



Global Steel Trade Monitor

Steel Imports Report: Belgium

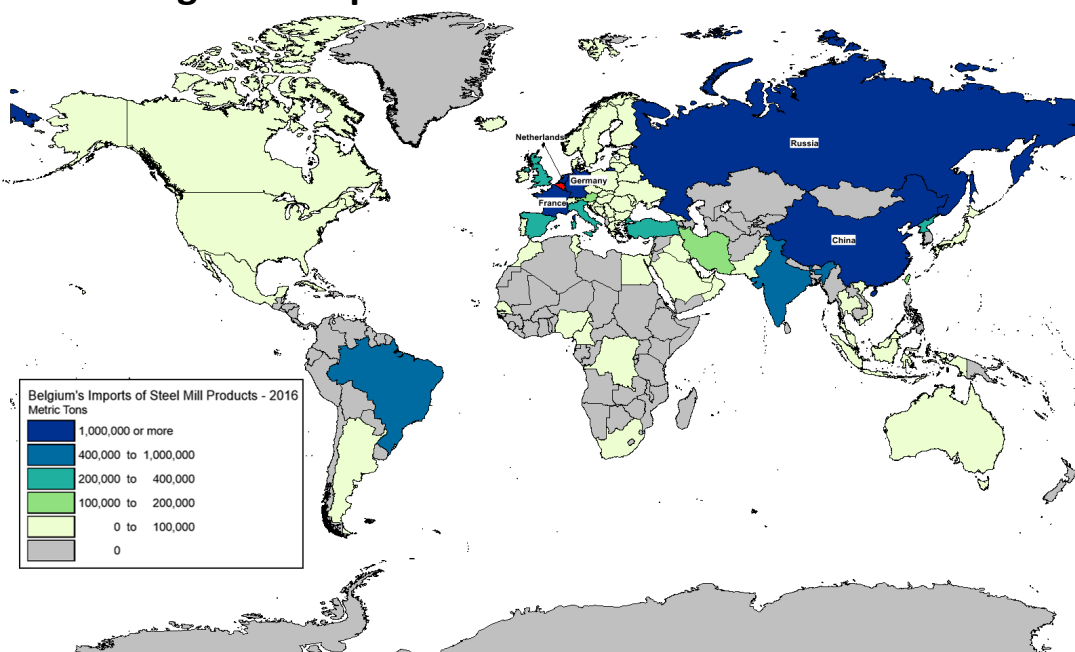
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Background

Belgium is the world's ninth-largest steel importer. In 2016, Belgium imported 13.3 million metric tons of steel, a 10 percent increase from 12 million metric tons in 2015. Belgium's imports represented about 3 percent of all steel imported globally, based on available data. The volume of Belgium's 2016 steel imports was slightly more than half that of the European Union's largest importer and the world's second-largest importer, Germany, and slightly less than half of the United States, the largest importer by volume. In value terms, steel represented just 2 percent of the total goods imported into Belgium in 2016.

Belgium imports steel from over 70 countries and territories. The five countries labeled in the map below represent the top sources for Belgium's imports of steel, with each sending more than 1 million metric tons to Belgium and together accounting for 69 percent of Belgium's steel imports in 2016.

Belgium's Imports of Steel Mill Products - 2016



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

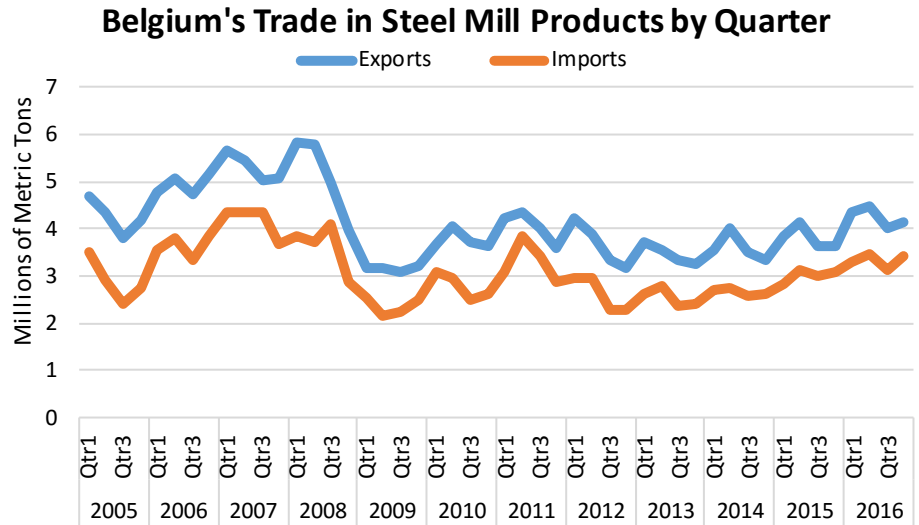
Quick Facts:

