

Global Steel Trade Monitor

Steel Exports Report: Belgium

June 2016

Background

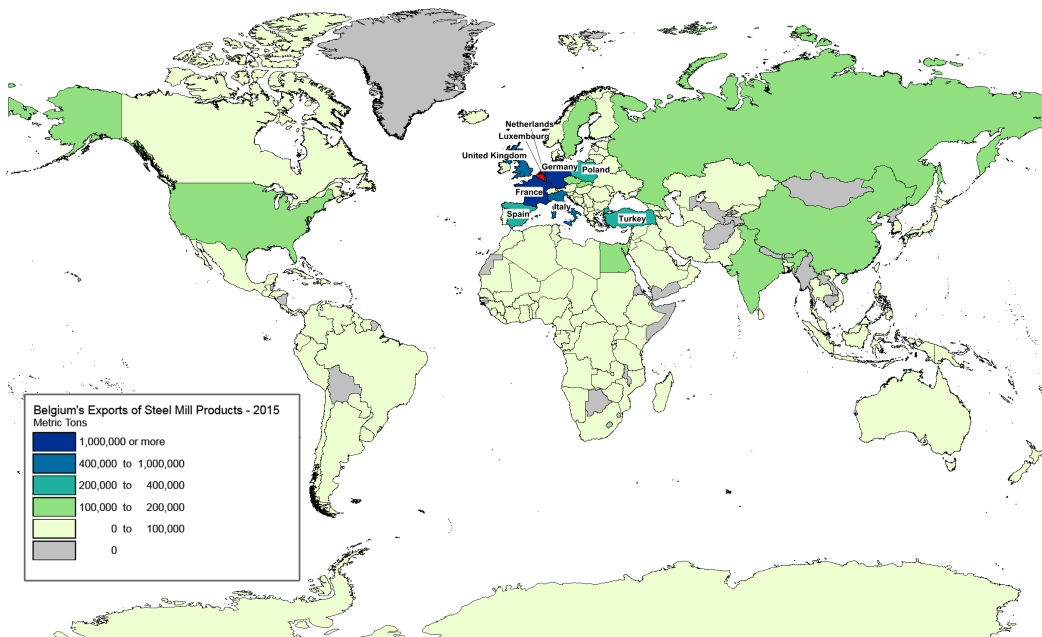
Belgium is the world's eighth-largest steel exporter. In 2015, Belgium exported 15.4 million metric tons of steel, a 7.1 percent increase from 14.4 million metric tons in 2014. Belgium's exports represented about 3.4 percent of all steel exported globally. The volume of Belgium's 2015 steel exports was almost equal to the world's seventh-largest exporter, Italy, and just under one-seventh of the volume shipped by the world's largest exporter, China. In value terms, steel represented just 3 percent of the total amount of goods Belgium exported in 2015.

Belgium exports steel to more than 190 countries and territories. The nine countries labeled in the map below represent Belgium's top steel markets, receiving more than 200 thousand metric tons each and accounting for 85 percent of Belgium's steel exports in 2015.

Quick Facts:

- World's eighth-largest steel exporter: 15.4 million metric tons (2015)
- 22% steel export growth since 2009
- Exports as a share of production at 212% in 2015
- Year-on-year export volume up 7.1% while export value down 13.6%
- Top three markets: Germany, France, Netherlands
- Largest producers: ArcelorMittal, NLMK, and Aperam
- 2 trade remedies in effect involving steel mill imports from Belgium; 6 trade remedies in effect involving steel mill imports from the European Union

Belgium's Exports of Steel Mill Products - 2015



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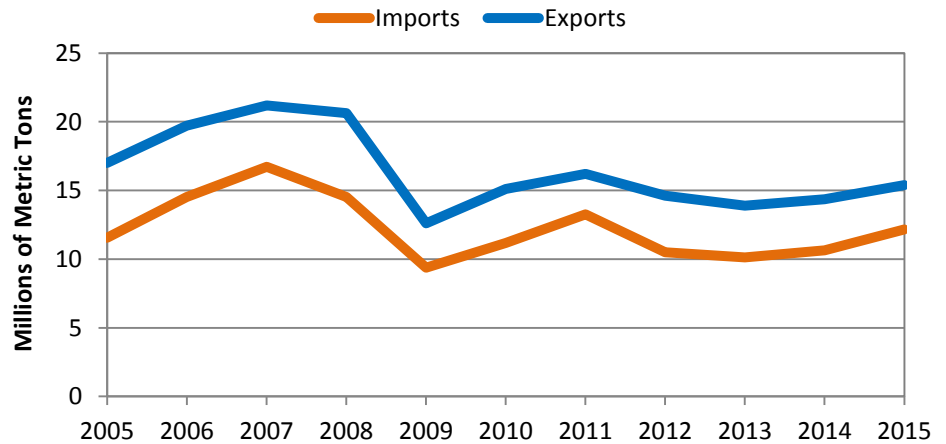
Steel Exports Report: Belgium

