

# Global Steel Trade Monitor

## Steel Exports Report: Belgium

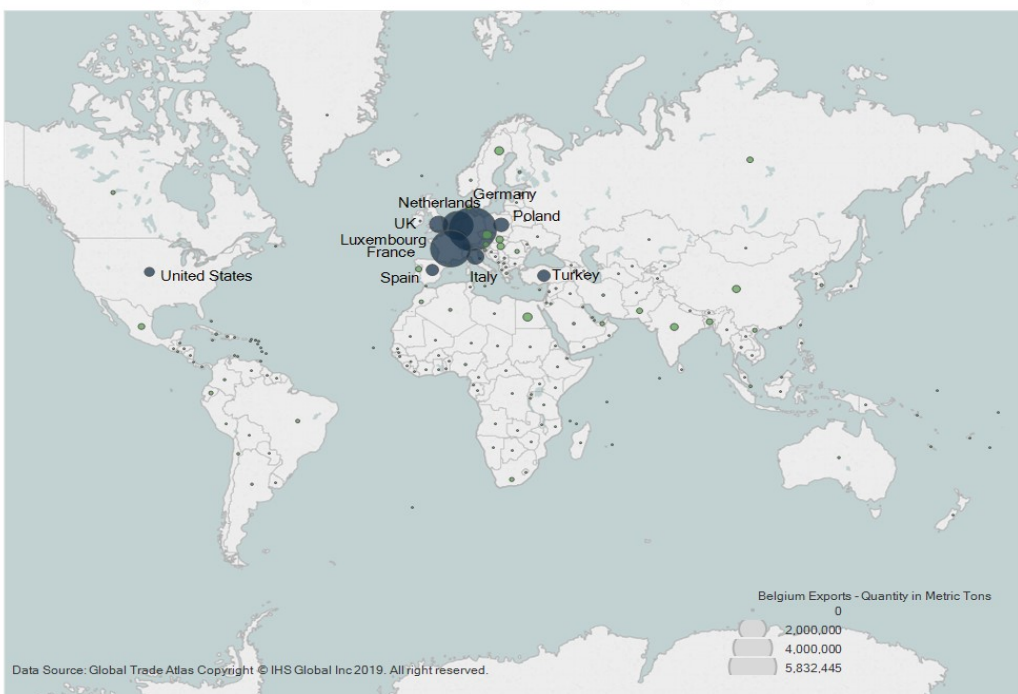
May 2019

### Background

Belgium was the world's sixth-largest steel exporter in 2017. In 2018, Belgium exported 18.1 million metric tons of steel, a 1 percent increase from 17.9 million metric tons in 2017. Belgium's exports represented about 4 percent of all steel exported globally in 2017. The volume of Belgium's 2018 steel exports was approximately 1/3 the size of the world's largest exporter, China, and more than 1/2 that of the largest exporter in the EU, Germany. In value terms, steel represented just 3.9 percent of the total amount of goods Belgium exported in 2018.

Belgium exports steel to more than 170 countries and territories. The 10 countries labeled in the map below represent the top markets for Belgium's exports of steel, and each received more than 200 thousand metric tons. The top 10 countries accounted for 86 percent of Belgium's steel exports in 2018.

Belgium's Exports of Steel Mill Products-2018 (Top Ten in Blue)