- World's 9th-largest steel importer: 13.3 million metric tons (2016)
- 31% steel import growth since 2013
- Year-on-year import volume up 10% while import value up 2%
- Import penetration up from 298.8% in 2015 to 335.1% in 2016
- Top three import sources: Russia, France, and Germany
- Largest producers: ArcelorMittal, NLMK, and Aperam
- 20 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's imports and exports both increased in 2016 as the country remains a net exporter of steel and has maintained a continuous trade surplus at an average of 4.2 million metric tons since 2005.



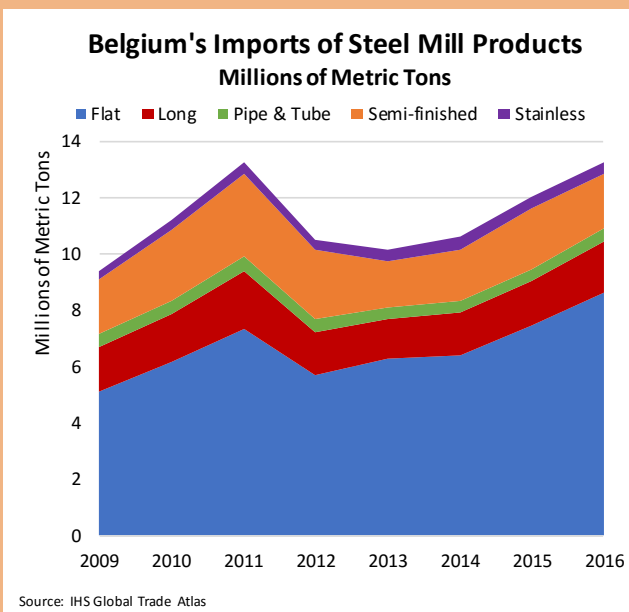
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

After a decline in the surplus in 2015, Belgium's steel trade surplus regained the loss and increase to 3.7 million metric tons in 2016.

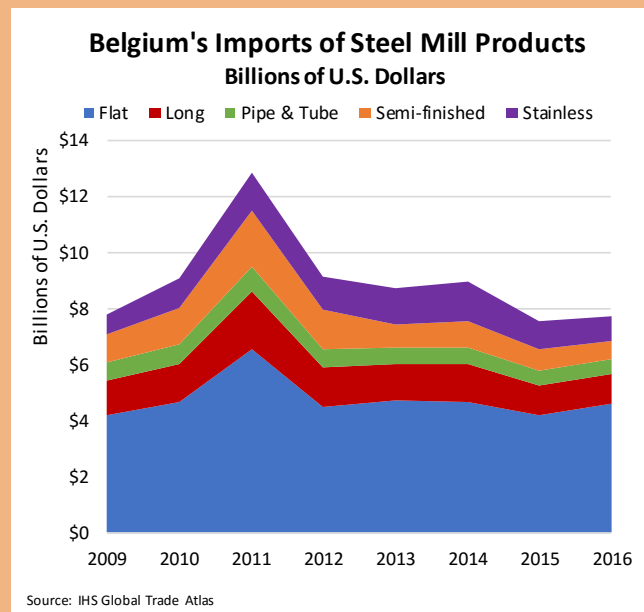
Import Volume, Value, and Product

After falling in 2012 and 2013, Belgium's volume of steel imports has been steadily increasing. In 2016, imports reached a peak of 13.3 million metric tons, an increase of 31 percent from 2013. Imports increased by 13 percent between 2014 and 2015 and another 10 percent between 2015 and 2016 alone. By contrast, import values have been trending downwards since 2013, though the value of Belgium's steel imports showed a slight uptick from \$7.6 billion in 2015 to \$7.7 billion in 2016.

