

# Global Steel Trade Monitor

## Steel Exports Report: Belgium

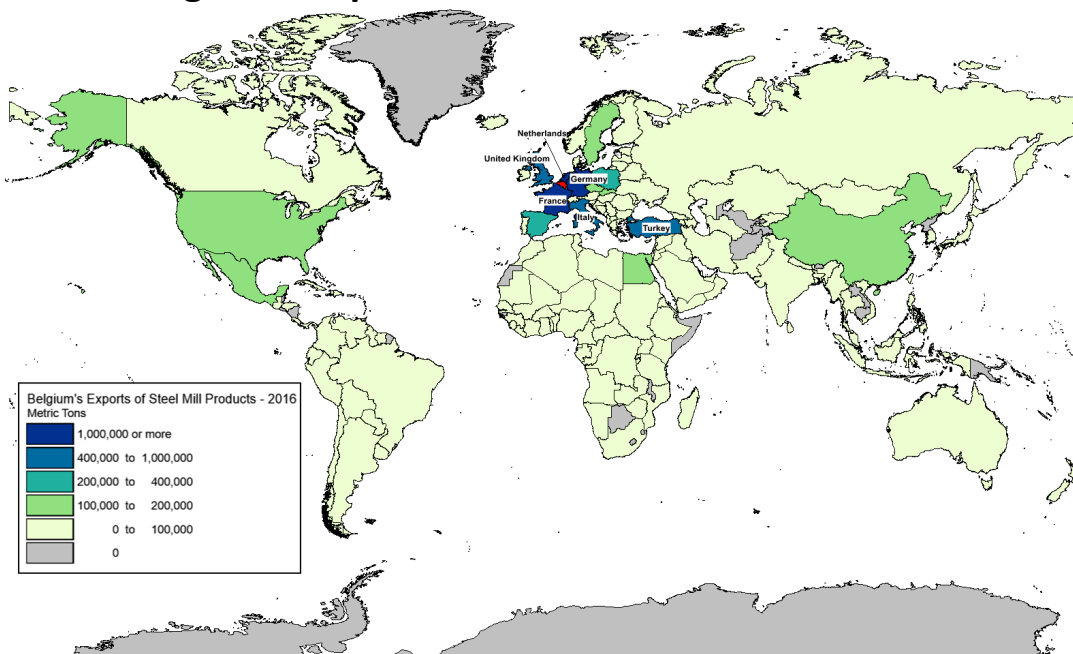
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### Background

Belgium is the world's eighth-largest steel exporter. In 2016, Belgium exported 17 million metric tons of steel, an 11 percent increase from 15.3 million metric tons in 2015. Belgium's exports represented about 3 percent of all steel exported globally in 2015, based on available data. The volume of Belgium's 2015 steel exports was almost equal to the world's seventh-largest exporter, Italy, and just over one-seventh the size of the world's largest exporter, China. In value terms, steel represented just 3.2 percent of the total amount of goods Belgium exported in 2016.

Belgium exports steel to more than 160 countries and territories. The six countries labeled in the map below represent Belgium's top steel markets, receiving more than 400 thousand metric tons each and accounting for 80 percent of Belgium's steel exports in 2016.

**Belgium's Exports of Steel Mill Products - 2016**



Data Source: Global Trade Atlas; Copyright © IHS Global Inc. 2017. All rights reserved.

### Quick Facts:

- World's eighth-largest steel exporter: 17 million metric tons (2016)
- 35% steel export growth since 2009
- Exports as a share of production at 221% in 2016
- Year-on-year export volume up 11% while export value down 1%
- Top three markets: Germany, France, Netherlands
- Largest producers: ArcelorMittal, NLMK, and Aperam
- 1 trade remedy in effect involving steel mill imports from Belgium; 6 trade remedies in effect involving steel mill imports from the European Union

