

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SILICON IN JANUARY 2014

On a gross-weight basis, data for January 2014 indicate that domestic production of total silicon materials (ferrosilicon plus silicon metal) was 10% higher than that in December 2013. Net shipments and ending stocks were 13% higher and 5% lower, respectively, than those at the end of December 2013. Stocks included adjustments in inventory and in-plant consumption of ferrosilicon to produce magnesium ferrosilicon and other miscellaneous alloys. Production and net shipments in January

2014 were 34% and 26% higher, respectively than those in January 2013.

Production-related statistics for the individual categories of ferrosilicon and silicon metal were concealed to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. Totals for both categories are listed on table 1.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. spot market prices and U.S. foreign trade data for selected silicon-containing materials in January 2014.

TABLE 1
 PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF SILICON ALLOYS
 AND METAL IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Metric tons, gross weight)

	Gross production ³	Net shipments	Producers' stocks, end of period
2013:			
January	35,200	25,600	36,400
February	33,500	24,100	36,800
March	38,600	24,500	40,300
April	39,300	22,400	44,400
May	34,300	25,500	43,300
June	42,100	34,600	42,200
July ^f	34,100	25,500	40,000
August ^f	42,100	30,200	40,500
September ^f	39,700	30,000	35,500
October ^f	45,200	30,800	34,800
November ^f	44,300	27,800	37,100
December ^f	42,600	28,600	33,400
January–December ^f	471,000	330,000	33,400
2014, January	47,000	32,200	31,700

^fRevised.

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

²Includes ferrosilicon, miscellaneous silicon alloys, and silicon metal, excluding semiconductor and solar grades, except where noted.

³Ferrosilicon production includes material consumed in the production of miscellaneous silicon alloys.

TABLE 2
 PRICES FOR FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN JANUARY 2014

	High	Low	Average	Average low, mid, and high
Ferrosilicon:				
50% ferrosilicon ¹	109.00	105.00	XX	105.00–107.00–109.00
75% ferrosilicon ²	100.00	96.00	99.00	XX
Silicon metal, 553 grade ³	135.00	124.00	130.88	XX

do. Ditto. XX Not applicable.

¹Ryan's Notes, North American transaction price, duty paid, f.o.b. Pittsburgh, producing plant or Chicago/Pittsburgh warehouse. Average price reported for price range.

²Platts Metals Week, in U.S. warehouse, U.S. origin and imported material. Average prices reported for all transactions during the month.

³Platts Metals Week, duty paid, delivered Midwest, U.S. spot and imported 553 grade silicon metal (minimum 98.50% silicon). Average price reported for all transactions during the month.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN JANUARY 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Ferrosilicon:			
More than 55% silicon:			
Canada	275	165	\$429,000
Japan	208	160	373,000
Mexico	178	112	456,000
Turkey	5	4	11,700
Total	666	441	1,270,000
Other ferrosilicon:			
Belgium	100	46	202,000
Brazil	19	10	45,200
Canada	37	19	70,300
Korea, Republic of	54	24	62,100
Mexico	85	42	198,000
Poland	61	12	137,000
Turkey	255	115	514,000
United Kingdom	61	30	41,700
Total	671	297	1,270,000
Total ferrosilicon	1,340	738	2,540,000
Metal:			
More than 99.99% silicon:			
China	1,550	1,550	35,000,000
Germany	1,340	1,340	47,300,000
Italy	20	20	1,450,000
Japan	771	771	44,000,000
Korea, Republic of	146	146	8,830,000
Malaysia	33	33	4,640,000
Philippines	12	12	192,000
Singapore	221	221	3,760,000
Taiwan	506	506	13,500,000
Thailand	80	80	1,250,000
Other (16 countries)	28	28	2,170,000
Total	4,710	4,710	162,000,000
99.00%–99.99% silicon, China	14	14	41,000
Other silicon:			
Belize	(3)	(3)	3,450
Canada	566	550	1,520,000
El Salvador	1	1	16,300
India	6	6	7,920
Japan	3	3	3,440
Korea, Republic of	1	1	6,600
Mexico	4	3	7,420
South Africa	3	3	7,070
United Kingdom	1	1	10,200
Total	584	567	1,580,000
Total silicon metal	5,310	5,290	164,000,000

¹Presentation of monthly data is based on the 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.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN JANUARY 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Ferrosilicon:			
55%–80% silicon, more than 3% Ca:			
Brazil	216	162	\$301,000
Canada	20	11	11,700
China	535	398	703,000
France	36	23	86,700
Total	807	593	1,100,000
55%–80% silicon, other:			
Brazil	254	188	362,000
Canada	842	611	2,120,000
China	5,200	3,950	7,160,000
France	72	47	202,000
Germany	24	16	116,000
Iceland	1,680	1,270	2,500,000
India	100	78	225,000
Russia	12,100	9,240	17,700,000
South Africa	315	236	528,000
United Kingdom	25	17	167,000
Total	20,600	15,700	31,100,000
Magnesium ferrosilicon:			
Brazil	152	66	266,000
Canada	1,070	490	1,690,000
China	86	38	167,000
India	390	187	650,000
Norway	223	107	488,000
Total	1,920	889	3,260,000
Other ferrosilicon:			
Canada	1,020	353	1,190,000
China	63	38	116,000
Germany	1	(3)	4,670
Poland	19	9	29,700
Russia	3	1	4,700
Vietnam	150	113	209,000
Total	1,260	514	1,550,000
Total ferrosilicon	24,600	17,700	37,000,000
Metal:			
More than 99.99% silicon:			
Brazil	77	77	233,000
China	5	5	92,600
Denmark	1	1	57,600
Germany	83	83	5,130,000
Italy	(3)	(3)	13,100
Japan	6	6	752,000
Korea, Republic of	(3)	(3)	4,820
Liechtenstein	(3)	(3)	31,800
Norway	1	1	81,400
Taiwan	8	8	200,000
Other (2 countries)	(3)	(3)	7,410
Total	181	181	6,600,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 4—Continued
 U.S. IMPORTS OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN JANUARY 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Metal—Continued:			
99.00%–99.99% silicon:			
Australia	1,980	1,960	\$5,100,000
Brazil	3,130	3,100	7,880,000
Canada	141	140	382,000
Norway	624	620	2,180,000
South Africa	3,680	3,650	9,900,000
Spain	280	278	748,000
Thailand	488	484	1,140,000
United Kingdom	19	19	45,100
Total	10,300	10,200	27,400,000
Other silicon:			
Belgium	1	1	2,630
Brazil	448	443	1,160,000
Japan	(3)	(3)	2,500
Norway	112	108	146,000
South Africa	20	20	46,000
Total	581	571	1,350,000
Total silicon metal	11,100	11,000	35,300,000

¹Presentation of monthly data is based on the 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.