



Global Steel Trade Monitor

Steel Imports Report: Netherlands

Background

June 2019

The Netherlands was the world's 13th-largest steel importer in 2017. In 2018, the Netherlands imported 10.2 million metric tons of steel, a 3 percent increase from 9.8 million metric tons in 2017. The Netherlands' imports in 2017 represented about 3 percent of all steel imported globally, based on available data. In value terms, steel represented just 1.6 percent of the total goods imported into the Netherlands in 2018.

The Netherlands imported steel from more than 90 countries and territories in 2018. The 10 countries highlighted in the map below represent the top sources for the Netherlands' imports of steel, with the Netherlands receiving more than 200 thousand metric tons from each and together accounting for 81 percent of steel imports in 2018.

Quick Facts:

- Imported 10.2 million metric tons in 2018
- 55% annual steel import growth since 2009
- 2018 import volume up 3% while import value up 14% from 2017
- Import penetration down from 186.7% in 2017 to 162.6% in 2018
- Top three import sources: Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg
- Largest producers: Tata Steel IJmuiden, Van Merksteijn International BV, Wuppermann Staal Nederland BV
- 38 European Union trade remedies in effect against imports of steel mill products

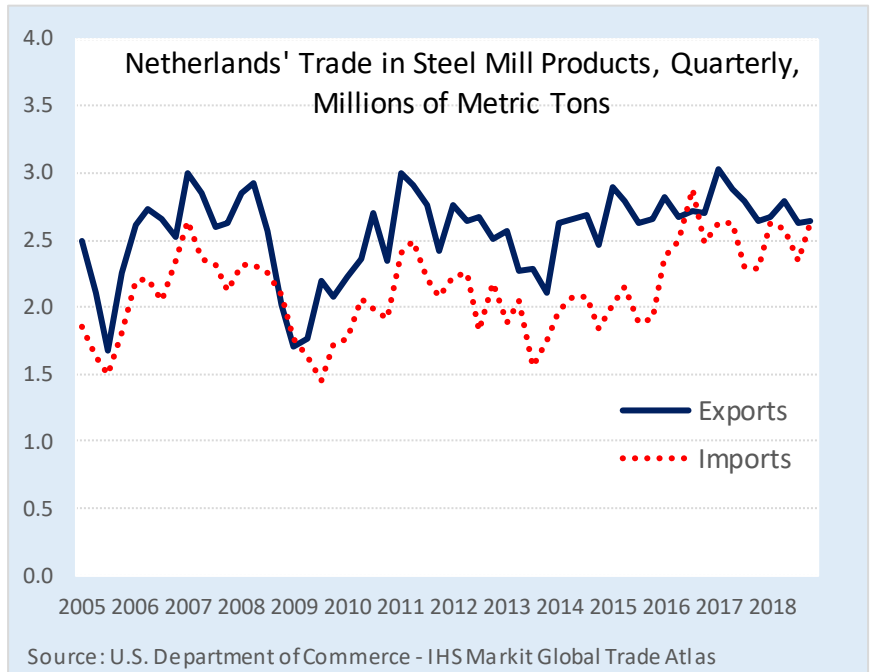
Netherlands Imports of Steel Mill Products-2018 (Top Ten in Blue)



