

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SILICON IN JUNE 2009

Preliminary data for June 2009 indicate that domestic production and net shipments of silicon ferroalloys, on a gross-weight basis, were 3% higher and 4% lower, respectively, compared with those in May 2009, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending stocks were slightly higher than those at the end of May. 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 half of 2009 decreased by 12% and 7%, 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 May 2009 were 21% higher and 6% lower,

respectively, than those in April 2009. U.S. ferrosilicon and silicon metal exports in the first 5 months of 2009 were 23% and 9% lower, respectively, than those in the same period of 2008.

On a gross-weight basis, U.S. ferrosilicon and silicon metal imports in May 2009 were 101% higher and 29% lower, respectively, than those in April 2009. U.S. ferrosilicon and silicon metal imports in the first 5 months of 2009 were 78% and 50% lower, respectively, than those in the same period of 2008.

Prices

Prices for silicon materials in June 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>
70.00-78.00	70.33-72.72-75.11

75% Ferrosilicon prices²

<u>Price Range</u>	<u>Average Price</u>
60.00-67.00	64.70

Silicon metal prices²

<u>Price Range</u>	<u>Average Price</u>
110.00-113.00	110.60

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, June 30
	June	Year to date	June	Year to date	
Ferrosilicon, all grades ^{5,6}	19,700	121,000	17,100	103,000	25,700
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 MAY 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:						
Argentina	--	--	--	4	3	\$12,000
Canada	429	258	\$548,000	1,460	873	1,870,000
Colombia	--	--	--	27	24	77,000
Mexico	74	44	133,000	977	709	1,430,000
Netherlands	--	--	--	3	2	3,270
New Zealand	--	--	--	3	3	5,350
Turkey	--	--	--	10	7	22,200
Total	503	302	681,000	2,480	1,620	3,430,000
Other ferrosilicon:						
Australia	20	10	40,000	60	30	121,000
Belgium	--	--	--	60	30	119,000
Canada	193	97	308,000	787	393	1,210,000
Egypt	40	18	83,800	100	46	210,000
Germany	11	6	10,400	62	31	95,200
Mexico	60	30	110,000	449	199	851,000
Netherlands	60	30	200,000	60	30	200,000
Spain	--	--	--	180	90	352,000
Turkey	40	18	73,000	89	40	168,000
Other (4 countries)	18	8	20,100	42	21	73,100
Total	442	217	846,000	1,890	910	3,400,000
Total ferrosilicon	945	519	1,530,000	4,370	2,530	6,830,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2--Continued
 U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN MAY 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:						
Brazil	8	XX	\$529,000	72	XX	\$4,730,000
China	370	XX	21,100,000	2,100	XX	134,000,000
Denmark	3	XX	824,000	36	XX	6,920,000
Germany	379	XX	20,000,000	1,800	XX	94,400,000
Hong Kong	--	XX	--	29	XX	3,880,000
Japan	880	XX	57,300,000	4,060	XX	309,000,000
Korea, Republic of	127	XX	10,500,000	736	XX	58,300,000
Malaysia	5	XX	1,260,000	108	XX	10,100,000
Norway	311	XX	19,400,000	2,100	XX	128,000,000
Taiwan	74	XX	6,010,000	423	XX	28,000,000
Other (30 countries)	12	XX	1,350,000	144	XX	11,500,000
Total	2,170	2,170^c	138,000,000	11,600	11,600^c	789,000,000
99.00% - 99.99% silicon:						
Australia	4	4	5,000	13	13	18,100
Belgium	15	15	29,100	163	161	465,000
Brazil	--	--	--	16	16	47,500
Germany	--	--	--	41	41	57,900
Italy	100	99	194,000	100	99	194,000
Korea, Republic of	17	17	23,800	21	21	29,400
Netherlands	--	--	--	100	99	194,000
Singapore	--	--	--	23	22	54,700
Spain	--	--	--	6	6	9,000
Taiwan	169	168	495,000	179	178	509,000
Other (8 countries)	6	6	10,600	27	27	51,200
Total	311	309	757,000	689	683	1,630,000
Other silicon:						
Brazil	3	3	3,580	21	20	27,800
Canada	6	6	14,400	71	69	115,000
China	97	94	131,000	147	143	205,000
India	23	22	30,400	23	22	30,400
Japan	--	--	--	294	284	1,020,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	108	105	74,000
Philippines	1	1	13,500	19	19	55,600
South Africa	--	--	--	32	31	41,700
Taiwan	106	103	148,000	220	214	372,000
United Kingdom	1	1	17,800	83	80	212,000
Other (9 countries)	8	7	29,200	20	20	70,000
Total	245	237	388,000	1,040	1,010	2,220,000
Total silicon metal	2,720	2,710	140,000,000	13,300	13,300	793,000,000

^cEstimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN MAY 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:						
Argentina	--	--	--	40	24	\$162,000
China	--	--	--	618	455	653,000
France	--	--	--	91	56	356,000
Total	--	--	--	749	535	1,170,000
55% - 80% silicon, other:						
Brazil	19	15	\$33,400	72	51	141,000
Canada	791	584	1,360,000	3,720	2,760	7,270,000
China	--	--	--	3,600	2,730	3,940,000
France	24	17	56,700	563	387	1,600,000
Germany	17	12	81,500	115	81	592,000
India	--	--	--	38	28	120,000
Russia	3,760	2,900	3,320,000	11,100	8,550	11,100,000
United Kingdom	10	6	78,800	26	17	187,000
Venezuela	--	--	--	4,100	3,080	5,310,000
Total	4,620	3,530	4,930,000	23,400	17,700	30,200,000
80% - 90% silicon, Norway	--	--	--	1	1	3,170
Magnesium ferrosilicon:						
Argentina	19	9	53,700	374	165	1,200,000
Brazil	43	19	64,900	1,050	502	1,800,000
Canada	419	192	853,000	2,260	1,030	4,630,000
China	296	150	400,000	645	323	880,000
France	12	6	15,900	138	65	183,000
Total	789	376	1,390,000	4,460	2,090	8,700,000
Other ferrosilicon:						
Brazil	--	--	--	38	17	22,000
Canada	138	55	190,000	1,280	496	1,680,000
France	--	--	--	18	9	39,600
Russia	--	--	--	152	71	138,000
Total	138	55	190,000	1,490	593	1,880,000
Total ferrosilicon	5,550	3,970	6,500,000	30,100	20,900	42,000,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3--Continued
 U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN MAY 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	(3)	XX	\$20,100	141	XX	\$5,950,000
China	5	XX	145,000	48	XX	1,040,000
Denmark	(3)	XX	112,000	2	XX	962,000
Germany	110	XX	8,550,000	590	XX	43,600,000
Italy	8	XX	471,000	66	XX	3,280,000
Japan	18	XX	3,050,000	101	XX	10,600,000
Korea, Republic of	12	XX	917,000	52	XX	2,280,000
Norway	1	XX	77,200	17	XX	974,000
Spain	--	XX	--	1	XX	8,450
Taiwan	5	XX	141,000	14	XX	363,000
Other (8 countries)	(3)	XX	22,700	2	XX	226,000
Total	160	160^c	13,500,000	1,030	1,030^c	69,200,000
99.00% - 99.99% silicon:						
Australia	916	911	2,360,000	5,190	5,170	14,000,000
Brazil	2,980	2,860	7,160,000	15,500	15,100	38,900,000
Canada	714	708	1,410,000	2,900	2,880	6,000,000
Japan	--	--	--	13	(3)	17,300
Laos	810	806	1,610,000	2,520	2,510	6,140,000
Norway	744	739	2,430,000	4,250	4,220	14,000,000
Philippines	--	--	--	90	89	161,000
South Africa	--	--	--	3,890	3,860	11,100,000
Sweden	--	--	--	32	30	244,000
Ukraine	--	--	--	302	299	800,000
Total	6,170	6,030	15,000,000	34,700	34,100	91,300,000
Other silicon:						
Australia	--	--	--	969	951	2,750,000
Brazil	--	--	--	1,640	1,530	5,160,000
Canada	40	38	58,200	712	697	1,370,000
China	20	20	36,600	362	357	584,000
Japan	--	--	--	23	22	103,000
Norway	--	--	--	754	618	1,690,000
Philippines	--	--	--	72	70	129,000
Singapore	--	--	--	23	(3)	36,200
South Africa	17	(3)	18,100	17	(3)	18,100
Ukraine	--	--	--	318	314	801,000
Other (2 countries)	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6,630
Total	77	58	113,000	4,890	4,560	12,700,000
Total silicon metal	6,410	6,250	28,600,000	40,600	39,700	173,000,000

^cEstimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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.