



# Global Steel Trade Monitor

## Steel Imports Report: Mexico

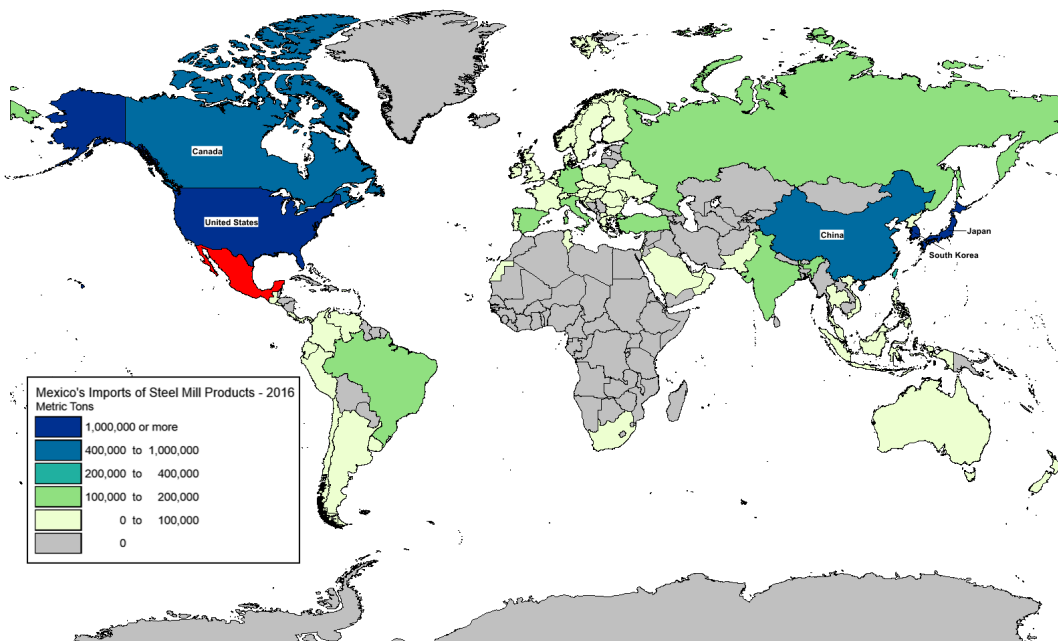
May 2017

### Background

Mexico is the world's twelfth-largest steel importer. In 2016, Mexico imported 9.6 million metric tons of steel, a 3 percent decrease from 9.9 million metric tons in 2015. Mexico's imports represented about 3 percent of all steel imported globally in 2015, based on available data. The volume of Mexico's 2016 steel imports was just under a third the size of the world's largest importer, the United States. In value terms, steel represented just 2.3 percent of the total goods imported into Mexico in 2016.

Mexico imports steel from over 100 countries and territories. The five countries labeled in the map below represent the top import sources for Mexico's imports of steel, with each sending more than 400 thousand metric tons to Mexico and together accounting for 79 percent of Mexico's steel imports in 2016.

