

# **Global Steel Trade Monitor**

# Steel Exports Report: **Russia**

Background March 2019

Russia was the world's third-largest steel exporter in 2017. During 2018, Russia exported 33.3 million metric tons of steel, a 7 percent increase from 31.1 million metric tons in 2017. Russia's exports represented about 7 percent of all steel exported globally in 2017. The volume of Russia's 2018 steel exports was less than half of the volume shipped by the world's largest exporter, China. In value terms, steel represented 4.4 percent of the total amount of goods Russia exported in 2018.

Russia exports steel to more than 130 countries and territories. The ten countries labeled in the map below represent the top markets for Russia's exports of steel, receiving more than 800 thousand metric tons each and together accounting for 65 percent of Russia's steel exports in 2018.



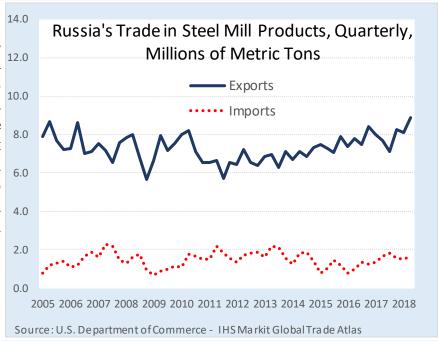


# Quick Facts:

- 33.3 million metric tons (2018)
- 26% increase in steel exports from Q1 2009
- 2018 export volume up 7% while export value up 24% from 2018
- Exports as a share of production up from 43.5% in 2017 to 46.4% in 2018
- Top three markets: Turkey, Taiwan, Mexico
- Largest producers:
   Novolipetsk Steel,
   EVRAZ, Magnitogorsk
- 16 trade remedies in effect in 9 countries or territories involving steel mill imports from Russia

#### **Steel Trade Balance**

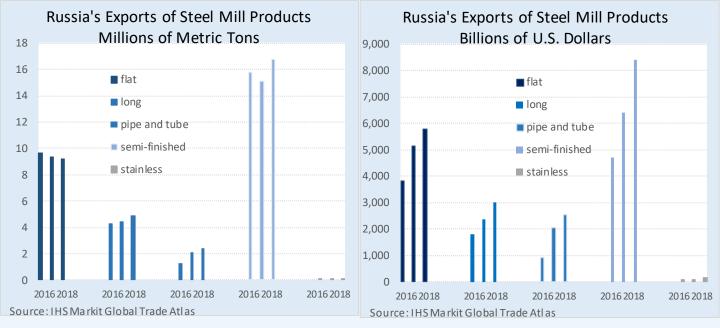
Over the past 11 years, Russia has annually exported between three and seven times as much steel as it has imported. Russia's exports increased 14 percent from 2009 to 2018, while imports have increased 69 percent over the same period. Russia's steel trade surplus amounted to 27.0 million metric tons in 2018, a ten percent increase from 24.7 million metric tons in 2017.



#### **Export Volume, Value, and Product**

In 2011, Russia's steel exports dropped by 4.4 million metric tons, a decrease of 15 percent from 29.8 million metric tons in 2010. Over the next six years, exports increased to 31.1 million metric tons in 2017. In 2018, exports stood at 33.3 million metric tons, a 7 percent increase from 31.1 million metric tons in 2017. After declining between 2013 and 2016, the value of Russia's steel exports increased in 2017. This increase continued in 2018, with the value of Russia's steel exports up 24 percent compared with 2017 to \$19.9 million, reflecting increasing global steel prices since 2016.

In 2018, Russia exported 16.7 million metric tons of semi-finished steel comprising 50 percent of its steel exports. With 9.2 million metric tons, flat products were the second-largest share (28 percent), followed by long products at 15 percent (4.8 million metric tons), pipe and tube at 7 percent (2.4 million metric tons), and stainless steel at less than 0.1 percent (28 thousand metric tons).



#### Exports by Top Market

Exports to Russia's top 10 steel markets represented 65 percent of Russia's steel export volume in 2018 at 21.6 million metric tons (mmt). Turkey accounted for the largest share of Russia's exports with 15 percent (5 mmt), followed by Taiwan at 11 percent (3.5 mmt), Mexico at 8 percent (2.8 mmt), and Belgium at 7 percent (2.3 mmt).