Steel Trade Balance

Over the past 10 years, Belgium's steel imports and exports have moved roughly in tandem, with exports totaling between 3 and 6 million metric tons more steel per year than imports.

After a sharp decline of 41 percent from 2007 to 2009, Belgium's steel exports have somewhat recovered, growing 22 percent between 2009 and 2015. In 2015, Belgium's steel trade surplus amounted to 3.2 million metric tons.

Belgium's Trade in Steel Mill Products



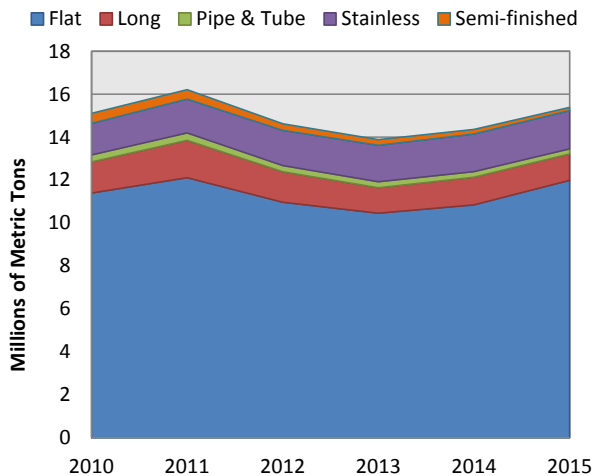
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Export Volume, Value, and Product

After declining in 2011 and 2012, Belgium's volume of steel exports grew by 11 percent to 15.4 million metric tons in 2015. While Belgium's steel export volume has been on the rise since 2013, its export value has decreased each year since 2011. After peaking at \$20.1 billion in 2011, export value had shrunk 35.8 percent to \$12.9 billion by 2015. Between 2014 and 2015 alone, export value decreased by 13.6 percent.

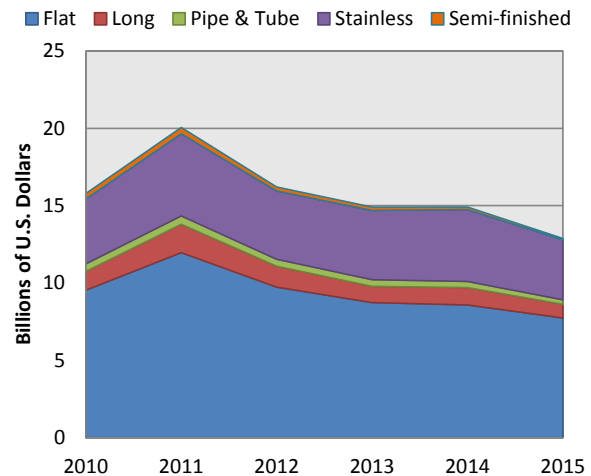
Flat products account for the largest share by far of Belgium's steel exports. In 2015, Belgium exported 12 million metric tons of flat products, comprising 78 percent of the country's steel exports by volume. With 1.8 million metric tons, stainless products represented the second-largest share of exports at 12 percent, followed by long products (8%), pipe and tube products (2%), and semi-finished steel (1%).

