



# Global Steel Trade Monitor

## Steel Imports Report: Belgium

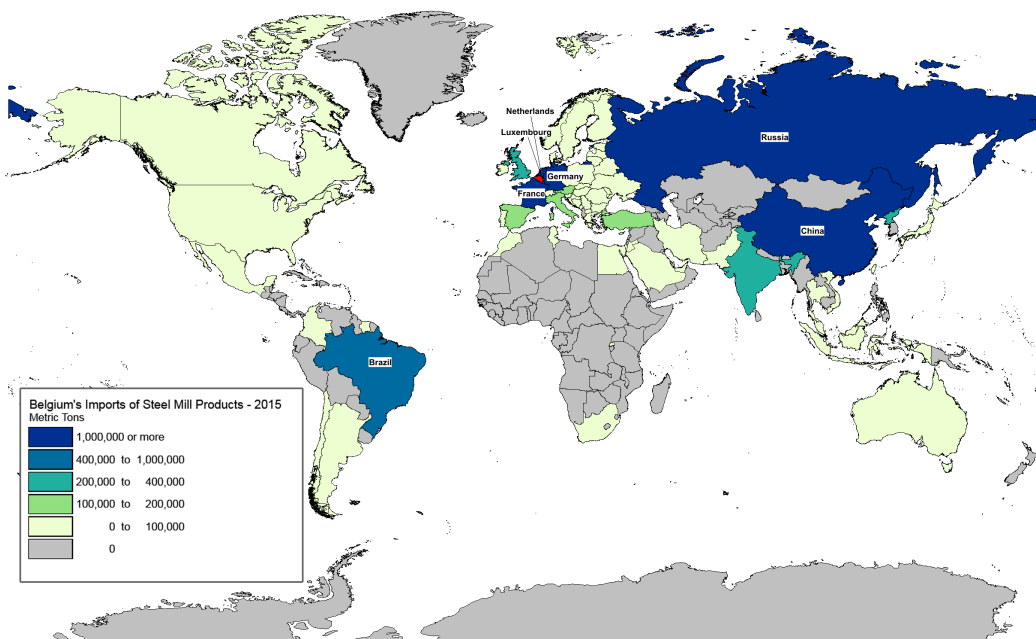
June 2016

### Background

Belgium is the world's tenth largest steel importer. In 2015, Belgium imported 12.2 million metric tons of steel, a 13.3 percent increase from 10.7 million metric tons in 2014. Belgium's imports represented about 3 percent of all steel imported globally. The volume of Belgium's 2015 steel imports was less than half that of the European Union's largest importer and the world's second-largest importer, Germany. In value terms, steel represented just 2 percent of the total goods imported into Belgium in 2015.

Belgium imports steel from over 100 countries and territories. The seven countries labeled in the map below represent the top sources for Belgium's imports of steel, with each sending more than 400 thousand metric tons to Belgium and together accounting for 83 percent of Belgium's steel imports in 2015.

### Belgium's Imports of Steel Mill Products - 2015



Data Source: Global Trade Atlas; Copyright © IHS Global Inc. 2016. All rights reserved.

### Quick Facts:

- World's tenth largest steel importer: 12.2 million metric tons (2015)
- 20% steel import growth since 2013
- Year-on-year import volume up 14% while import value down 15%
- Import penetration up from 261.3% in 2011 to 301.9% in 2015
- Top three import sources: France, Russia, and China
- Largest producers: ArcelorMittal, NLMK, and Aperam
- 13 European Union trade remedies in effect against imports of steel mill products

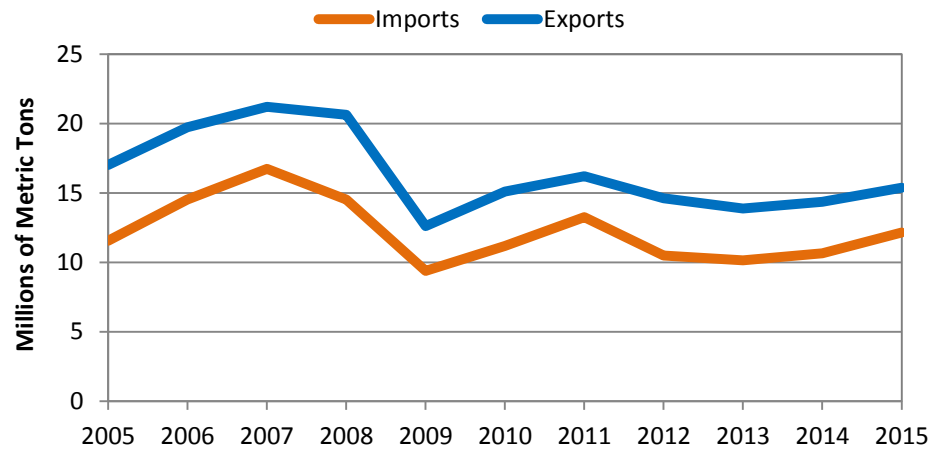
# Steel Imports Report: Belgium

## Steel Trade Balance

Over the past decade, Belgium's imports and exports have displayed roughly similar trends: both saw notable increases between 2005 and 2007, declined significantly by 2009, and recovered gradually over the next six years.

Belgium is a net exporter of steel and has maintained a continuous trade surplus at an average of 4.2 million metric tons for at least the last ten years. In 2015, Belgium's steel trade surplus amounted to 3.2 million metric tons.

Belgium's Trade in Steel Mill Products

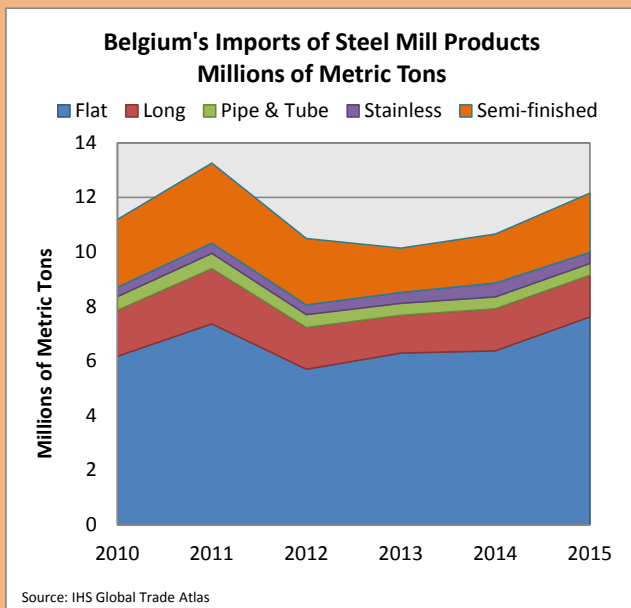


Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

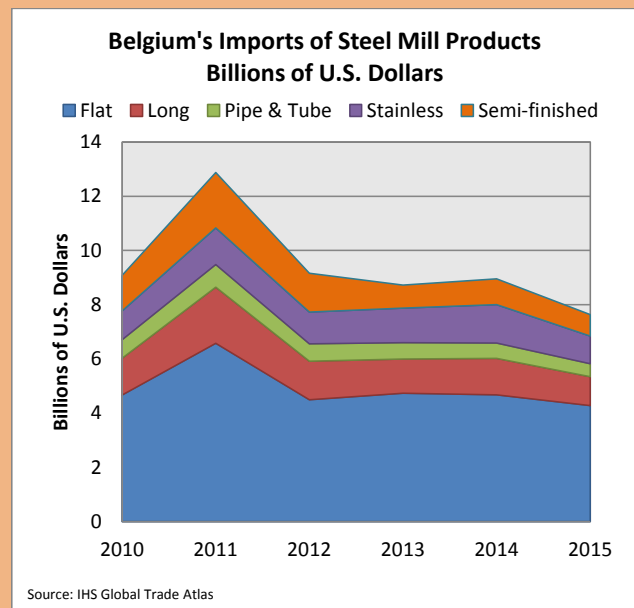
## Import Volume, Value, and Product

Belgium's level steel imports peaked in 2011 before falling in 2012 and 2013. In 2015, the volume of Belgium's steel imports reached 12.2 million metric tons, an increase of 20 percent from 2013. Imports increased by 14 percent between 2014 and 2015 alone. By contrast, the value of Belgium's 2015 steel imports decreased by 15 percent to \$7.6 billion from \$9 billion in 2014, which can be attributed to a significant drop in global steel prices.

Flat products account for the largest share of Belgium's steel imports. In 2015, Belgium imported 7.6 million metric tons of flat products — 63 percent of steel imports. Semi-finished steel accounted for 18 percent, or 2.2 million metric tons, followed by long products (13% or 1.5 million metric tons), pipe and tube (4% or 428 thousand metric tons), and stainless products (3% or 409 thousand metric tons).



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas



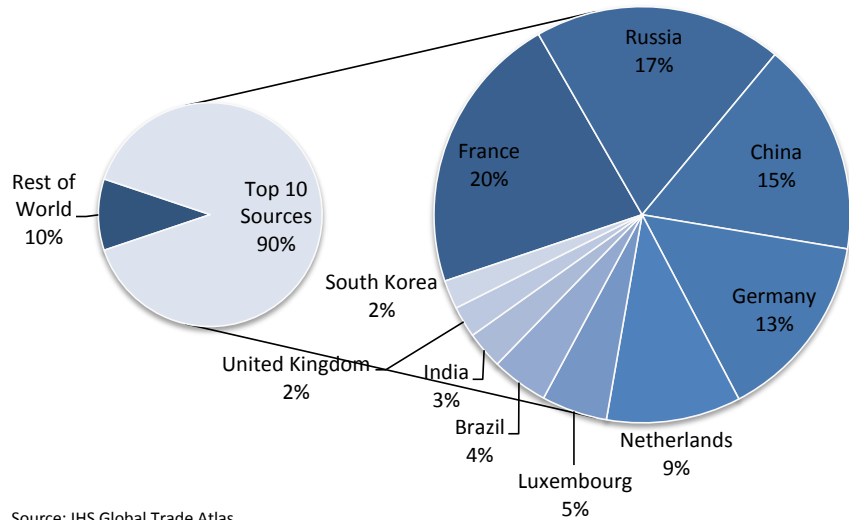
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

# Steel Imports Report: Belgium

## Imports by Top Source

The top 10 source countries for Belgium's steel imports represented 90 percent of the total steel import volume in 2015 at 10.9 million metric tons (mmt). France accounted for the largest share of Belgium's imports by source country at 20 percent (2.4 mmt), followed by Russia at 17 percent (2.1 mmt), China at 15 percent (1.8 mmt), Germany at 13 percent (1.6 mmt), and the Netherlands at 9 percent (1.1 mmt).

**Belgium's Steel Imports - Top 10 Sources**  
2015 - Millions of Metric Tons



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

The United States ranked 16th as a source for Belgium's steel imports, representing just 0.6 percent of imports (72 thousand metric tons) in 2015.