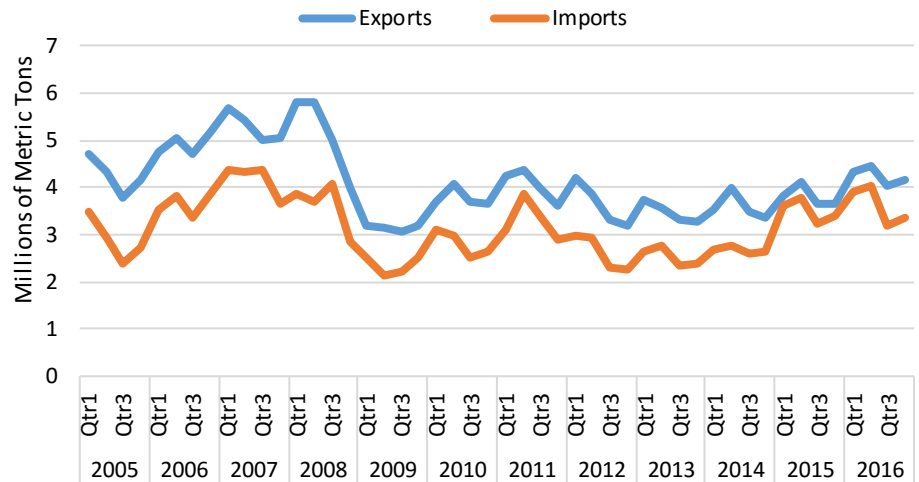
# Steel Exports Report: Belgium

## Steel Trade Balance

Over the past 10 years, Belgium's steel imports and exports have moved roughly in tandem, with exports consistently outpacing imports.

After a sharp decline of 41 percent from 2007 to 2009, Belgium's steel exports have somewhat recovered, growing 35 percent between 2009 and 2016. After narrowing by 67 percent between 2014 and 2015, the steel trade surplus widened from 1.2 million metric tons in 2015 to 2.5 million metric tons in 2016 — a 104 percent increase.

Belgium's Trade in Steel Mill Products by Quarter



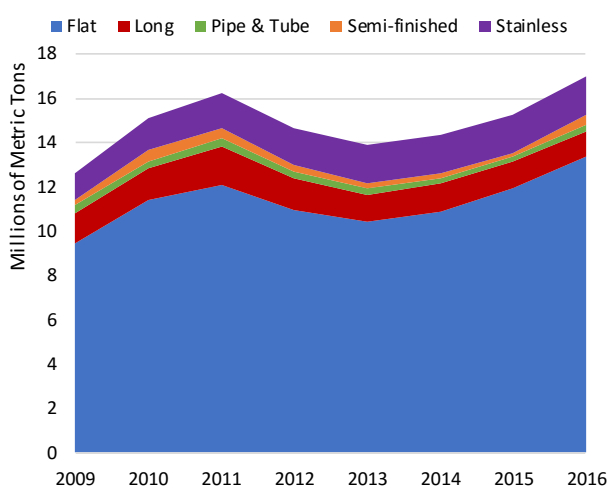
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

## Export Volume, Value, and Product

Belgium's volume of steel exports has been steadily increasing since 2013. Between 2013 and 2016, exports grew 3.1 million metric tons in volume — a 22 percent increase. In 2016, exports increased 11 percent to 17 million metric tons from 15.3 million metric tons. While Belgium's steel export volume has been on the rise, its export value has decreased nearly every year since 2011. Between 2015 and 2016, export value decreased by 1 percent from \$12.8 billion to \$12.6 billion.

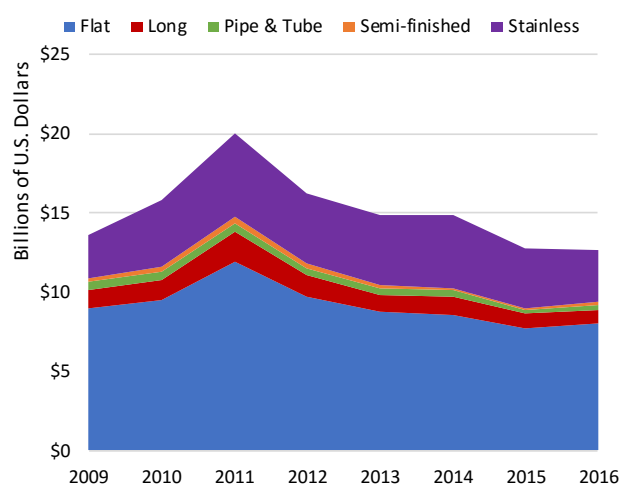
Flat products account for the largest share by far of Belgium's steel exports. In 2016, Belgium exported 13 million metric tons of flat products, comprising 79 percent of the country's steel exports by volume. With 1.7 million metric tons, stainless products represented the second-largest share of exports at 10 percent, followed by long products (7% or 1.2 million metric tons), semi-finished steel (3% or 459 thousand metric tons), and pipe and tube products (2% or 300 thousand metric tons).

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



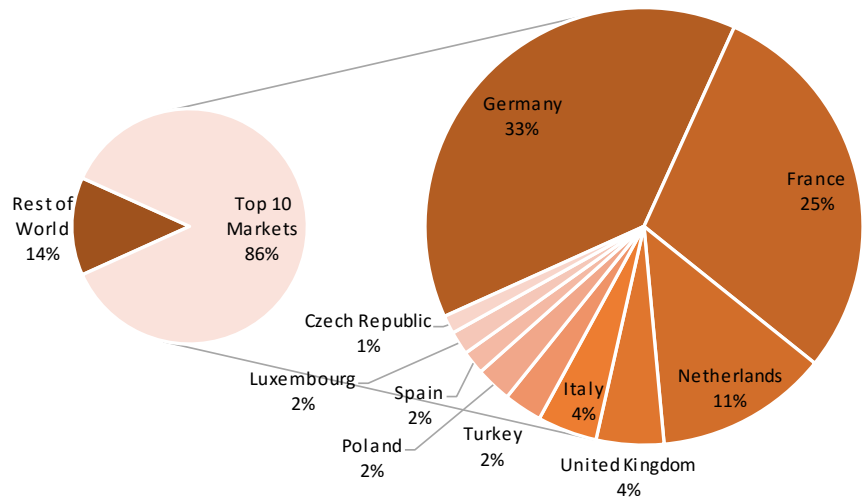
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

# Steel Exports Report: Belgium

## Exports by Top Market

Exports to Belgium's top 10 steel markets represented 87 percent of Belgium's steel export volume in 2016 at 14.7 million metric tons (mmt). Germany received the largest share of Belgium's exports at 33 percent (5.7 mmt), followed by France at 25 percent (4.3 mmt), the Netherlands at 11 percent (1.9 mmt), and the United Kingdom (0.73 mmt) and Italy (0.65 mmt), both at 4 percent.

**Belgium's Steel Exports - Top 10 Markets**  
2016 - Millions of Metric Tons



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

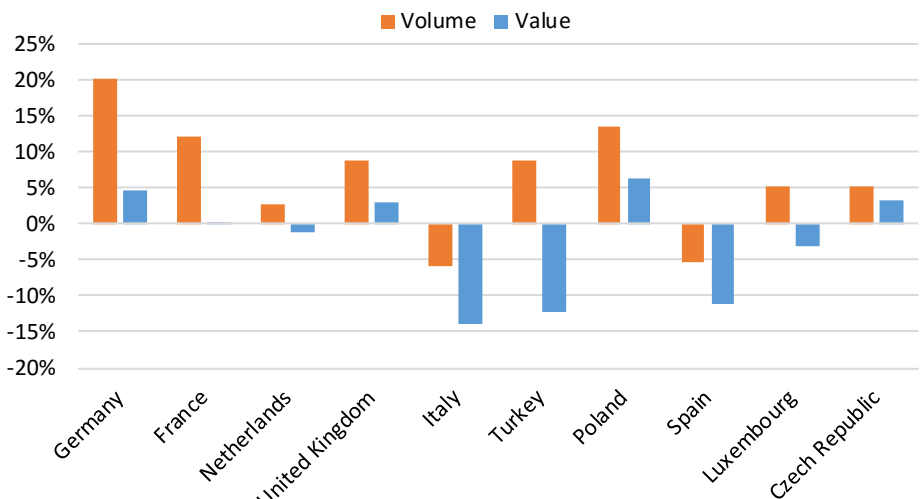
The United States placed 11th as a destination for Belgium's steel exports, receiving 1 percent of exports (181 thousand metric tons) in 2016 — a 31.6 percent increase from 137 thousand metric tons in 2015.

## Trends in Exports to Top Markets

While the volume of Belgium's steel exports increased for all but two of its top 10 steel export markets between 2015 and 2016, the overall value of Belgium's steel exports decreased for half of the top ten, reflecting the decline in global steel prices.

Germany experienced the largest increase in volume up 20.3 percent in 2016, followed by Poland (up 13.4%) and France (up 12.2%). Italy and Spain were the two countries that had a decrease in volume, down 5.9 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively.

**Percent Change in Exports to Top 10 Markets (2015 to 2016)**



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Among Belgium's top 10 export markets, Italy, Turkey, and Spain each saw large decreases in value between 2015 and 2016 down 14 percent, 12.2 percent, and 11 percent, respectively.

Belgium's export value increased to Poland, the biggest increase (up 6.4%), followed by Germany (up 4.6%), the Czech Republic (up 3.2%), the United Kingdom (up 3.1%), and lastly France with a minor 0.2 percent increase.

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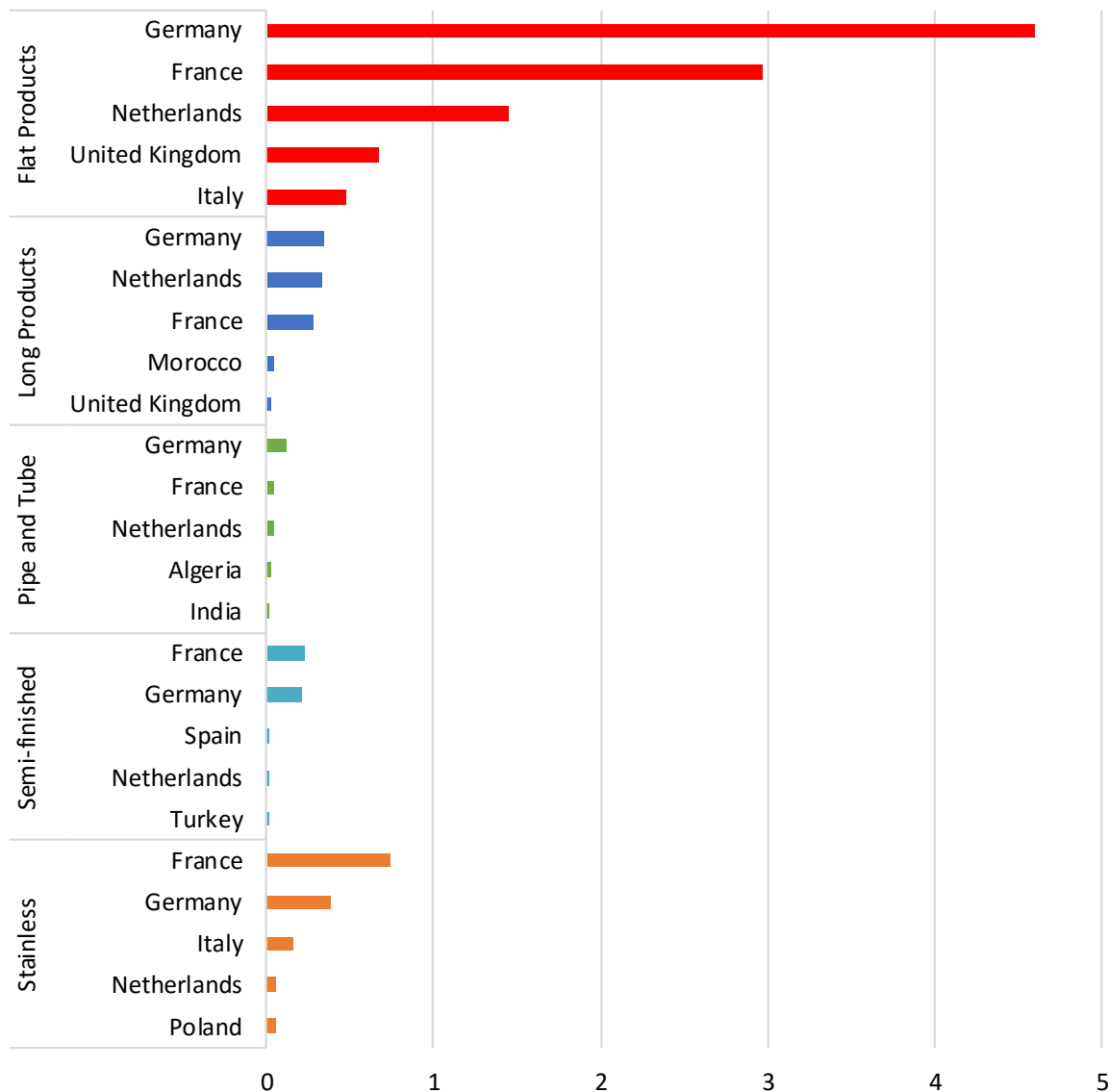
## Top Markets by Steel Product Category

Belgium's top export markets by volume vary across types of steel products. Germany and France dominated as Belgium's top export markets by volume, taking the first or second spot in nearly all of the five product categories. Germany accounted for the largest share of Belgium's exports of flat, long, and pipe and tube products in 2016, receiving 34 percent (4.6 million metric tons), 29 percent (346 thousand metric tons), and 41 percent (122 thousand metric tons), respectively.

France received the largest share of Belgium's exports of semi-finished products at 49 percent (224 thousand metric tons) and also the largest share of stainless products at 43 percent (739 thousand metric tons).

The U.S. was not in a top 5 destination in any of the product categories.

### Belgium's Top 5 Export Markets by Product - 2016



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Millions of Metric Tons

# 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.

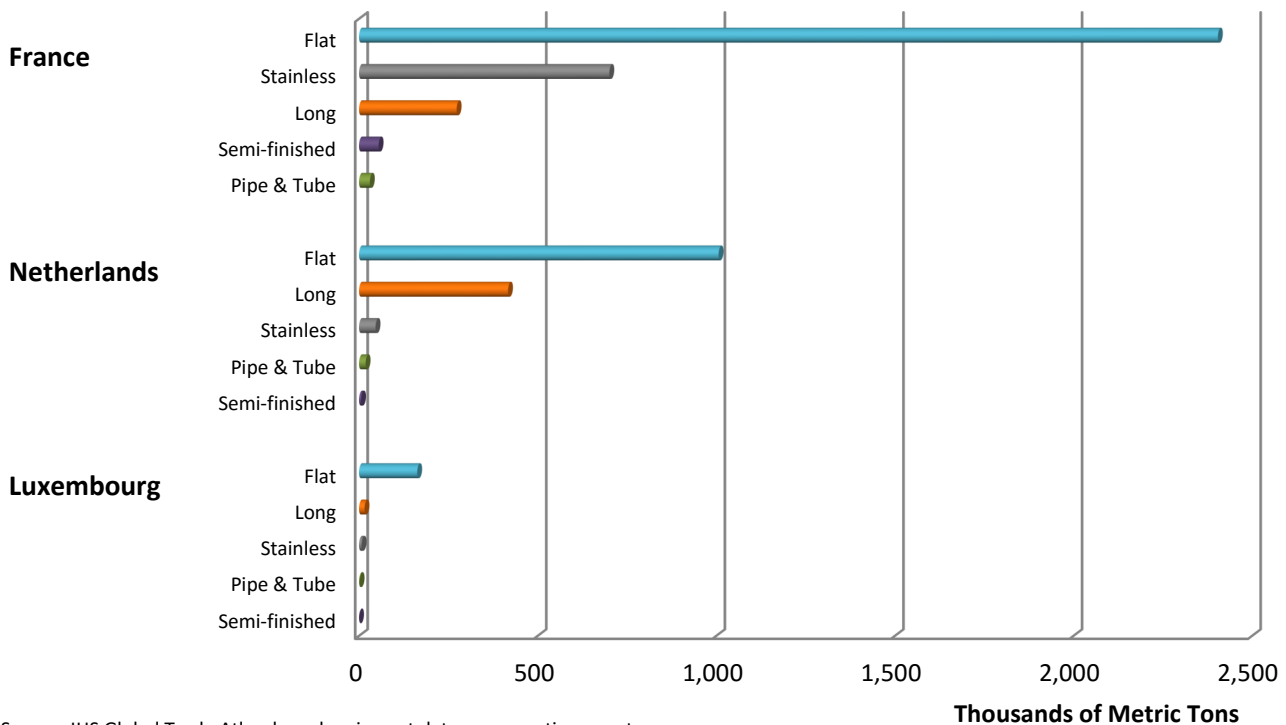
Belgium's Steel Import Market Share				
Top 10 Export Destinations	Share of Imports from Belgium - 2014	Belgium's Rank in 2014	Share of Imports from Belgium - 2015	Belgium's Rank in 2015
Germany	14.3%	1	15.0%	1
France	22.4%	2	24.9%	2
Netherlands	20.4%	2	19.9%	2
United Kingdom	8.2%	5	9.3%	4
Italy	3.3%	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

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

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 tons).

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

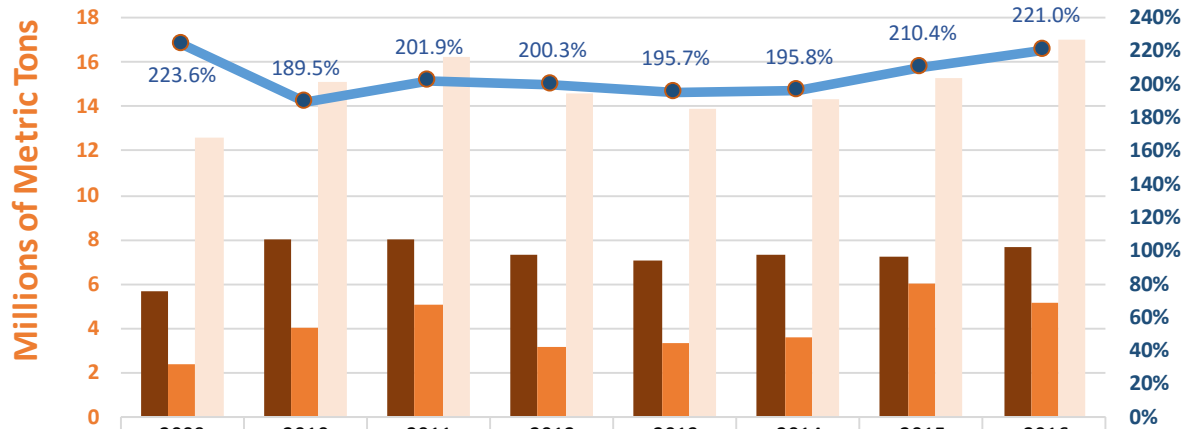


Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country

# 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	2016
Production	5.6	8.0	8.0	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.7
Apparent Consumption	2.4	4.1	5.1	3.2	3.3	3.6	6.0	5.2
Exports	12.6	15.1	16.2	14.6	13.9	14.4	15.3	17.0
Export Share of Production	223.6%	189.5%	201.9%	200.3%	195.7%	195.8%	210.4%	221.0%

Sources: 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 remained almost flat until 2015. In 2016, however, production rose 6 percent (429 thousand metric tons) to 7.7 million metric tons. Apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) in 2016 decreased for the first time since 2012 — down 14 percent from 2015. Despite the fact that production has exceeded apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) by an average of 3.2 million metric tons per year since 2009, exports over the same period have consistently exceeded Belgium's steel production by an average of 7.6 million metric tons per year. Likewise, Belgium's exports as a share of production have averaged 200 percent from 2009 -2016 and amounted to 221 percent in 2016, up 11 percentage points from the previous year.

### 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.

<b>Steel Mill Trade Remedies in Effect Against Belgium</b>				
<b>Country</b>	<b>AD</b>	<b>CVD</b>	<b>Suspension Agreements and Undertakings</b>	<b>Total</b>
United States	1			1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Source: World Trade Organization, through December 1, 2016

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

Source: World Trade Organization, through December 1, 2016

<b>Global Steel Mill Safeguards in Effect</b>	
<b>Country</b>	<b>Product(s)</b>
Egypt	Steel rebar
India	1) Hot-rolled steel in coils; 2) Hot-rolled steel flat sheets and plates
Indonesia	1) Articles of finished casing and tubing; 2) Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel; 3) I and H sections of other alloy steel; 4) Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils
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; 3) Structural hot-rolled H-beams with alloy
Vietnam	Semi-finished and certain finished products of alloy and non-alloy steel

Source: World Trade Organization, through February 24, 2017

# Steel Exports Report: Glossary

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**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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