Steel Imports Report: Netherlands

Steel Trade Balance

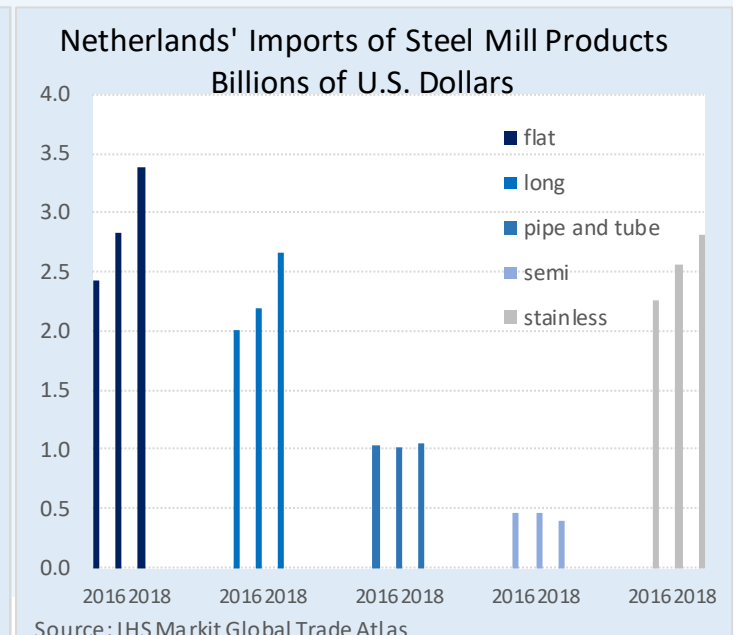
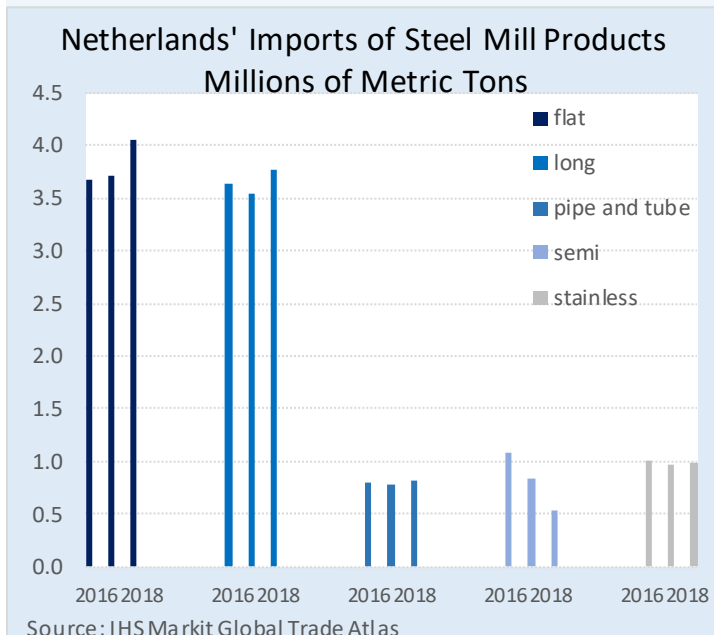
The Netherlands has maintained a moderate trade surplus in steel products since 2005, averaging 1.7 million metric tons on an annual basis. Exports fell faster than imports in the wake of the global recession in 2008, leading to a short-lived trade deficit at the end of 2008 and early 2009. Between 2009 and 2018, exports grew 39 percent, while imports grew 55 percent. In 2018, the steel trade surplus was 652 thousand metric tons, a 57 percent decrease from a 1.5 million metric tons surplus in 2017.



Import Volume, Value, and Product

Steel imports into the Netherlands have grown steadily between since 2013 and 2016 before leveling out and averaging 10.1 million metric tons per year. In 2018, the Netherlands' steel imports totaled 10.2 million metric tons, a 3 percent increase from 9.8 million metric tons in 2017. The value of the Netherlands' steel imports trended downwards between 2011 and 2015 before rising each year since. In 2018, imports increased 14 percent by value to \$10.3 billion from \$9.1 billion in 2017.