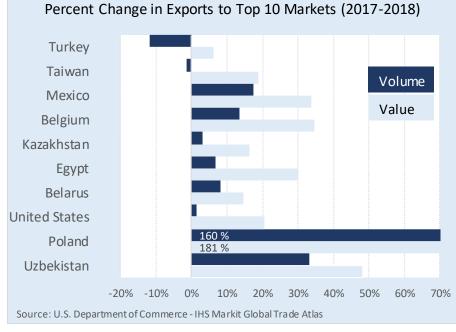
The United States ranked eighth in 2018 as a destination for Russian steel, receiving 4 percent of exports (1.2 mmt).



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

#### Trends in Exports to Top Markets

Between 2017 and 2018, the volume of Russia's steel exports increased to 8 of its top 10 export markets. The most noteworthy is Poland, which jumped 160 percent by volume in 2018. Other increases in volume included exports to Uzbekistan (33%), Mexico (17%), Belgium (13%), Egypt (7%), Belarus (7%), Kazakhstan (4%), and the United States (1%). Russia's exports by volume decreased only to Turkey and Taiwan, down 12 and 1 percent from 2017, respectively.



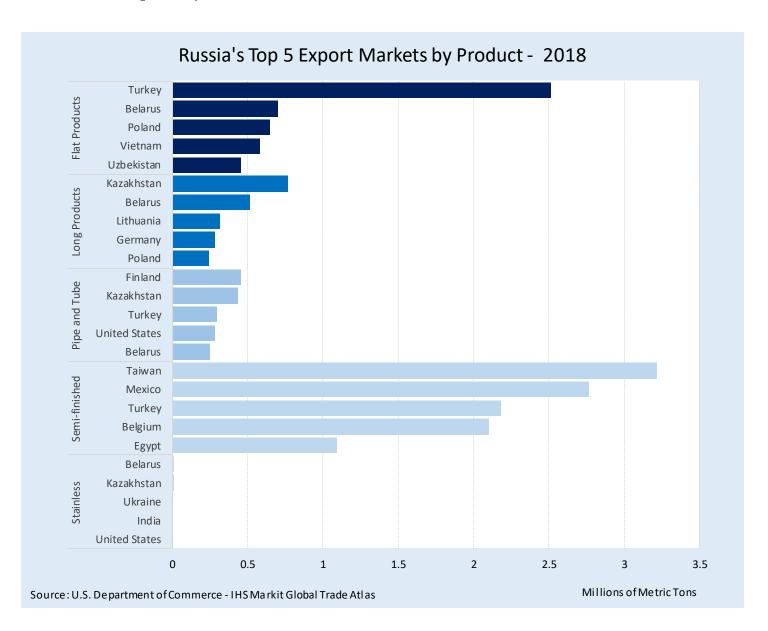
Export values in 2018 increased to all of Russia's top 10 markets. Exports to Poland increased the most in value (181%), followed by Uzbekistan (48%), Mexico (34%), Belgium (34%), Egypt (30%), United States (21%), Taiwan (19%), Kazakhstan (16%), Belarus (15%), and Turkey (6%).

Outside the top 10, other notable volume changes included Russia's exports to 13th –ranked Germany (31%), 15th-ranked Vietnam (63%), and 19th-ranked Philippines (405%).

#### **Top Markets by Steel Product Category**

Russia's top export markets by volume vary across types of steel products. Turkey accounted for the largest share of Russia's exports of flat products in 2018 at 27 percent (2.5 million metric tons). Russia exported the largest share of its long products to Kazakhstan at 16 percent (765.4 thousand metric tons) and its pipe and tube products to Finland at 19 percent (455.8 thousand metric tons). Taiwan received the largest share of Russia's semi-finished steel products at 19 percent (3.2 million metric tons). Russia sent the largest share of its stainless products to Belarus at 36 percent (9.9 thousand metric tons).

Stainless and pipe and tube were the only product categories for which the United States was a top-five export destination, with 4 percent (1.2 thousand metric tons) and 12 percent (284 thousand metric tons), respectively.