Flat products accounted for 65 of Belgium's steel imports (8.6 million metric tons) in 2016, up from a 62 percent share in 2015. Semi-finished steel accounted for 14 percent, or 1.9 million metric tons, followed by long products at 14 percent (1.8 million metric tons), pipe and tube products at 4 percent (490 thousand metric tons), and stainless steel at 3 percent (398 thousand metric tons). Pipe and tube and stainless products were the only two categories to decline in import volume in 2016.



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas



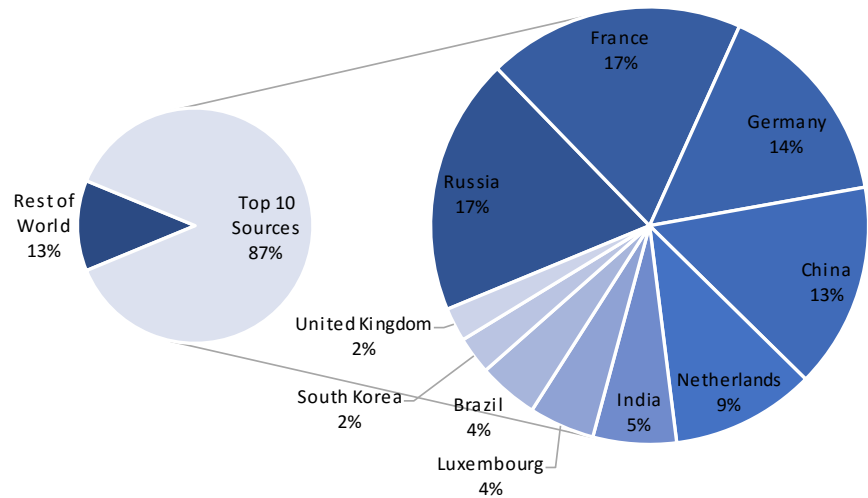
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Steel Imports Report: Belgium

Imports by Top Source

The top 10 source countries for Belgium's steel imports represented 88 percent of the total steel import volume in 2016 at 11.6 million metric tons (mmt). Russia, which ranked second in 2015, accounted for the largest share of Belgium's imports by source country at 17 percent (2.204 mmt), followed by France also at 17 percent (2.2 mmt), Germany at 14 percent (1.79 mmt), China at 13 percent (1.76 mmt), and the Netherlands at 9 percent (1.2 mmt).

Belgium's Steel Imports - Top 10 Sources
2016 - Millions of Metric Tons



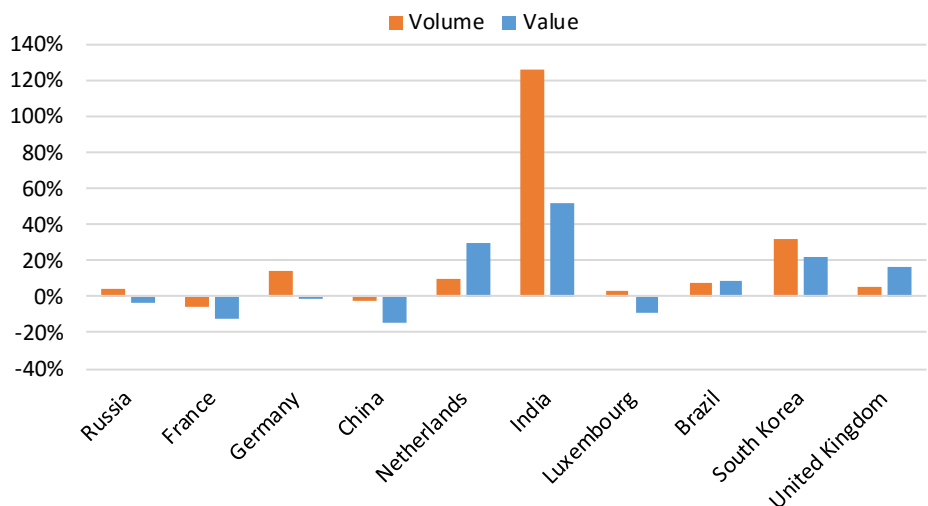
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

The United States ranked 19th as a source for Belgium's steel imports, representing just 0.4 percent of imports in 2016 — a total of 53 thousand metric tons and down 25.8 percent from 2015.

