

MATERIALS

What is the WRAP MPR?

The Materials Pricing Report (MPR) was introduced by WRAP in mid-2004 to improve the transparency of the markets for recyclable materials, and help recycling market participants such as councils, waste management companies, social economy businesses and reprocessors to achieve the best value for their materials in recycling markets.

The MPR offers a credible, independent and authoritative source of pricing information for recyclable materials. It contains pricing information based on actual transaction data and market commentary which includes market intelligence on the key factors and trends driving the market.

Ferrous metals are composed of iron and have magnetic properties, with heavy melting steel being the most recycled ferrous metal worldwide. Other types/grades are: old car bodies, cast iron, pressing steel, reinforcing bars, steel turnings, manganese steel and rails.

Most of these items are found as scrap from industrial processes and end-of-life products, including containers, appliances, cars, industrial machines and discarded materials from construction sites.

The recycling of scrap metal is an important part of the steel making industry as it reduces the economic and environmental costs of extracting ore for new materials. It makes more efficient use of natural resources and does not produce the same CO₂ emissions, energy or water used in ore extraction.

For the recycling process, sorting can be achieved with magnets. They are separated from other recyclables such as paper and plastics with the use of magnetic belts.

Contrary to other recyclable materials, the different kinds of steel do not need to be separated. They are put to shredders which incorporate rotating magnetic drums to extract the iron and steel from the mixture of metals and other materials.

They can be further separated from other materials via the use of electrical currents, high-pressure air flows and liquid floating systems.

Some steel cans have protective layers of tin which are removed and recycled separately. In other circumstances, and depending on the material, high-pressure hydraulic machines are used to cut the thick, heavy steel from railways and ships.

The end product of iron and steel is compacted into large blocks for transportation and handling.

Since October 2009, the WRAP Materials Pricing Report has recorded price data for grade OA Heavy, 4C, 7B and grade 10.

Grade OA heavy or heavy melting steel is a recovered grade whose density and size increase

furnace operation productivity.

Data for OA heavy, or heavy melting steel, were first recorded on the WRAP MPR database in 2009 at about £108 per tonne. Since then its price has fluctuated and it is currently trading at about £130 per tonne.

4C or compressed steel price was about £113 per tonne by the end of 2009 and it had moved to £145 per tonne at the beginning of this year.

7B or heavy carbon steel turnings prices started at about £73 per tonne in 2009 and moved up to £86 per tonne by the beginning of 2014.

Finally, grade 10 traded at about £98 per tonne in 2009 and had jumped up to £142 per tonne at the beginning of this year.

Generally, ferrous merchants have expressed business difficulties this year due to poor demand and oversupply in domestic mills which led to prices falling. But the beginning of September marked their first rise by £5-£10 per tonne as markets resumed trading after a slow August.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

HUNDREDS OF SUBSCRIBERS SHARE PRICES

Hundreds of subscribers, from merchants to processors to local authority staff, have signed up to the MPR.

Their details are kept on a database which MRW manages for WRAP. It indicates the individual's professional position, the materials they buy or sell and their contact details. Subscribers' names come up on a rotational basis and MRW researchers, on behalf of WRAP, call them in turn over a number of weeks.

Every week, researchers record the prices reported to them and these produce a range for the individual grades. A sample of the latest report is shown on the previous page, but the more detailed information, including graphs to show price movements over time, is sent ONLY to subscribers every week.

● Sign up by visiting: MRW.co.uk/WRAPprices



THE MPR CURRENTLY INCLUDES THESE GRADES

Paper (ex-works): News & PAMs (periodicals and magazines) OCC (old corrugated cardboard) Mixed paper and board Multigrade Over-issue news	(OIN) Best white no.2 Plastic (ex-works): Clear PET Coloured PET Mixed polymer Natural HDPE Mixed HDPE LDPE 98/2	Ferrous metals (ex-works): Grade OA Grade 4C Grade 7B Grade 10 Non-ferrous metals (ex-works): Copper dry bright wire	Aluminium pure cuttings Lead batteries 18/8 stainless steel solids Metal cans (ex-works) Aluminium cans Steel: steel can/tin Mixed: aluminium and steel cans	Glass: bottles/containers (delivered): Clear Amber Green Mixed Textiles (ex-works): Banks Charity shop	NOTE: Ex-works: direct from the supplier, excluding delivery costs, etc. Delivered: ex-works price including all charges up to the point of delivery, as specified either by a buyer or a seller.
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