### Quick Facts:

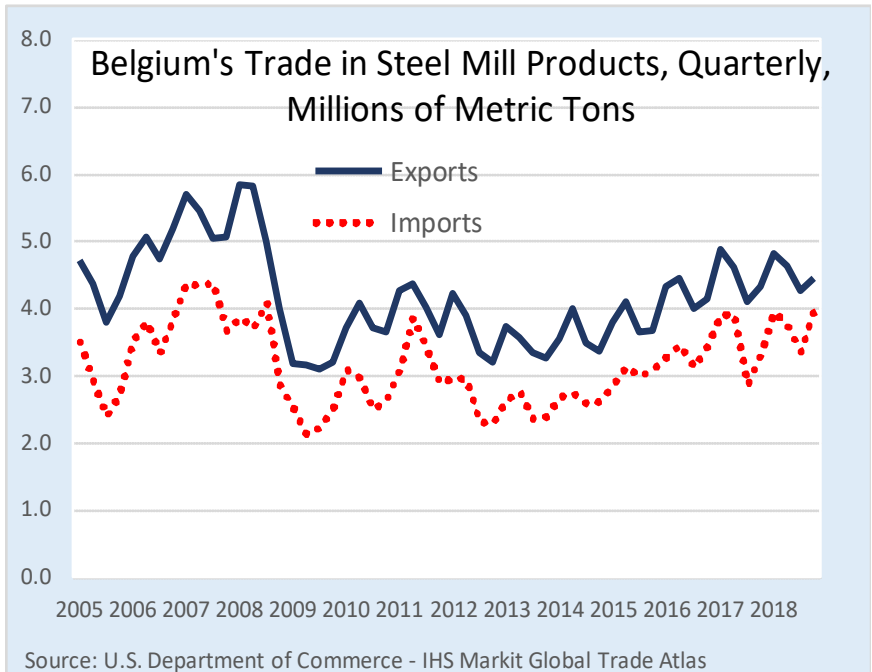
- Exported 18.1 million metric tons of steel mill products (2018)
- 44% steel export growth since 2009
- Exports as a share of production down from 227.9% in 2017 to 227.0% in 2018
- Export volume up 1% while export value up 13%
- Top three markets: Germany, France, Netherlands
- Largest producers: NLMK, ArcelorMittal, Aperam
- 7 trade remedies in effect involving steel mill imports from Belgium

# Steel Exports Report: Belgium

## Steel Trade Balance

Over the past 13 years, Belgium's steel imports and exports have moved roughly in tandem, with exports consistently outpacing imports.

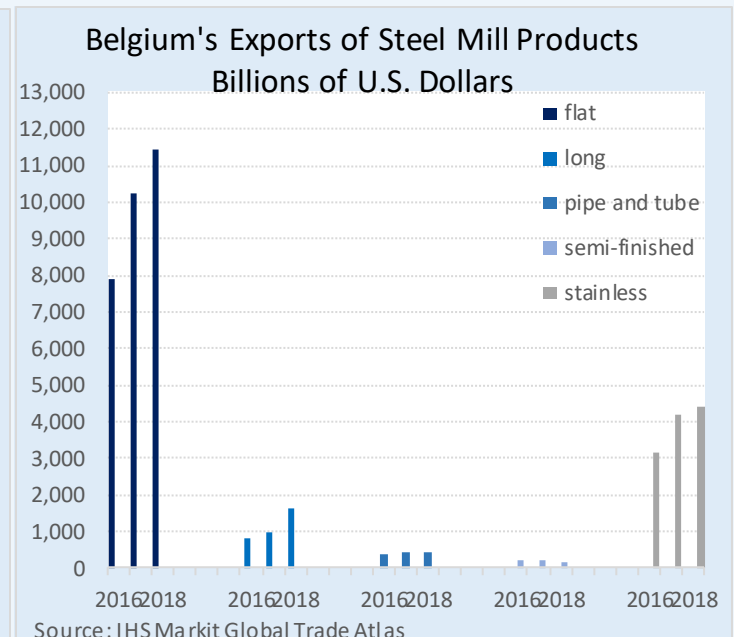
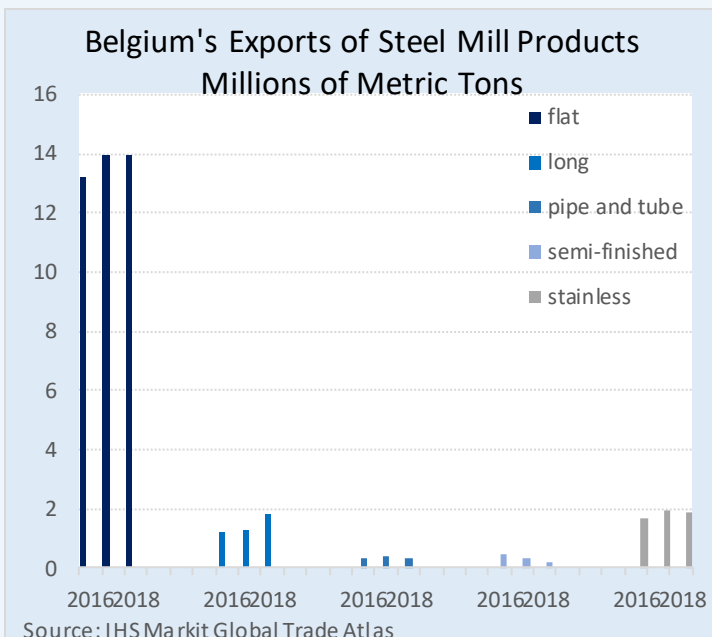
After a sharp decline in 2009, Belgium's steel exports have mostly recovered, growing 44 percent from 2009 to 2018. During the same time period, imports grew 60 percent. After increasing annually between 2015 and 2017 to reach a surplus of 3.9 million metric tons in 2017, the steel trade surplus decreased 21 percent in 2018, falling to 3.1 million metric tons.