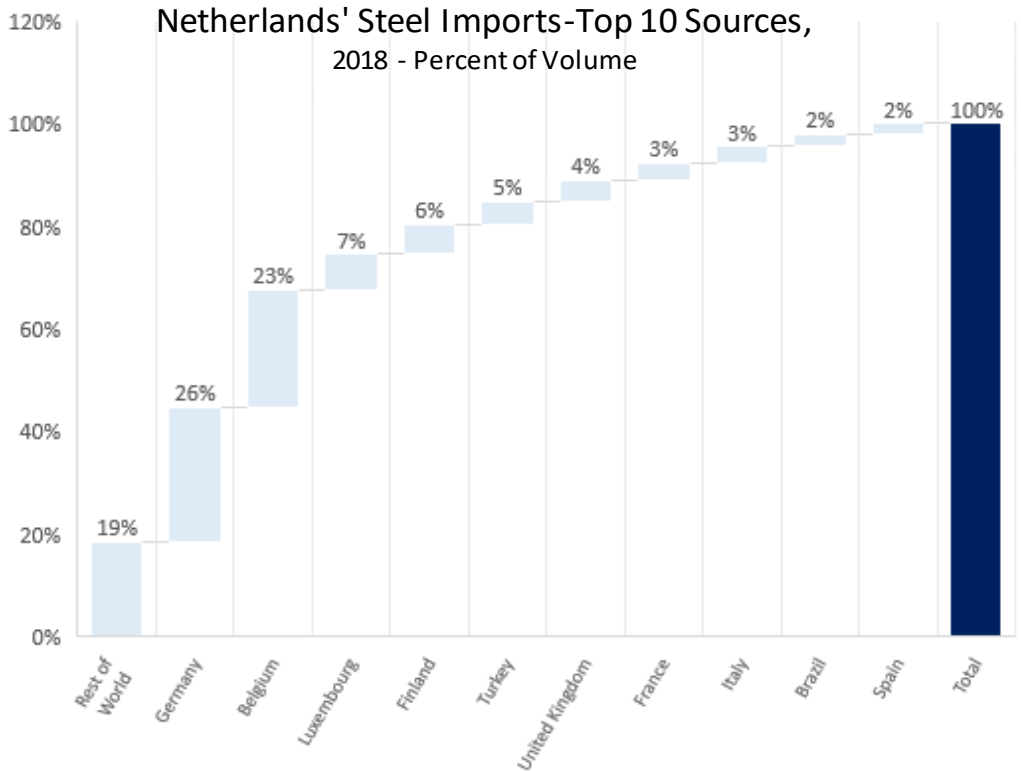
In 2018, flat products accounted for the largest share of the Netherlands' steel imports at 40 percent (4.1 million metric tons), followed closely by long products at 37 percent (3.8 million metric tons). Stainless steel accounted for 10 percent of the Netherlands' imports (982 thousand metric tons), followed by pipe and tube products at 8 percent (822 thousand metric tons), and semi-finished steel at 5 percent (539 thousand metric tons).



Steel Imports Report: Netherlands

Imports by Top Source

The top 10 source countries for the Netherlands' steel imports represented 81 percent of the total steel import volume in 2018 at 8.3 million metric tons (mmt). Germany accounted for the largest share of the Netherlands' imports at 26 percent (2.7 mmt), followed by Belgium at 23 percent (2.3 mmt), Luxembourg at 7 percent (0.7 mmt), Finland at 6 percent (0.6 mmt), and Turkey at 5 percent (0.5 mmt).

