

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SILICON IN NOVEMBER 2014

Domestic production of total silicon materials was 41,500 metric tons (t) for November 2014, a 10% decrease from October 2014 production and a 6% decrease from November 2013 production. Net shipments were 20,600 t, 27% less than shipments in October 2014 and 26% less than November 2013. Total production and net shipments during the first 11 months of 2014 were 7% and 5% greater, respectively, than those during the same period in 2013 (table 1). Individual production-related statistics were concealed to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Ending stocks were 38,500 t in November 2014, 17% more than those in October 2014 and 4% more than those in November 2013 (table 1). Stocks included adjustments in inventory and in-plant consumption of ferrosilicon to produce magnesium ferrosilicon and other miscellaneous alloys.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. spot market prices and U.S. foreign trade data for selected silicon-containing materials in November 2014. All comparative statistics were calculated based on gross-weight figures.

Industry News

In November, JSC Chelyabinsk Electrometallurgical Integrated Plant (ChEMK) and JSC Kuznetsk Ferroalloys, which produce about 78% of Russia's European ferrosilicon exports, filed suit with the European Court of Justice disputing antidumping duties imposed by the European Commission in April 2014 (Dragomanovich, 2014a). The antidumping duty rate for these two companies was set at 22.7% (Official Journal of the European Union, 2014).

Ukraine's Zaporozhye Ferroalloy Plant produced 15,500 t of ferrosilicon in November, almost doubling its October production, to compensate for the shutdown of the Stakhanov Ferroalloy Plant. Stakhanov had been the leading Russian ferrosilicon producer with an average of 12,300 t of ferrosilicon produced per month, before being forced to close because of fighting in the country (Dragomanovich, 2014b).

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References Cited

- Dragomanovich, Vanya, 2014a, Russian FeSi producers contest anti-dumping duties in Court of Justice: Metal-Pages, November 11. (Accessed December 22, 2014, via <http://www.metal-pages.com/>.)
- Dragomanovich, Vanya, 2014b, Zaporozhye Ferroalloy Plant doubles FeSi output in November: Metal-Pages, December 18. (Accessed December 22, 2014, via <http://www.metal-pages.com/>.)
- Official Journal of the European Union, 2014, Council implementing regulation (EU) No. 360/2009 of 9 April 2014, imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ferro-silicon originating in the People's Republic of China and Russia, following an expiry review pursuant to Article 11(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1225/2009: Official Journal of the European Union, L 107, v. 56, April 9, 26 p.

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:^p			
January–December	468,000	331,000	33,700
January–November ^f	428,000	301,000	37,100
November	44,300	27,800	37,100
December	40,000	29,700	33,700
2014:			
January	42,600	32,000	31,400
February	39,700	27,500	33,000
March	42,700	32,200	34,400
April	37,600	25,900	34,000
May	39,400	30,400	31,800
June	43,700	33,600	29,900
July	42,300	29,500	31,500
August	39,900	28,200	31,800
September	41,100	27,600	32,700
October	45,900	28,100	33,000
November	41,500	20,600	38,500
January–November	456,000	316,000	38,500

^pPreliminary. ^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 NOVEMBER 2014

	Low	Average	High	Average low, mid, and high
Ferrosilicon:				
50% ferrosilicon ¹	cents per pound of contained silicon	106.00	XX	110.00
75% ferrosilicon ²	do.	98.00	98.50	99.00
Silicon metal, 553 grade ³	cents per pound	142.00	145.40	145.00

do. Ditto. XX Not applicable.