Trends in Imports from Top Sources

The volume of Belgium's steel imports increased from eight of its top 10 steel import sources between 2015 and 2016. Imports from India showed the largest increase in volume by far, up 126 percent in 2016. Other countries showing double digit growth were South Korea (up 33%), Germany (up 15%), and the Netherlands (up 10%). Only imports from France and China decreased in volume from 2015, down 5 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

Percent Change in Imports from Top 10 Sources (2015 to 2016)



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Despite volume increasing to the majority of the top 10 countries, the overall value of Belgium's imports from these markets was somewhat flat, with only a 1.6 percent increase from 2015 levels. By value, imports from

India showed the largest increase, up 52 percent, followed by imports from the Netherlands (up 30%), South Korea (up 22%), the United Kingdom (up 16%), and Brazil (up 8%). The value of Belgium's imports from China decreased 14 percent in 2016, followed by France (down 12%), Luxembourg (down 9%), Russia (down 4%), and lastly Germany (down 0.3%).

Steel Imports Report: **Belgium**

Top Sources by Steel Product Category

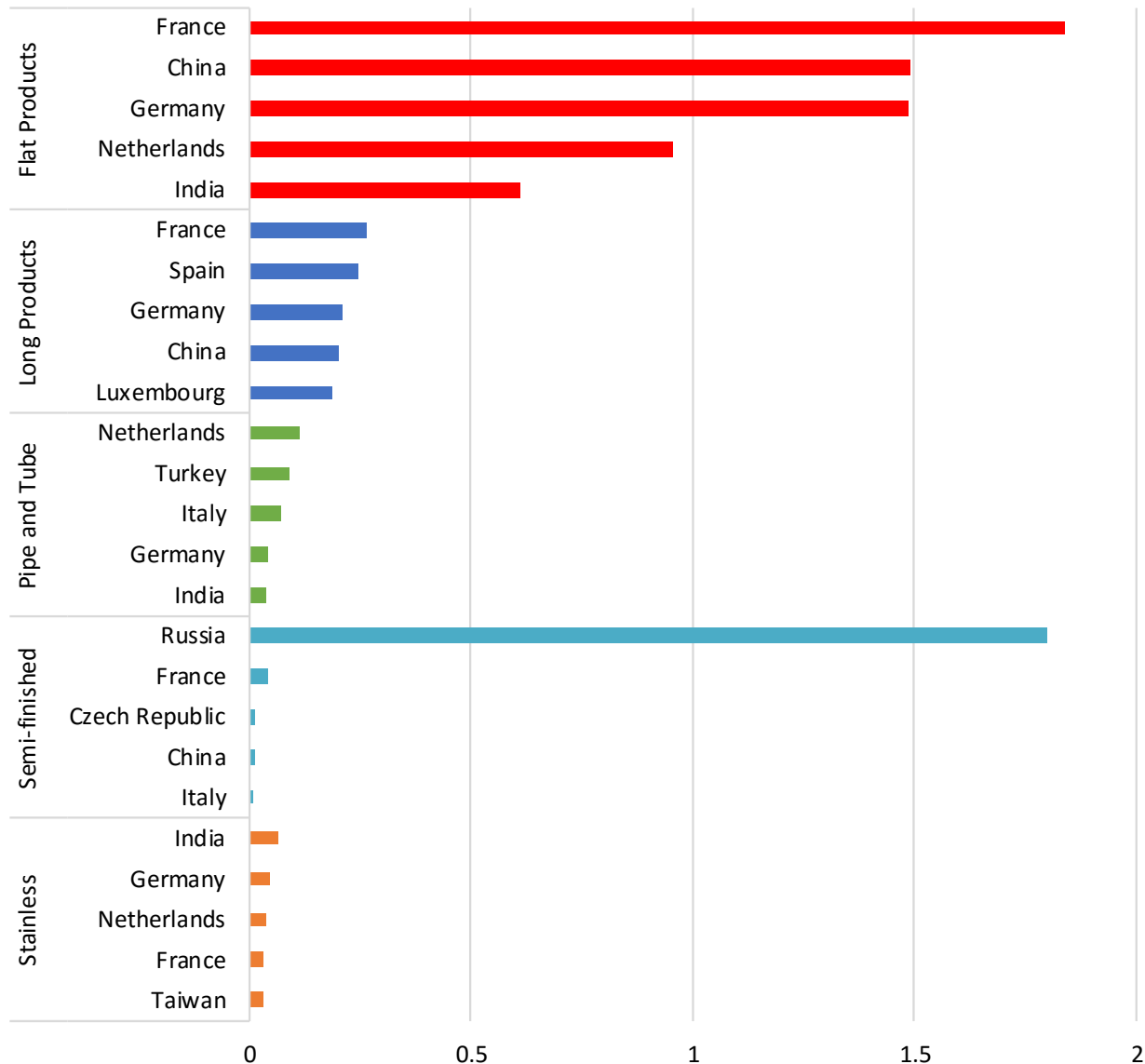
The top source countries for Belgium’s imports by volume vary across types of steel products. France accounted for the largest share of both Belgium’s imports of flat and long products in 2016 at 21 percent (1.8 million metric tons) and 15 percent (262 thousand metric tons), respectively.

