

Mineral Industry Surveys

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CHROMIUM IN JUNE 2016

On the basis of gross quantity, consumption of chromium ferroalloys and metal in June 2016 decreased slightly compared with that of May 2016. Consumption in June 2016 decreased 2% compared with that of June 2015.

According to CRU Group, U.S. high-carbon (60%–70% chromium) ferrochromium (FeCr) price was 92.00 cents per pound of contained chromium in June 2016, unchanged from May 2016. U.S. charge-grade FeCr (47%–55% chromium) price was 89.00 cents per pound of contained chromium in June 2016, unchanged from May 2016 (CRU Group, 2016).

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Reference Cited

CRU Group, 2016, CRU Prices_Chrome_Historical Data_29 Jul 2016 (Jul Avg.): CRU Group, July 29. (Accessed August 23, 2016, via <http://www.crugroup.com/>.)

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT CHROMIUM STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

	2015	2016			
	January– December ^p	April	May	June	January– June ²
Production, stainless steel ³	2,350,000	203,000	197,000	213,000	1,140,000
Components of U.S. supply:					
Stainless steel scrap receipts	907,000	76,000	75,300	75,300	453,000
Stainless steel scrap consumption	1,330,000	114,000	112,000	113,000	673,000
Imports for consumption:					
Chromite ore	131,000	2,190	10,200	1,610	55,800
Ferrochromium:					
More than 4% carbon	347,000	34,800	59,500	8,100	214,000
More than 3% but not more than 4% carbon	2,590	--	--	--	405
More than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon	3,960	175	802	513	4,460
Not more than 0.5% carbon	48,400	2,710	2,420	2,730	14,900
Ferrochromium silicon	5,810	297	297	594	6,320
Total ferroalloy imports	408,000	38,000	63,000	11,900	240,000
Chromium metal ⁴	12,900	1,360	988	980	6,370
Stainless steel	700,000	54,800	45,900	51,500	299,000
Stainless steel scrap	192,000	24,700	21,200	24,000	127,000
Distribution of U.S. supply:					
Consumption, industry, chromium ferroalloys and metal	417,000	34,600	33,600	33,400	204,000
Exports:					
Chromite ore	7,210	390	101	208	1,370
Chromium ferroalloys:					
High-carbon ferrochromium	740	26	5	57	306
Low-carbon ferrochromium	279	18	260	87	565
Ferrochromium silicon	73	--	--	--	--
Total ferroalloy exports	1,090	44	265	145	871
Chromium metal	800	39	52	98	277
Stainless steel	809,000	73,900	69,900	67,600	402,000
Stainless steel scrap	520,000	40,200	92,000	36,600	363,000
Stocks at end of period:					
Consumer, industry, chromium ferroalloys and metal	10,100	9,860	9,860	10,200	10,200
Government stockpile:					
Chromium ferroalloys	95,700	93,400	92,900	91,300	91,300
Chromium metal	3,960	3,910	3,910	3,910	3,910

^pPreliminary. -- Zero.

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

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

³Data 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.

⁴Includes 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)

	2016		
	May	June	January– June ³
Consumption by end use:			
Steel:			
Carbon steel	171	166	1,060
High-strength low-alloy steel	130	131	794
Stainless and heat-resisting steel	30,000	29,900	183,000
Unspecified steel ⁴	2,720	2,720	16,300
Superalloys	428	429	2,570
Other alloys and uses ⁵	90	96	590
Total	33,600	33,400	204,000
Total, chromium content	19,300	19,200	117,000
Consumption by material:			
Low-carbon ferrochromium	1,780	1,790	10,700
High-carbon ferrochromium	29,300	29,000	178,000
Ferrochromium silicon	W	W	W
Chromium metal	161	157	955
Chromite ore	7	11	77
Chromium-aluminum alloy	W	W	W
Other chromium materials	W	W	W
Total	33,600	33,400	204,000
Total, chromium content	19,300	19,200	117,000
Consumer stocks:			
Low-carbon ferrochromium	1,450	1,500	1,500
High-carbon ferrochromium	7,560	7,880	7,880
Ferrochromium silicon	750	765	765
Chromium metal	W	W	W
Chromium-aluminum alloy	W	W	W
Other chromium materials	W	W	W
Total	9,860	10,200	10,200
Total, chromium content	5,760	5,990	5,990

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

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

²Includes estimates.

³May include revised data that are not broken out by specific month(s).

⁴Includes electrical, full alloy, tool, and unspecified steel end uses.

