



# Scrap Metal Market Report

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Green Scrap for Green Steel!



## Consolidating Scrap Price Increases During April

Scrap Metal Market Report – April 2026

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### General Developments

The Iran war caused prices in Germany to surge during March. The oil price shock and the associated increased energy prices catapulted the inflation rate to 2.7%, the highest level since January 2024. Prices for household energy and fuels were 7.2% higher during March compared to the same month last year. Gas and electricity prices for industrial customers have also significantly increased recently, albeit they remained below the high levels of the previous year. Shortly after Easter a small glimmer of hope emerged, with the announced ceasefire between the USA and Iran, that rapidly rising energy costs would not spill over to other prices to the same degree. However, economists have warned that in the event of a long drawn out war, the energy price shock could widely impact the general economy.

The number of insolvencies for individuals and corporations rose to 1,716 during March cases, a 17% increase compared to the previous month and a 18% increase compared to March 2025. The number of affected employees of the largest 10% of insolvent companies fell by 40% to a total of 14,000, compared to the previous month. The sharp increase in insolvencies can therefore be attributed to smaller medium-sized companies.

### Scrap Market

During April, the domestic market gained strength over the course of the month. The stable and firm export market provided a certain degree of stability for the domestic market. Turkish buyers had been increasingly postponing purchases in the previous month, hoping for a calming energy market with lower freight prices. However, this scenario did not materialise, thus at the beginning of April, the international market gained momentum and numerous scrap purchases were reported.

The German scrap market continues to be characterised by a shortage of scrap and sales quantities in the previous month were made without the guarantee of material supplies. Scrap prices consolidated in a month-on-month comparison. Price reductions during March led to price increases during April, which ranged from unchanged to price increases of up €10 per tonne, with the predominant range being at the upper end of the scale.

Some consumers reported an increasingly inventory-oriented purchasing policy. Many uncertainties, not least the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and the associated rapidly rising energy and freight costs, are leading to a risk-minimisation approach part of which is a strictly managed inventory policy.

### Regional Developments

During April, scrap consumers in the **north** purchased scrap at slightly increased conditions; scrap prices rose on average by €5 - 10 per tonne. One consumer increased industrial scrap by €5 per tonne and obsolete scrap by €10 per tonne, as the latter showed lower availability. In the **east**, one steel mill entered the market very early in the month and offered unchanged scrap prices compared to the previous month. Other mills that concluded their purchasing activity at later dates offered price increases of €5 - 10 per tonne. In the **west**, one consumer purchased scrap at unchanged price levels. A blast furnace delivery is scheduled for mid-May, so demand is expected to halve up until August. Another consumer purchased with higher price increases of €5 - 10 per tonne. In the **southwest**, buyers made slight price adjustments of €5 per tonne; in some cases, there were also increases that went beyond this level. Along the **Saar**

river, demand quantities were lower and scrap prices rose by €5 - 10 per tonne. In the **south**, price increases were slightly less, at €5 per tonne.

## Neighbouring Foreign Markets

Scrap prices in **France** and in neighbouring **Luxembourg** rose by €5 - 10 per tonne. Since the beginning of the year, scrap demand in Luxembourg has recovered somewhat due to a plant being equipped with a new electric furnace, however demand remained below the expected volumes. In **Austria**, scrap prices remained unchanged across all scrap grades. In **Switzerland**, price increases were €10 per tonne. **Italian** consumers showed a decent level of purchasing interest for scrap. During negotiations, Italian consumers announced that they would have strong demand until July, before the planned summer shutdowns. Over the course of the month, buyers continually corrected scrap prices upwards, increasing them by up to €10 per tonne. Generally, price increases of €5 - 10 per tonne occurred. **Polish** consumers concluded the current month with unchanged prices, with slight price adjustments of +€5 per tonne, depending on the initial price level. The market showed stronger Pakistani demand for shredder scrap. Numerous offers for container shredder scrap were available. On the **Czech** market, scrap prices ranged from -€8 to a sideways movement compared to the previous month. One steel mill has strong demand.