Belgium's Exports of Steel Mill Products
Millions of Metric Tons



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Belgium's Exports of Steel Mill Products
Billions of U.S. Dollars



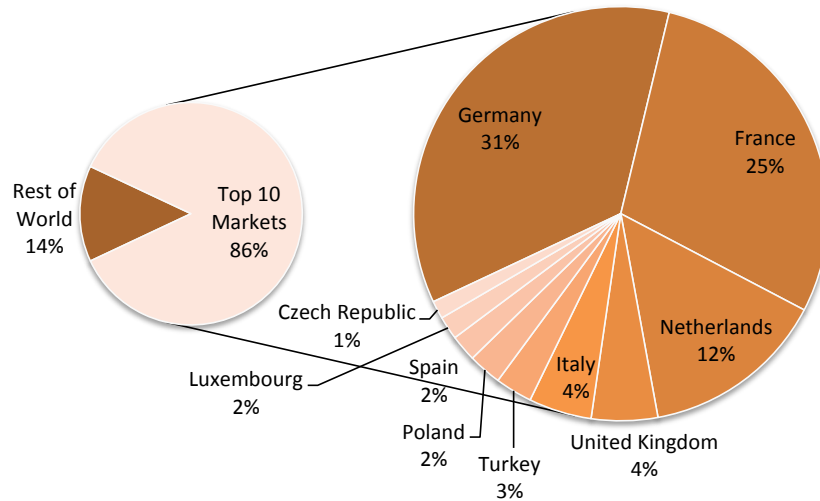
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Steel Exports Report: Belgium

Exports by Top Market

Exports to Belgium's top 10 steel markets represented 86 percent of Belgium's steel export volume in 2015 at 13.2 million metric tons (mmt). Germany received the largest share of Belgium's exports at 31 percent (4.7 mmt), followed by France at 25 percent (3.8 mmt), the Netherlands at 12 percent (1.9 mmt), and the United Kingdom (0.68 mmt) and Italy (0.65 mmt) at 4 percent each.

**Belgium's Steel Exports - Top 10 Markets
2015 - Millions of Metric Tons**



The United States ranked 12th as a destination for Belgium's steel exports, receiving 0.9 percent of exports (137 thousand metric tons) in 2015 — a 34.2 percent decline from 207 thousand metric tons in 2014.

Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

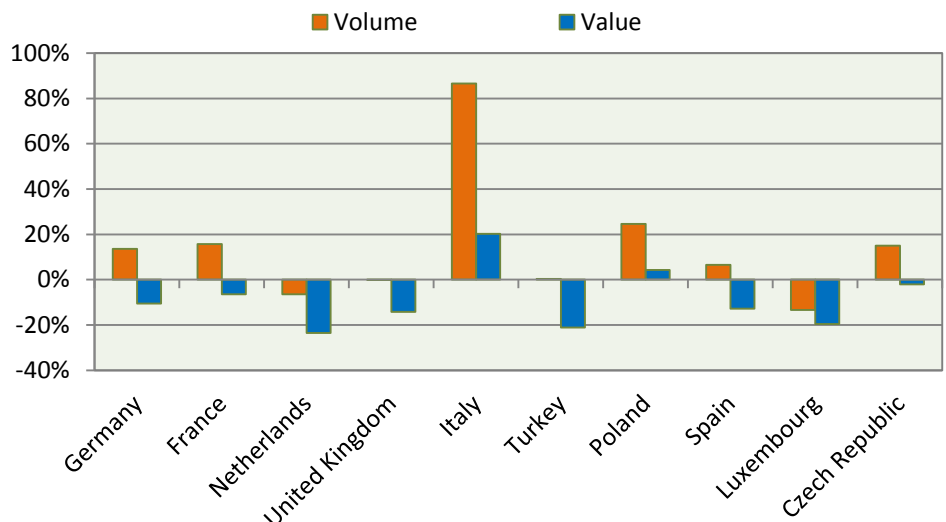
Trends in Exports to Top Markets

While the volume of Belgium's steel exports increased for the majority of its top 10 steel export markets between 2014 and 2015, the overall value of Belgium's steel exports decreased in the majority of the top 10 markets, reflecting the decline in global steel prices. Italy experienced the largest increase (86.6%) in the volume of Belgium's exports in 2015, followed by Poland (24.6%) and France (15.7%). Notable decreases in volume included Belgium's exports to Luxembourg (down 13.3%) and the Netherlands (down 6.5%).

Among Belgium's top 10 markets, the Netherlands, Turkey, and Luxembourg each saw large value decreases between 2014 and 2015 (down 23.6%, 21.2%, and 19.6%, respectively). Notably, the value of exports to Belgium's top two markets also declined: exports to Germany fell by 10.6 percent, and exports to France fell 6.4 percent.