### Mexico's Imports of Steel Mill Products - 2016



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

### Quick Facts:

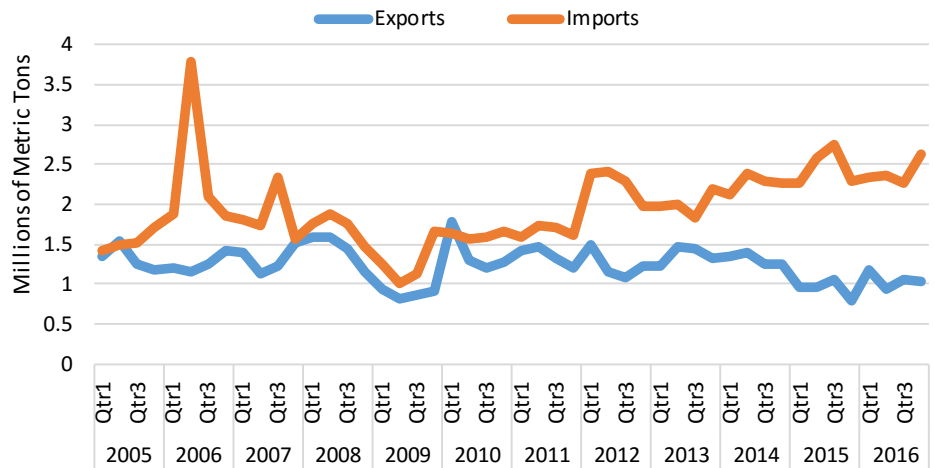
- World's 12th-largest steel importer: 9.6 million metric tons (2016)
- 56% steel import growth since 2005
- Year-on-year import volume down 3% while import value down 12%
- Import penetration down from 40.7% in 2015 to 39.5% in 2016
- Top three import sources: United States, Japan, South Korea
- Largest producers: AHMSA, Ternium S.A, ArcelorMittal, Deacero
- 24 trade remedies in effect against imports of steel mill products

# Steel Imports Report: Mexico

## Steel Trade Balance

With the exception of two quarters, Q2 2005 and Q1 2010, when spikes in exports caused a brief trade surplus, Mexico has maintained a continuous trade deficit in steel products since 2005. Between 2005 and 2016, imports grew 56 percent, while exports decreased 19 percent, and Mexico's steel trade deficit gradually widened. In 2016, Mexico's steel trade deficit amounted to -5.4 million metric tons — a 12 percent decrease from -6.2 million metric tons in 2015.

Mexico's Trade in Steel Mill Products by Quarter

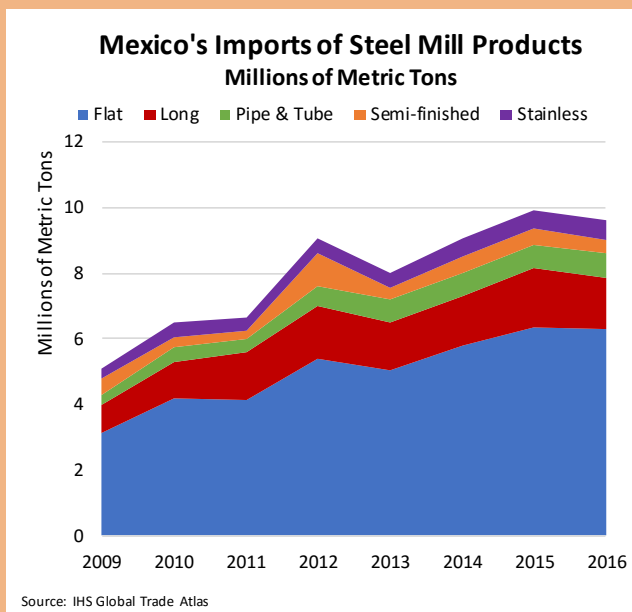


Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

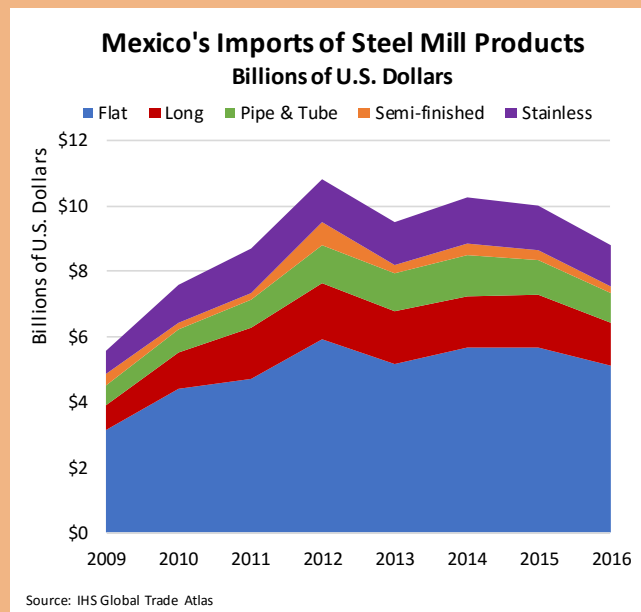
## Import Volume, Value, and Product

Mexico's volume of steel imports has been trending upwards since 2011. Imports reached a recent peak in 2015 at 9.9 million metric tons — a 9 percent increase from 9.1 million metric tons in 2014. 2016 imports declined by 3 percent from 2015 to 9.6 million metric tons. By contrast, the value of Mexico's 2016 steel imports declined by a greater amount, down 12 percent to \$8.8 billion from \$10 billion in 2015.

