

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SILICON IN OCTOBER 2007

Preliminary data for October 2007 indicate that domestic production and net shipments of silicon ferroalloys, on a gross-weight basis, decreased by 4% and increased by 7%, respectively, compared with those in September 2007, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending stocks decreased by 5% compared with those at the end of September. Stocks included

adjustments in inventory and in-plant consumption of ferrosilicon to produce magnesium ferrosilicon and other miscellaneous alloys. Production-related statistics for silicon metal were concealed to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

U.S. trade data for September 2007 are published in this issue.

Prices, cents per pound, silicon content

	<u>50% Ferrosilicon¹</u>	<u>75% Ferrosilicon²</u>	<u>Silicon Metal²</u>
October 4	76.00-78.00	65.00-67.00	125.00-135.00
October 11	76.00-78.00	65.00-67.00	125.00-135.00
October 18	76.00-78.00	65.00-67.00	135.00-140.00
October 25	76.00-78.00	65.00-67.00	140.00-150.00

¹Source: Ryan's Notes, North American transaction price.

²Source: Platts Metals Week, dealer import price.

TABLE 1*
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND PRODUCER STOCKS OF SILICON ALLOYS AND METAL IN 2007^{1,2,3}

(Metric tons)

Material	Gross production ⁴		Net shipments		Stocks,
	October	Year to date ⁵	October	Year to date ⁵	October 31
Ferrosilicon, all grades ^{6,7}	21,100	225,000	18,200	189,000	21,700
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.

⁵May include revised data.

⁶Ferrosilicon categories were aggregated to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

⁷Includes miscellaneous silicon alloys and other silicon products.

* Correction posted on September 29, 2008

TABLE 2*
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN SEPTEMBER 2007^{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:						
Canada	427	256	\$459,000	4,460	2,680	\$5,230,000
Colombia	--	--	--	53	36	77,000
Italy	--	--	--	16	10	30,200
Malaysia	--	--	--	34	26	51,500
Mexico	78	48	94,000	893	542	1,070,000
Spain	--	--	--	16	10	20,300
Thailand	--	--	--	16	10	16,100
United Kingdom	--	--	--	12	11	33,900
Total	505	305	553,000	5,500	3,320	6,530,000
Other ferrosilicon:						
Belgium	--	--	--	17	8	19,600
Canada	66	33	104,000	1,620	811	1,820,000
Colombia	--	--	--	63	29	89,900
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	18	9	48,200
Germany	--	--	--	11	2	10,400
Indonesia	--	--	--	16	8	23,800
Italy	17	9	30,200	50	27	90,700
Mexico	51	25	69,300	527	265	675,000
Peru	--	--	--	15	8	28,800
Spain	--	--	--	16	8	23,800
Other (7 countries)	--	--	--	30	15	50,600
Total	133	67	203,000	2,390	1,190	2,880,000
Total ferrosilicon	638	372	756,000	7,880	4,510	9,410,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2--Continued *
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN SEPTEMBER 2007^{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:						
China	187	XX	\$29,300,000	1,990	XX	\$224,000,000
Germany	162	XX	15,700,000	1,760	XX	131,000,000
Italy	5	XX	408,000	47	XX	6,130,000
Japan	828	XX	74,500,000	6,590	XX	588,000,000
Korea, Republic of	85	XX	7,220,000	893	XX	76,300,000
Malaysia	14	XX	2,800,000	110	XX	18,200,000
Norway	174	XX	19,800,000	2,500	XX	141,000,000
Taiwan	52	XX	5,320,000	679	XX	66,000,000
Ukraine	26	XX	2,090,000	147	XX	11,400,000
United Kingdom	10	XX	1,760,000	87	XX	12,500,000
Other (40 countries)	21	XX	1,990,000	249	XX	30,300,000
Total	1,570	1,570 ^c	161,000,000	15,000	15,000 ^c	1,310,000,000
99.00% - 99.99% silicon:						
Belgium	10	10	14,100	10	10	14,100
Brazil	--	--	--	678	672	1,720,000
China	2	2	3,090	1,010	1,010	2,980,000
Germany	--	--	--	36	36	51,000
Ireland	--	--	--	11	11	15,000
Japan	--	--	--	17	17	24,500
Mexico	--	--	--	14	14	22,900
Singapore	--	--	--	29	29	40,900
Switzerland	--	--	--	21	21	30,300
Taiwan	--	--	--	16	16	22,900
Other (9 countries)	(3)	(3)	2,960	34	34	56,800
Total	13	13	20,100	1,880	1,870	4,970,000
Other silicon:						
Canada	16	16	18,100	286	277	305,000
China	79	76	897,000	653	634	1,880,000
France	--	--	--	37	36	49,000
Germany	--	--	--	37	36	57,100
Hong Kong	--	--	--	42	41	55,500
Japan	150	145	197,000	958	927	4,220,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	649	630	858,000
Netherlands	26	25	307,000	662	642	2,970,000
Taiwan	2	2	17,400	89	86	664,000
United Kingdom	1	1	12,100	37	36	70,100
Other (16 countries)	15	14	57,900	154	150	408,000
Total	289	280	1,510,000	3,600	3,500	11,500,000
Total silicon metal	1,870	1,860	162,000,000	20,500	20,400	1,320,000,000

^cEstimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Presentation of monthly data is based on the year-to-date quantities (gross weight) of the top 10 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.