In 2016, the Netherlands represented the largest share of Belgium’s pipe and tube imports at 23 percent (111 thousand metric tons), while India represented the largest share of stainless product imports at 16 percent (65 thousand metric tons).

Belgium received nearly all of its semi-finished imports from Russia in 2016 at 94 percent (1.8 million metric tons), up from 83 percent in 2015.

The United States was not a top 5 import source for any of the product categories in 2016.

Belgium's Top 5 Import Sources by Product - 2016



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Millions of Metric Tons

Steel Imports Report: Belgium

Belgium's Export Market Share from Top Source Countries

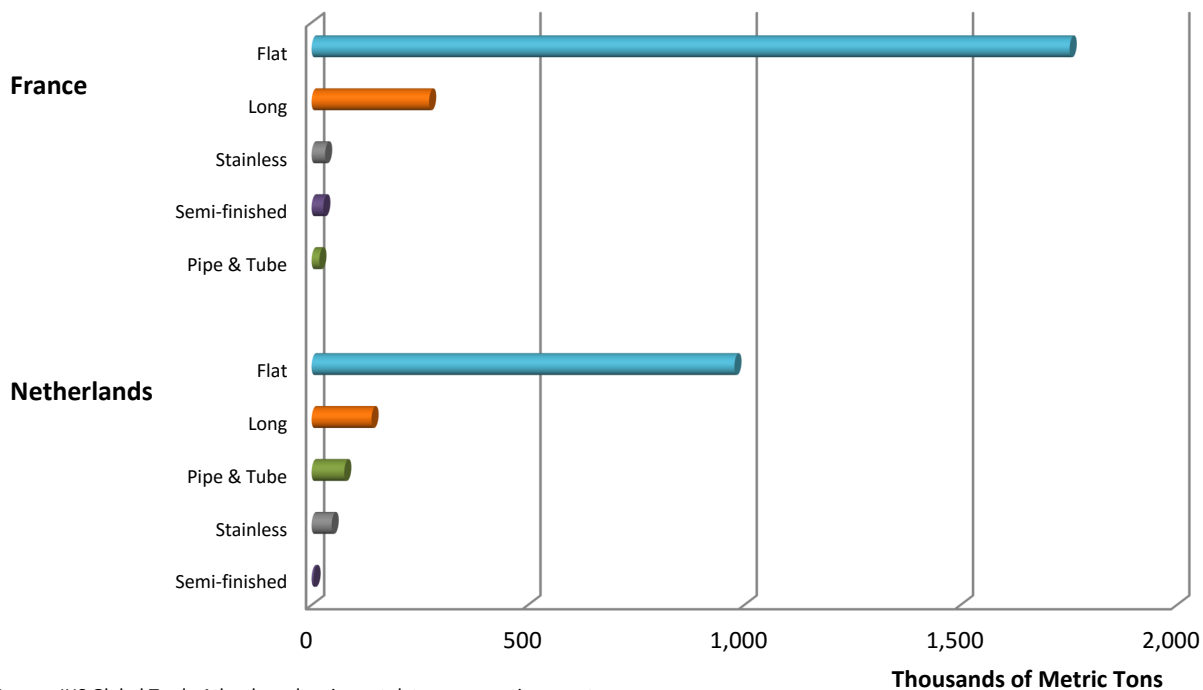
In 2015, the share of steel exports sent to Belgium from its top import sources increased from all of the top 10 sources except the Netherlands. In 2015, the share of Brazil's steel exports to Belgium showed the largest increase (up 2 percentage points from 2014), followed by India (up 1.7 percentage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