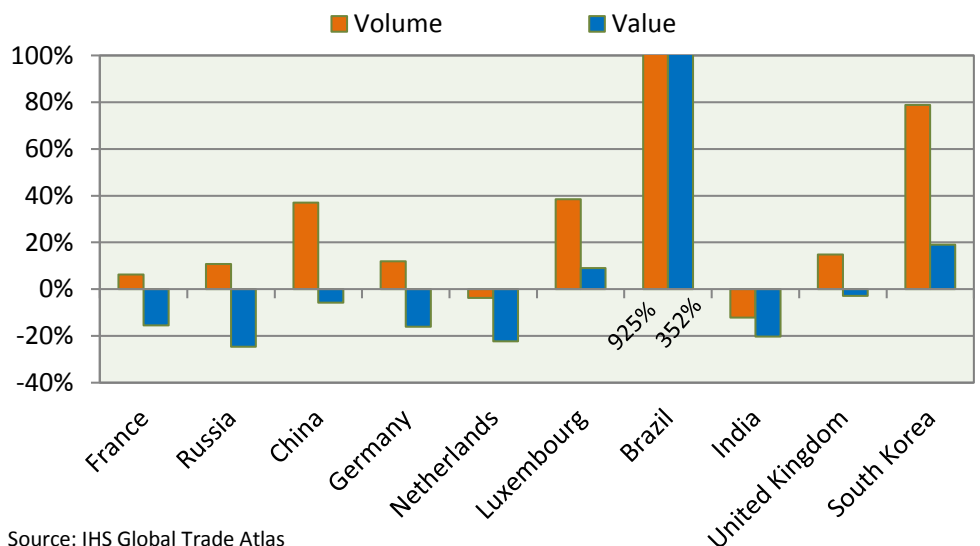
## Trends in Imports from Top Sources

While the volume of Belgium's steel imports increased from eight of its top 10 steel import sources between 2014 and 2015, the overall value of Belgium's imports decreased from the majority of the top ten, reflecting the decline in global steel prices.

Considerable decreases in Belgium's steel import value between 2014 and 2015 included imports from Russia (down 24.6%), the Netherlands (down 22.4%), and India (down 20.3%). A large increase in import value occurred from Brazil (up 352.3%). Belgium's imports from Brazil also showed the largest increase in volume, up 925.4 percent from 2014.

Sizeable increases in Belgium's steel import volume also occurred from South Korea (up 78.9%), Luxembourg (up 38.5%), and China (up 37%). Only imports from India and the Netherlands decreased in volume from 2014, down 12.1 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively.

**Percent Change in Imports from Top 10 Sources (2014 to 2015)**



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

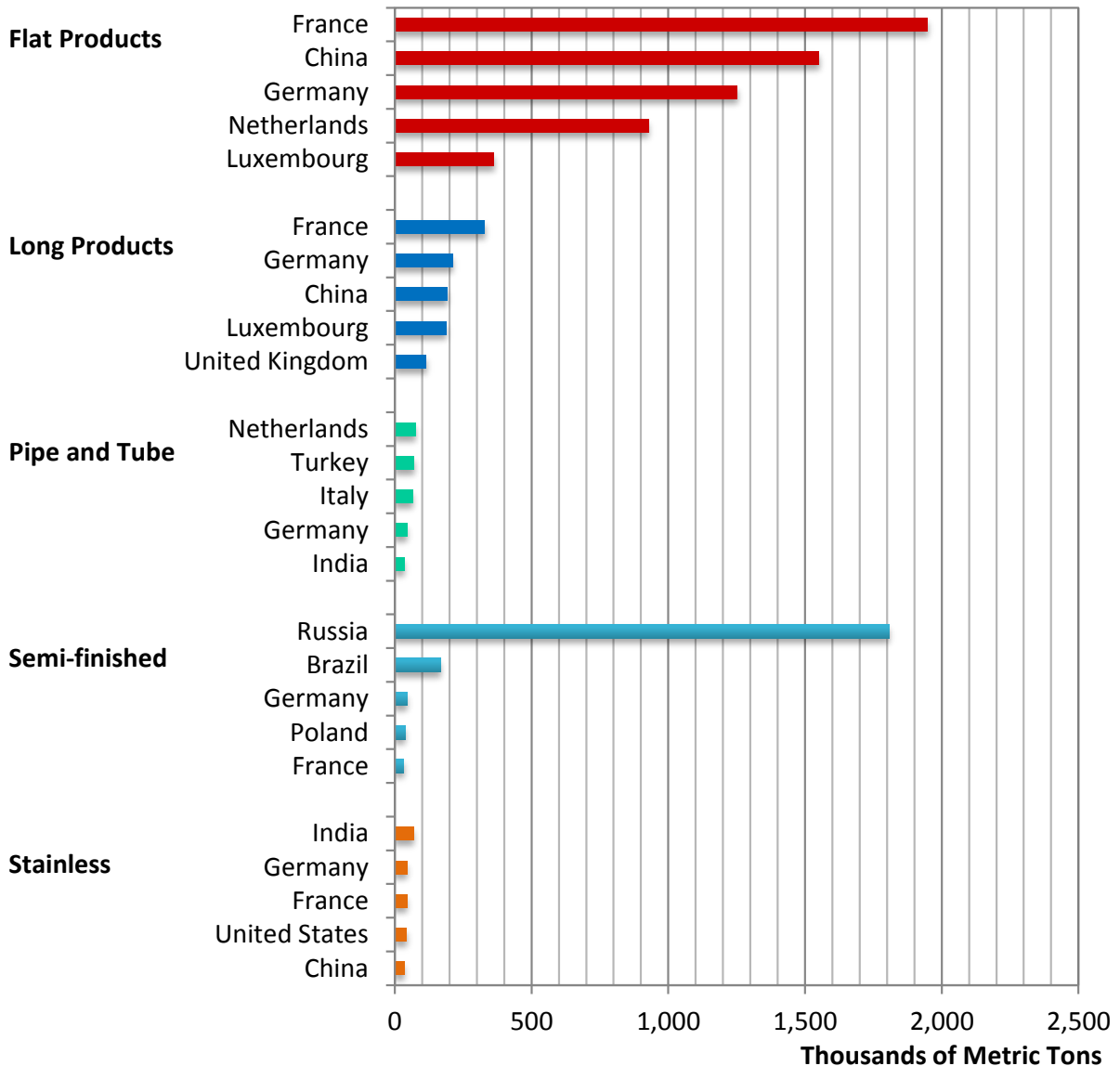
# Steel Imports Report: **Belgium**

## Top Sources by Steel Product Category

The top source countries for Belgium’s imports by volume vary across types of steel products. France accounted for the largest share of Belgium’s imports of flat and long products in 2015 at 26 percent (1.9 million metric tons) and 21 percent (328 thousand metric tons), respectively. In 2015, the Netherlands represented the largest share of Belgium’s pipe and tube imports (18% or 77 thousand metric tons). Belgium received the largest share of its semi-finished imports from Russia (83% or 1.8 million metric tons) and received its largest share of stainless product imports from India at 17 percent (68 thousand metric tons).

The United States was the fourth largest import source for stainless product imports in 2015.

