

# Scrap Recycling Industry Facts

The U.S.-based scrap recycling industry is a sophisticated, capital-intensive industry and the first link in the manufacturing supply chain. The industry processes more than 150 million tons of recyclable material each year into raw material feedstock for industrial manufacturing around the world. For more than 200 years, scrap recycling has been, and continues to be, integral to the U.S. economy, global trade and resource sustainability. [www.isri.org](http://www.isri.org)

| U.S. Economy   | Global Trade   | Environment   |
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| <p><b>\$86 billion industry in 2008.</b></p> <p><b>85,000 employees.</b></p>  <p><b>150 million metric tons of scrap materials recycled annually including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 85 million tons of Iron and Steel</li> <li>● 47 million tons of Paper</li> <li>● 5.5 million tons of Aluminum</li> <li>● 1.8 million tons of Copper</li> <li>● 2 million tons of Stainless Steel</li> <li>● 1.2 million tons of Lead</li> <li>● 420,000 tons of Zinc</li> <li>● 633,215 tons of Plastic (bottles) (2007 figures)</li> <li>● 1.8 million tons of Electronics</li> <li>● 100 million Tires (2005 figures)</li> </ul> <p><b>Specification-grade scrap is a raw material feedstock for U.S. manufacturing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 out of 3 pounds of steel made in the U.S. is manufactured using ferrous scrap.</li> <li>● 60% of the metals and alloys produced in the U.S. are made from nonferrous scrap</li> <li>● More than 50% of the U.S. paper industry's needs are met through the use of scrap paper with nearly 200 U.S. paper mills using only recycled paper</li> <li>● 33% of U.S. aluminum supply comes from recycled materials.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recent independent research shows there is enough material to meet domestic manufacturers' demand for recycled materials for the foreseeable future.</b></p> | <p>Scrap has been an important export commodity from the US for more than a century.</p> <p>In 2008 —</p> <p><b>\$28.6 billion worth of scrap commodities exported, helping U.S. trade balances.</b></p> <p><b>44 million metric tons of scrap exported including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 18,255,326 Paper</li> <li>● 20,542,632 Iron &amp; Steel</li> <li>● 1,981,644 Aluminum</li> <li>● 1,040,489 Nickel &amp; Stainless</li> <li>● 908,130 Copper</li> <li>● 472,766 Plastic (bottles only)</li> <li>● 174,795 Lead</li> <li>● 90,992 Zinc</li> <li>● 97,767 Rubber</li> </ul> <p><b>Scrap exported to 153 countries. Leading export destinations by value include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● China: \$7.4 billion</li> <li>● Canada: \$4 billion</li> <li>● Turkey: \$2 billion</li> <li>● South Korea: \$2 billion</li> <li>● United Kingdom: \$1.9 billion</li> <li>● Switzerland: \$1.7 billion</li> <li>● Taiwan: \$1.6 billion</li> <li>● Japan: \$1 billion</li> <li>● Germany: \$1 billion</li> <li>● Mexico: \$0.9 billion</li> </ul>  | <p>Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by requiring significantly less energy to manufacture products from recyclables than virgin ore and by avoiding landfilling.</p> <p><b>Energy saved using recycled materials vs. virgin ore is up to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 92% for aluminum</li> <li>● 90% for copper</li> <li>● 87% for plastic</li> <li>● 68% for paper</li> <li>● 56% for steel</li> <li>● 34% Glass</li> </ul>  <p><b>Conserves natural resources. Recycling one ton of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paper saves 17 trees, 79 gallons of oil, 7000 gallons of water, and 3.3 cubic yards of landfill.</li> <li>● Steel conserves 2500 lbs. of iron ore, 1400 lbs. of coal and 120 lbs. of limestone.</li> <li>● Aluminum conserves up to 8 tons bauxite ore and 14 megawatt hours of electricity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cleaner air and water from safely removing potentially hazardous materials and keeping them out of landfills.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mercury switches removed from older automobiles.</li> <li>● Lead recovered from computer monitors.</li> <li>● Various harmful chemicals safely recycled from electronics.</li> </ul> |