Flat products accounted for 65 percent of Mexico's steel imports in 2016, a total of 6.3 million metric tons. Long products accounted for 16 percent of Mexico's imports (1.6 million metric tons), followed by pipe and tube at 8 percent (729.8 thousand metric tons), stainless products at 6 percent (612.9 thousand metric tons), and semi-finished products at 4 percent (414 thousand metric tons).



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas



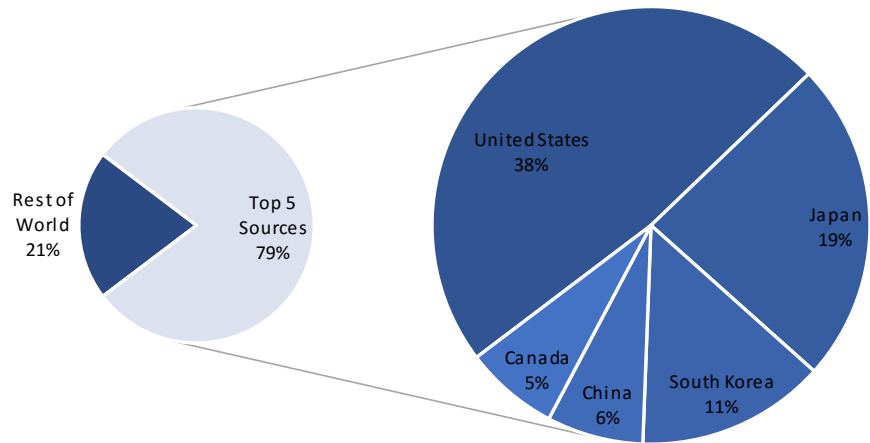
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

# Steel Imports Report: Mexico

## Imports by Top Source

The top 5 source countries for Mexico's steel imports represented 79 percent of the total steel import volume in 2016 at 7.6 million metric tons (mmt). The United States accounted for the largest share of Mexico's imports by source country at 38 percent (3.7 mmt), followed by Japan at 19 percent (1.8 mmt), South Korea at 11 percent (1.1 mmt), China at 6 percent (0.54 mmt), and Canada at 5 percent (0.53 mmt). Of note, the top 5 rankings remained unchanged from 2015.

**Mexico's Steel Imports - Top 5 Sources**  
2016 - Millions of Metric Tons



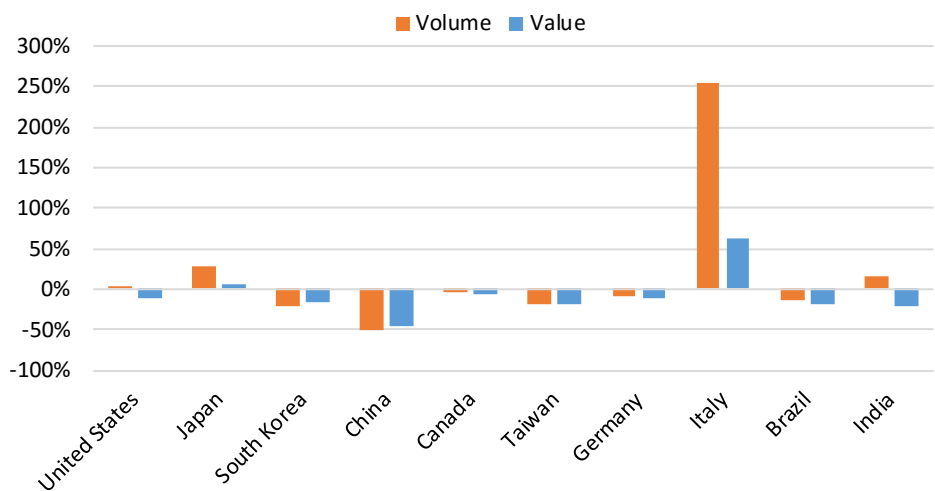
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

## Trends in Imports from Top Sources

The volume of Mexico's steel imports decreased from six of Mexico's top 10 steel import sources between 2015 and 2016. Imports from China showed the largest decrease in 2016, down 49.6 percent from 2015, followed by imports from South Korea (down 20.3%), Taiwan (down 17.7%), and Brazil (down 13.8%). Imports from Italy jumped by 254.5 percent in 2016, while imports from Japan increased by 28.1 percent, imports from India increased by 16.8 percent, and imports from the United States increased by 3.5 percent.

In value terms, only Mexico's imports from Italy and Japan increased in value in 2016, up 61.6 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively, from 2015. Imports from the rest of Mexico's top 10 sources all showed value decreases between 2015 and 2016, with notable decreases in imports from China (down 46%), India (down 21%), Taiwan (down 18.5%), and Brazil (down 18.2%).

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



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

Outside of the top 10 sources, other significant volume changes included Mexico's imports from 12th-ranked Turkey (up 143.2% from 2015), 14th-ranked Saudi Arabia (up 85,857%), and 20th-ranked Portugal (up 1,946%).

# Steel Imports Report: Mexico

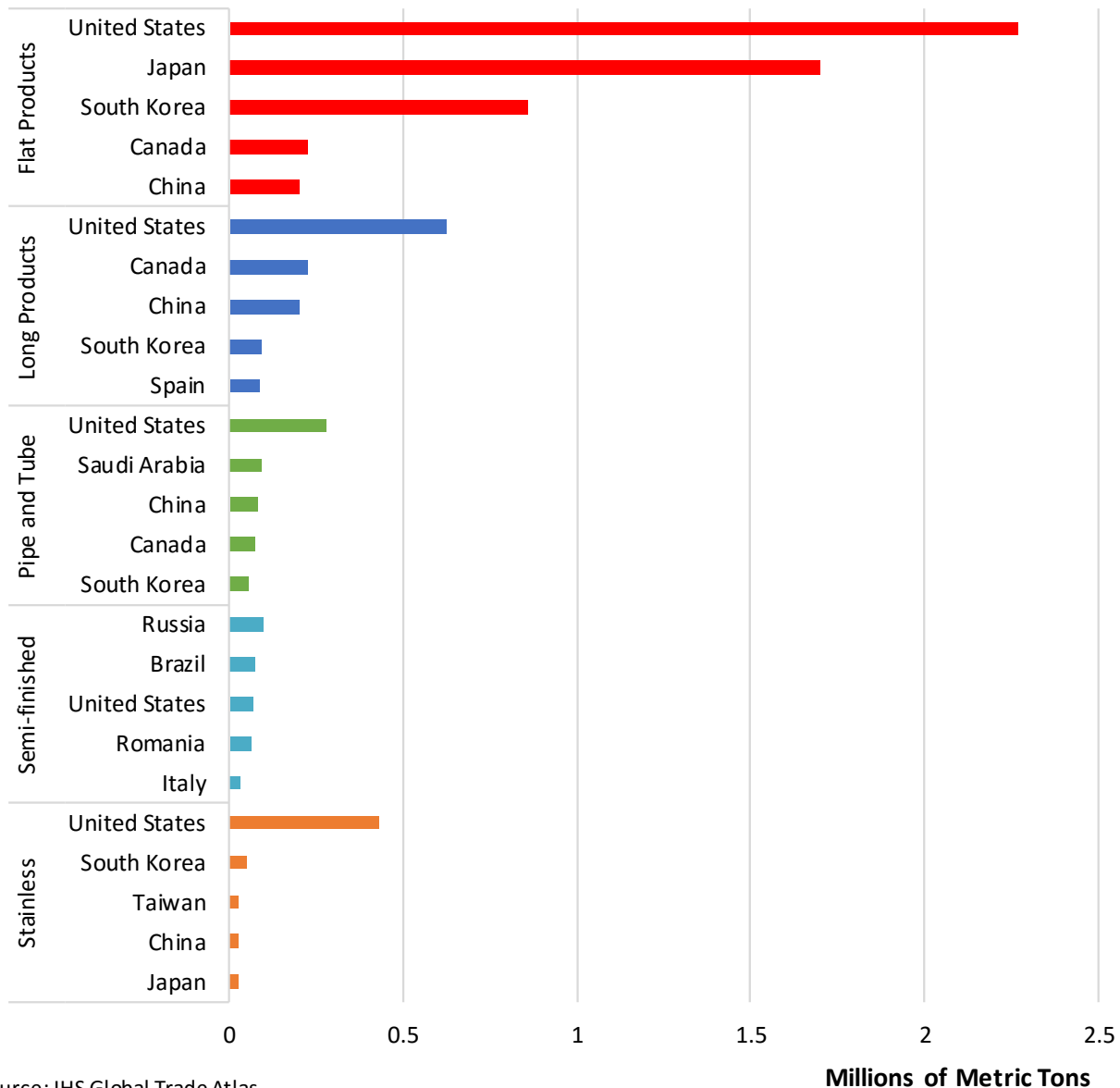
## Top Sources by Steel Product Category

The top source countries for Mexico's imports by volume vary across types of steel products, though the United States held the top spot for imports in all product categories except for semi-finished products.

In flat products, the United States accounted for 36 percent of Mexico's imports (2.3 million metric tons) in 2016, followed by Japan at 27 percent (1.7 million metric tons). Imports from the United States accounted for 40 percent of Mexico's long product imports (624 thousand metric tons), 38 percent of pipe and tube imports (280.7 thousand metric tons), and 71 percent of stainless imports (433.1 thousand metric tons).

Russia accounted for the largest share of Mexico's imports of semi-finished products at 24 percent (101.4 thousand metric tons).

### Mexico's Top 5 Import Sources by Product - 2016



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

# Steel Imports Report: Mexico

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

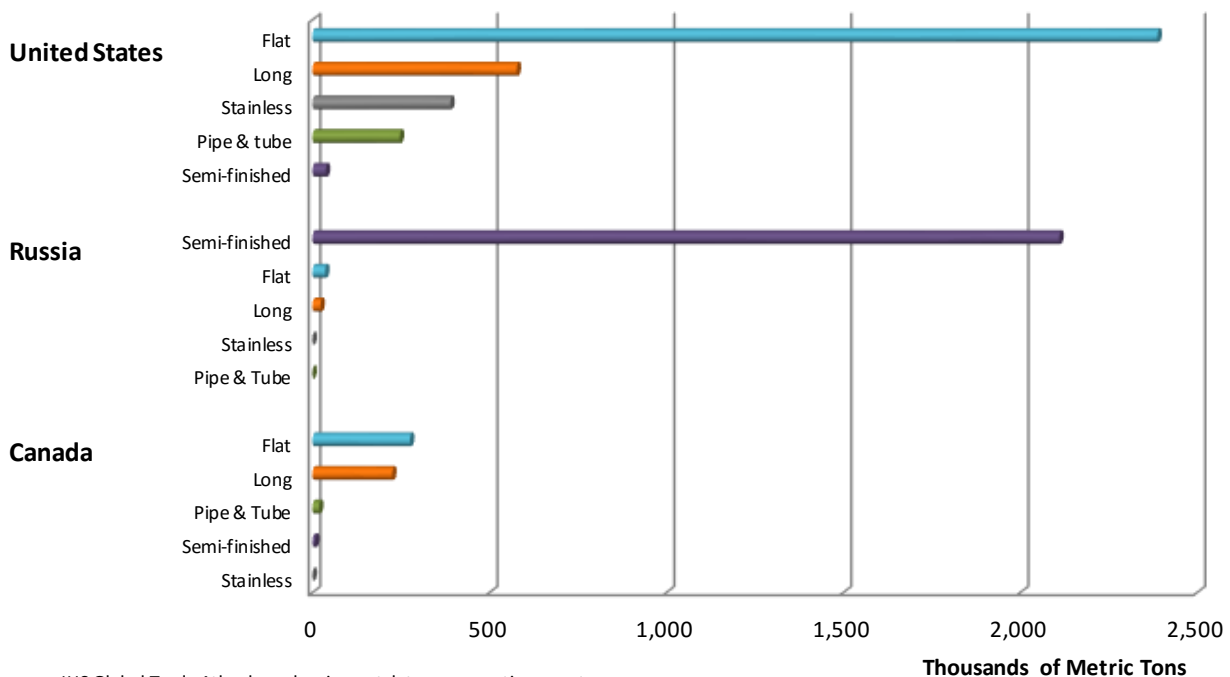
In 2015, the share of steel exports sent to Mexico from its top import sources increased in the majority of sources. The share of the United States' steel exports to Mexico showed the largest increase (up 3.9 percentage points), followed by Canada (up 1.6 percentage point). The export share to Mexico in Russia, Brazil, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan all increased by less than one percentage point. Only Germany's share of steel exports to Mexico decreased slightly by 0.2 percentage points, while Spain's and China's shares remained unchanged.