### Belgium's Top 5 Import Sources by Product - 2015



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

# Steel Imports Report: Belgium

## Belgium's Export Market Share from Top Source Countries

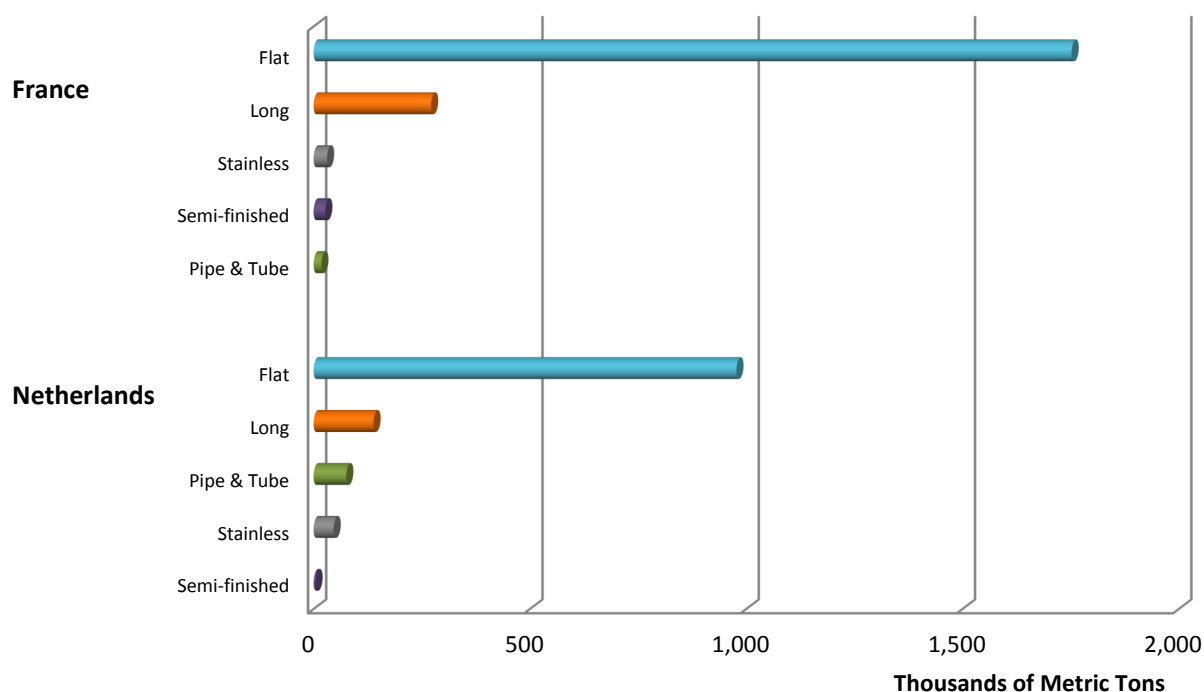
In 2015, the share of steel exports sent to Belgium from its top import sources increased from all of the top 10 sources except the Netherlands. In 2015, the share of Brazil's steel exports to Belgium showed the largest increase (up 2 percentage points from 2014), followed by India (up 1.7 percentage points) and France (up 1.1 percentage points). The Netherlands' share of steel exports to Belgium decreased by 1 percentage points from 2014.

Belgium's Steel Export Market Share				
Top 10 Import Sources	Share of Exports to Belgium - 2014	Belgium's Rank in 2014	Share of Exports to Belgium - 2015	Belgium's Rank in 2015
France	14.1%	2	15.2%	2
Russia	6.3%	6	6.5%	4
China	1.7%	16	1.9%	17
Germany	4.6%	8	5.2%	6
Netherlands	12.4%	2	11.4%	2
Luxembourg	7.0%	5	7.5%	5
Brazil	0.5%	23	2.5%	6
India	2.9%	9	4.5%	7
United Kingdom	3.6%	9	4.3%	8
South Korea	0.8%	23	1.2%	17

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

In 2015, Belgium was the second largest destination for France's steel exports at 15.2 percent and the Netherlands' steel exports at 11.4 percent. Flat products accounted for the largest share of steel exports to Belgium from France at 83 percent (1.8 million metric tons) and the Netherlands at 79 percent (977 thousand metric tons). Long products accounted for the second largest share of steel exports to Belgium from France at 13 percent (272 thousand metric tons) and the Netherlands at 11 percent (138 thousand metric tons).