Poland and Italy were the only top 10 markets to see an increase in Belgium's export value, up 20.2 percent and 4.3 percent, respectively.

Percent Change in Exports to Top 10 Markets (2014 to 2015)



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

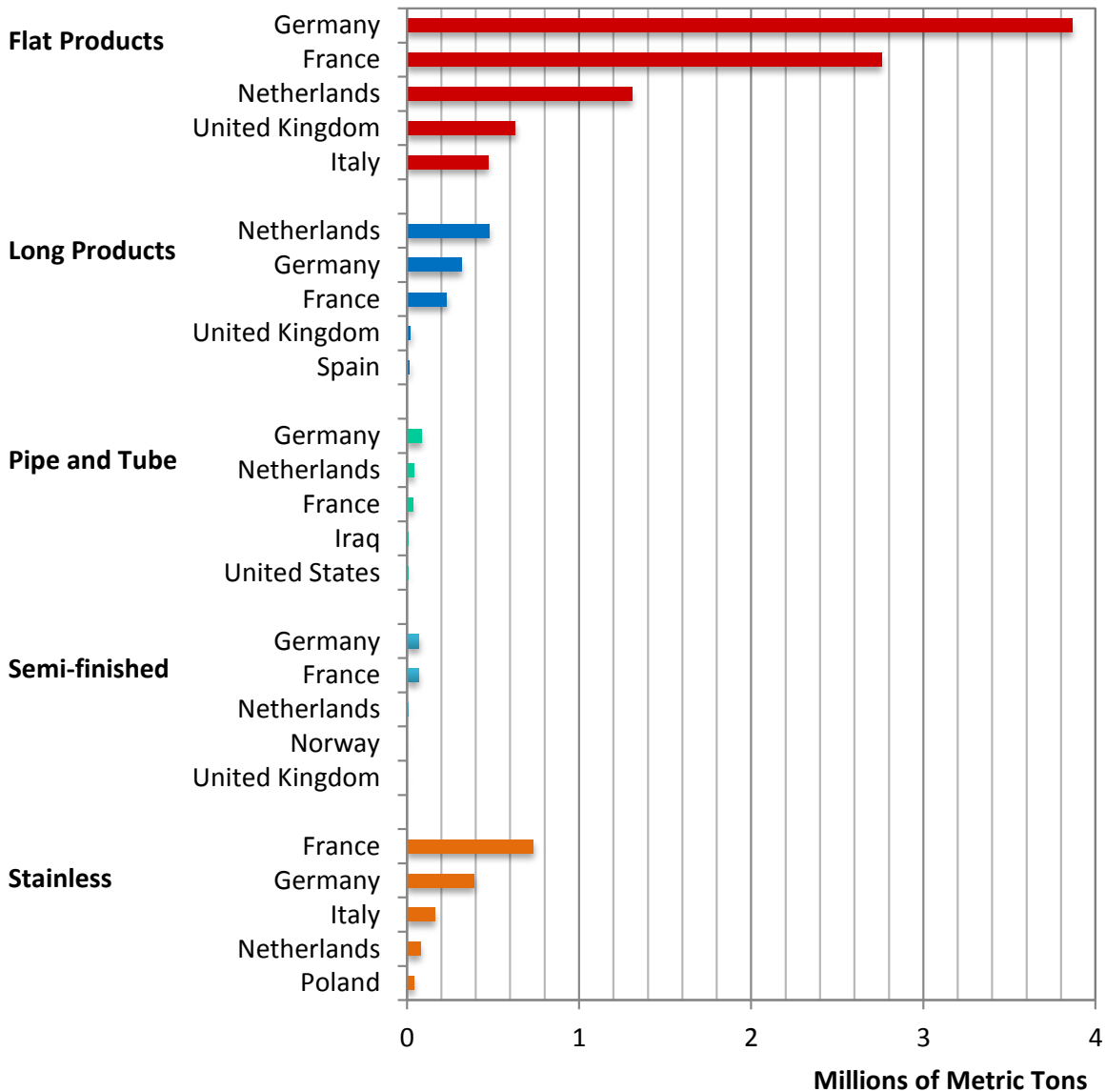
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Top Markets by Steel Product Category

Belgium's top export markets by volume vary across types of steel products. Germany accounted for the largest share of Belgium's exports of flat, pipe and tube, and semi-finished products in 2015, receiving 32 percent (3.9 million metric tons), 37 percent (86 thousand metric tons), and 46 percent (70 thousand metric tons), respectively.