## Export Volume, Value, and Product

The volume of Belgium's steel exports has trended upwards since 2013. In 2018, Belgium's steel exports increased 1 percent to 18.1 million metric tons from 17.9 million metric tons in 2017. The value of Belgium's steel exports has been increasing since 2016. The value of 2018 steel exports has increased by 13 percent to \$18.1 billion from \$16.1 billion in 2017.

Flat products accounted for the largest share of Belgium's steel exports in 2018 at 77 percent, or 13.9 million metric tons. Stainless products accounted for 10 percent, or 1.8 million metric tons, of Belgium's exports of steel in 2018, followed by long products at 10 percent (1.8 million metric tons), pipe and tube products at 2 percent (330 thousand metric tons), and semi-finished steel at 1 percent (165 thousand metric tons).

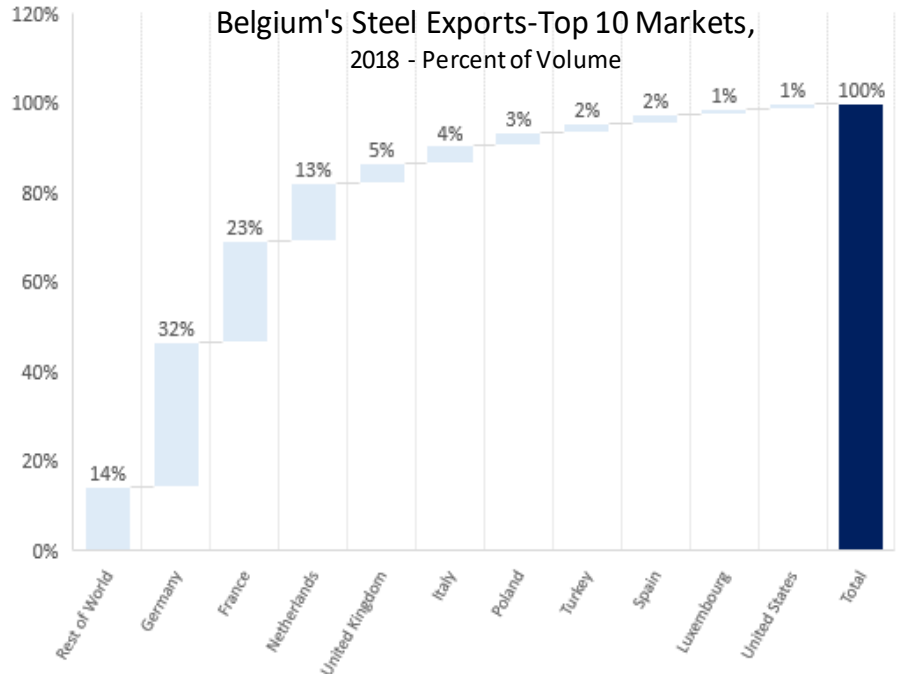


# Steel Exports Report: Belgium

## Exports by Top Market

Exports to Belgium's top 10 markets represented 86 percent of Belgium's steel export volume in 2018 at 15.5 million metric tons (mmt). Germany was the largest market for Belgium's exports at 32 percent (5.8 mmt), followed by France at 23 percent (4.1 mmt), the Netherlands at 13 percent (2.3 mmt), the United Kingdom at 5 percent (0.8 mmt), and Italy at 4 percent (0.7 mmt).

The United States placed 10th as a destination for Belgium's steel exports in 2018, accounting for 1 percent of exports (228 thousand metric tons) — a 37 percent increase from 166 thousand metric tons in 2017.

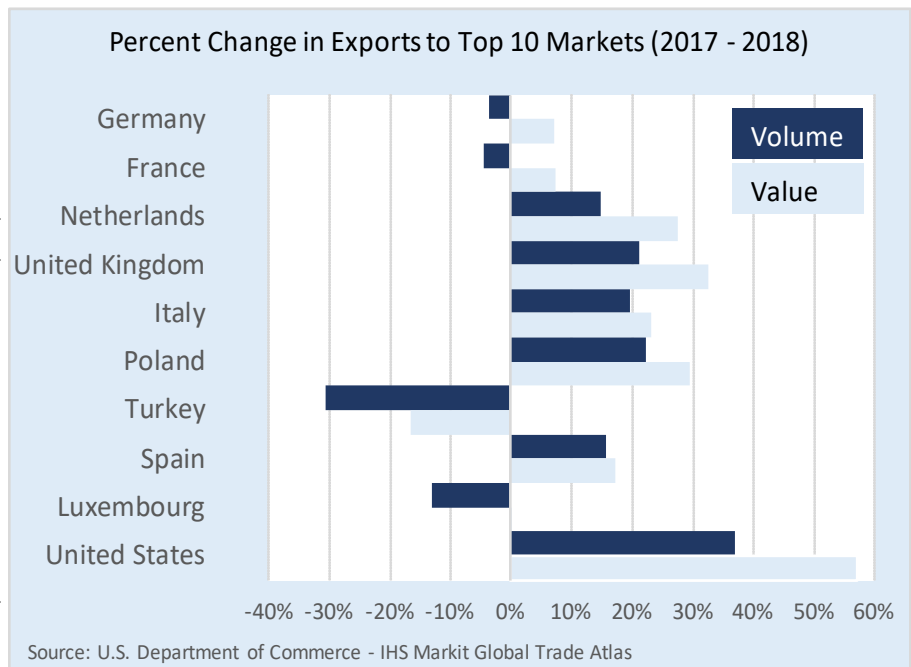


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce - IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas

## Trends in Exports to Top Markets

Between 2017 and 2018, the volume of Belgium's steel exports increased in 6 of the country's top 10 steel export markets. Belgium's exports to the United States saw the largest increase in volume (37% from 2017), followed by exports to Poland (22%), the United Kingdom (21%), Italy (20%), Spain (16%), and the Netherlands (15%). Export volume decreased the most to Turkey (-31%), followed by Luxembourg (-13%), and Germany and France, both at (-4%).

The value of Belgium's exports between 2017 and 2018 increased in 9 of the top 10 markets. Export values increased the most to the United States (57%), followed by the United Kingdom (33%), Poland (30%), the Netherlands (28%), Italy (23%), Spain (17%), Germany (7%), France (7%), and Luxembourg (<1%). Only exports to Turkey (-16%) decreased in value in 2018.



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce - IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas

# Steel Exports Report: Belgium

## Top Markets by Steel Product Category

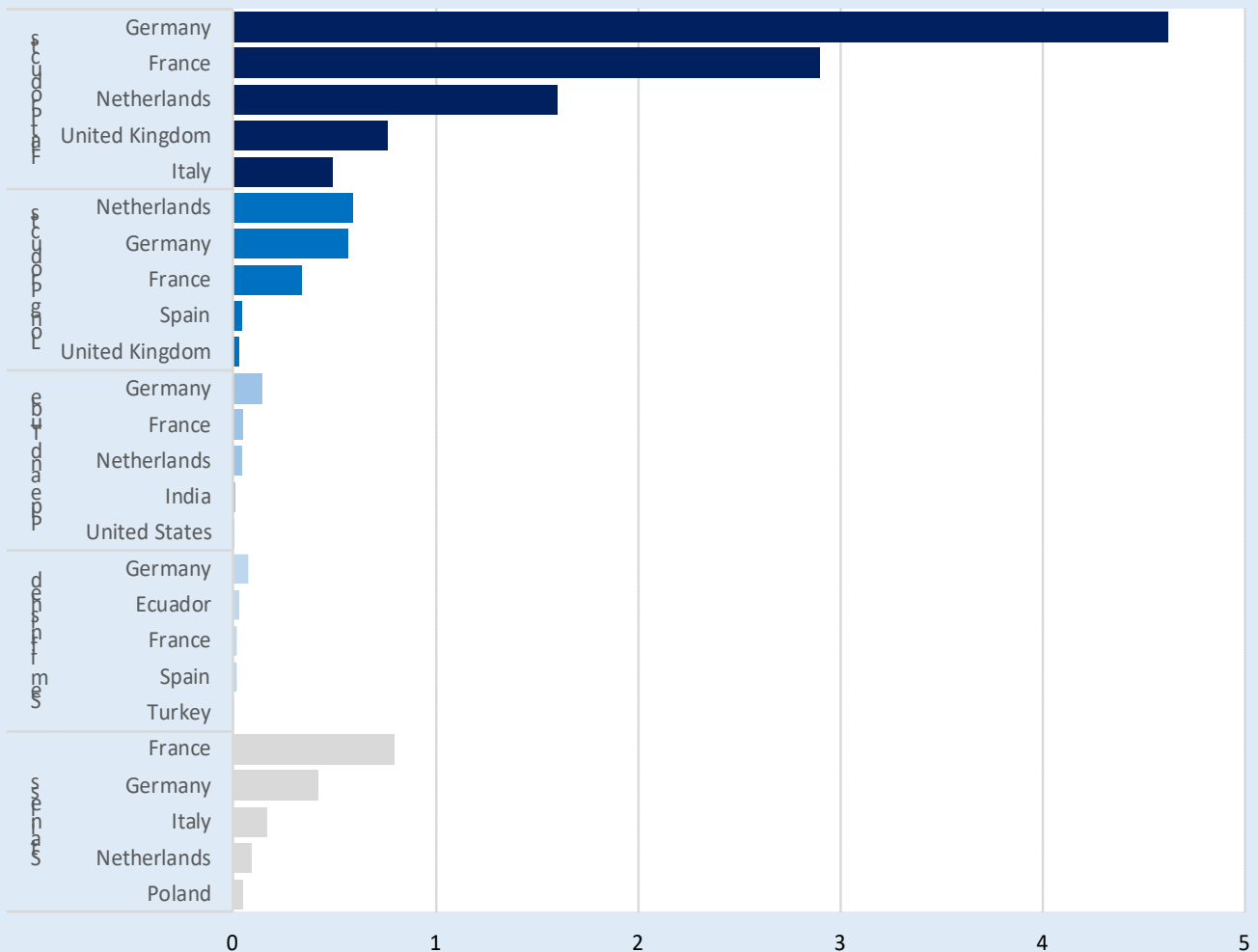
Belgium's top export markets by volume vary across types of steel products, though Germany is in the top two for every product category. In 2018, 33 percent of Belgium's exports of flat products went to Germany (4.6 million metric tons), followed by France with 21 percent (2.9 million metric tons). The Netherlands was also the largest destination for Belgium's export of long products at 33 percent (596 thousand metric tons), followed by Germany at 31 percent (570 thousand metric tons).

Germany was the largest destination for Belgium's exports of pipe and tube products at 44 percent (144 thousand metric tons), followed by France at 15 percent (50 thousand metric tons), and the Netherlands at 13 percent (43 thousand metric tons).

Germany also received the largest share of Belgium's semi-finished product exports at 45 percent (75 thousand metric tons). France received the largest share of Belgium's stainless steel exports 43 percent (798 thousand metric tons), followed by Germany at 23 percent (425 thousand metric tons).

The U.S. was the fifth-ranked destination for Belgium's pipe and tube exports (receiving 8 thousand metric tons).

Belgium's Top 5 Export Markets by Product - 2018



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce - IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas

Millions of Metric Tons

# Steel Exports Report: Belgium

## Belgium's Import Market Share in Top Destinations

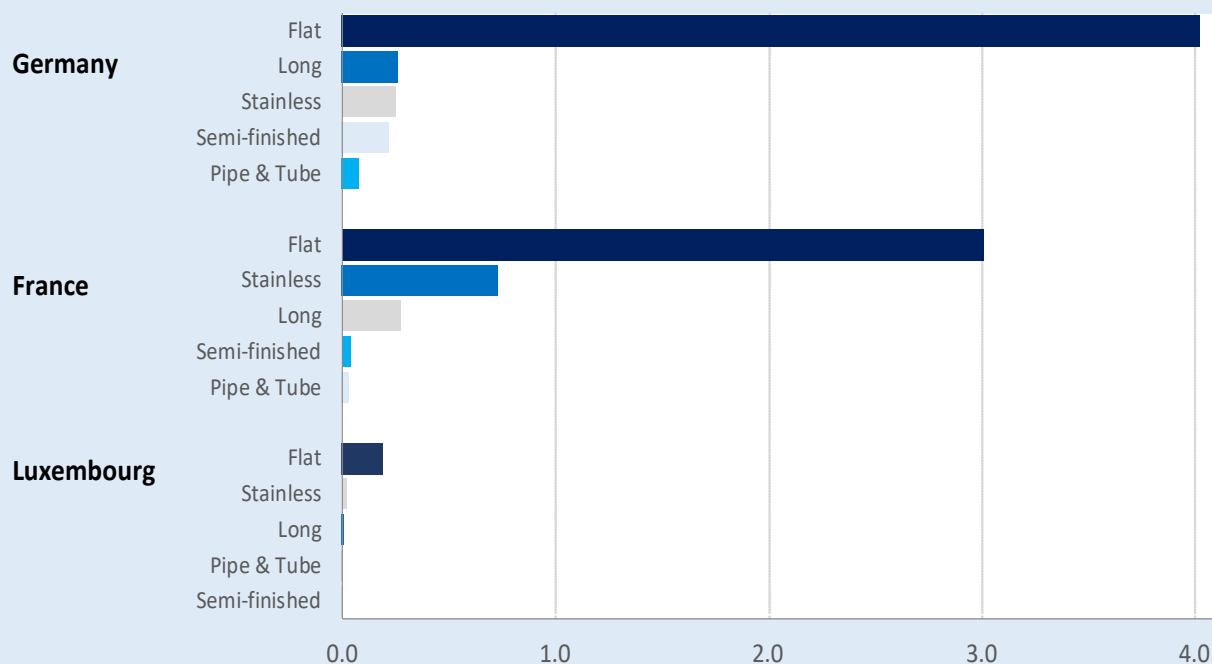
In 2018, Belgium's import market share increased or stayed the same for 9 of the country's top 10 export destinations. Countries with the largest increases in their share of steel imports from Belgium included Germany (up 6 percentage points) and Luxembourg (up 4.9 percentage points), as well as the Netherlands (up 2.2 percentage points), Turkey (up 1 percentage point), France (up 0.8 percentage points), Spain (up 0.6 percentage points), Poland (up 0.3 percentage points), and the Czech Republic (up 0.3 percentage points). Declines in Belgium's import market share were seen in the United Kingdom (down 0.9 percentage points), while Belgium's export market share remained the same for Italy at 2.6%).

Among Belgium's top export markets, Germany, France, and Luxembourg received the largest shares of their steel imports from Belgium. In 2018, flat products accounted for the largest share of Germany's steel imports from Belgium (83% or 4.0 million metric tons), France (74% or 3.0 million metric tons), and Luxembourg (87% or 192 thousand metric tons).

Belgium's Steel Import Market Share					
Top 10 Export Markets	Share of Imports from Belgium - 2017	Belgium's Rank in 2017	Share of Imports from Belgium - 2018	Belgium's Rank in 2018	Change in Share
Germany	19.3%	1	25.3%	1	↑
France	26.7%	1	27.5%	1	↑
Netherlands	17.2%	2	19.4%	2	↑
United Kingdom	9.8%	2	8.9%	2	↓
Italy	2.6%	11	2.6%	11	↑
Turkey	2.5%	12	3.5%	11	↑
Poland	3.5%	7	3.8%	7	↑
Spain	2.4%	11	3.0%	10	↑
Luxembourg	16.0%	3	20.9%	2	↑
Czech Republic	3.1%	7	3.4%	7	↑

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

Steel Import Composition of Top Market-Share Countries-2018

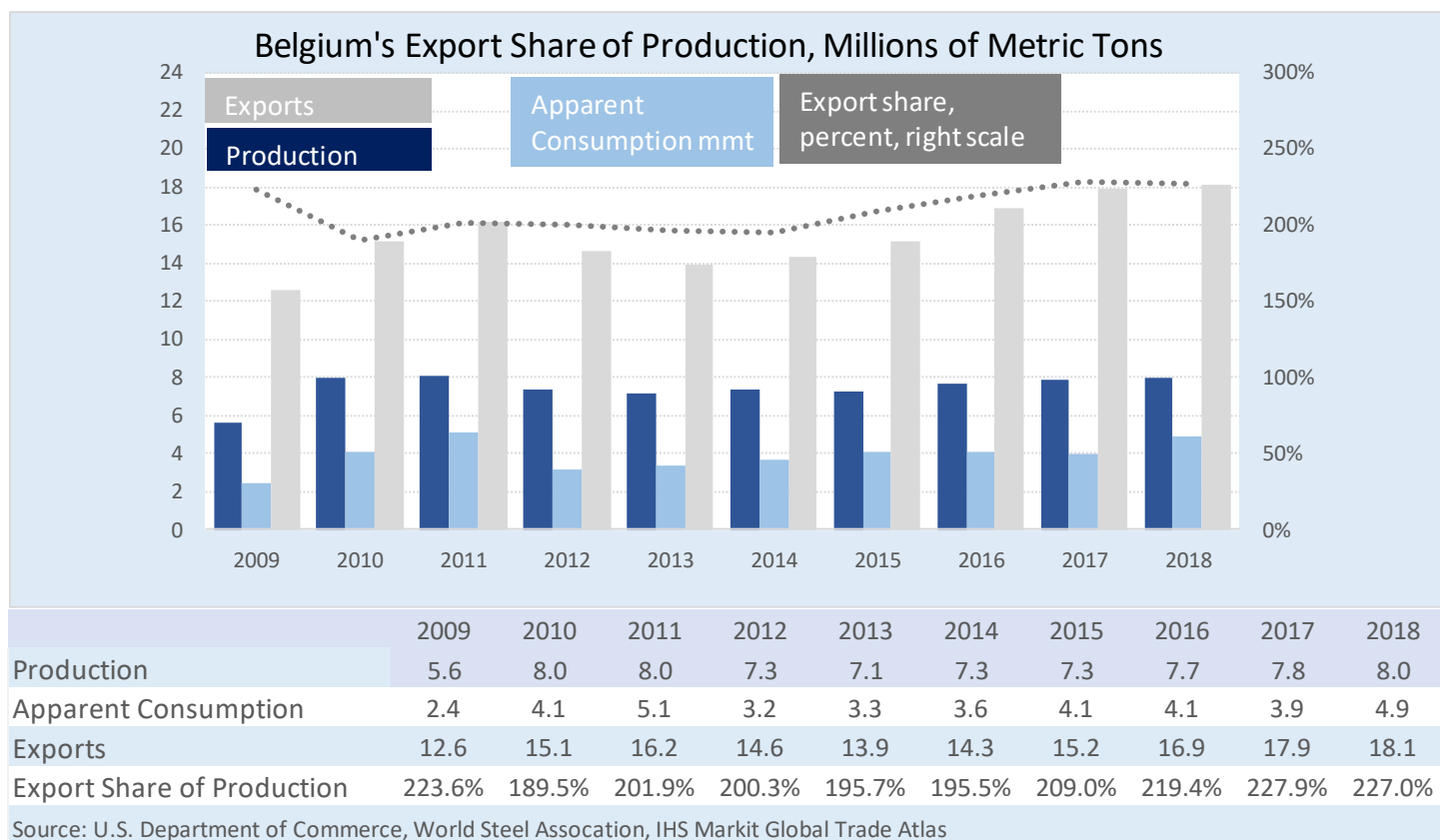


Source: IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country

Millions of Metric Tons

# Steel Exports Report: Belgium

## Overall Production and Export Share of Production



After increasing by 42 percent from 2009 to 2010, Belgium's crude steel production declined by 8 percent to 7.3 million metric tons (mmt) in 2012, remained almost flat until 2015, and then over the next two years, increased 8 percent to 7.8 mmt in 2017. In 2018, production increased 2 percent to 8.0 mmt from 7.8 mmt in 2017. Apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) increased to 4.9 mmt in 2018 from 3.9 mmt in 2017. Even though production has exceeded consumption by an average of more than 3 million metric tons per year since 2009, exports have also exceeded production. Exports as a share of production has averaged 209.0 percent since 2009, and have trended upward since 2014. In 2018, exports as a share of production were 227 percent, down from 227.9 percent in 2017.

### 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 6 million metric tons of crude steel production, based on available data.