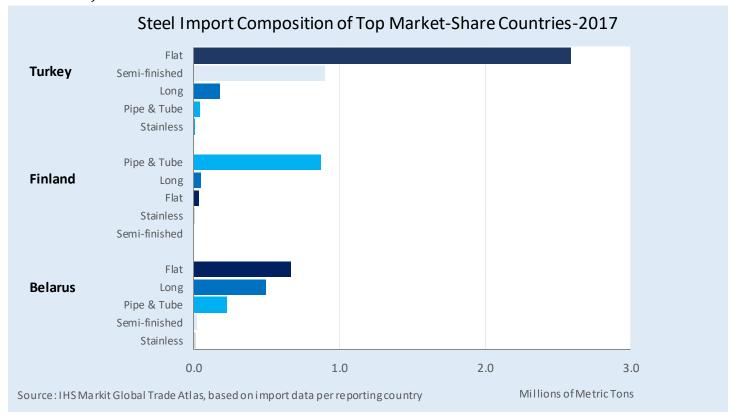


#### **Russia's Import Market Share in Top Destinations**

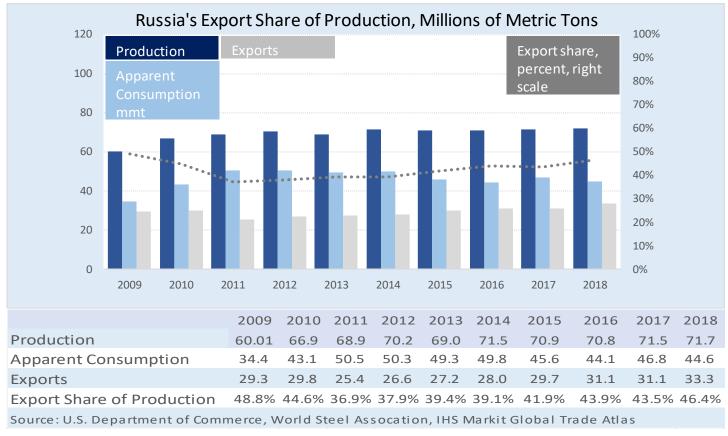
In 2017, the import market share for Russia's products increased in the majority of Russia's top export destinations. Countries with notable increases in their share of steel imports from Russia included Finland (up 38.6 percentage points), Algeria (up 15 percentage points), and Belarus (up 4.3 percentage points). In 2017, Belgium saw the largest decrease in its share of steel imports from Russia, a drop of 3 percentage points, while Mexico's share decreased from 1.4 percent to 1 percent.

| Russia's Steel Export Market Share   |   |                             |   |                             |                    |  |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Top 10 Export<br>Markets   | Share of<br>Imports<br>from<br>Russia -<br>2016 | Russia's<br>Rank in<br>2016 | Share of<br>Imports<br>from<br>Russia -<br>2017 | Russia's<br>Rank in<br>2017 | Change in<br>Share |  |
| Turkey   | 24.9%   | 1                           | 27.7%   | 1                           | <b>1</b>           |  |
| Taiwan   | 14.9%   | 3                           | 15.6%   | 3                           | <b>1</b>           |  |
| Mexico   | 1.4%  | 11                          | 1.0%  | 13                          | •                  |  |
| Belgium  | 16.6%   | 1                           | 13.6%   | 3                           | •                  |  |
| Kazakhstan*  | N/A   | N/A                         | N/A   | N/A                         | N/A                |  |
| Egypt*   | N/A   | N/A                         | N/A   | N/A                         | N/A                |  |
| Belarus  | 77.9%   | 1                           | 82.2%   | 1                           | <b>1</b>           |  |
| United States  | 6.4%  | 7                           | 8.3%  | 5                           | <b>1</b>           |  |
| Algeria  | 4.6%  | 5                           | 19.6%   | 2                           | <b>1</b>           |  |
| Finland  | 9.5%  | 4                           | 48.1%   | 1                           | <b>1</b>           |  |
| Source: IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country *Kazakhstan and Egypt data unavailable |   |                             |   |                             |                    |  |

Among Russia's top export markets, Belarus received the largest share of its steel imports from Russia at 82.2 percent, followed by Finland at 48.1 percent, and Turkey at 27.7 percent. In 2017, flat products accounted for the largest share of steel imports from Russia in both Belarus (47% or 667.3 thousand metric tons) and Turkey (70% or 2.6 million metric tons). Pipe and tube products accounted for the largest share of steel imports from Russia in Finland (91% or 871.3 thousand metric tons).



