

The Scrap Recycling Industry: **Economic Leaders and Job Creators**

Generating \$71 billion in sales annually, the scrap recycling industry is actually larger than the GDP of **over 100 countries around the globe**.

Here at home, scrap recycling **employs over 85,000 employees in the U.S.** and has been creating **“green jobs”** for decades. At a time when the U.S. economy is struggling, **scrap recycling is creating secure, meaningful work for our nation’s workforce**. The scrap recycling industry is a positive solution in the U.S. manufacturing landscape, providing new jobs based on environmentally sensitive and sustainable business practices.

Major Exporter – Helping the Balance of Trade

The growing supply of new specification grade commodities through recycling makes America’s manufacturing industries **more competitive in the global marketplace**, and helps our country’s trade balance by **annually exporting over \$22 billion of recyclable materials to 152 countries**. These commodities range from iron and steel to paper, aluminum, copper, stainless steel, lead, zinc, plastics, and rubber.



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Institute of
Scrap Recycling
Industries, Inc.

Voice of the Recycling Industry

IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT RECYCLING

\$71 billion industry that is leading the way in the 21st century global economy.

Recent independent research shows there is enough material to meet domestic manufacturers’ demand for recycled materials for the foreseeable future. Scrap accounts for 40% of the world’s raw material needs.

150 million metric tons of scrap materials recycled annually, including:

- 81.6 million tons of iron and steel
- 49 million tons of paper
- 5 million tons of aluminum
- 1.8 million tons of copper
- 2 million tons of stainless steel
- 1.3 million tons of lead
- 420 thousand tons of zinc
- 576 thousand tons of plastic
- 1.8 million tons of electronics
- 93 million tires

\$21.7 billion worth of scrap commodities exported in 2007 to 152 countries.

Leading export destinations include:

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

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

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