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Global Metal Waste and Recycling Supply, Demand and Key Producers, 2026-2032

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Abstracts

The global Metal Waste and Recycling market size is expected to reach $ 483144 million by 2032, rising at a market growth of 5.4% CAGR during the forecast period (2026-2032).
The metal waste and recycling market is the part of the economy that collects, trades, sorts, processes, and remelts metal waste (?scrap?) so it can be used again as raw material. In daily business, people often use ?metal scrap? and ?metal waste? together, but the market usually separates two main sources. The first is new (prompt) scrap, which comes from manufacturing and fabrication (off-cuts, stamping scrap, machining chips). The second is old (obsolete) scrap, which comes from end-of-life products and structures (cars, appliances, buildings, ships, machinery, cables, packaging, and electronic products). Both sources need a chain of services?collection, sorting, cleaning, size reduction, and quality testing?before they become a feedstock that a steel mill, foundry, or non-ferrous smelter can use.
From an industry-chain view, the market starts with generation of scrap and ends when recycled metal replaces primary metal made from mined ore. For steel, this is closely linked to how steel is produced. Global steelmaking uses both ore-based routes (blast furnace/basic oxygen furnace) and scrap-based routes (electric arc furnace, EAF). World Steel Association material factsheets show that EAF production is about 30% of global crude steel, and that steelmaking uses large volumes of scrap as an input. World Steel also emphasizes that steel is very easy to separate and recycle, and that every steel plant uses scrap as part of its raw-material mix. This is why the ferrous (iron and steel) scrap business is often the ?base load? of metal recycling in many countries.
For non-ferrous metals, the market is more fragmented but often higher value per ton. Aluminium recycling is a clear example of why recycling matters: the International Aluminium Institute (IAI) reports that recycled aluminium requires far less energy than primary aluminium, and it quantifies the energy gap as roughly a 95% energy saving

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compared with primary production. Copper, nickel, and other non-ferrous metals also have strong recycling economics because the metals are valuable and can often be recovered at high purity; the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) notes that copper byproducts and obsolete copper products are readily recycled and contribute significantly to supply. In practice, this means the metal waste and recycling market is not only a ?waste? business; it is also a secondary raw-material supply industry that competes with mining, smelting, and refining.

The market also includes specialized streams with fast growth and higher technical barriers. E-waste (discarded electronics) and end-of-life batteries are important because they contain metals that are critical for modern technology (copper, aluminium, nickel, cobalt, lithium, rare metals). These streams require more complex separation and chemical processing than ordinary scrap. Regulation is increasingly shaping these flows. For example, the U.S. EPA explains that from January 1, 2025, international shipments of hazardous and non-hazardous e-waste and scrap are subject to Basel Convention controls, including prior informed consent procedures. This kind of rule changes how material moves across borders and pushes more investment into compliant collection and processing systems.

In 2025, global Metal Waste and Recycling production reached approximately 745840 K MT, with an average global market price of around US$ 452 per MT. The global single-line production capacity ranges from 100 to 150 K MT per year. The industry's gross profit margin is approximately 25%-30%.

Several market trends are now changing the industry?s direction. One major trend is that metal recycling is moving from ?good practice? to a core tool for decarbonization and energy efficiency. Steel and aluminium are both energy-intensive when made from ore, so using scrap is one of the quickest ways to reduce energy use and emissions in many value chains. World Steel?s data highlights how scrap is already deeply embedded in steelmaking, while policy discussions in many regions increasingly treat scrap as a strategic input for low-carbon steel. The OECD?s work on the scrap steel market says that in net-zero pathways, the share of scrap input needs to rise materially, with projections that scrap use may need to reach around 45?50% of steel production by 2050, even though scrap availability differs a lot by region. This creates a new reality: the industry is no longer only chasing volume; it is also managing scrap availability, scrap quality, and regional imbalances.

A second trend is a rising focus on scrap quality and sorting, not just scrap quantity. As steel mills and aluminium smelters target lower-carbon and higher-performance products, they need tighter chemistry control. Mixed scrap can bring unwanted elements (for example copper ?tramp? in certain steels, or contamination in aluminium alloys). This is pushing investment into better sorting: sensor-based sorting, improved shredding and separation, better sampling and analysis, and more standardized scrap