#### **Overall Production and Export Share of Production**



Russia's crude steel production increased by 19 percent from 60 million metric tons in 2009 to 71.7 million metric tons in 2018. In 2018, production has increased by less than 1 percent compared to 2017. Production has consistently exceeded apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) and, in 2018, the gap between production and demand stood at 27.1 million metric tons, up from 24.7 metric tons in 2017. After a decline from 2009 to 2011, exports as a share of production displayed modest growth for every year except 2014 and 2017. The export share of production increased to 46.4 percent in 2018 from 43.5 percent in 2017.

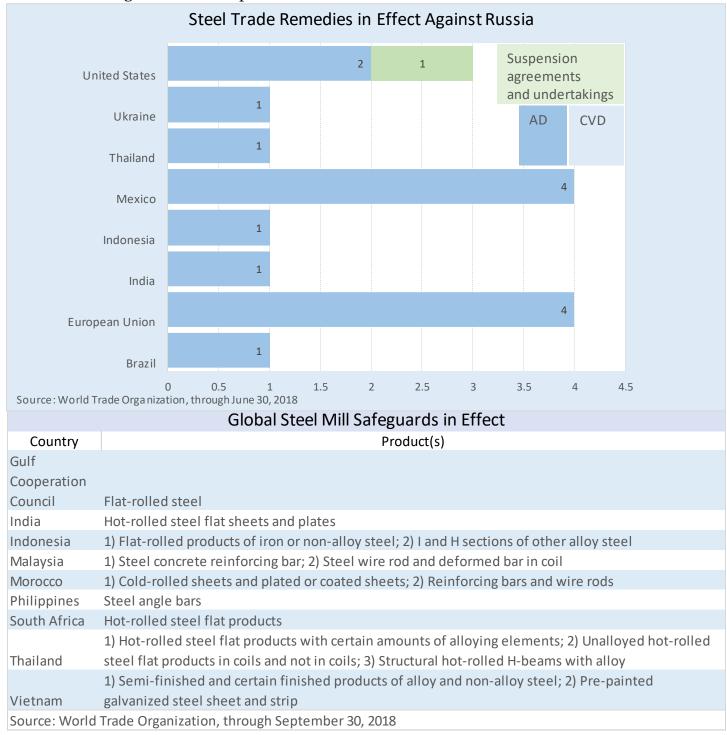
#### **Top Producers**

Russia's steel production is concentrated among a handful of companies, with the country's top five producers accounting for 65.2 million metric tons, or 91 percent of total 2017 production, based on available data.

|        |  | Russia's Top Steel Producers in 2017 |                  |   |  |  |  |
|--------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|--|--|--|
| f      | Rank   | Company                              | Production (mmt) | Main Products   |  |  |  |
| )      | 1  | Novolipetsk Steel<br>(NLMK)          | 17               | Hot-rolled, cold-rolled, semi-<br>finished, rebar, galvanized |  |  |  |
| f<br>l | 2  | EVRAZ                                | 14               | Beams, rails, structural shapes, rebar, pipe                  |  |  |  |
|        | 3  | Magnitogorsk Iron & St               | 12.9             | Semi-finished, hot-rolled, coated, sections, pipes            |  |  |  |
|        | 4  | Severstal                            | 11.7             | Flat products, hot-rolled, cold-rolled, galvanized, pipe      |  |  |  |
|        | 5  | Metinvest Holding                    | 9.6              | Heavy plate, strips, semi-finished                            |  |  |  |
|        | Source: World Steel Association; Hoover's; Bloomberg; Company websites |                                      |                  |   |  |  |  |

#### **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 various countries have against steel mill products from Russia.



# 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/.



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