358	194	586	53	2,140
April	1,050	467	247	141	392	63	2,250
May	503	321	394	238	810	114	3,050
June	553	304	594	262	814	62	1,590
January–June[4]	3,080	1,610	2,400	1,190	4,000	390	11,700

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

[2]Includes low- and high-carbon ferrochromium and ferrochromium silicon.

[3]Includes chromium metal, waste and scrap, and unwrought powders.

[4]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF CHROMITE ORE, FERROCHROMIUM, AND CHROMIUM METAL[1]

(Metric tons)

	2013	2014		
	January–December[2]	May	June	January–June[2]
Chromite ore:				
Not more than 40% chromic oxide:				
Gross weight	6,380	--	--	22
Chromic oxide content	1,610	--	--	4
More than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide:				
Gross weight	68,400	1,470	10,700	42,600
Chromic oxide content	30,800	652	4,910	19,500
46% or more chromic oxide:				
Gross weight	98,400	6,880	20,000	34,200
Chromic oxide content	46,700	3,180	10,200	17,000
Total, all grades:				
Gross weight	173,000	8,350	30,700	76,900
Chromic oxide content	79,100	3,830	15,100	36,400
Ferrochromium:				
Low-carbon:[3]				
Not more than 0.5% carbon:				
Gross weight	36,500	3,940	2,660	21,900
Chromium content	24,800	2,680	1,850	15,000
More than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon:				
Gross weight	13,800	--	4,520	8,150
Chromium content	9,410	--	3,160	5,650
Total, low-carbon:				
Gross weight	50,300	3,940	7,180	30,000
Chromium content	34,200	2,680	5,010	20,600
Medium-carbon:[4]				
Gross weight	370	--	--	30
Chromium content	210	--	--	17
High-carbon:[5]				
Gross weight	416,000	63,100	55,100	290,000
Chromium content	227,000	33,600	31,200	159,000
Total, all grades:				
Gross weight	466,000	67,000	62,300	320,000
Chromium content	262,000	36,300	36,200	180,000
Chromium metal:				
Unwrought powders	3,350	339	439	2,090
Waste and scrap	70	6	9	28
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders	10,200	1,190	724	6,880
Total, all grades	13,700	1,540	1,170	8,990

-- Zero.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).
[3]Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.
[4]Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon.
[5]Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6

U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROCHROMIUM IN 2014, BY GRADE AND COUNTRY[1]

Grade and country	June			January–June[2]		
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Chromium content (metric tons)	Value[3] (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Chromium content (metric tons)	Value[3] (thousands)
High-carbon ferrochromium:[4]						
Albania	403	262	$615	912	586	$1,390
Brazil	--	--	--	2,530	1,300	2,150
Colombia	--	--	--	21	14	34
Germany	--	--	--	299	208	500
India	1,310	806	1,580	4,390	2,690	5,090
Kazakhstan	15,500	10,900	21,900	53,500	37,200	70,700
Latvia	--	--	--	440	307	770
Russia	1,500	974	1,940	5,570	3,650	7,170
South Africa	34,500	17,000	32,600	195,000	96,300	183,000
Sweden	1,620	1,100	3,130	5,050	3,360	9,130
Turkey	286	181	424	15,600	10,100	22,400
Zimbabwe	--	--	--	6,080	3,330	6,240
Total	55,100	31,200	62,100	290,000	159,000	309,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium:[5]						
Belgium	--	--	--	28	15	15
China	--	--	--	2	2	4
Total	--	--	--	30	17	19
Low-carbon ferrochromium:[6]						
More than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon:						
Brazil	--	--	--	108	66	265
Kazakhstan	1,900	1,340	4,730	3,510	2,450	8,640
Poland	--	--	--	41	23	75
Russia	2,620	1,810	6,890	4,490	3,110	11,700
Total	4,520	3,160	11,600	8,150	5,650	20,700
Not more than 0.5% carbon:						
Brazil	--	--	--	714	442	1,720
China	20	13	105	102	65	407
Germany	606	429	2,410	3,470	2,430	13,400
India	19	15	89	83	56	468
Japan	239	168	969	790	549	2,960
Kazakhstan	--	--	--	5,020	3,470	12,500
Mexico	--	--	--	36	23	236
Russia	1,650	1,140	4,560	10,800	7,350	30,000
South Africa	--	--	--	583	343	1,310
Sweden	--	--	--	1	1	3
Turkey	121	88	400	339	241	1,110
Total	2,660	1,850	8,530	21,900	15,000	64,200
All grades:						
Albania	403	262	615	912	586	1,390
Belgium	--	--	--	28	15	15
Brazil	--	--	--	3,350	1,810	4,140
China	20	13	105	104	67	412
Colombia	--	--	--	21	14	34
Germany	606	429	2,410	3,760	2,640	13,900
India	1,320	822	1,670	4,470	2,750	5,560
Japan	239	168	969	790	549	2,960
Kazakhstan	17,400	12,200	26,600	62,100	43,100	91,900
Latvia	--	--	--	440	307	770
Mexico	--	--	--	36	23	236
Poland	--	--	--	41	23	75
Russia	5,770	3,930	13,400	20,800	14,100	48,900
South Africa	34,500	17,000	32,600	196,000	96,600	184,000
Sweden	1,620	1,100	3,130	5,050	3,360	9,130
Turkey	407	269	823	15,900	10,400	23,500
Zimbabwe	--	--	--	6,080	3,330	6,240
Total	62,300	36,200	82,300	320,000	180,000	394,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 6—continued