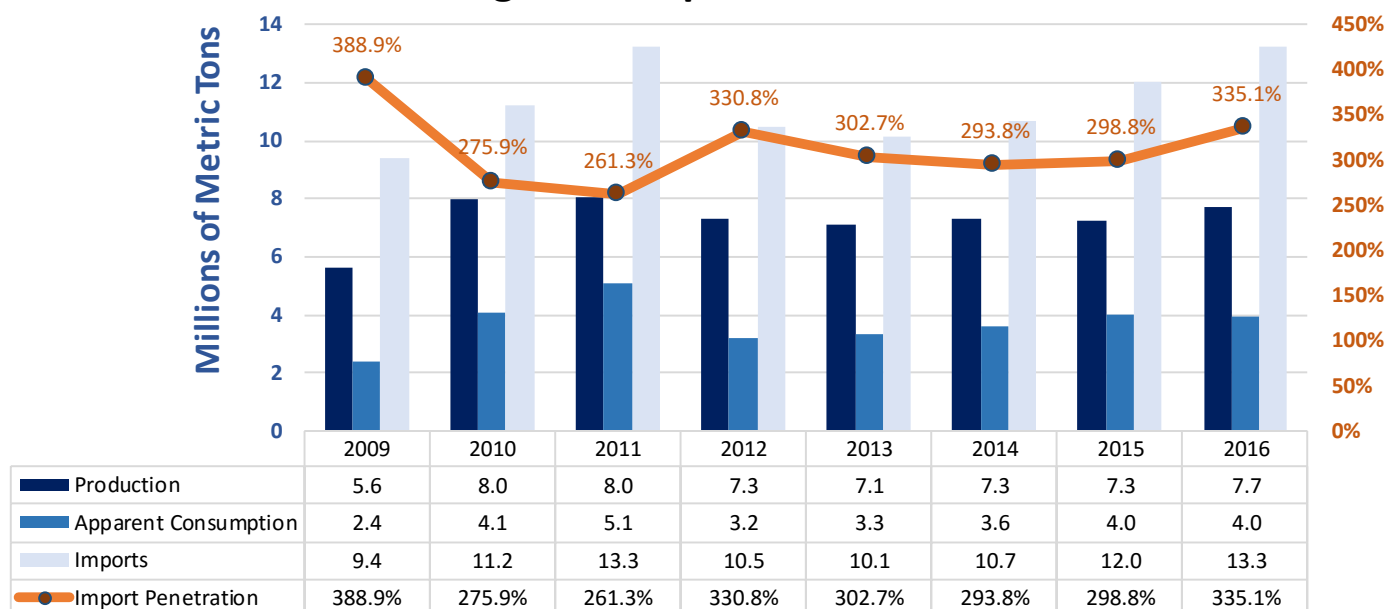


Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country

Steel Imports Report: Belgium

Overall Production and Import Penetration

Belgium's Import Penetration



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 through 2015. Production increased 6 percent in 2016 to 7.7 million metric tons from 7.3 million metric tons in 2015. Between 2009 and 2016, apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) remained at a level roughly half that of production. Imports continued to greatly exceed both production and demand over the period. Though Belgium’s level of import penetration dipped in 2010 and 2011, it has since recovered. Import penetration stood at 335.1 percent in 2016 – up 36 percentage points from 298.8 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 2015

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 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.

European Union Trade Remedies in Effect Against Steel Mill Imports				
Country	AD	CVD	Suspension Agreements and Undertakings	Total
Belarus	1			1
China	7	1		8
India	1	2		3
Japan	1			1
Russia	3			3
South Korea	1			1
Taiwan	1			1
Ukraine	1			1
United States	1			1
TOTAL	17	3	0	20

Source: World Trade Organization, through December 1, 2016

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/>.



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