Belgium's Top Steel Producers in 2017			
Rank	Company	Production (mmt)	Main Products
1	NLMK*	5.45 (Capacity)	Strip products, plate Flat, long, and stainless products
2	ArcelorMittal*	5	Stainless products
3	Aperam*	1.1	Stainless Products

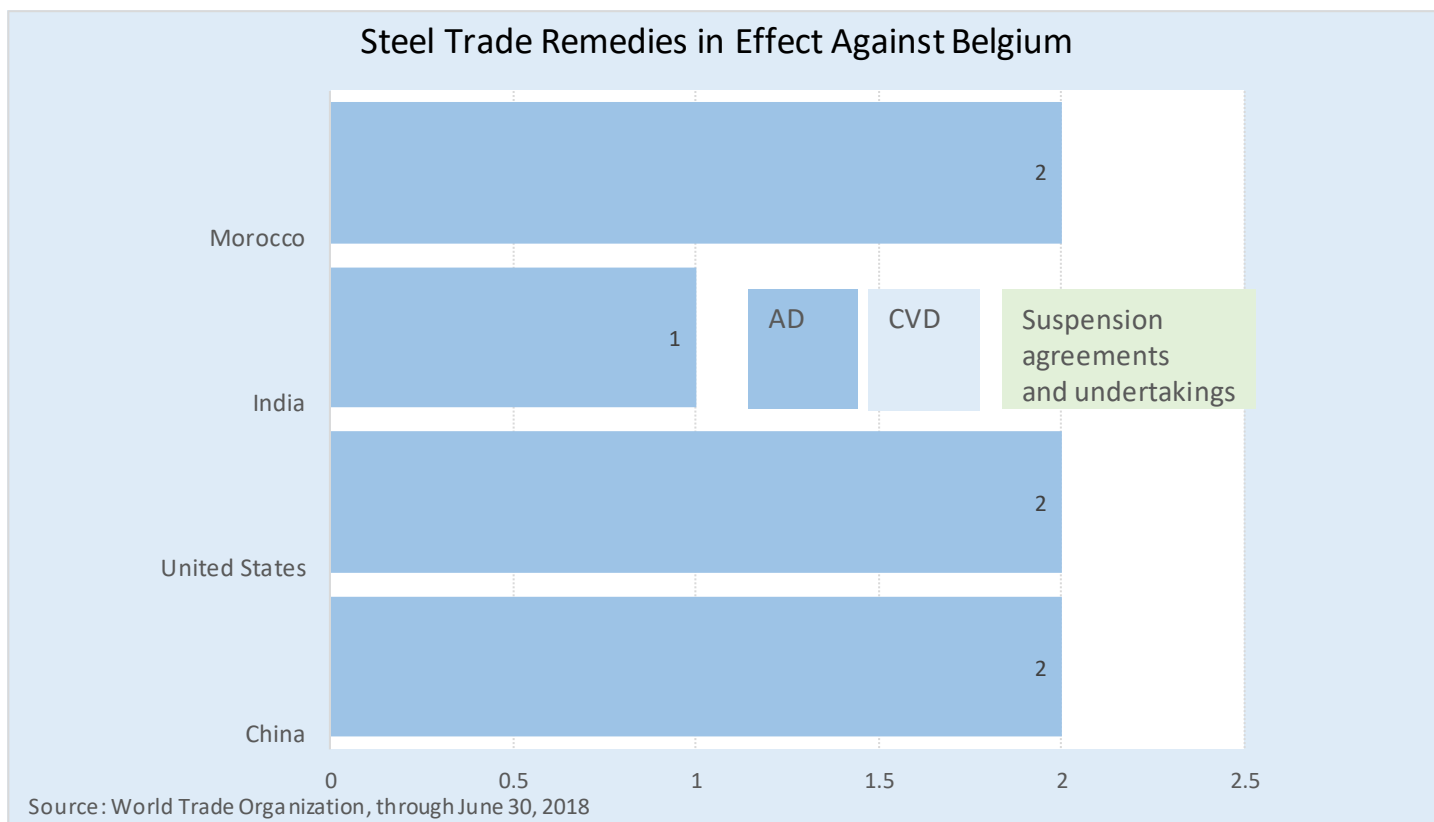
Source: Bloomberg; Company websites

\*Denotes foreign-owned producer

# 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



Global Steel Mill Safeguards in Effect	
Country	Product(s)
Gulf Cooperation Council	Flat-rolled steel
India	Hot-rolled steel flat sheets and plates
Indonesia	1) Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel; 2) I and H sections of other alloy steel
Malaysia	1) Steel concrete reinforcing bar; 2) 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
South Africa	Hot-rolled steel flat products
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	1) Semi-finished and certain finished products of alloy and non-alloy steel; 2) Pre-painted galvanized steel sheet and strip

Source: World Trade Organization, through September 30, 2018

# 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.

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**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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