The Netherlands received the largest share of Belgium's exports of long products at 39 percent (478 thousand metric tons), while France received the largest share of stainless products at 41 percent (736 thousand metric tons). Pipe and tube was the only product category for which the United States was a top-five export destination, coming in fifth with 2.5 percent (6 thousand metric tons) of Belgium's total 2015 exports in this category.

Belgium's Top 5 Export Markets by Product - 2015



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Steel Exports Report: Belgium

Belgium's Import Market Share in Top Destinations

In 2015, the change in the import market share for Belgium's steel products was mixed among the country's top export destinations. Countries with increases in their share of steel imports from Belgium included its top two markets, Germany (up 0.7 percentage points) and France (up 2.5 percentage points), as well as the United Kingdom (up 1.1 percentage points). Small losses in import market share were seen in the Netherlands, Italy, Turkey, Spain, and Luxembourg, each decreasing by less than one percentage point.

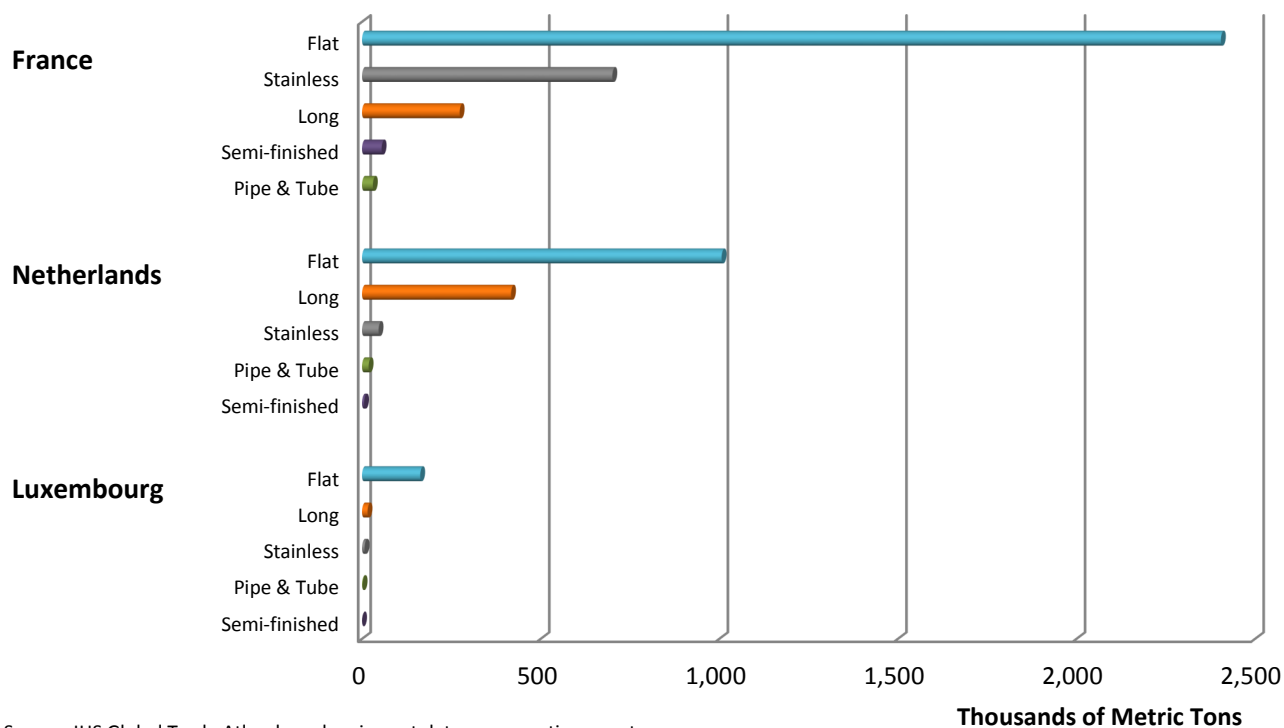
Among Belgium's top export markets, France, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg received the