⁵Includes 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 MATERIALS¹

(metric tons)

	Chromium ferroalloys		Chromium metal
	High-carbon ferro-chromium	Low-carbon ferro-chromium	
2015:			
June	64,100	33,400	3,960
July	63,000	33,300	3,960
August	63,000	33,200	3,960
September	63,000	32,900	3,960
October	63,000	32,900	3,960
November	63,000	32,600	3,960
December	63,000	32,600	3,960
2016:			
January	62,100	32,500	3,930
February	62,100	32,300	3,930
March	61,600	32,300	3,910
April	61,200	32,200	3,910
May	60,700	32,200	3,910
June	60,300	31,000	3,910

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

Source: Defense Logistics Agency, DLA Strategic Materials.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF CHROMITE ORE, CHROMIUM FERROALLOYS, AND METAL¹

	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)
2015:							
June	1,250	\$688	22	13	\$46	32	\$821
July	180	96	70	33	115	48	1,380
August	188	106	26	15	48	55	1,330
September	95	50	120	53	154	31	937
October	74	42	91	35	160	38	1,320
November	185	169	67	32	141	50	1,490
December	316	621	83	41	144	25	973
January–December ⁴	7,210	5,680	1,090	545	1,860	800	15,700
2016:							
January	186	121	83	50	114	25	1,100
February	227	124	73	35	108	32	1,000
March	257	173	261	160	409	31	970
April	390	269	44	27	91	39	1,330
May	101	39	265	121	427	52	1,580
June	208	157	145	80	226	98	2,040
January–June ⁴	1,370	884	871	473	1,380	277	8,020

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

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

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

⁴May 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 METAL¹

(Metric tons)

	2015	2016		
	January– December	May	June	January– June ²
Chromite ore:				
More than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide:				
Gross weight	34,600	92	336	3,850
Chromic oxide content	15,100	39	147	1,660
46% or more chromic oxide:				
Gross weight	96,100	10,100	1,280	51,900
Chromic oxide content	66,700	4,700	1,080	24,600
Total, all grades:				
Gross weight	131,000	10,200	1,610	55,800
Chromic oxide content	81,800	4,740	1,230	26,200
Ferrochromium:				
Low-carbon:³				
Not more than 0.5% carbon:				
Gross weight	48,400	2,420	2,730	14,900
Chromium content	32,800	1,610	1,770	9,740
More than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon:				
Gross weight	3,960	802	513	4,460
Chromium content	2,660	502	315	2,830
Total, low-carbon:				
Gross weight	52,400	3,220	3,240	19,400
Chromium content	35,500	2,110	2,080	12,600
Medium-carbon:⁴				
Gross weight	2,590	--	--	405
Chromium content	1,320	--	--	218
High-carbon:⁵				
Gross weight	347,000	59,500	8,100	214,000
Chromium content	189,000	29,600	4,930	117,000
Total, all grades:				
Gross weight	402,000	62,700	11,300	233,000
Chromium content	226,000	31,700	7,010	130,000
Chromium metal:				
Unwrought powders	4,840	508	230	2,670
Waste and scrap	153	26	29	73
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders	7,890	455	722	3,620
Total, all grades	12,900	988	980	6,370

-- Zero.

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

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

³Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

⁴Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon.

⁵Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROCHROMIUM IN 2016, BY GRADE AND COUNTRY¹

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	5	4	\$8	673	456	\$792
Brazil	105	55	80	1,040	554	687
India	681	412	628	4,250	2,620	4,060
Kazakhstan	1,840	1,270	2,220	24,200	20,100	24,300
Oman	614	372	648	1,320	795	1,270
Russia	44	30	85	3,110	2,020	4,220
South Africa	1,270	758	695	169,000	84,500	120,000
Sweden	--	--	--	653	437	720
Turkey	591	375	579	3,090	1,970	3,060
Zimbabwe	2,950	1,650	2,720	6,120	3,460	5,920
Total	8,100	4,930	7,670	214,000	117,000	165,000
Medium-carbon ferrochromium, South Africa⁵						
	--	--	--	405	218	216
Low-carbon ferrochromium:⁶						
More than 0.5% but not more than 3% carbon:						
Brazil	513	315	1,010	2,780	1,710	5,410
China	--	--	--	928	599	1,940
Hong Kong	--	--	--	25	15	47
Kazakhstan	--	--	--	728	513	2,140
Total	513	315	1,010	4,460	2,830	9,540
Not more than 0.5% carbon:						
Brazil	775	491	1,410	4,130	2,340	7,630
China	663	408	1,340	2,010	1,260	4,250
Germany	240	166	793	2,380	1,660	9,180
India	--	--	--	63	40	295
Japan	100	70	419	853	600	3,440
Kazakhstan	--	--	--	1,540	1,110	4,300
Mexico	21	13	91	32	20	133
Netherlands	161	70	389	201	100	493
Russia	546	392	1,540	2,340	1,660	6,390
Turkey	222	153	591	1,370	948	3,670
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	1	8
Total	2,730	1,770	6,570	14,900	9,740	39,800
All grades:						
Albania	5	4	8	673	456	792
Brazil	1,390	861	2,500	7,960	4,600	13,700
China	663	408	1,340	2,930	1,860	6,190
Germany	240	166	793	2,380	1,660	9,180
Hong Kong	--	--	--	25	15	47
India	681	412	628	4,320	2,660	4,350
Japan	100	70	419	853	600	3,440
Kazakhstan	1,840	1,270	2,220	26,400	21,700	30,800
Mexico	21	13	91	32	20	133
Netherlands	161	70	389	201	100	493
Oman	614	372	648	1,320	795	1,270
Russia	591	422	1,630	5,440	3,680	10,600
South Africa	1,270	758	695	170,000	84,700	120,000
Sweden	--	--	--	653	437	720
Turkey	813	528	1,170	4,450	2,920	6,740
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	1	8
Zimbabwe	2,950	1,650	2,720	6,120	3,460	5,920
Total	11,300	7,010	15,200	233,000	130,000	214,000

