

Global Steel Trade Monitor

Steel Exports Report: Japan

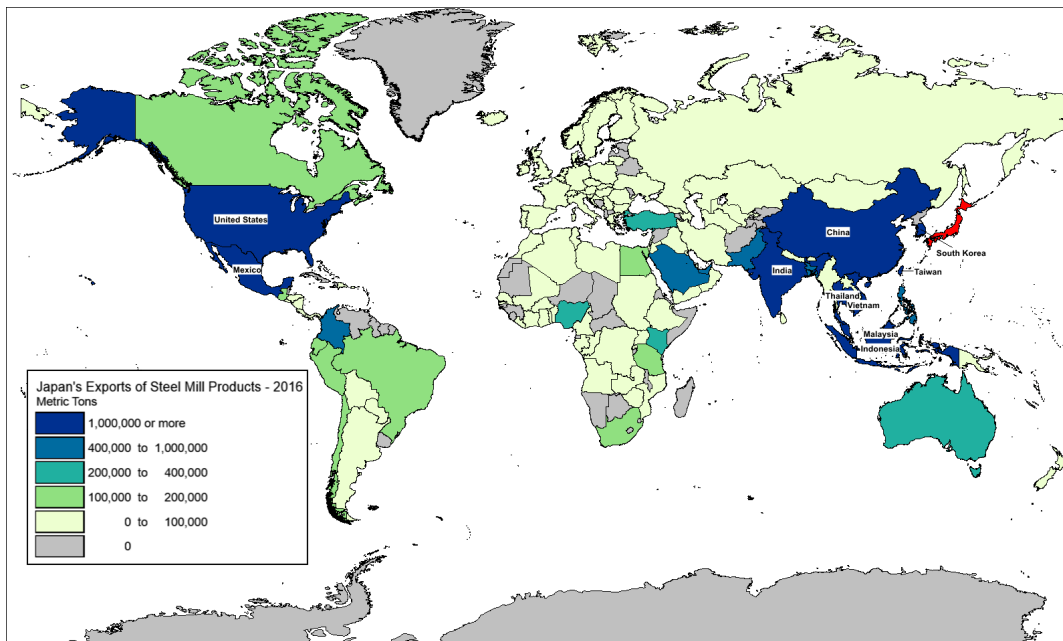
March 2017

Background

Japan is the second-largest steel exporter in the world. In 2016, Japan exported 40.4 million metric tons of steel – a 1 percent decline from 40.7 million metric tons in 2015. Japan’s exports represented about 9 percent of all steel exported globally in 2015, based on available data. The volume of Japan’s 2016 steel exports was less than half that of the world’s largest exporter, China, and roughly one-third larger than the next largest exporters, Russia and South Korea. In value terms, steel represented just 3.9 percent of the total amount of goods Japan exported in 2016.

Japan exports steel to more than 190 countries and territories. The 10 countries labeled in the map below represent the top markets for Japan’s exports of steel, receiving more than 1 million metric tons each and accounting for 79 percent of Japan’s steel exports in 2016.

Japan’s Exports of Steel Mill Products - 2016



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

Quick Facts:

- World’s second-largest steel exporter: 40.4 million metric tons (2016)
- 22% steel export growth since 2009
- Exports as a share of production at 38.6% in 2016
- Year-on-year export volume down 1% while export value down 13%
- Top three markets: South Korea, Thailand, China
- Largest producers: Nippon & Sumitomo and JFE
- 24 trade remedies in effect in 9 countries involving steel mill imports from Japan