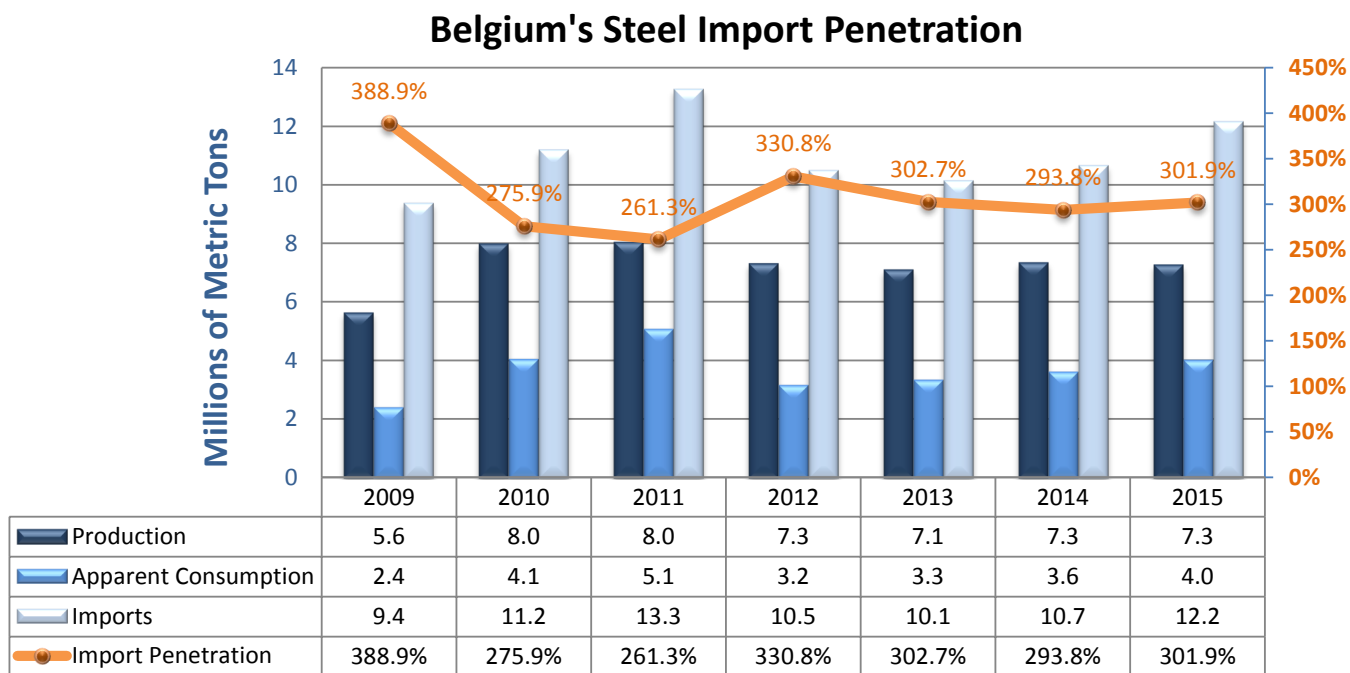
## Steel Export Composition of Top Market-Share Countries - 2015



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

# Steel Imports Report: Belgium

## Overall Production and Import Penetration



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. Between 2009 and 2015, apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) remained at a level roughly half that of production. Imports far exceeded both production and demand over the period. Though Belgium’s level of import penetration declined between 2009 and 2011, it has recovered since then by over 40 percentage points from 261.3 percent in 2011 to a total of 301.9 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.

<b>Belgium’s Top Steel Producers in 2015</b>			
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 Imports 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 table below provides statistics on the current number of trade remedies the European Union, which includes Belgium, has against imports of steel mill products from various countries. The European Union has no steel mill safeguards in effect.

<b>European Union Trade Remedies in Effect Against Steel Mill Imports</b>				
Country	AD	CVD	Suspension Agreements and Undertakings	Total
Belarus	1			1
China	5	1		6
India	1	2		3
Russia	2			2
Ukraine	1			1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

Source: World Trade Organization, through June 30, 2015

# Steel Imports 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/>.



INTERNATIONAL  
**TRADE**  
ADMINISTRATION

**Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis**  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 21006  
Washington, D.C. 20230

T 202.482.2105  
F 202.501.1377  
Email [ECCGlobalSteelStats@trade.gov](mailto:ECCGlobalSteelStats@trade.gov)

[trade.gov/steel](http://trade.gov/steel)