(See footnotes at end of table)

TABLE 6—Continued
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROCHROMIUM IN 2016, BY GRADE AND COUNTRY¹

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.

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

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

³Customs 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.

⁴Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

⁵Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon.

⁶Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF CHROMIUM METAL IN 2016, BY GRADE AND BY COUNTRY¹

Grade and country	June		January–June ²	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
Unwrought powders:				
China	80	\$973	564	\$7,110
France	7	72	441	4,910
Germany	4	106	8	249
Japan	6	28	43	452
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	4
Russia	55	378	303	2,150
Taiwan	1	30	1	30
United Kingdom	77	1,400	1,310	13,800
Total	230	2,980	2,670	28,700
Waste and scrap:				
Canada	9	23	14	38
China	1	18	3	33
France	19	271	19	271
India	--	--	(4)	4
Japan	--	--	5	123
United Kingdom	--	--	32	286
Total	29	312	73	755
Other than waste and scrap and unwrought powders:				
Brazil	(4)	4	(4)	4
Canada	16	1,330	139	10,000
China	20	158	289	2,250
France	174	1,710	860	10,100
Germany	31	247	307	1,990
Hong Kong	--	--	(4)	2
Japan	1	46	6	251
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	13
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	40
New Zealand	--	--	(4)	15
Russia	472	3,130	1,830	12,700
Spain	--	--	119	822
Switzerland	--	--	(4)	21
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	5
United Kingdom	8	106	68	746
Total	722	6,730	3,620	39,000
All grades:				
Brazil	(4)	4	(4)	4
Canada	24	1,350	152	10,000
China	101	1,150	856	9,400
France	200	2,050	1,320	15,300
Germany	35	352	315	2,240
Hong Kong	--	--	(4)	2
India	--	--	(4)	4
Japan	7	74	54	826
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	17
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	40
New Zealand	--	--	(4)	15
Russia	527	3,510	2,130	14,900
Spain	--	--	119	822
Switzerland	--	--	(4)	21
Taiwan	1	30	1	35
United Kingdom	85	1,500	1,410	14,900
Total	980	10,000	6,370	68,500

-- Zero.

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

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

³Customs 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.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 7—Continued
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF CHROMIUM METAL IN 2016, BY GRADE AND BY COUNTRY¹

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
U.S. STAINLESS STEEL TRADE, BY PRODUCT, IN 2016¹

Stainless steel product	June		January–June ²	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
Exports:				
Ingot	1,750	\$8,560	14,900	\$65,200
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	48,900	89,500	295,000	505,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	8,120	30,800	42,400	164,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	1,400	3,810	7,100	20,900
Other bars and rods	3,070	23,100	18,300	142,000
Wire	899	9,890	4,810	59,600
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	3,450	28,700	19,000	166,000
Total	67,600	194,000	402,000	1,120,000
Stainless steel scrap	36,600	32,500	363,000	213,000
Grand total	104,000	227,000	764,000	1,340,000
Imports:				
Ingot	9,430	37,500	47,900	226,000
Flat-rolled (width > 600 mm)	24,900	50,300	147,000	300,000
Flat-rolled (width < 600 mm)	5,790	19,600	34,200	110,000
Bars and rods in irregular coils	3,310	8,000	16,400	42,400
Other bars and rods	508	2,390	2,580	12,000
Wire	490	2,890	4,000	21,700
Tubes, pipes, hollow profiles	7,020	45,700	47,200	281,000
Total	51,500	166,000	299,000	994,000
Stainless steel scrap	24,000	17,100	127,000	76,500
Grand total	75,500	183,000	427,000	1,070,000

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

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

³Export 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.