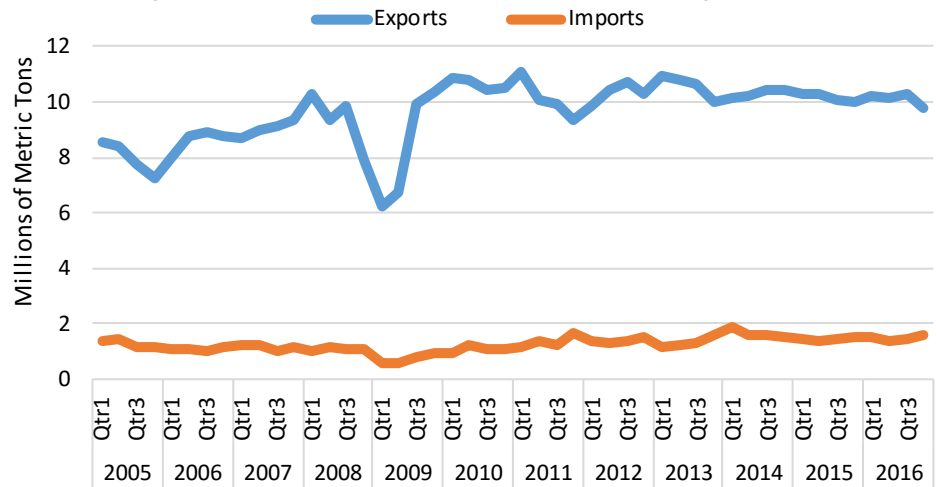
Steel Exports Report: Japan

Steel Trade Balance

Japan has maintained a persistent trade surplus in steel products. Exports dipped in 2009 after the global recession, while imports remained relatively flat in comparison. Between 2009 and 2016, exports increased by 22 percent, while imports increased by 101 percent.

In 2016, Japan's steel trade surplus amounted to 34.6 million metric tons, a 1 percent decrease from 34.9 million metric tons in 2015.

Japan's Trade in Steel Mill Products by Quarter



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

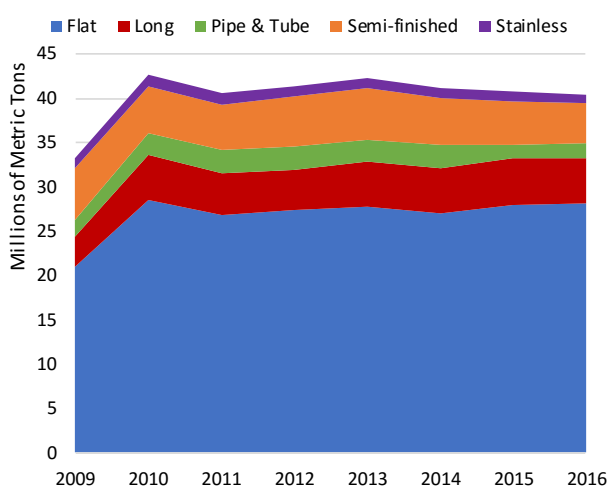
Export Volume, Value, and Product

After a 36 percent increase between 2009 and 2010, Japan's steel exports maintained a relatively steady average of 41.3 million metric tons per year between 2010 and 2016. Exports in 2015 amounted to 40.7 million metric tons — a slight decline from 41.2 million metric tons in 2014. In 2016, the volume of Japan's steel exports declined by 1 percent to 40.4 million metric tons. By contrast, the value of Japan's steel exports has decreased every year since 2011. In 2016, steel export value decreased 13 percent to \$29.2 billion from \$29.1 billion in 2015.

In 2016, flat products accounted for a significant share of Japan steel exports at 69 percent, or 28.1 million metric tons. Long products accounted for 13 percent, or 5.2 million metric tons, of Japan's exports, followed by semi-finished at 11 percent (4.5 million metric tons), pipe and tube at 4 percent (1.5 million metric tons), and stainless products at 3 percent (1 million metric tons).

