

**Asia scrap market**

# Japan's strengthening foothold

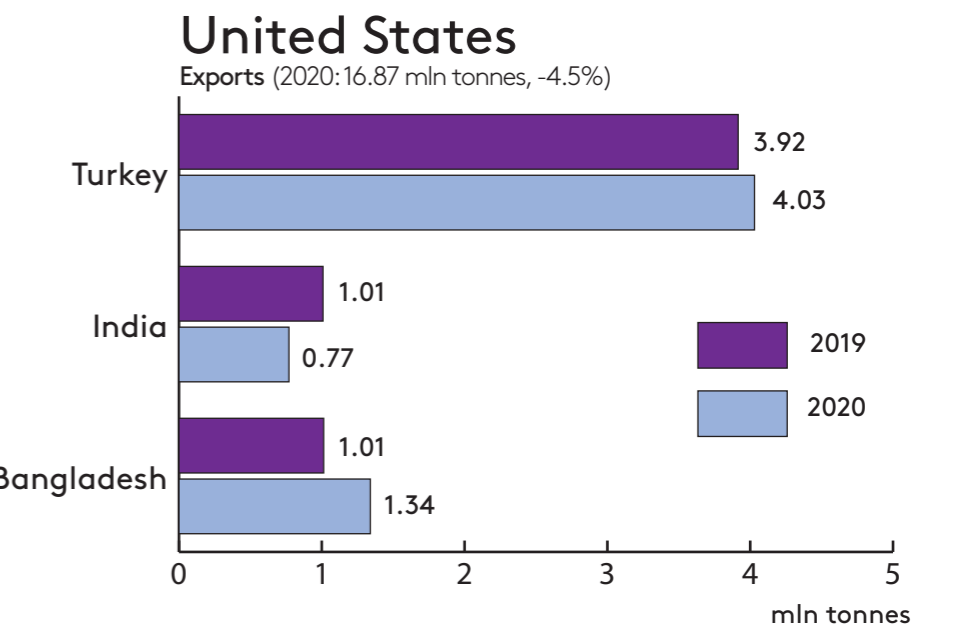
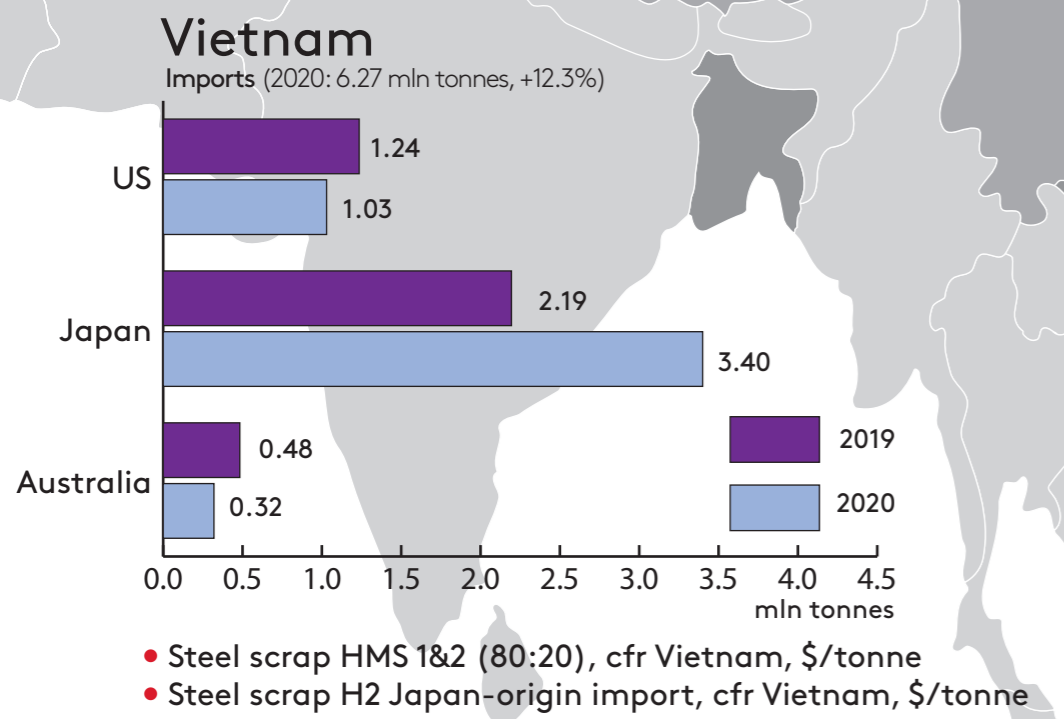
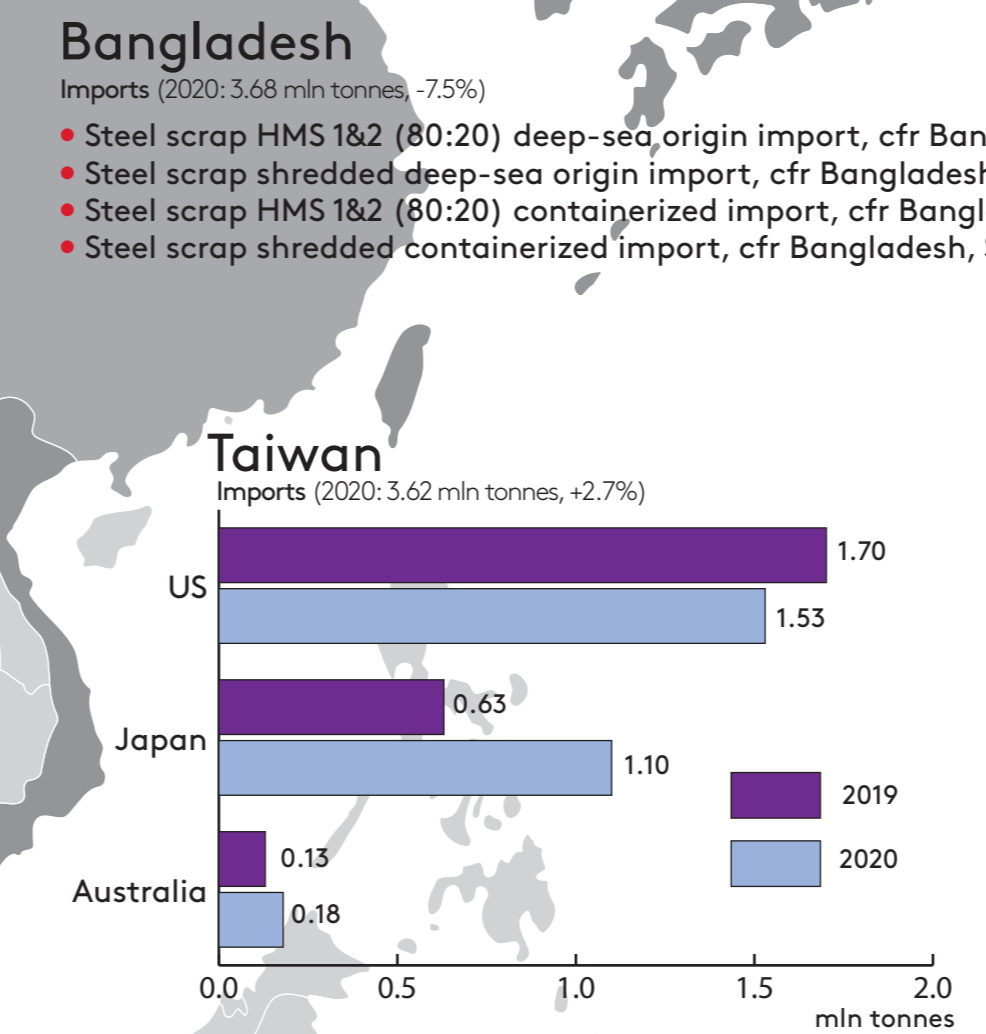
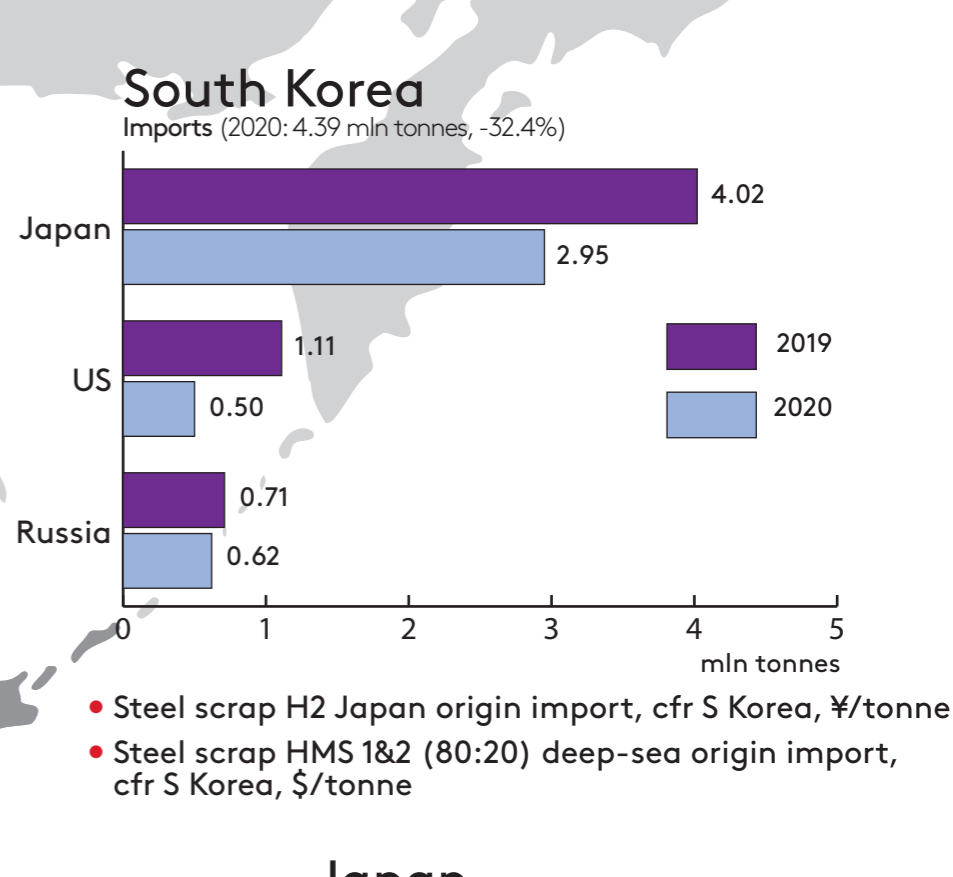
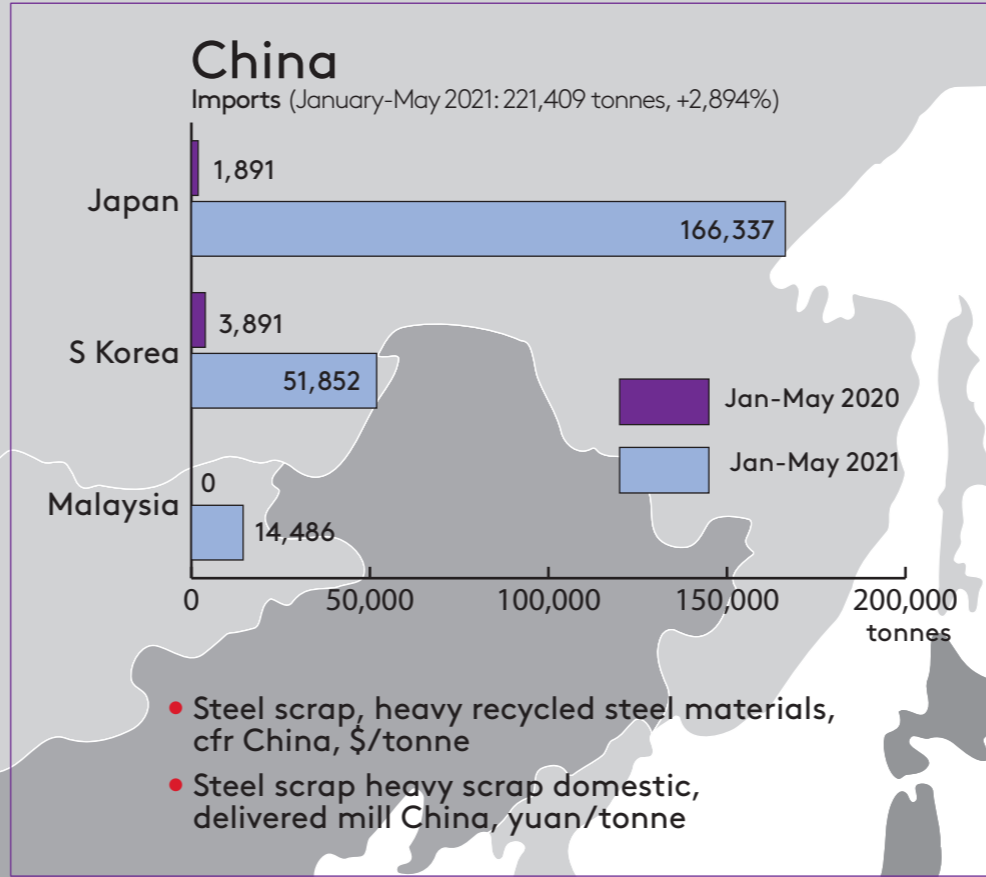
Japan remained a pivotal supplier of steel scrap to Asian markets in 2020, with both Taiwan and Vietnam reporting increases in the arrivals of such Japanese cargoes.

Vietnam imported 54.7% more Japanese scrap last year than in 2019 whereas volumes from its two other major suppliers - the United States and Australia - decreased.

Similarly, Taiwan's intake of Japanese scrap surged by 74.7% whereas imports from the US dropped by 9.9% year on year.

South Korea's demand for scrap imports fell amid steel production cuts driven by the Covid-19 pandemic. The country's US scrap imports fell by 55.2% last year, which kept Japan as its most important supplier despite a 26.6% drop in Japanese shipments.

In China, scrap imports surged in the first five months of 2021 after Chinese authorities allowed certain grades of the steelmaking raw material to be brought in at the start of the year, having imposed restrictions since July 2019. Japanese scrap accounted for most of these imports.



Sources: Korea International Trade Association, US Census Bureau, customs agencies of Bangladesh, China, Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam