

# Global Steel Trade Monitor

## Steel Exports Report: Belgium

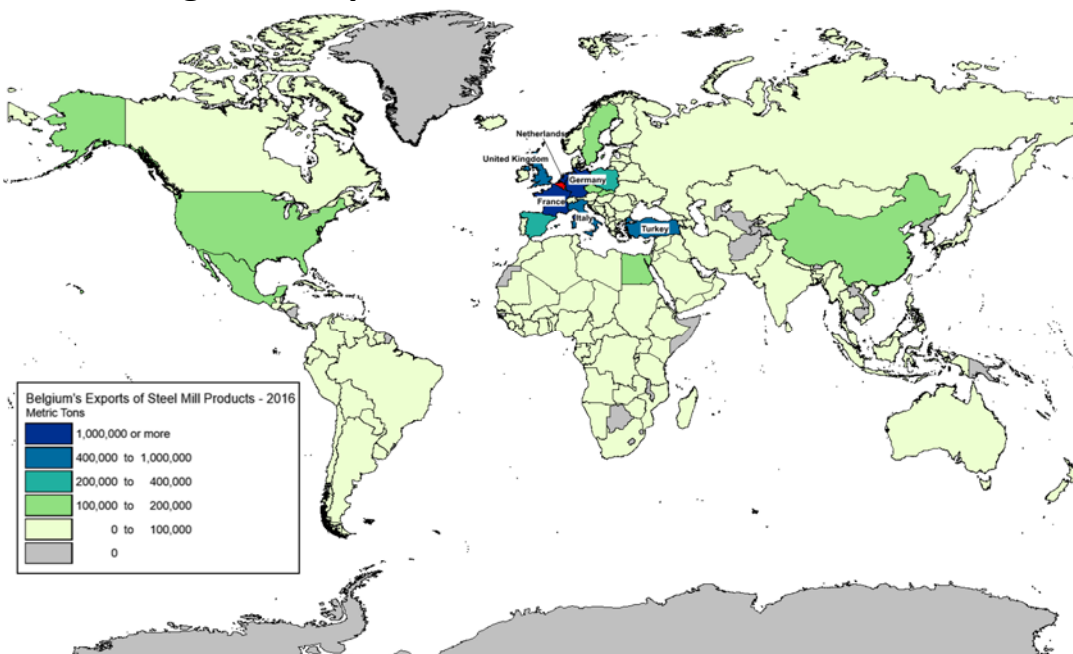
December 2017

### Background

Belgium is the world's eighth-largest steel exporter. In year-to-date (through September), further referred to as YTD 2017, Belgium exported 13.7 million metric tons of steel, a 7 percent increase from 12.8 million metric tons in YTD 2016. Belgium's exports represented about 4 percent of all steel exported globally in 2016. The volume of Belgium's 2016 steel exports was almost equal to the world's seventh-largest exporter, Italy, and just over one-sixth the size of the world's largest exporter, China. In value terms, steel represented 6.2 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:

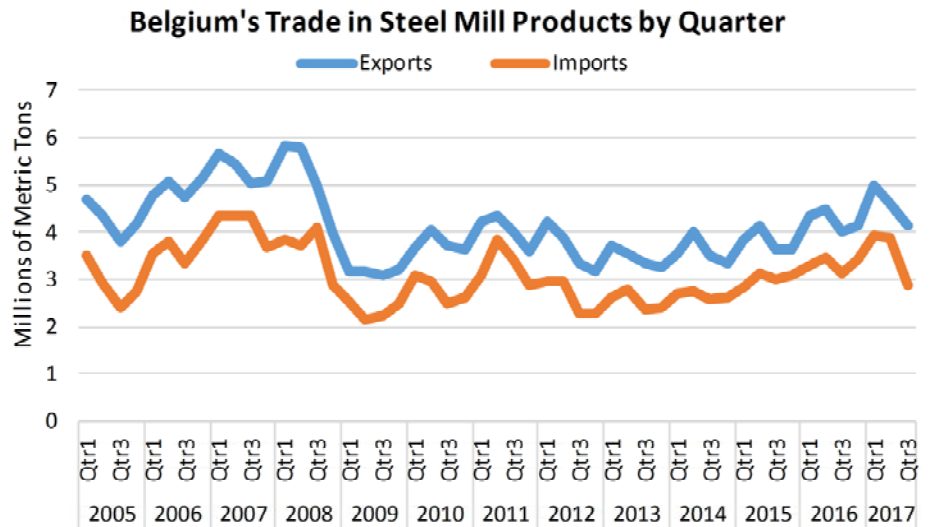
- World's eighth-largest steel exporter: 13.7 million metric tons (YTD 2017)
- 31% steel export growth since Q2 2009
- Exports as a share of production up from 224.6% in YTD 2016 to 235.5% in YTD 2017
- YTD export volume up 7% while export value up 28%
- Top three markets: Germany, France, Netherlands
- 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 EU

# 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 34 percent between Q3 2009 and Q3 2017. After increasing by 16 percent between 2015 and 2016, the steel trade surplus increased slightly to 3 million metric tons from YTD 2016 to YTD 2017.

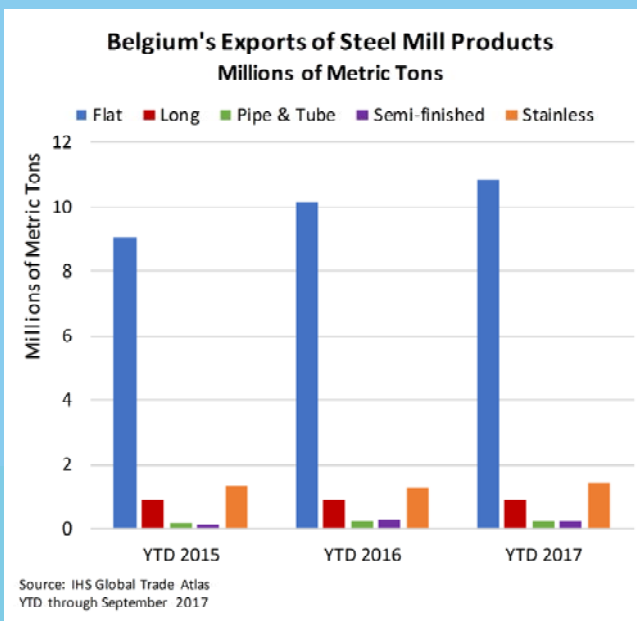


Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas

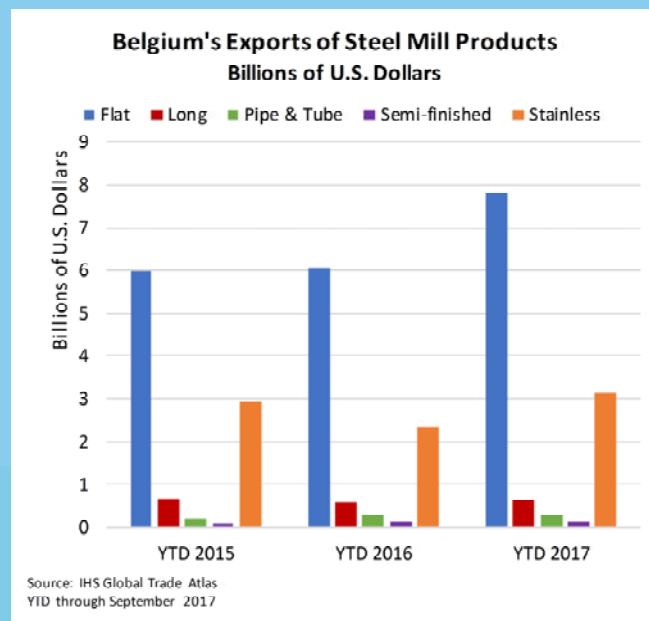
## Export Volume, Value, and Product

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 YTD 2017, exports increased 7 percent to 13.7 million metric tons from 12.8 million metric tons in YTD 2016. While export value declined steadily since 2011, between YTD 2016 and YTD 2017, export value increased by 28 percent.

In YTD 2017, Belgium exported 10.9 million metric tons of flat products, comprising 79 percent of the country's steel exports by volume. With 1.4 billion U.S. dollars, stainless products represented the second-largest share of exports at 11 percent, followed by long products (7% or 904 thousand metric tons), semi-finished steel (2% or 258 thousand metric tons), and pipe and tube products (2% or 236 thousand metric tons).



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas  
YTD through September 2017



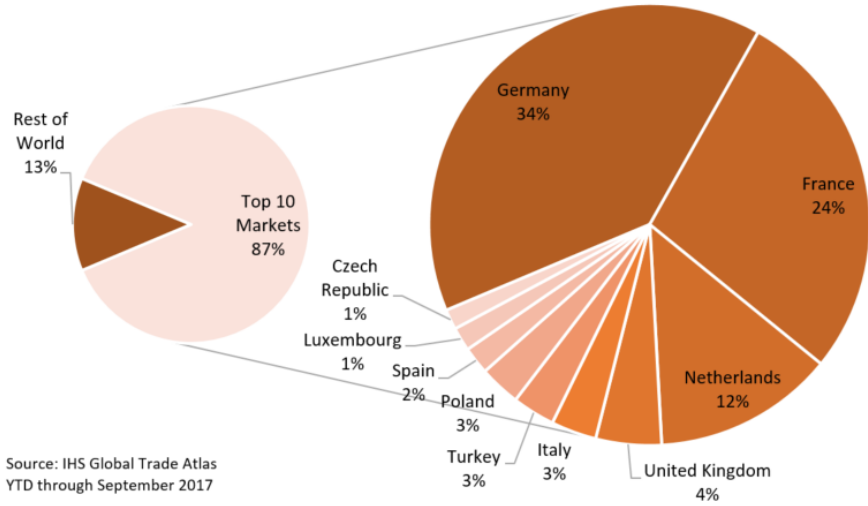
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas  
YTD through September 2017

# 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 YTD 2017 at 12 million metric tons (mmt). Germany was the largest market for Belgium's exports at 35 percent (4.7 mmt), followed by France at 24 percent (3.3 mmt), the Netherlands at 12 percent (1.6 mmt), the United Kingdom at 4 percent (0.6 mmt), and Italy at 3 percent (0.4 mmt).

**Belgium's Steel Exports - Top 10 Markets**  
YTD 2017 - Percent of Volume



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas  
YTD through September 2017

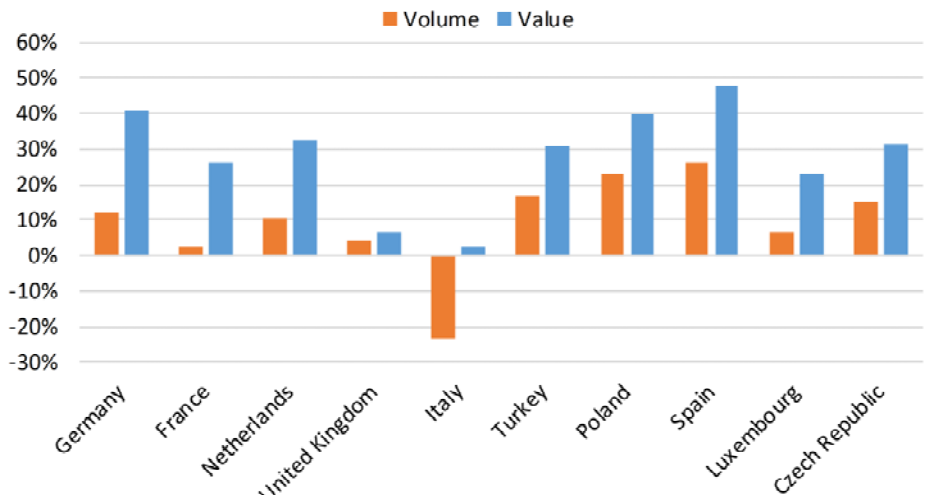
The United States placed 13th as a destination for Belgium's steel exports in YTD 2017, accounting for 0.9 percent of exports (117 thousand metric tons) — a 12 percent decrease from 134 thousand metric tons in YTD 2016.

## Trends in Exports to Top Markets

The volume of Belgium's steel exports increased to all but one of its top 10 steel export markets in YTD 2017.

Spain experienced the largest increase in volume, up 26 percent in YTD 2017, followed by Poland (up 23%), Turkey (up 17%), and the Czech Republic (up 15%). Italy was the only country that had a decrease in volume, down 23 percent.

**Percent Change in Exports to Top 10 Markets (YTD 2016 to YTD 2017)**



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas  
YTD through September 2017

Among Belgium's top 10 export markets, the value of exports increased to all of the ten markets. Exports to Spain had the largest increase, up 48 percent. This is followed by Germany (up 41%), Poland (up 40%), Netherlands (up 32%), the Czech Republic (up 31%), and Turkey (up 31%).

Outside the top 10 markets, notable increases in YTD 2017 steel export volume were seen in 18th-ranked Denmark (up 41%), 29th-ranked Finland (up 65%), and 39th-ranked Taiwan (up 282%).

# Steel Exports Report: **Belgium**

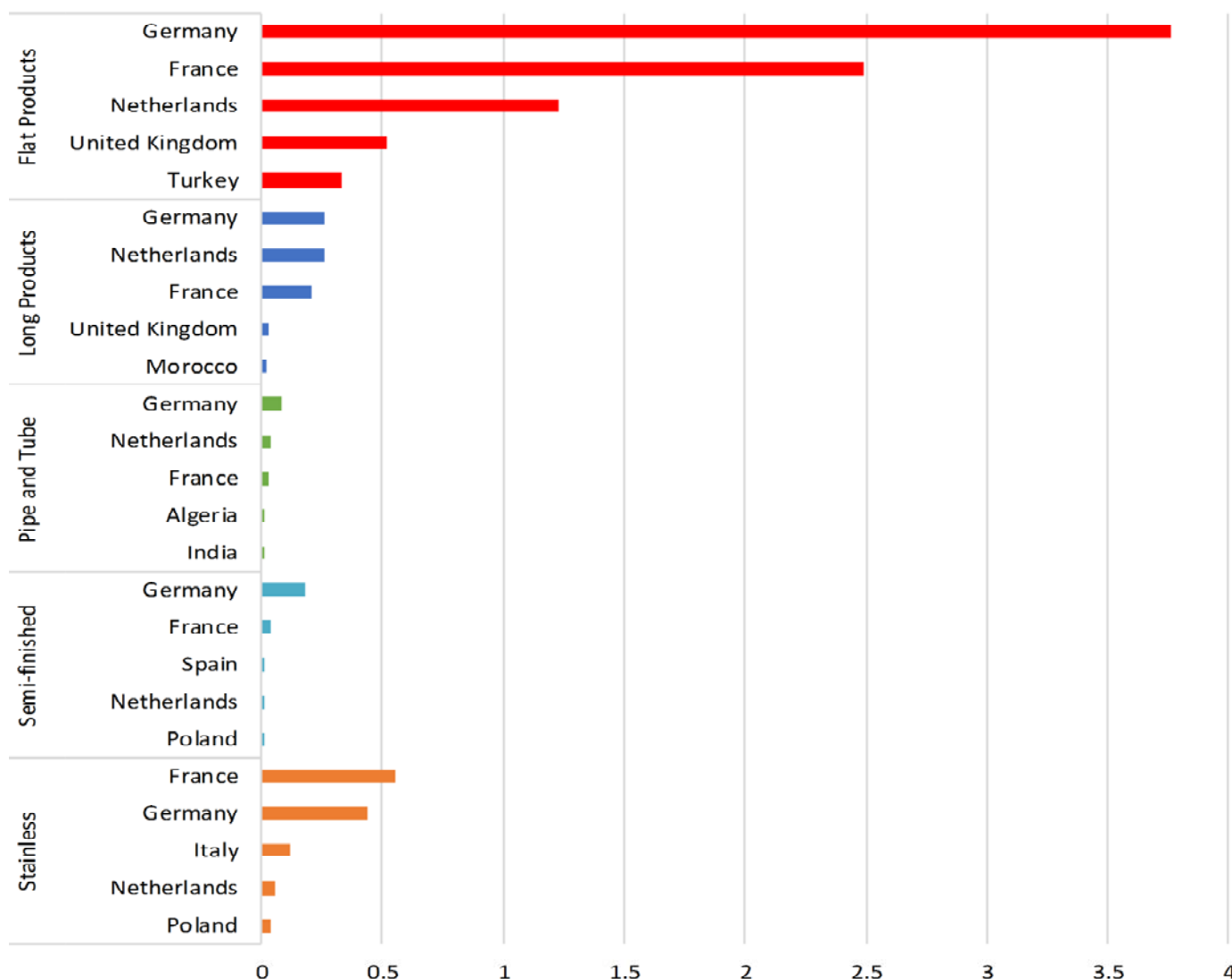
## Top Markets by Steel Product Category

Belgium's top export markets by volume vary across types of steel products, however Germany, the Netherlands, and France were usually highly ranked in YTD 2017. Germany held the top spot for Belgium's exports of flat products at 35 percent (3.8 million metric tons), long products at 29 percent (260 thousand metric tons), pipe and tube products at 36 percent (85 thousand metric tons), and semi-finished products at 70 percent (181 thousand metric tons).

France received the most of Belgium's stainless products, accounting for 39 percent (556 thousand metric tons). Germany was the second largest recipient of stainless products, accounting for 30 percent (438 thousand metric tons).

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

### Belgium's Top 5 Export Markets by Product - YTD 2017



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas  
YTD through September 2017

Millions of Metric Tons

# Steel Exports Report: Belgium

## Belgium's Import Market Share in Top Destinations

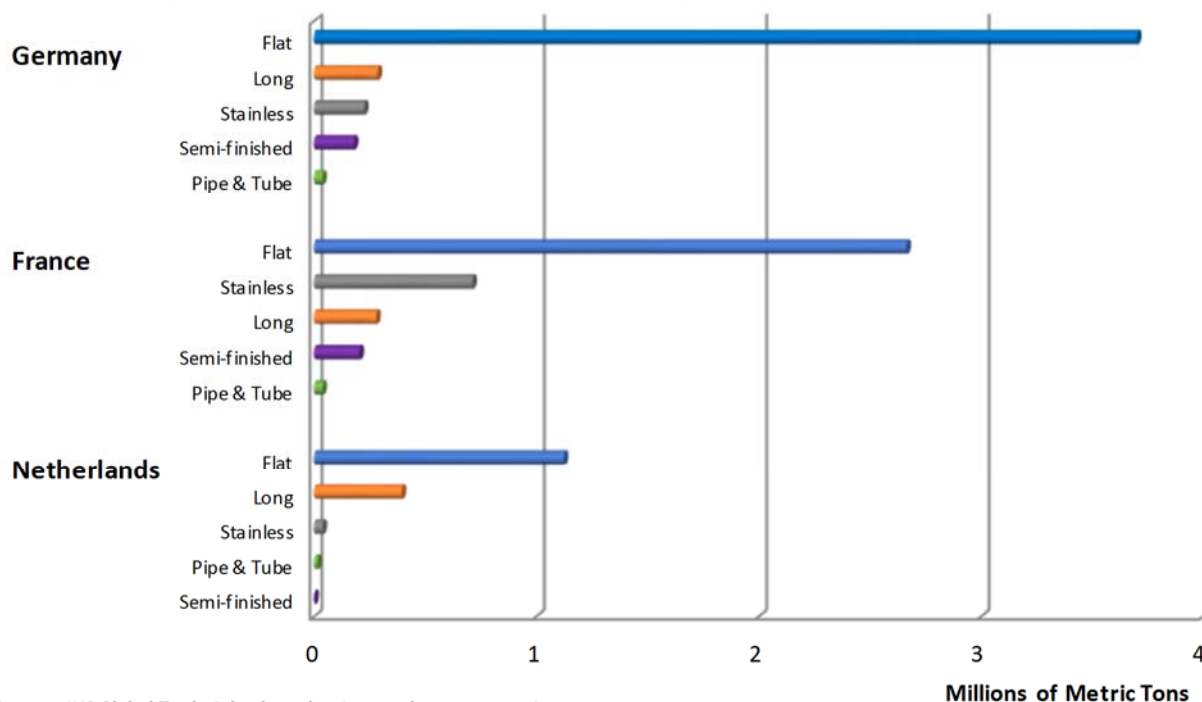
In 2016, the change in the import market share for Belgium's steel products was mixed among the country's top export destinations. Countries with increases in their share of steel imports from Belgium included its top two markets, Germany (up 2 percentage points) and France (up 2 percentage points), as well as the United Kingdom (up 0.5 percentage points), Turkey and Luxembourg (both up 0.3 percentage points), and Poland (up 0.2 percentage points). Losses in Belgium's import market share were seen in the Netherlands (down 2.4 percentage points), the Czech Republic (down 0.8 percentage points), and Italy and Spain (both down 0.3 percentage points).

Belgium's Steel Import Market Share				
Top 10 Export Markets	Share of Imports from Belgium - 2015	Belgium's Rank in 2015	Share of Imports from Belgium - 2016	Belgium's Rank in 2016
Germany	15.0%	1	17.0%	1
<b>France</b>	<b>24.8%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26.8%</b>	<b>1</b>
Netherlands	19.7%	2	17.3%	2
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>2</b>
Italy	2.9%	10	2.6%	11
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>12</b>
Poland	3.3%	8	3.5%	7
<b>Spain</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>11</b>
Luxembourg	15.6%	3	15.9%	3
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>7</b>

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

Among Belgium's top export markets, Germany, France, and the Netherlands received the largest shares of their steel imports from Belgium. In 2016, flat products accounted for the largest share of steel imports from Belgium in each Germany (84% or 3.7 million metric tons), France (68% or 2.7 million metric tons), and the Netherlands (71% or 1.1 million metric tons).

## Steel Import Composition of Top Market-Share Countries - 2016



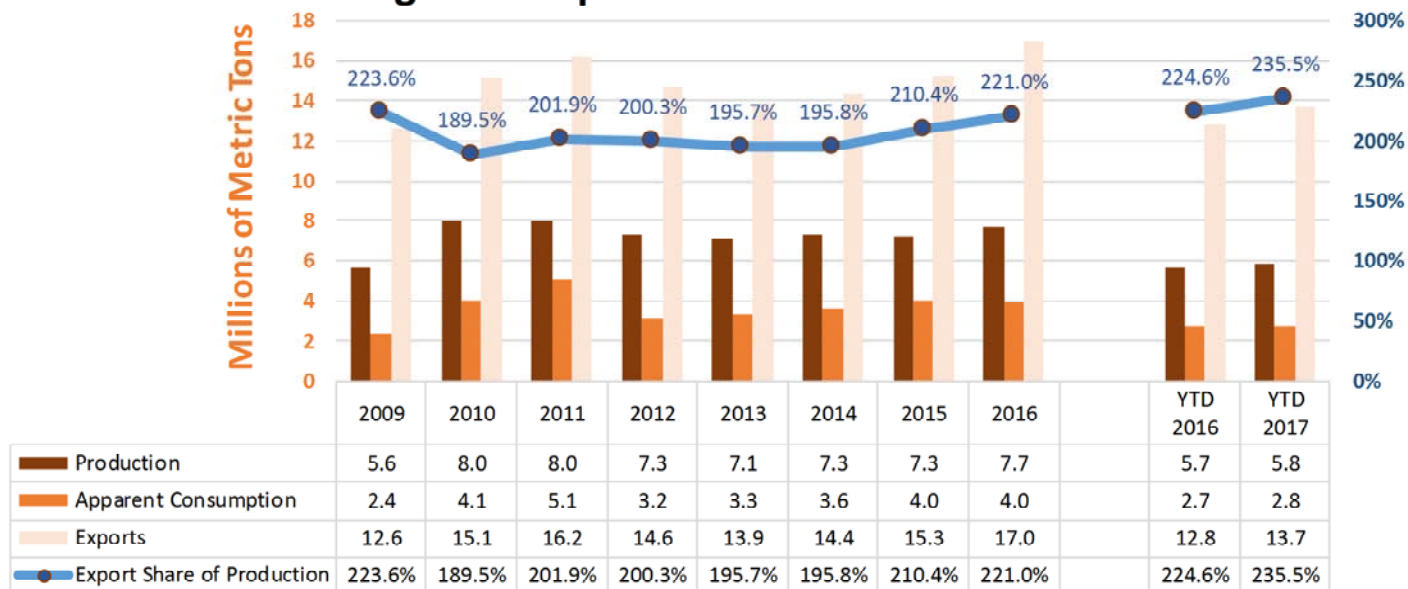
Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country



# Steel Exports Report: Belgium

## Overall Production and Export Share of Production

### Belgium's Export Share of Production



Sources: World Steel Association; IHS Global Trade Atlas  
YTD through September 2017

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, remained almost flat until 2015, and rose 6 percent to 7.7 million metric tons in 2016. In YTD 2017, production increased 1.8 percent to 5.8 million metric tons, up from 5.7 million metric tons in YTD 2016. Apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) decreased in 2016 for the first time since 2012 — down 2 percent from 2015. In YTD 2017, apparent consumption was up 2 percent. Even though production continues to exceed consumption by an average of 3.6 million metric tons per year since 2009, exports have also exceeded production. Exports as a share of production has averaged 204.8 percent since 2009, and has been on the rise since 2014. In YTD 2017, exports as a share of production increased to 235.5 percent up from 224.6 percent in YTD 2016.

### 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 2016

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</b>	<b>Total</b>
			<b>and Undertakings</b>	
United States	2			2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

Source: World Trade Organization, through June 30, 2017

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

Source: World Trade Organization, through June 30, 2017

<b>Global Steel Mill Safeguards in Effect</b>	
<b>Country</b>	<b>Product(s)</b>
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 sec-
Malaysia	1) Hot-rolled steel plate; 2) Steel concrete reinforcing bar; 3) Steel wire rod and deformed bar-in-coil
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
Vietnam	Semi-finished and certain finished products of alloy and non-alloy steel

Source: World Trade Organization, through June 30, 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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