Japan's Exports of Steel Mill Products

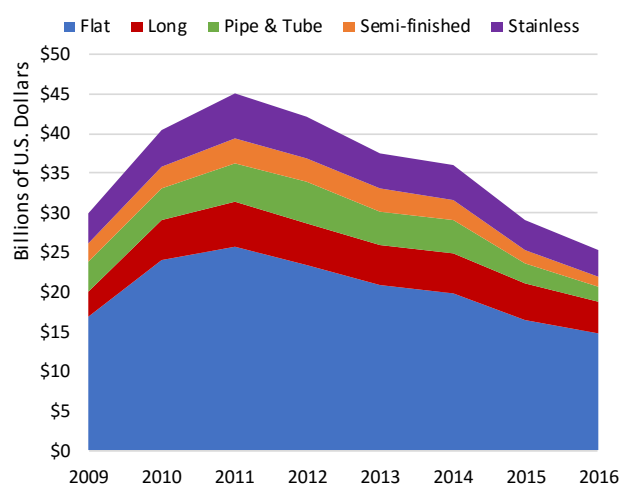
Millions of Metric Tons



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Japan's Exports of Steel Mill Products

Billions of U.S. Dollars



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Steel Exports Report: Japan

Exports by Top Market

Exports to Japan's top 10 steel markets represented 79 percent of Japan's steel export volume in 2016 at 31.9 million metric tons (mmt). South Korea received the largest share of Japan's exports with 17 percent (6.9 mmt), followed by Thailand at 14 percent (5.7 mmt), China at 13 percent (5.4 mmt), Vietnam at 7 percent (2.7 mmt), and Taiwan at 6 percent (2.5 mmt).

The United States ranked seventh as a destination for Japan's steel exports, receiving 5 percent of exports (1.96 mmt) in 2016 — a decrease of 16.1 percent from 2.3 million metric tons in 2015.

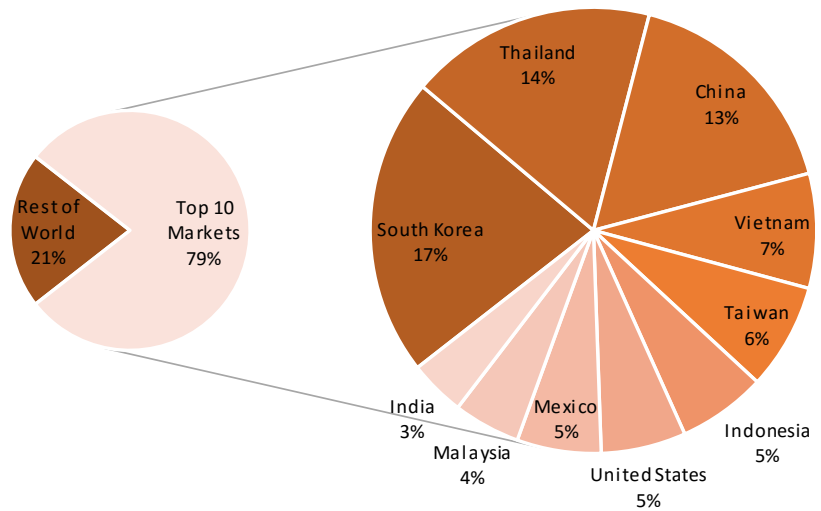
Trends in Exports to Top Markets

Japan's steel exports increased in volume to seven of Japan's top 10 steel export markets between 2015 and 2016. Exports to Mexico showed the largest increase in volume, up 19.2 percent from 2015, followed by Japan's exports to Malaysia (up 13.8%), Indonesia (up 11.5%), and Thailand (up 11.1%). Only exports to India, the United States, and Taiwan decreased in volume in 2016 — down 47.2 percent, 16.1 percent, and 10.6 percent, respectively.

Despite volume increases, the overall value of Japan's steel exports decreased in eight of the top 10 markets, reflecting the decline in global steel prices. Markets that experienced considerable decreases in steel value between 2015 and 2016 included exports to India (down 36.9%), the United States (down 26.3%), Taiwan (down 18.9%), and South Korea (down 12.4%).

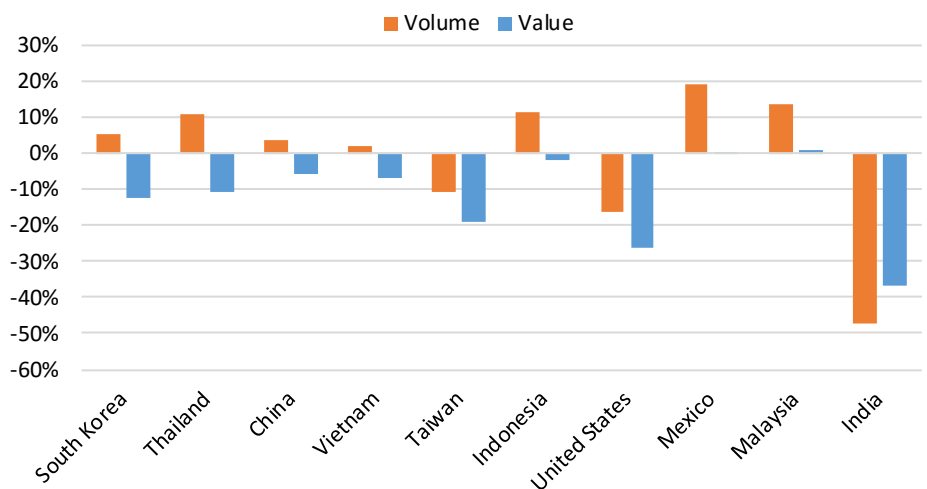
Only exports to Malaysia and Mexico increased between 2015 and 2016, with exports to Malaysia up 1 percent and exports to Mexico up 0.6 percent by value.

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



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

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



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

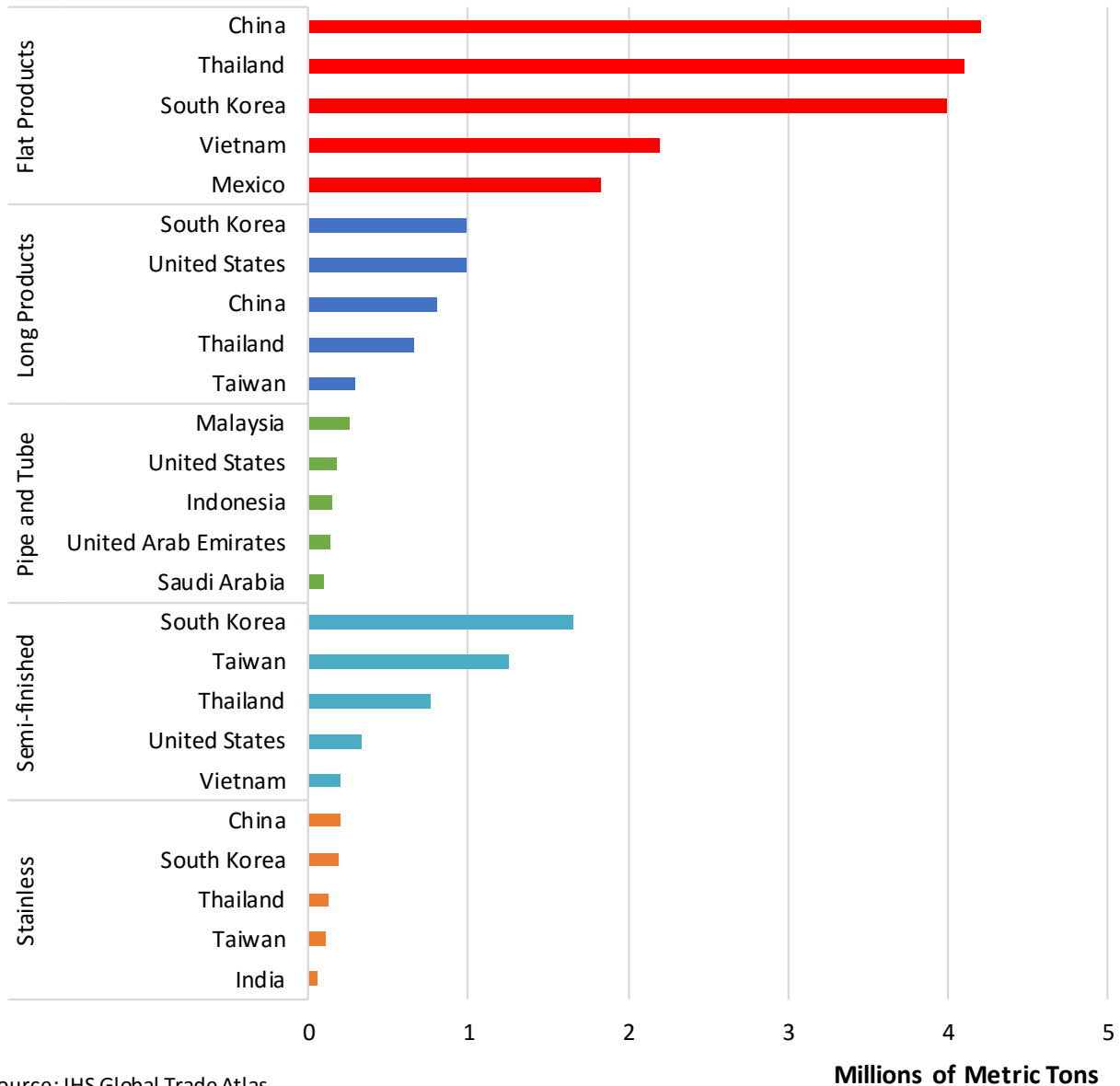
Steel Exports Report: Japan

Top Markets by Steel Product Category

Japan's top export markets by volume vary across types of steel products. China accounted for the largest share of Japan's exports of flat products in 2016 at 15 percent (4.2 million metric tons), followed closely by Thailand at 14.6 percent (4.1 million metric tons) and South Korea at 14.2 percent (3.99 million metric tons). China also received the largest share of Japan's exports of stainless steel at 19 percent (193.9 thousand metric tons).

Japan sent the largest share of long products exports to South Korea in 2016 at 19 percent (992.2 thousand metric tons), followed closely by the United States at 18.8 percent (983 thousand metric tons). South Korea also accounted for the largest share of semi-finished exports at 36 percent (1.6 million metric tons), while Malaysia received the largest share of Japan's pipe and tube exports at 17 percent (256.8 thousand metric tons).

Japan's Top 5 Export Markets by Product - 2016



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Steel Exports Report: Japan

Japan's Import Market Share in Top Destinations

In 2015, the import market share for Japan's steel products increased in five of Japan's top 10 export destinations and decreased in four of the top ten. The share of Malaysia's steel imports from Japan decreased the most (down 4.9 percentage points from 2014), followed by Thailand (down 2.6 percentage points).

Countries with notable increases in their share of steel imports from Japan included India (up 3.2 percentage points) and China (up 1.1 percentage points).

Among Japan's top export markets, China, Thailand, and Taiwan received more than a third of their total steel imports from Japan. In 2015, flat products accounted for the largest share of steel imports from Japan in both China (80%

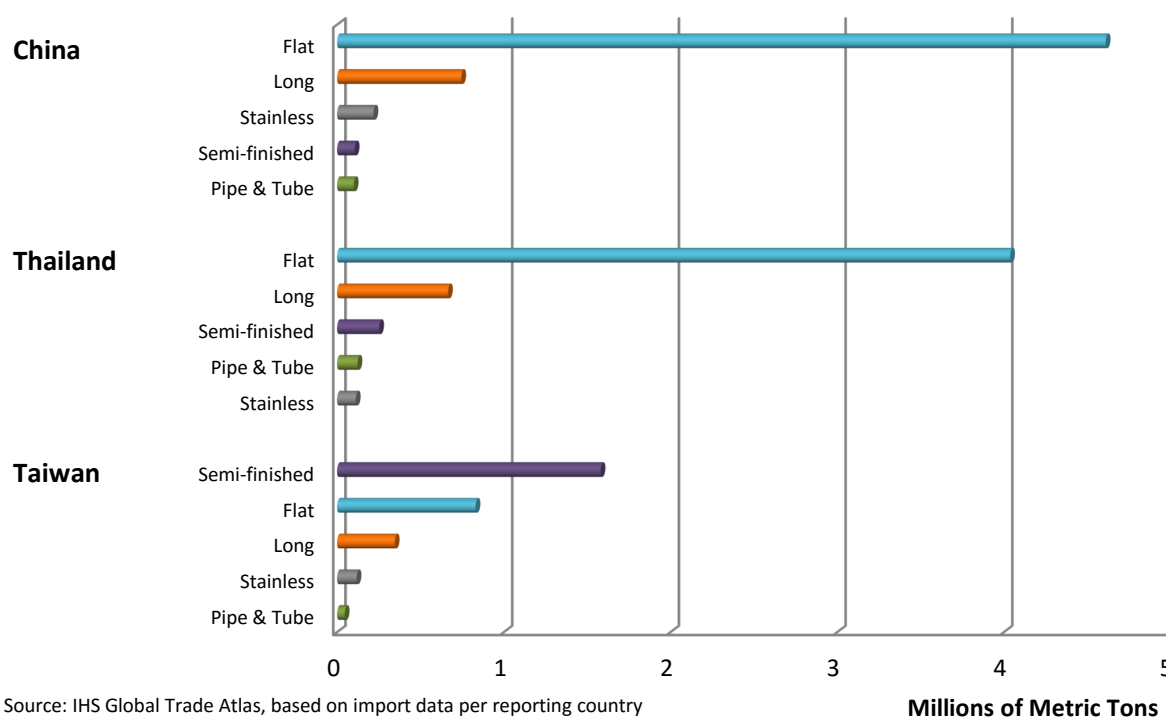
or 4.6 million metric tons) and Thailand (78% or 4 million metric tons), while semi-finished products accounted for the largest share Taiwan's imports from Japan (54% or 1.6 million metric tons).

Japan's Steel Import Market Share				
Top 10 Export Destinations	Share of Imports from Japan - 2014	Japan's Rank in 2014	Share of Imports from Japan - 2015	Japan's Rank in 2015
South Korea	32.6%	2	30.3%	2
China	41.7%	1	42.7%	1
Thailand	37.4%	1	34.8%	1
Taiwan	37.4%	1	37.5%	1
Vietnam	19.3%	2	N/A	N/A
India	15.3%	3	18.5%	3
United States	6.0%	7	6.8%	6
Indonesia	18.7%	2	16.7%	2
Mexico	14.1%	2	14.3%	2
Malaysia	22.7%	2	17.7%	2

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

Note: 2015 import data for Vietnam not available

Steel Import Composition of Top Market-Share Countries - 2015



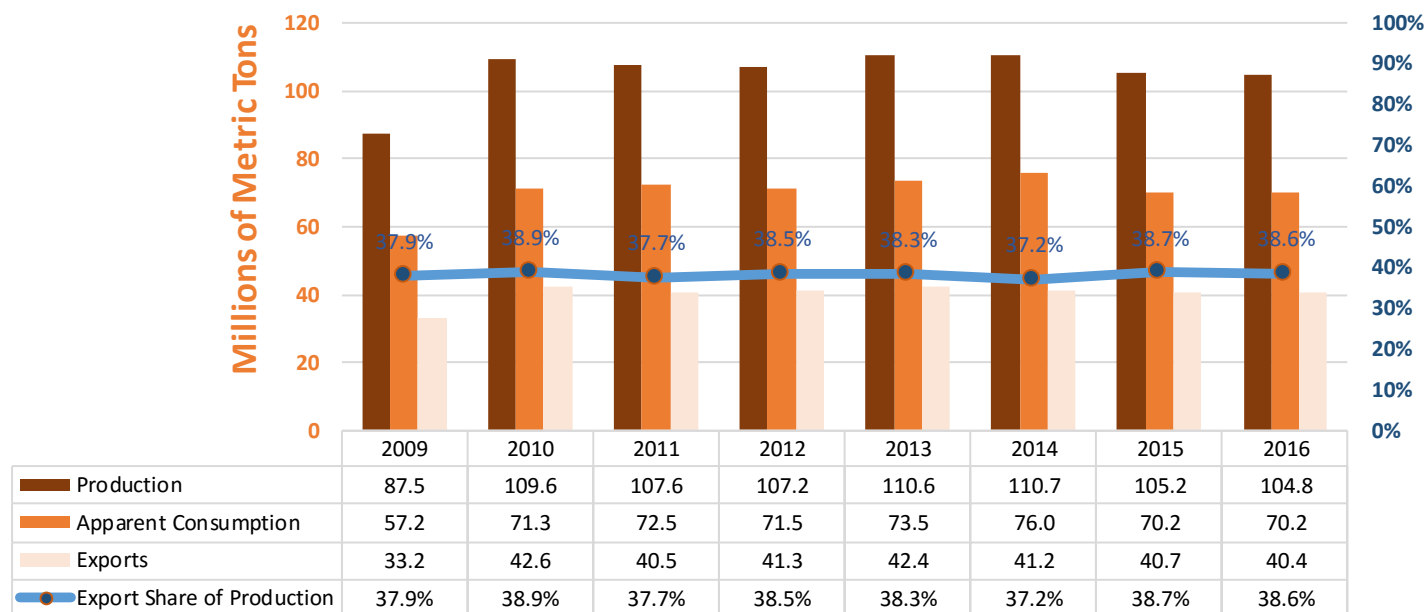
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country

Millions of Metric Tons

Steel Exports Report: Japan

Overall Production and Export Share of Production

Japan's Export Share of Steel Production



Sources: World Steel Association; IHS Global Trade Atlas

Japan's crude steel production increased by 25 percent between 2009 and 2010 and maintained a steady average of 107.9 million metric tons through 2016. In 2016, production decreased slightly by 0.4 percent to 104.8 million metric tons from 105.2 million metric tons in 2015. Apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) followed a similar growth trend, though it was consistently outpaced by production, and the gap between the two stood at 34.6 million metric tons in 2016. Between 2009 and 2016, Japan's steel exports as a share of production remained relatively flat, increasing by less than 1 percentage point over the period. The export share of production in 2016 was nearly on par from 2015, down just one-tenth of a percentage point to 38.6 percent.

Top Producers

Japan's steel production is concentrated among a small number of steel producing companies, with the country's top 4 producers accounting for 87.5 million metric tons, or 83.2 percent of total 2015 production, based on available data.

Japan's Top Steel Producers in 2015			
Rank	Company	Production (mmt)	Main Products
1	Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Corporation	46.4	Bars, plates, sheets, pipes, and tubes
2	JFE Steel Corporation	29.8	Sheets, plates, pipes, electrical, stainless, bars, wire rods
3	Kobe Steel, Ltd.	7.5	Wire, rods
4	Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.	3.8	Coated, cold-rolled, hot-rolled, stainless

Source: World Steel Association; Hoovers; MarketLine

Steel Exports Report: Japan

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 Japan.

Steel Mill Trade Remedies in Effect Against Japan				
Country	AD	CVD	Suspension Agreements and Undertakings	Total
Australia	4			4
Canada	1			1
China	2			2
European Union	1			1
Indonesia	1			1
Mexico	1			1
South Korea	2			2
Thailand	2			2
United States	10			10
TOTAL	24	0	0	24

Source: World Trade Organization, through December 1, 2016

Global Steel Mill Safeguards in Effect	
Country	Product(s)
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

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

trade.gov/steel