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specifications. The same logic applies to battery and electronics recycling, where recovery is not just ?metal content,? but also purity, recovery rates, and traceability to meet new rules.
A third trend is that policy is reshaping trade in scrap metals. Historically, scrap is widely traded because some regions have more end-of-life material and collection capacity, while other regions have more melt capacity. The OECD notes that international trade plays an essential role in meeting scrap demand, but also flags that export restrictions are significant in some major scrap-supplying economies. The European Commission?s waste-shipment updates describe a coming system where the EU will set a list of non-OECD countries authorized to receive EU waste, and exports to non-OECD countries not on that list will be prohibited from May 21, 2027. This kind of framework can tighten regional scrap markets, change price spreads, and encourage more domestic processing investment inside the EU.
A fourth trend is rapid growth in battery-metal recycling driven by EV expansion and raw-material security. Europe?s battery rules are a clear signal. The European Commission highlights new targets for waste battery recycling, including material recovery targets by the end of 2027 (for example 90% for cobalt, copper, lead, and nickel, and 50% for lithium), rising further by the end of 2031. These targets push recyclers to improve processes (often hydrometallurgy), push producers to design batteries with recycling in mind, and push the market toward contracts that value reliable recovery rather than simple collection.
The major players in global metal waste and recycling market include Arcelormittal, SIMS Metal Management, European Metal Recycling Limited, Chiho Environmental Group, OmniSource, etc. The top five players occupy over 8% shares of the global market.
This report studies the global Metal Waste and Recycling production, demand, key manufacturers, and key regions.
This report is a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the world market for Metal Waste and Recycling and provides market size (US$ million) and Year-over-Year (YoY) Growth, considering 2025 as the base year. This report explores demand trends and competition, as well as details the characteristics of Metal Waste and Recycling that contribute to its increasing demand across many markets.

Highlights and key features of the study

Global Metal Waste and Recycling total production and demand, 2021-2032, (K MT)
Global Metal Waste and Recycling total production value, 2021-2032, (USD Million)
Global Metal Waste and Recycling production by region & country, production, value, CAGR, 2021-2032, (USD Million) & (K MT), (based on production site)
Global Metal Waste and Recycling consumption by region & country, CAGR, 2021-2032 & (K MT)

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U.S. VS China: Metal Waste and Recycling domestic production, consumption, key domestic manufacturers and share
Global Metal Waste and Recycling production by manufacturer, production, price, value and market share 2021-2026, (USD Million) & (K MT)
Global Metal Waste and Recycling production by Type, production, value, CAGR, 2021-2032, (USD Million) & (K MT)
Global Metal Waste and Recycling production by Application, production, value, CAGR, 2021-2032, (USD Million) & (K MT)
This report profiles key players in the global Metal Waste and Recycling market based on the following parameters - company overview, production, value, price, gross margin, product portfolio, geographical presence, and key developments. Key companies covered as a part of this study include Arcelormittal, David J. Joseph Co (Nucor), Commercial Metals Company, SIMS Metal Management, Aurubis, European Metal Recycling, DOWA, Chiho Environmental Group, OmniSource, Hindalco, etc.
This report also provides key insights about market drivers, restraints, opportunities, new product launches or approvals.
Stakeholders would have ease in decision-making through various strategy matrices used in analyzing the World Metal Waste and Recycling market
Detailed Segmentation:
Each section contains quantitative market data including market by value (US$ Millions), volume (production, consumption) & (K MT) and average price (USD/MT) by manufacturer, by Type, and by Application. Data is given for the years 2021-2032 by year with 2025 as the base year, 2026 as the estimate year, and 2027-2032 as the forecast year.
Global Metal Waste and Recycling Market, By Region:

United States

China

Europe

Japan

South Korea

ASEAN

India

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Rest of World

Global Metal Waste and Recycling Market, Segmentation by Type:

Ferrous Metal

Non-ferrous Metal

Precious Metal

Global Metal Waste and Recycling Market, Segmentation by Source of Scrap Generation:

Prompt (New) Scrap

Obsolete (Old) Scrap

Industrial Maintenance Scrap

Global Metal Waste and Recycling Market, Segmentation by Collection Channel:

Municipal Collection

Commercial & Industrial Contracts

Auto Dismantlers / Scrapyards

Demolition Contractors

E-waste Collectors

Others

Global Metal Waste and Recycling Market, Segmentation by Processing Stage:

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Unprocessed / Raw Scrap

Sorted & Graded Scrap

Size-reduced

Upgraded Concentrate

Secondary Materials

Global Metal Waste and Recycling Market, Segmentation by Application:

Building & Construction

Automotive

Equipment Manufacturing

Shipbuilding

Consumer Appliances

Battery

Packaging

Others

Companies Profiled:

Arcelormittal

David J. Joseph Co (Nucor)

Commercial Metals Company

SIMS Metal Management

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Aurubis

European Metal Recycling

DOWA

Chiho Environmental Group

OmniSource

Hindalco

Hanwa

Johnson Matthey

Umicore

Tanaka

Heraeus

Key Questions Answered:

1. How big is the global Metal Waste and Recycling market?
2. What is the demand of the global Metal Waste and Recycling market?
3. What is the year over year growth of the global Metal Waste and Recycling market?
4. What is the production and production value of the global Metal Waste and Recycling market?
5. Who are the key producers in the global Metal Waste and Recycling market?
6. What are the growth factors driving the market demand?

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