CHROMIUM

(Data in thousand metric tons, chromium content, unless otherwise specified)

Domestic Production and Use: In 2025, the United States consumed an estimated 4% of world chromite ore production in various forms of imported materials, such as chromite ore, chromium chemicals, ferrochromium, chromium metal, and stainless steel. Imported chromite ore was consumed by one company to produce chromium chemicals. Stainless-steel and heat-resisting-steel producers were the leading consumers of ferrochromium. Stainless steels and superalloys require the addition of chromium via chromium-containing scrap, chromium metal, or ferrochromium. The value of chromium material consumption was estimated to be $720 million in 2025 (as measured by the value of net imports, excluding stainless steel), which was a 15% decrease from $852 million in 2024.

Salient Statistics—United States:	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025[e]
Production:					
Mine	—	—	—	—	—
Secondary[1]	147	138	126	103	100
Imports for consumption[2]	571	610	451	492	520
Exports[2]	114	162	178	148	140
Shipments from Government stockpile[3]	7	5	NA	NA	NA
Consumption (includes recycling):					
Reported	389	328	365	[e]360	360
Apparent[4]	612	591	399	442	480
Price:[5]					
Chromite ore (gross weight), dollars per metric ton	199	277	321	331	290
Ferrochromium (chromium content), dollars per pound[6]	1.50	3.19	2.55	1.76	1.60
Chromium metal (gross weight), dollars per pound	4.23	7.20	5.05	5.30	5.90
Stocks, consumer, yearend	6	5	5	[e]5	5
Net import reliance[7] as a percentage of apparent consumption	76	77	68	77	79

Recycling: In 2025, recycled chromium (contained in reported stainless-steel scrap receipts) accounted for 21% of apparent consumption.

Import Sources (2021–24): Chromite (ores and concentrates): South Africa, 96%; Turkey, 3%; and other, 1%. Chromium-containing chemicals: Kazakhstan, 25%; China, 19%; Germany, 14%; India, 13%; and other, 29%. Chromium-containing scrap:[8] Canada, 50%; Mexico, 45%; and other, 5%. Chromium metal: China, 40%; United Kingdom, 26%; Russia, 15%; France, 14%; and other, 5%. Ferrochromium: South Africa, 41%; Kazakhstan, 24%; Russia, 6%; Finland, 5%, and other, 24%. Stainless steel: Taiwan, 16%, Finland, 12%, India, 11%, China,[9] 6%; and others, 55%. Total imports: South Africa, 31%; Kazakhstan, 11%; Finland, 6%; Canada, 5%; and other, 47%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12–31–25
Chromium ores and concentrates:		
Not more than 40% chromic oxide (Cr_2O_3)	2610.00.0020	Free.
More than 40% but less than 46% Cr_2O_3	2610.00.0040	Free.
More than or equal to 46% Cr_2O_3	2610.00.0060	Free.
Ferrochromium:		
More than 4% carbon	7202.41.0000	1.9% ad valorem.
More than 3% but less than 4% carbon	7202.49.1000	1.9% ad valorem.
More than 0.5% but less than 3% carbon	7202.49.5010	3.1% ad valorem.
Not more than 0.5% carbon	7202.49.5090	3.1% ad valorem.
Ferrosilicon chromium	7202.50.0000	10% ad valorem.
Stainless-steel scrap	7204.21.0000	Free.
Chromium metal:		
Unwrought, powder	8112.21.0000	3% ad valorem.
Waste and scrap	8112.22.0000	Free.
Other	8112.29.0000	3% ad valorem.

Depletion Allowance:[10] 22% (domestic), 14% (foreign).

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Government Stockpile (gross weight):[10]

Material	FY 2025 Potential acquisitions	FY 2025 Potential disposals	FY 2026 Potential acquisitions	FY 2026 Potential disposals
Ferrochromium[11]	—	21.8	NA	NA
Chromium metal	—	0.454	NA	NA

Events, Trends, and Issues: South Africa was the leading chromite ore producer. Global chromite ore mine production was estimated to have increased by 3% in 2025 compared with production in 2024. Challenges related to shifting market demands, particularly in China, combined with deep-level mining and labor costs and an unreliable supply of electricity could affect production in South Africa. Investment, major expansions, and new mines may increase the production of chromite ore in Brazil, Kazakhstan, and Zimbabwe.

China was the leading ferrochromium- and stainless-steel-producing country and the leading chromium-consuming country. However, the production of stainless steel in China has been affected by oversupply and decreases in consumer demand, which may have contributed to decreases in the price of ferrochromium. Potential export controls and tariffs on chromite ore from South Africa may also affect ferrochromium production in China.

World Mine Production and Reserves:[12] Significant revisions were made to the 2024 production for India, South Africa, Turkey, and Zimbabwe based on Government reports.

	Mine production 2024	Mine production 2025[e]	Reserves[13] Ore	Reserves[13] Cr_2O_3 content
United States	—	—	8,500	630
Brazil	[e]1,400	2,000	3,900	1,000
Finland	1,940	1,900	63,000	16,000
India	3,370	3,000	79,000	27,000
Kazakhstan	[e]6,100	7,000	[14]230,000	100,000
South Africa	22,900	23,000	350,000	110,000
Turkey	9,300	9,000	27,000	5,700
Zimbabwe	1,600	2,000	140,000	78,000
Other countries	3,000	3,000	NA	NA
World total (rounded)	49,600	51,000	>1,200,000	>540,000

World Resources:[13] World resources are greater than 12 billion tons of shipping-grade chromite, sufficient to meet conceivable demand for centuries. World chromium resources are heavily geographically concentrated (95%) in Kazakhstan and southern Africa; United States chromium resources are mostly in the Stillwater Complex in Montana.

Substitutes: Chromium has no substitute in stainless steel, the leading end use, or in superalloys, the major strategic end use. Chromium-containing scrap can substitute for ferrochromium in some metallurgical uses.

[e]Estimated. NA Not available. — Zero.

[1]Secondary production is based on reported receipts of all types of stainless-steel scrap.

[2]Includes chromium chemicals, chromium metal, chromite ores, ferrochromium, ferrosilicon chromium, and stainless-steel products and scrap.

[3]Defined as change in total inventory from prior yearend inventory. Beginning in 2023, Government stock changes no longer available.

[4]Defined for 2021–22 as production (from mines and secondary) + imports – exports ± adjustments for Government and industry stock changes. Beginning in 2023, Government stock changes no longer included.

[5]Source: Argus Media group, Argus Non-Ferrous Markets.

[6]Excludes ferrosilicon chromium.

[7]Defined for 2021–22 as imports – exports ± adjustments for Government and industry stock changes. Beginning in 2023, Government stock changes no longer included.

[8]Chromium-containing scrap includes chromium metal scrap and stainless-steel scrap.

[9]Includes Hong Kong.

[10]See Appendix B for definitions. For fiscal year 2026, the Annual Materials Plan was not released.

[11]High-carbon and low-carbon ferrochromium, combined.

[12]Mine production and ore reserves are reported in gross weight.

[13]See Appendix C for resource and reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.

[14]Reserves for Kazakhstan are likely based on the State Committee of the Russian Federation (GKZ) classification system A+B+C1+C2, where A reserves are well established, B reserves have been explored, and C1+C2 reserves are less explored and have lower confidence levels. The reference for Kazakhstan's reserves did not provide data for A reserves. C2 reserves were excluded here.