

## United States Scrap Trade with China

The U.S.-based scrap industry is a significant exporter of high quality scrap commodities to industrial consumers worldwide, shipping more than 37 million tons of scrap worth more than \$16.5 billion in 2016. Asia, and China in particular, is one



of the largest markets in the world for scrap commodities. In 2016, U.S. scrap exporters shipped more than \$5.6B of scrap commodities to China. With the steady growth in China's industrial economy, there has been ever increasing demand for scrap supplied from the United States as China has leapfrogged in many categories of industrial production. Plastic and paper scrap consumption has increased 50% and 70% respectively over the last decade.

### 2016 U.S. Scrap Exports to China

(metric tons/FAS \$)

Ferrous.....	784,664/\$519.1M
Aluminum.....	736,800/\$975.9M
Copper.....	684,189/\$1.4B
Nickel/Stainless.....	19,481/\$19.5M
Paper/Fiber.....	13.2M/\$1.91B
Plastics.....	1.43M/\$494.5M

## ISRI

As the Voice of the Recycling Industry™, ISRI represents approximately 1,300 member companies operating at nearly 4,000 locations in the United States and 34 countries worldwide. ISRI members process, broker, and consume the entire range of recycled commodities including ferrous and nonferrous metals, recovered paper and



fiber, tires and rubber, plastics, glass, electronics, and textiles. ISRI members range in size from small, family-owned firms to large multinational corporations.

ISRI's stated purpose includes: promoting the best interests of the recycling industry; fostering trade and commerce of its members; promoting free and fair trade; and aiding the industry by seeking to eliminate abusive and disruptive business practices and unfair competition.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, ISRI promotes public awareness of the vital role recycling plays in the economy, global trade, the environment, and sustainable development. ISRI members benefit from a wide array of services including: safety and compliance training; networking and education; market research and reporting; industry-specific publications; and industry representation.

## Scrap Specifications

ISRI's scrap specifications are internationally-recognized guidelines used by buyers and sellers of recycled materials and products. ISRI specifications are intended to assist the trading of scrap commodities and are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the expanding range of commercially recyclable materials. Recently approved additions and changes have covered automotive bumper covers, the varieties of plastic films, lead-free and leaded brass solids and turnings, and electronics scrap plastics. The specifications are published in the ISRI Scrap Specifications Circular.



For more information, including rules governing the procedures for the addition, amendment, or withdrawal of specifications, and a specification development flowchart, please visit [www.isri.org/specs](http://www.isri.org/specs)

## Recycling Industry Operating Standard (RIOS™)

The Recycling Industry Operating Standard™ (RIOS™) is an integrated Quality, Environmental, Health and Safety Management System Certification that is designed for recyclers, by recyclers. With RIOS™, recyclers are able to obtain certification without having to fit their system into a program designed for manufacturers. Furthermore, RIOS™ can be adopted in any country in the world. RIOS™ is truly the global standard for recycling. RIOS:2016, an updated version, launched November of 2016 and is an updated version of the 2006 Standard.

## Education and Training

ISRI leads the industry in the production and distribution of training materials designed to improve the safety and operations of the scrap industry. Through workshops and training sessions at programs like the ISRI Safety and Environmental Council (ISEC) annual conference, the Commodities Roundtable Forum (with individual programs devoted to Ferrous, Aluminum, Copper, and Nickel/Stainless), and at ISRI's Annual Convention, scrap industry employees can network and learn about equipment and procedures that can improve their business. ISRI puts a special emphasis on safety training providing the industry's largest collection of print and video aids to assist in training workers to emphasize safety in their operations, offering on-site outreach services, and hosting regular meetings of industry safety professionals to share information on effective safety techniques.



## Exhibits and Networking Opportunities

Throughout the year, ISRI's national office and its chapters host networking events to provide valuable opportunities to make friends, exchange valuable information, create new business relationships, and to promote business opportunities. ISRI's Annual Convention and Exposition has become one of the most important industry meetings in the world attracting thousands of attendees from over fifty countries every year. ISRI's Exposition Hall encompasses the largest scrap recycling industry-specific trade show in the world. ISRI's 2017 Convention and Exposition will be held April 22-27 in New Orleans, LA. Information on the convention, including registration materials, can be found at [www.isriconvention.org](http://www.isriconvention.org)



## The Scrap Recycling Industry in the United States

The scrap recycling industry is a \$105 billion industry in the US that produces industrial specification-grade scrap products. Over 130 million tons of recyclable materials are recycled each year in the United States alone – destined for both domestic and overseas markets. This figure includes

- 67 million tons of iron and steel
- 5 million tons of aluminum
- 1.8 million tons of copper
- 540,000 tons of nickel/stainless steel
- 1.2 million tons of lead
- 120,000 tons of zinc
- 47 million tons of paper and fiber
- 7.7 million tons of post-industrial and post-consumer plastics
- 122 million automobile tires