

The Scrap Recycling Industry: Economic Leaders and Job Creators

The U.S. based scrap recycling industry is a sophisticated, capital-intensive industry that has been creating “green jobs” in the United States for decades. As the first link in the manufacturing supply chain, scrap recycling has been integral to the U.S. economy, through job creation, resource sustainability, energy savings, and global trade for more than 200 years. After having contracted sharply in 2009 as a result of the global recession, the scrap recycling industry has rebounded to **\$117 billion in economic activity in 2017 and \$13.2 billion in tax revenue.** The scrap recycling industry has been at the forefront of job creation, **adding nearly 18,000 jobs to the economy** since the beginning of 2010. The industry is a positive solution in the U.S. manufacturing landscape and directly employs approximately 156,000 men and women based on environmentally sensitive and sustainable business practices.

Major Exporter – Helping the Balance of Trade

The U.S. scrap recycling industry provides the high value, environmentally friendly, and energy-saving raw materials that make America’s manufacturing industries more competitive in the global marketplace. The scrap industry also supplies the world’s rapidly growing demand for all manner of commodities ranging from iron and steel, to paper, nonferrous metals, plastics, electronics, rubber, and more. In 2017, commodity grade scrap products were exported 145 countries worldwide, generating nearly **\$18 billion in export sales** and significantly helping the U.S. balance of trade.

IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT RECYCLING

\$117 billion industry that is helping lead the way in the 21st century global economy.

Recent independent research shows there is enough domestic material to meet U.S. manufacturers’ demand for recycled materials for the foreseeable future.

130 million metric tons of scrap materials processed annually, including:

- **110 million tires** (2016)
- **66 million metric tons** of iron and steel
- **46.1 million metric tons** of paper
- **5.3 million metric tons** of aluminum
- **5 million tons** of electronics
- **2.5 million metric tons** of post-consumer plastic (2016)
- **1.1 million metric tons** of lead
- **1.9 million metric tons** of copper
- **67 thousand metric tons** of zinc

\$18 billion worth of scrap commodities exported in 2017 to 145 countries.

Leading export destinations include:

- China
- Canada
- Turkey
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Mexico
- India
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Italy

These exports, totaling nearly **38 million metric tons**, consist of iron and steel, aluminum, nickel and stainless, copper, paper, plastics, lead, zinc, rubber, and electronics.

Sources: Sources: ISRI, USITC, USGS, U.S. BLS ©

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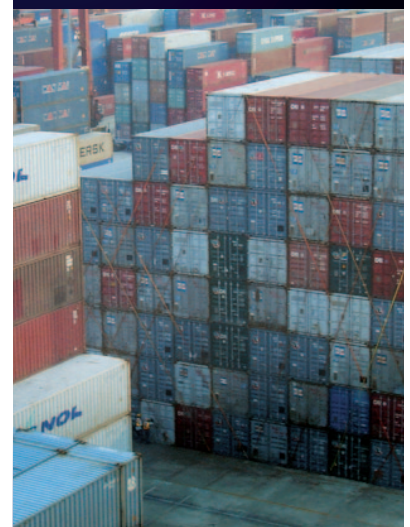


The scrap recycling industry has added **nearly 18,000 jobs to the U.S.** economy since the beginning of 2010 and employs 156,000 men and women nationwide.



Voice of the Recycling Industry

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