Mexico's Steel Export Market Share				
Top 10 Import Sources	Share of Exports to Mexico - 2014	Mexico's Rank in 2014	Share of Exports to Mexico- 2015	Mexico's Rank in 2015
United States	34.1%	2	38.0%	2
Japan	3.4%	10	4.0%	9
South Korea	4.6%	8	5.3%	6
China	1.0%	28	1.0%	26
Canada	6.8%	2	8.4%	2
Taiwan	2.3%	13	2.8%	12
Germany	1.0%	19	0.8%	20
Russia	6.4%	5	7.3%	3
Brazil	1.5%	12	2.4%	7
Spain	1.6%	12	1.6%	12

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

Among Mexico's top import sources, the United States, Canada, and Russia sent the largest shares of their total steel exports to Mexico at 38 percent, 8.4 percent, and 7.3 percent, respectively. In 2015, flat products accounted for 66 percent (2.4 million metric tons) and 52 percent (275.4 thousand metric tons) of the United States' and Canada's steel exports to Mexico, while semi-finished products accounted for 97 percent (2.1 million metric tons) of Russia's exports to Mexico.

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

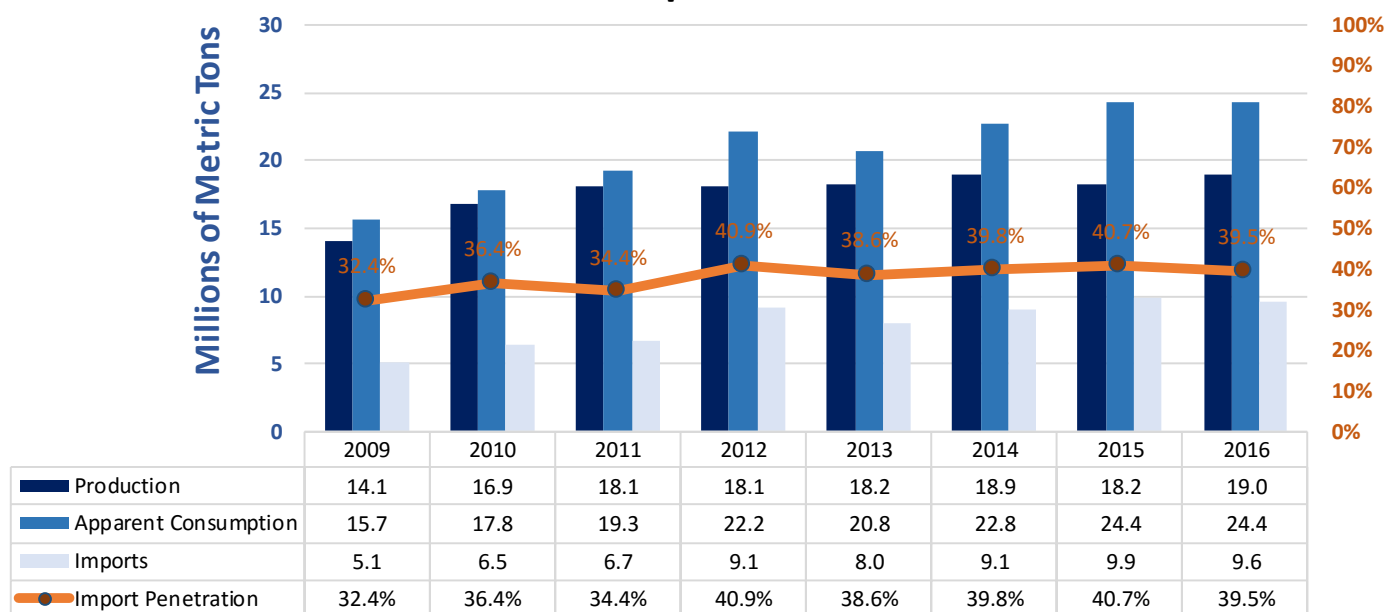


Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country

# Steel Imports Report: Mexico

## Overall Production and Import Penetration

### Mexico's Import Penetration



Sources: World Steel Association; IHS Global Trade Atlas

Mexico's crude steel production increased by 34 percent between 2009 and 2016. Production in 2016 was up 4 percent to 19 million metric tons from 18.2 million metric tons in 2015. Apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) has increasingly outpaced production over the period. The gap between demand and production widened significantly in 2015, to 6.2 million metric tons, and narrowed slightly to 5.4 million metric tons in 2016. Import penetration grew by nearly 9 percentage points between 2009 and 2012 and has averaged 39.7 percent since then. In 2016, import penetration decreased slightly to 39.5 percent from 40.7 percent in 2015.