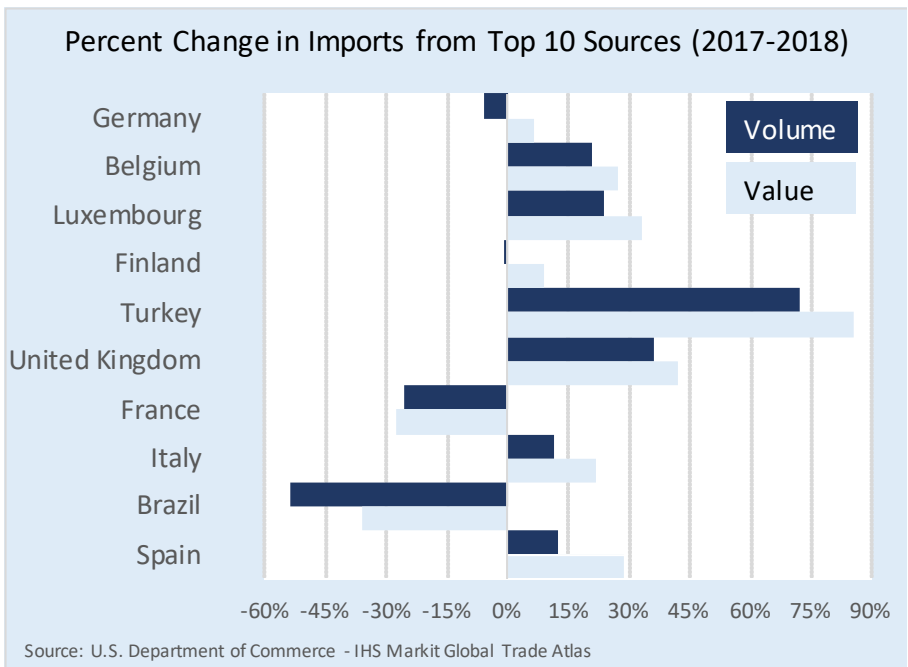


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce - IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas

Trends in Imports from Top Sources

From 2017 to 2018, the volume of the Netherlands' imports increased from 6 of the Netherlands' top 10 import sources. Imports from Turkey (72%), showed the largest volume increase in 2018, followed by the United Kingdom (36%), Luxembourg (24%), Belgium (21%), Spain (13%), and Italy (12%). The volume of the Netherlands' imports only decreased from Brazil (-54%), France (-26%), Germany (-6%), and Finland (-1%).

The overall value of the Netherlands' imports increased from 8 of the top 10 sources. The value of imports from Turkey increased the most in 2018 (86%), followed by the United Kingdom (42%), Luxembourg (33%), Spain (29%), Belgium (27%), Italy (22%), Finland (9%), and Germany (7%). Imports declined by value from Brazil (-36%), and France (-27%) in 2018.



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

Outside the top 10 sources, other

notable volume changes included the Netherlands' imports from 11th-ranked Russia (-23%), 12th-ranked Austria (-23%), 13th-ranked Sweden (41%), 15th-ranked Belarus (-46%), 16th-ranked South Korea (33%), and 19th-ranked Ukraine (87%).