*Correction posted on September 29, 2008

TABLE 3*
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN SEPTEMBER 2007^{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, over 3% Ca:						
Brazil	--	--	--	152	92	\$200,000
Canada	55	32	\$25,800	68	41	36,800
China	88	67	86,700	3,810	2,810	3,420,000
France	90	56	137,000	947	592	1,480,000
Sweden	--	--	--	4	2	11,300
Total	233	154	249,000	4,980	3,540	5,150,000
55% - 80% silicon, Other:						
Brazil	365	285	373,000	4,050	3,070	3,980,000
Canada	1,300	959	1,600,000	10,200	7,560	12,500,000
China	25,000	18,800	24,300,000	110,000	80,900	95,900,000
France	142	97	284,000	1,550	1,080	2,980,000
Germany	69	49	344,000	360	268	1,780,000
Iceland	8	6	9,190	503	375	494,000
India	--	--	--	88	63	112,000
Norway	105	77	172,000	1,760	1,290	2,500,000
Russia	4,660	3,540	4,830,000	40,100	29,800	37,500,000
Venezuela	4,200	3,150	3,740,000	35,100	26,400	29,300,000
Other (4 countries)	4	3	5,980	157	109	591,000
Total	35,800	27,000	35,600,000	204,000	151,000	188,000,000
80%-90% silicon, Germany	--	--	--	34	25	184,000
More than 90% silicon, China	--	--	--	3,000	2,750	2,390,000
Magnesium Ferrosilicon:						
Argentina	38	8	60,700	1,120	473	2,080,000
Brazil	217	97	180,000	1,780	809	1,550,000
Canada	991	462	1,050,000	7,960	3,700	8,300,000
China	--	--	--	804	360	845,000
France	18	8	26,600	119	56	155,000
Germany	--	--	--	60	29	106,000
Japan	15	7	36,200	142	53	311,000
Netherlands	--	--	--	54	25	52,700
Norway	53	25	54,800	1,890	875	1,810,000
Russia	--	--	--	1,400	630	672,000
Other (2 countries)	--	--	--	71	40	96,200
Total	1,330	606	1,410,000	15,400	7,050	16,000,000
Other Ferrosilicon:						
Canada	550	138	517,000	5,660	1,370	5,200,000
China	8,850	1,220	2,760,000	21,000	2,760	6,090,000
France	2	1	8,550	92	43	92,700
Russia	--	--	--	241	117	208,000
Total	9,410	1,360	3,290,000	27,000	4,290	11,600,000
Total ferrosilicon	46,800	29,100	40,600,000	254,000	169,000	223,000,000

See footnotes at end of table

TABLE 3--Continued*
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN SEPTEMBER 2007^{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	--	XX	--	28	XX	\$741,000
China	7	XX	\$619,000	68	XX	4,680,000
Germany	125	XX	15,700,000	953	XX	101,000,000
Italy	13	XX	1,100,000	208	XX	18,500,000
Japan	53	XX	5,940,000	399	XX	54,000,000
Korea, Republic of	3	XX	943,000	32	XX	7,150,000
Poland	6	XX	263,000	13	XX	590,000
Taiwan	-3	XX	45,100	20	XX	1,520,000
Turkey	--	XX	--	13	XX	28,900
Ukraine	1	XX	266,000	5	XX	846,000
Other (14 countries)	1	XX	114,000	20	XX	2,430,000
Total	209	209 ^c	25,000,000	1,760	1,760 ^c	191,000,000
99.00% - 99.99% silicon:						
Australia	1,110	1,100	1,920,000	11,300	11,200	19,500,000
Brazil	3,230	3,210	5,950,000	34,100	33,800	59,000,000
Canada	2,340	2,320	4,540,000	15,700	15,500	28,300,000
Japan	9	1	11700.00	9.00	1.00	11,700
Netherlands	--	--	--	312	310	567,000
Norway	888	882	2,430,000	5,850	5,790	15,500,000
Philippines	17	17	27,500	785	746	1,230,000
South Africa	2,850	2,820	5,220,000	30,400	30,100	51,600,000
Spain	350	348	704,000	1,050	1,040	2,120,000
United Kingdom	--	--	--	50	49	88,300
Other	--	--	--	5	3	18,300
Total	10,800	10,700	20,800,000	99,400	98,600	178,000,000
Other silicon:						
Brazil	--	--	--	1,620	1,580	2,990,000
Canada	718	705	1,320,000	4,320	4,220	7,670,000
China	--	--	--	17	14 ⁴	70,300
Japan	1	1	4,350	84	2	94,700
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	14	13	40,400
Norway	--	--	--	61	42	179,000
Philippines	--	--	--	323	316	491,000
South Africa	--	--	--	40	39	77,600
Sweden	--	--	--	216	62 ⁴	395,000
United Kingdom	20	19	35,900	326	320	576,000
Other (4 countries)	-3	-3	2,000	1	1	89,500
Total	739	725	1,360,000	7,020	6,620	12,700,000
Total silicon metal	11,700	11,600	47,200,000	108,000	107,000	382,000,000

^cEstimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Countries listed are the 10 leading importers 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.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

*Correction posted on September 29, 2008