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Used Rails Prices (May-October 2025)

The data and market information presented in this report have been extracted from publicly available listings, trade offers, and analytical materials published on the Global Trade Metal Portal and the British Scrap Metal Portal.

These platforms are international online marketplaces dedicated to metal, steel, and scrap trading, providing information support to buyers and sellers worldwide. The reported prices reflect observed market indications derived from supplier and buyer quotations and do not represent binding offers or concluded transactions.

This report covers market price trends for used rail scrap (mainly R50/R65 type) and HMS (80/20) for the period from May to September 2025. Price movements were influenced by regional demand fluctuations, especially strong interest from Asian markets. Variations in rail quality, lot size, and logistics arrangements contributed to differences in observed prices.

Price overview

Here is a summary of observed prices over six months across key countries in Europe, Asia, and North America, including the USA, Mexico, Thailand, Vietnam, the United Kingdom, Italy, and France.

Europe prices for used rails, June - September 2025

Country	Month	Price (USD)	Delivery terms
France	June	200	CIF
UK	August	300	not specified
Italy	August	180	not specified
Netherlands	September	270	not specified
Spain	September	123	CIF

Source: British Scrap Metal Portal, Global Trade Metal Portal

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Asia prices for used rails July - October 2025

Country	Month	Price (USD)	Delivery terms
Thailand	July	220 - 300	CIF
Vietnam	October	380	CFR
China	October	390	CFR
Taiwan	October	370	CFR
Korea	October	390	CFR

Source: Global Trade Metal Portal

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North America prices for used rails, June - September 2025

Country	Month	Price (USD)	Delivery terms
Mexico	June	350	CIF
USA	July	219	FOB
USA	September	317	not specified

Source: British Scrap Metal Portal

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Trends and dynamics of used rails prices

Demand from Asia is evident as China's September listing (around 406 USD per ton) indicates that Asian markets remain willing to pay a premium for used rails.

The impact of quality and specifications is illustrated by the Thailand offer at around USD 580 per ton, as reported by <https://trade-metal.com>. This price reflects a premium specification with over 80% iron content and shows that higher-quality rail scrap attracts significantly stronger bids.

Regional differences and logistics costs explain why the quoted prices in Europe and the USA are lower (around USD 180 to 290 per ton). This suggests excess local supply, weaker demand, or higher costs related to transportation, handling, and disposal.

Seasonality and availability

When major railway maintenance cycles lead to higher availability of used rails, increased supply may exert downward pressure on prices in certain regions. Conversely, when mills operate at high feeding levels, demand for scrap rails may rise and push bid levels upward.

Incoterm and unit basis differences

Some offers <https://trade-metal.com/used-rail-s8262.html> on Global Trade Metal Portal were quoted on a CIF/CFR basis into Asia, resulting in higher indicated prices, while others were listed as ex-works or FOB, which appear lower. In addition, certain quotes were provided per meter instead of per ton, making straightforward price comparison more difficult.

Volatility and spread

The wide price spread suggests that the used-rails market is not yet tightly indexed, as individual lots differ notably in terms of specification, condition, quantity, and delivery terms.

Price trend from May to September 2025



Used rails regional price spread, May - October 2025

Region	Average price (USD per ton)	Range
Europe	~238	180 – 300
Asia	~493	406 – 580
North America	~303	290 – 317

Source: British Scrap Metal Portal

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Key specification and quality factors


Prices for used rails are influenced not only by market conditions but also by the technical characteristics of the metal. Buyers pay close attention to condition, cleanliness, length, and consistency of lots, as these factors directly impact processing costs and acceptance risks.

Price depends on many factors:

Condition: Free from heavy rust, no significant attachments (fishplates, bolts), no war/munitions materials, max 5% rust/dirt in some spec sheets.

Length/cut: Some adverts specify rails cut to buyer's length (1–12 m), bundling requirement, inspection by SGS/third party.

These specification factors directly affect price: better chemistry, clean condition, longer cut length, consistent weight per meter all reduce buyer risk and processing cost and therefore command higher prices.

KEY FACTORS AFFECTING PRICE	
FACTOR	IMPACT
Specification (Fe content, chemistry)	Higher Fe → higher price
 Condition (rust, attachments)	Cleaner lots command premiums
Cut length & bundle quality	Longer, uniform lengths preferred
Incoterms (CIF vs FOB/ex-works)	CIF quotes naturally higher
 Regional logistics & demand	Strong Asian demand keeps floor higher
<small>Source: Global Trade Metal Portal</small>	<small>© Copyright Global Trade Metal Portal</small>

Risks and caution points

Offers in USD/ton may mix different incoterms which can obscure the actual cost differences in shipping, insurance, and port handling.

Some entries with very low prices (180 USD/ton France) may reflect lower specifications, damaged lots, heavier cut lengths, or local supply overshoot.

Quality/spec mismatches can lead to lot rejection and added costs. Buyers should always verify certificates and inspection records.

Logistics costs (especially for container vs bulk, unloading fees, local taxes) vary significantly by region and may compress margin.

Summary

For the next few months (late-2025 heading into 2026), expect that used rail prices will remain supported by Asian import demand. This is why CIF into Asia may stay in the ~370-430 USD/ton band (in case quality meets specifications).

In Europe and North America where supply may be looser and buyers less aggressive, expect prices in the 200-300 USD/ton band for standard R50/R65 grade used rails under FOB/ex-works terms.

Forecast

Moderate stability in prices overall with Asian markets keeping the upper band firm, while European/North American prices may see slight downward pressure if local supply increases or quality issues arise.