## Global Scrap Market

At the beginning of the month, Turkish steel mills did place bids for scrap on the international deep-sea market, but most sellers pointed towards the upcoming holiday period, hoping to achieve higher prices at a later date. Composite prices to European export ports increased by €10 to €285 - 290 per tonne, free delivery export yard. Prices also continued to rise on the Indian import scrap market; indicative prices for European HMS 1/2 (80:20) scrap stood at US-\$390 per tonne CFR India, an increase of US-\$5 - 10 per tonne since mid-March, whilst turnings were purchased at US-\$340 - 345 per tonne per free loaded container, CFR India.

In the first week of April, Turkish steel mills triggered a real buying spree. Up to this point, Turkish importers had previously purchased approximately 35 deep-sea freight loads, at least seven thereof for scheduled for May delivery; However, the actual number of freight loads purchased is likely to be much higher. On the US domestic market, one steel mill in the southeast of the USA entered the scrap market with unchanged prices for mixed industrial scrap and reduced offered prices of US-\$20 per tonne for obsolete scrap, such as P&S, HMS 1 and turnings, compared to last month. This generally corresponded to the expectation of a weaker domestic market.

Higher port prices and a stronger Euro, which rose from US-\$1.15 to US-\$1.17, led to an increase in the breakeven point for European exporters, which was just about US-\$400 per tonne CFR Turkey for HMS 1/2 (80:20). Scrap exporters did not reduce their offers as freight rates remained constant. Following the agreed ceasefire in the Middle East, some participants speculated that the oil price could sustainably decrease and freight costs would be reduced. Nevertheless, shipowners waited for clarity regarding security measures and insurance coverage for shipping through the strait of Hormuz. Argus determined freight rates for Supramax vessels on the ARA-Turkey routes at US-\$29.50 - 32.50 per tonne, and the range from the US east coast to Turkey at US-\$42 - 45 per tonne.

Generally, US scrap exporters continued to pursue firm prices for HMS 1/2 (80:20) deliveries, which were up to US-\$410 per tonne CFR Turkey. European sellers quoted at least US-\$400 per tonne CFR Turkey. Turkish consumers increasingly used domestic scrap and increasingly focused on coastal vessels. Some Bulgarian and Romanian HMS 1/2 (80:20) sales were at US-\$380 - 382 per tonne CFR Turkey.

The Russian Association of Electrometallurgical Enterprises (AEMP) proposed a complete export ban on scrap from Russia. The association cited the danger of a medium-term shortage and the global trend towards stronger protectionist measures as reasons. The scrap processing association RUSLOM.COM countered this, stating that scrap consumption decreased by 28% in the first quarter of 2026 and could only reach 11.8 million tonnes by the end of the year.

## Foundry Market

The market situation in the foundry sector remains unchanged and dramatic. Some foundries are reporting that lead times, usually around 6 months, are currently only around two weeks. One foundry reported plummeting figures from the automotive sector but managed to gain a customer supplying the defence sector. The foundry market showed generally unchanged scrap prices during April, compared to the previous month.

## Outlook

Current price increases in energy costs, especially for fuels, have spiralled out of control. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are structurally more affected as they have limited options to hedge against price fluctuations and often cannot pass on cost increases in their entirety to customers. It is imperative to reduce energy and electricity taxes to the EU minimum. It must be ensured that state levies do not further exacerbate the current cost crisis. Furthermore, a basic level of trust in planning security is of fundamental importance for hedging future investment decisions. The cost crisis is not a naturally occurring event and in the most part can be significantly influenced by political policy, according to a joint statement by the bvse (German Federal Association for Secondary Raw Materials and Waste Management) together with BVMW (The German Association for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses). **The German federal government is called upon to act decisively now to secure the economic substance of SMEs!**