¹CRU Ryan'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 NOVEMBER 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	January–November ³		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Ferrosilicon:						
More than 55% silicon:						
Belgium	--	--	--	20	15	\$27,600
Brazil	--	--	--	34	21	59,400
Canada	206	123	\$321,000	3,720	2,230	5,800,000
Colombia	--	--	--	52	38	137,000
France	--	--	--	20	15	26,600
India	70	42	39,100	126	76	64,900
Japan	216	162	397,000	1,150	882	1,850,000
Mexico	201	121	520,000	2,290	1,410	5,560,000
Turkey	--	--	--	5	4	11,700
United Kingdom	--	--	--	95	64	125,000
Other (3 countries)	--	--	--	10	6	20,200
Total	693	448	1,280,000	7,520	4,760	13,700,000
Other ferrosilicon:						
Belgium	--	--	--	399	188	740,000
Brazil	--	--	--	191	95	438,000
Canada	91	46	95,200	1,280	639	1,730,000
France	120	51	56,400	260	112	122,000
Korea, Republic of	100	43	118,000	676	296	805,000
Mexico	105	53	280,000	1,030	447	2,440,000
Netherlands	--	--	--	380	169	208,000
Poland	21	8	41,000	224	66	487,000
Turkey	40	18	80,400	1,970	897	3,920,000
United Kingdom	51	22	86,700	511	246	705,000
Other (7 countries)	36	16	83,100	333	154	691,000
Total	563	256	841,000	7,250	3,310	12,300,000
Total ferrosilicon	1,260	704	2,120,000	14,800	8,070	25,900,000
Metal:						
More than 99.99% silicon:						
China	567	567	14,900,000	10,600	10,600	298,000,000
Germany	129	129	4,560,000	4,150	4,150	144,000,000
Hong Kong	64	64	4,220,000	818	818	26,500,000
Italy	24	24	1,220,000	275	275	15,400,000
Japan	2,850	2,850	118,000,000	12,600	12,600	615,000,000
Korea, Republic of	60	60	4,450,000	2,500	2,500	119,000,000
Malaysia	26	26	2,910,000	381	381	44,400,000
Norway	--	--	--	245	245	11,600,000
Singapore	2	2	37,900	1,060	1,060	18,400,000
Taiwan	434	434	12,600,000	5,080	5,080	164,000,000
Other (39 countries)	31	31	1,760,000	412	412	26,000,000
Total	4,190	4,190	164,000,000	38,100	38,100	1,480,000,000
99.00%–99.99% silicon:						
China	--	--	--	23	23	56,800
India	--	--	--	1	1	5,760
Japan	--	--	--	2	2	3,150
Korea, Republic of	4	4	5,100	4	4	5,100
Mexico	1	1	2,620	59	58	163,000
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	9	8	12,000
Taiwan	--	--	--	4	4	18,100
Thailand	--	--	--	7	7	9,650
Turkey	--	--	--	9	9	12,600
Total	5	5	7,720	117	116	286,000
Other silicon:						
Austria	--	--	--	21	21	28,200

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	January–November ³		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Metal—Continued:						
Other silicon:						
Belgium	9	8	\$11,500	141	137	\$154,000
Canada	38	37	140,000	1,030	995	2,780,000
China	10	10	13,000	79	77	104,000
Germany	91	88	120,000	124	121	179,000
Korea, Republic of	4	4	5,100	117	114	192,000
Mexico	2	2	10,800	480	466	1,530,000
South Africa	--	--	--	59	57	119,000
Taiwan	--	--	--	26	25	250,000
United Kingdom	1	1	2,570	79	77	184,000
Others (15 countries)	5	5	53,600	48	47	221,000
Total	159	154	356,000	2,200	2,140	5,740,000
Total silicon metal	4,350	4,350	164,000,000	40,400	40,400	1,490,000,000

-- Zero.

¹Presentation of monthly data is based on the "January–November" quantities (gross weight) of the leading countries.