### Top Producers

Mexico's steel production is a mix of domestic and foreign-owned companies, and the majority of Mexico's steel output is concentrated among a handful of producers, with the country's top four producers accounting for roughly 90 percent of total 2015 production, based on actual and estimated data.

Mexico's Top Steel Producers			
Rank	Company	Production (mmt)	Main Products
1	Altos Hornos de México, S.A.B. de C.V. (AHMSA)	5	Bars, cold-rolled/hot-rolled coils/sheets, slabs, sections, plates
2	Ternium S.A	5*	Bars, billets, cold-rolled/hot-rolled coils/sheets, slabs, wire rod, sections, pipes & tubes, galvanized
3	Arcelor Mittal	4	Bars, blooms, billets, slabs, wire rod
4	Deacero	2.5	Billets, bars, wire rod, galvanized

Source: Metal Bulletin, *Iron and Steelworks of the World Directory 2017*; American Iron and Steel Institute (AIS); Company websites

\* estimated capacity

# Steel Imports Report: **Mexico**

## 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 Mexico has against imports of steel mill products from various countries. Mexico has no steel mill safeguards in effect.

<b>Mexico’s Trade Remedies in Effect Against Steel Mill Imports</b>				
<b>Country</b>	<b>AD</b>	<b>CVD</b>	<b>Suspension Agreements and Undertakings</b>	<b>Total</b>
Brazil	1			1
China	5			5
France	1			1
Germany	1			1
India	1			1
Japan	1			1
Kazakhstan	1			1
Romania	1			1
Russia	4			4
South Korea			1	1
Spain	1			1
Ukraine	3			3
United Kingdom	1			1
United States	2			2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>

Source: World Trade Organization, through December 1, 2016

# Steel Imports 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/>.



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)