U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROCHROMIUM IN 2014, BY GRADE AND COUNTRY[1]

Grade and country	June			January–June[2]		
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Chromium content (metric tons)	Value[3] (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Chromium content (metric tons)	Value[3] (thousands)

-- Zero.

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

[2]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).

[3]Customs import 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 merchandise into the United States.

[4]Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

[5]Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon

[6]Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7

U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF CHROMIUM METAL IN 2014, BY GRADE AND BY COUNTRY[1]

Grade and country	June Gross weight (metric tons)	June Value[3] (thousands)	January–June[2] Gross weight (metric tons)	January–June[2] Value[3] (thousands)
Unwrought powders:				
Austria	--	--	(4)	$2
Belgium	--	--	93	1,330
China	331	$3,400	1,310	13,600
France	38	552	271	3,680
Germany	5	165	17	560
India	19	206	19	206
Japan	--	--	1	126
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	3
Russia	20	170	220	1,830
Sweden	--	--	(4)	27
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	13
United Kingdom	26	374	155	2,220
Total	439	4,870	2,090	23,600
Waste and scrap:				
Brazil	--	--	6	32
Germany	--	--	11	114
Japan	1	12	1	21
Singapore	--	--	2	44
Taiwan	--	--	1	5
United Kingdom	8	96	8	96
Total	9	108	28	313
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders:				
Canada	31	2,480	111	9,150
China	214	2,020	1,350	10,600
France	152	1,670	2,060	22,000
Germany	7	344	30	918
Japan	4	229	10	486
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	8
New Zealand	--	--	(4)	10
Russia	161	1,360	2,080	17,000
Spain	--	--	47	349
Taiwan	(4)	3	1	14
United Kingdom	154	1,770	1,180	12,700
Total	724	9,870	6,880	73,300
All grades:				
Austria	--	--	(4)	2
Belgium	--	--	93	1,330
Brazil	--	--	6	32
Canada	31	2,480	111	9,150
China	545	5,420	2,660	24,200
France	190	2,220	2,340	25,700
Germany	12	509	58	1,590
India	19	206	19	206
Japan	5	241	12	633
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	3
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	8
New Zealand	--	--	(4)	10
Russia	181	1,530	2,300	18,900
Singapore	--	--	2	44
Spain	--	--	47	349
Sweden	--	--	(4)	27
Taiwan	(4)	3	2	32
United Kingdom	188	2,240	1,340	15,000
Total	1,170	14,800	8,990	97,200

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7—continued

U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF CHROMIUM METAL IN 2014, BY GRADE AND BY COUNTRY[1]

Grade and country	June Gross weight (metric tons)	June Value[3] (thousands)	January–June[2] Gross weight (metric tons)	January–June[2] Value[3] (thousands)

-- Zero.

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

[2]May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).

[3]Customs import 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 merchandise into the United States.

[4]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8

U.S. STAINLESS STEEL TRADE, BY PRODUCT, IN 2014[1]

Stainless steel product	June Gross weight (metric tons)	June Value[2] (thousands)	January–June[2] Gross weight (metric tons)	January–June[2] Value[2] (thousands)
Exports:				
Ingot	14,900	$15,600	22,700	$68,400
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	41,200	103,000	217,000	621,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	8,560	33,700	49,100	187,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	1,270	3,680	5,610	17,400
Other bars and rods	3,330	28,900	20,400	167,000
Wire	835	9,920	4,540	55,100
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	4,250	40,600	24,400	217,000
Total	74,400	235,000	344,000	1,330,000
Stainless steel scrap	46,500	61,800	272,000	328,000
Grand total	121,000	297,000	616,000	1,660,000
Imports:				
Ingot	12,800	37,500	71,400	197,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	25,900	73,400	148,000	385,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	3,540	14,700	24,500	96,800
Bars and rods in irregular coils	2,890	10,200	15,500	53,800
Other bars and rods	295	2,130	2,110	12,900
Wire	632	4,190	4,450	26,000
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	9,760	66,100	54,600	406,000
Total	55,800	208,000	320,000	1,180,000
Stainless steel scrap	33,500	50,900	177,000	224,000
Grand total	89,200	259,000	497,000	1,400,000

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

[2]Export value is free alongside ship. Import value is Customs import value, which generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing the merchandise into the United States.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.