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

³May include revisions to previously published data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	January–November ³		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Ferrosilicon:						
55%–80% silicon, more than 3% Ca:						
Argentina	96	72	\$126,000	96	72	\$126,000
Brazil	150	113	258,000	446	337	712,000
Canada	19	14	49,600	60	41	117,000
China	450	337	627,000	6,880	5,160	8,860,000
France	32	20	95,600	245	154	626,000
Germany	--	--	--	22	15	27,900
Norway	--	--	--	41	28	136,000
South Africa	--	--	--	450	307	930,000
Total	747	557	1,160,000	8,240	6,120	11,500,000
55%–80% silicon, other:						
Brazil	--	--	--	1,870	1,380	2,640,000
Canada	777	568	1,840,000	9,760	7,130	24,100,000
China	6,840	5,130	9,280,000	71,600	54,000	97,600,000
France	768	584	1,540,000	2,890	2,030	7,830,000
Iceland	386	302	507,000	10,600	8,180	15,000,000
India	122	96	204,000	1,010	787	2,090,000
Russia	--	--	--	65,800	50,300	95,900,000
South Africa	296	206	548,000	2,060	1,490	3,850,000
Spain	206	155	353,000	4,970	3,750	7,910,000
Venezuela	--	--	--	10,400	7,800	14,700,000
Other (6 countries)	116	84	485,000	2,480	1,830	6,850,000
Total	9,520	7,120	14,800,000	183,000	139,000	278,000,000
80%–90% ferrosilicon, Germany	12	10	11,400	163	135	158,000
Magnesium ferrosilicon:						
Argentina	128	60	198,000	1,140	535	1,360,000
Brazil	--	--	--	1,180	535	1,990,000
Canada	869	397	1,790,000	11,700	5,330	22,400,000
China	--	--	--	515	231	972,000
France	--	--	--	1	(4)	2,600
Germany	5	2	15,200	62	29	122,000
India	428	205	768,000	2,330	1,120	4,070,000
Norway	305	148	602,000	3,050	1,470	6,160,000
Total	1,740	812	3,370,000	20,000	9,240	37,100,000
Other ferrosilicon:						
Brazil	--	--	--	44	23	72,000
Canada	959	307	1,100,000	12,200	4,200	14,200,000
China	9,730	1,550	4,100,000	10,200	1,800	4,980,000
Germany	7	3	15,200	29	11	122,000
Mexico	5	2	7,870	5	2	7,870
Poland	--	--	--	38	17	60,700
Russia	12	6	18,600	58	27	88,500
Vietnam	--	--	--	199	151	280,000
Total	10,700	1,870	5,240,000	22,700	6,230	19,800,000
Total ferrosilicon	22,700	10,400	24,500,000	235,000	160,000	347,000,000
Metal:						
More than 99.99% silicon:						
Brazil	--	--	--	489	489	1,460,000
China	1	1	150,000	71	71	1,810,000
Germany	52	52	3,760,000	945	945	52,700,000
Italy	--	--	--	7	7	383,000
Japan	1	1	260,000	130	130	11,300,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	19	19	1,230,000
Malaysia	1	1	42,300	3	3	108,000

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	January–November ³		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Metal—Continued:						
Norway	1	1	\$60,900	7	7	\$422,000
Spain	--	--	--	4	4	40,500
Taiwan	3	3	120,000	71	71	1,990,000
Other (10 countries)	(4)	(4)	67,500	6	6	956,000
Total	60	60	4,460,000	1,750	1,750	72,400,000
99.00%–99.99% silicon:						
Australia	1,200	1,190	3,550,000	16,200	15,900	44,200,000
Brazil	3,400	3,380	9,540,000	30,300	30,000	81,100,000
Canada	401	398	1,120,000	5,300	5,210	13,400,000
France	--	--	--	3,200	3,180	9,050,000
Laos	--	--	--	540	535	1,400,000
Malaysia	--	--	--	120	119	270,000
Norway	600	596	2,060,000	6,390	6,330	21,700,000
South Africa	3,950	3,920	11,200,000	32,800	32,500	89,600,000
Spain	--	--	--	1,220	1,210	3,250,000
Thailand	608	604	1,530,000	6,420	6,370	15,000,000
Other (6 countries)	25	1	32,400	203	84	422,000
Total	10,200	10,100	29,000,000	103,000	102,000	279,000,000
Other silicon:						
Australia	--	--	--	792	780	2,340,000
Brazil	203	200	546,000	7,780	7,650	20,100,000
Canada	1,350	1,330	3,450,000	12,100	11,900	31,500,000
China	--	--	--	237	107	319,000
France	--	--	--	514	508	1,350,000
Laos	19	19	49,900	38	37	99,800
Norway	89	85	96,700	706	684	1,280,000
South Africa	--	--	--	65	64	168,000
Thailand	120	115	316,000	336	328	862,000
United Kingdom	19	18	48,900	54	53	140,000
Other (5 countries)	--	--	--	56	41	152,000
Total	1,800	1,770	4,510,000	22,700	22,200	58,300,000
Total silicon metal	12,000	11,900	38,000,000	127,000	125,000	410,000,000

-- Zero.

¹Presentation of monthly data is based on the "January–November" quantities (gross weight) of the leading countries.

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

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.