Belgium's Steel Import Market Share				
Top 10 Export Destinations	Share of Imports from Belgium - 2014	Belgium's Rank in 2014	Share of Imports from Belgium - 2015	Belgium's Rank in 2015
Germany	14.3%	1	15.0%	1
France	22.4%	2	24.9%	2
Netherlands	20.4%	2	19.9%	2
United Kingdom	8.2%	5	9.3%	4
Italy	3.3%	10	2.9%	10
Turkey	2.5%	11	2.3%	10
Poland	2.7%	10	3.3%	8
Spain	2.8%	8	2.7%	9
Luxembourg	16.9%	3	16.0%	3
Czech Republic	3.6%	8	3.9%	6

Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country

largest shares of their steel imports from Belgium. In 2015, flat products accounted for the largest share of steel imports from Belgium in each France (69% or 2.4 million metric tons), the Netherlands (67% or 1 million metric tons), and Luxembourg (87% or 163 thousand metric ton).

Steel Import Composition of Top Market-Share Countries - 2015

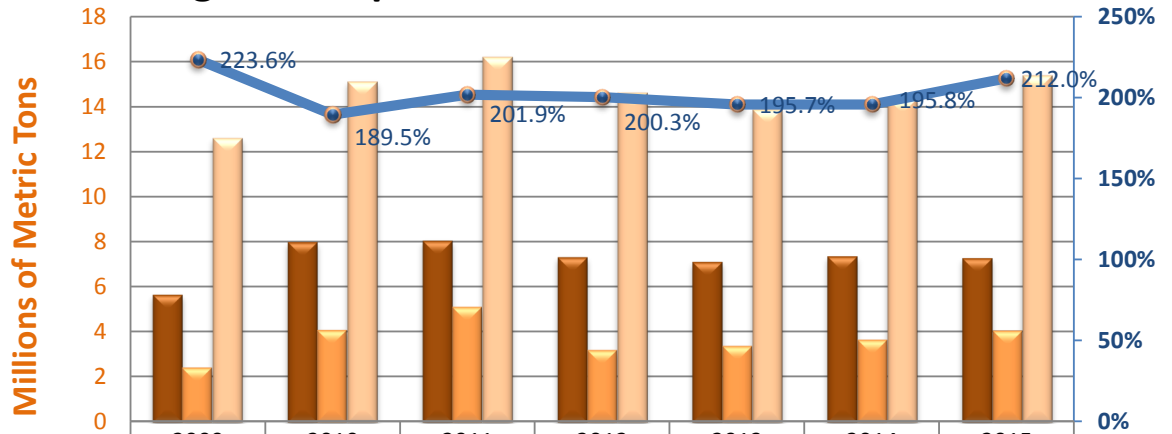


Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country

Steel Exports Report: Belgium

Overall Production and Export Share of Production

Belgium's Export Share of Steel Production



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Production	5.6	8.0	8.0	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.3
Apparent Consumption	2.4	4.1	5.1	3.2	3.3	3.6	4.0
Exports	12.6	15.1	16.2	14.6	13.9	14.4	15.4
Export Share of Production	223.6%	189.5%	201.9%	200.3%	195.7%	195.8%	212.0%

Source: World Steel Association; IHS Global Trade Atlas

After increasing by 42 percent from 2009 to 2010, Belgium's crude steel production declined by 9 percent to 7.3 million metric tons in 2012 and has remained almost flat since then. Despite the fact that production has exceeded apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) by an average of 3.6 million metric tons per year since 2009, exports over the same period have exceeded Belgium's steel production by an average of 7.4 million metric tons per year. Therefore, exports as a share of production have averaged 200 percent in Belgium and amounted to 212 percent in 2015.

Top Producers

Belgium's steel production is concentrated among a handful of domestic and foreign-owned companies and is dominated by ArcelorMittal, a leading player in the global steel market and the country's largest producer, accounting for 5 million metric tons of crude steel production, based on available data.

Belgium's Top Steel Producers in 2014

Rank	Company	Production (mmt)	Main Products
1	ArcelorMittal	5	Flat, long, and stainless products
2	NLMK	3-3 (capacity)	Strip products, plate
3	Aperam	1.1	Stainless products

Sources: Company websites

Steel Exports Report: **Belgium**

Trade Remedies in the Steel Sector

Antidumping duties (AD), countervailing duties (CVD), associated suspension agreements, and safeguards are often referred to collectively as trade remedies. These are internationally agreed upon mechanisms to address the market-distorting effects of unfair trade, or serious injury or threat of serious injury caused by a surge in imports. Unlike anti-dumping and countervailing measures, safeguards do not require a finding of an “unfair” practice. Before applying these duties or measures, countries investigate allegations and can remedy or provide relief for the injury caused to a domestic industry. The tables below provide statistics on the current number of trade remedies various countries have against steel mill products from Belgium and from the European Union, which includes Belgium.

Steel Mill Trade Remedies in Effect Against Belgium				
Country	AD	CVD	Suspension Agreements and Undertakings	Total
Pakistan	1			1
United States	1			1
TOTAL	2	0	0	2

Source: World Trade Organization, through June 30, 2015

Steel Mill Trade Remedies in Effect Against the European Union				
Country	AD	CVD	Suspension Agreements and Undertakings	Total
China	2			2
India	3			3
Morocco	1			1
TOTAL	6	0	0	6

Source: World Trade Organization, through June 30, 2015

Global Steel Mill Safeguards in Effect	
Country	Product(s)
India	Seamless pipes, tubes and hollow profiles of iron or non-alloy steel (other than cast iron and stainless steel)
Indonesia	1) Articles of finished casing and tubing; 2) Articles of iron or steel wire; 3) Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularity wound coils; 4) Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel; 5) I and H sections of other alloy steel
Malaysia	Hot-rolled steel plate
Morocco	1) Cold-rolled sheets and plated or coated sheets; 2) Reinforcing bars and wire rods
Philippines	Steel angle bars
Thailand	1) Hot-rolled steel flat products with certain amounts of alloying elements; 2) Unalloyed hot-rolled steel flat products in coils and not in coils
Ukraine	Casing and pump compressor seamless steel pipes

Source: World Trade Organization, through March 1, 2016

Steel Exports Report: Glossary

Apparent Consumption: Domestic crude steel production plus steel imports minus steel exports. Shipment data are not available for all countries, therefore crude steel production is used as a proxy.

Export Market: Destination of a country's exports.

Flat Products: Produced by rolling semi-finished steel through varying sets of rolls. Includes sheets, strips, and plates. Used most often in the automotive, tubing, appliance, and machinery manufacturing sectors.

Import Penetration: Ratio of imports to apparent consumption.

Import Source: Source of a country's imports.

Long Products: Steel products that fall outside the flat products category. Includes bars, rails, rods, and beams. Used in many sectors but most commonly in construction.

Pipe and Tube Products: Either seamless or welded pipe and tube products. Used in many sectors but most commonly in construction and energy sectors.

Semi-finished Products: The initial, intermediate solid forms of molten steel, to be re-heated and further forged, rolled, shaped, or otherwise worked into finished steel products. Includes blooms, billets, slabs, ingots, and steel for castings.

Stainless Products: Steel products containing at minimum 10.5% chromium (Cr) offering better corrosion resistance than regular steel.

Steel Mill Products: Carbon, alloy, or stainless steel produced by either a basic oxygen furnace or an electric arc furnace. Includes semi-finished steel products and finished steel products. For trade data purposes, steel mill products are defined at the Harmonized System (HS) 6-digit level as: 720610 through 721650, 721699 through 730110, 730210, 730240 through 730290, and 730410 through 730690. The following discontinued HS codes have been included for purposes of reporting historical data (prior to 2007): 722520, 722693, 722694, 722910, 730410, 730421, 730610, 730620, and 730660.

Global Steel Trade Monitor: The monitor provides global import and export trends for the top countries trading in steel products. The current reports expand upon the early release information already provided by the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) system that collects and publishes data on U.S. imports of steel mill products. Complementing the SIMA data, these reports provide objective and current global steel industry information about the top countries that play an essential role in the global steel trade. Information in these reports includes global exports and import trends, production and consumption data and, where available, information regarding trade remedy actions taken on steel products. The reports will be updated quarterly.

Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) System: The Department of Commerce uses a steel import licensing program to collect and publish aggregate data on near real-time steel mill imports into the United States. SIMA incorporates information collected from steel license applications with publicly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau. By design, this information provides stakeholders with valuable information on the steel trade with the United States. For more information about SIMA, please go to <http://enforcement.trade.gov/steel/license/>.



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