Steel Imports Report: Netherlands

Top Sources by Steel Product Category

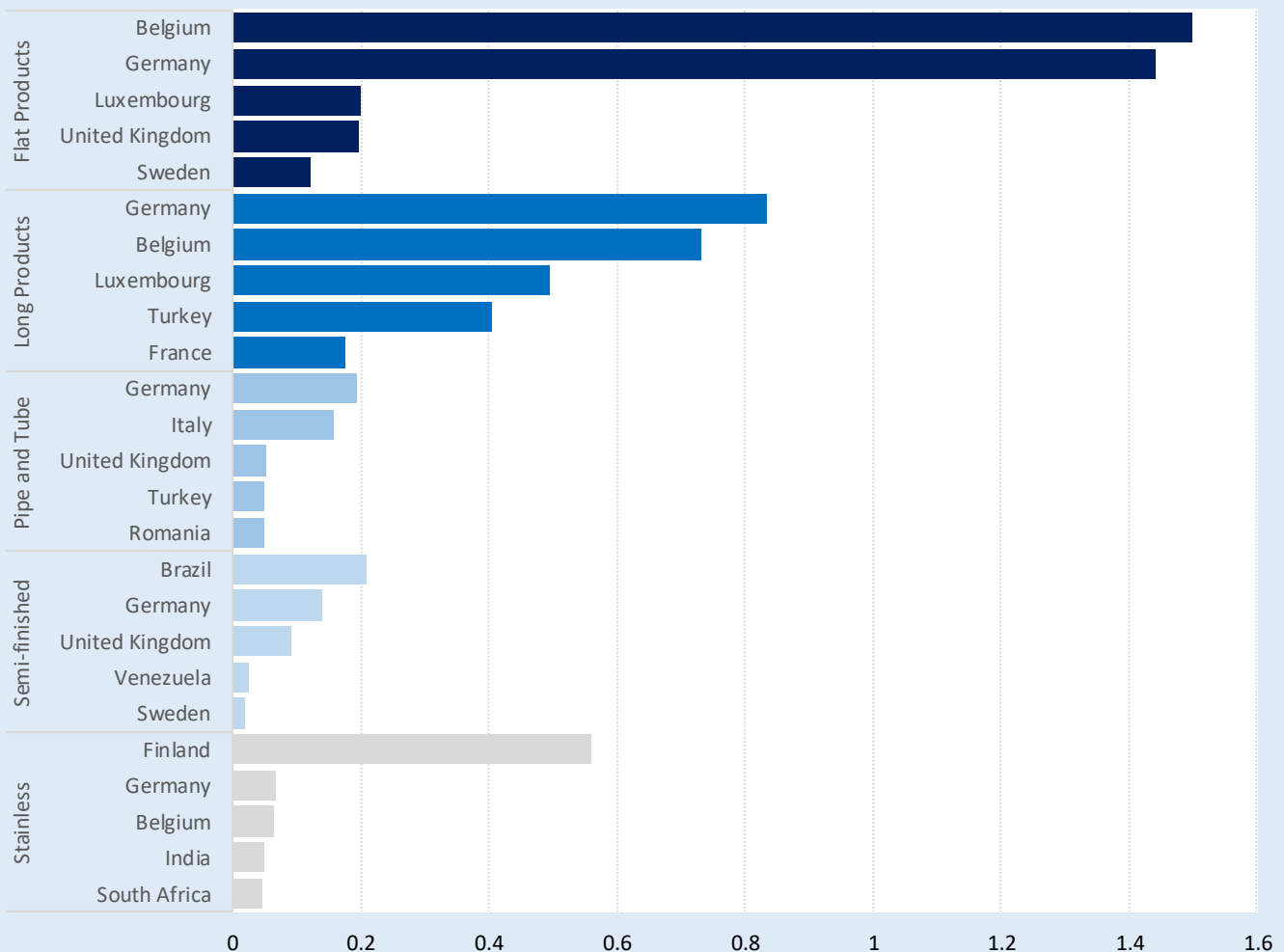
The top source countries for the Netherlands' imports by volume vary across types of steel products. The Netherlands imported the largest share of flat products from Belgium in 2018 at 37 percent (1.5 million metric tons), followed closely by Germany at 36 percent (1.4 million metric tons). Germany was also the largest source for long product imports at 22 percent (835 thousand metric tons), while Belgium sent the second largest share of long products at 19 percent (732 thousand metric tons).

The Netherlands received 24 percent of its pipe and tube imports from Germany (194 thousand metric tons), followed by Italy at 19 percent (157 thousand metric tons). Brazil was the largest source of semi-finished steel imports at 39 percent (209 thousand metric tons), followed by Germany at 26 percent (139 thousand metric tons).

The majority of the Netherlands' imported stainless products came from Finland, with Finland the being the source for 57 percent of stainless steel imports (562 thousand metric tons).

The United States was not a top-5 source for any category of Dutch Steel imports in 2018.

Netherlands' Top 5 Import Sources by Product - 2018



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

Millions of Metric Tons

Steel Imports Report: Netherlands

Netherlands' Export Market Share from Top Source Countries

In 2018, the shares of steel exports sent to the Netherlands from its top import sources increased from six of the top 10 sources. The share of steel exports to the Netherlands from the United Kingdom increased the most, up 2.5 percentage points, followed by Belgium (up 1.5 percentage points), and Luxembourg (up 1.3 percentage points). Exports to the Netherlands from Turkey, Italy and Brazil all increased by less than one percentage point. Export share to the Netherlands from Finland decreased by 8.1 percent points, while export shares from Germany, Spain, and France decreased by less than one percentage point each.

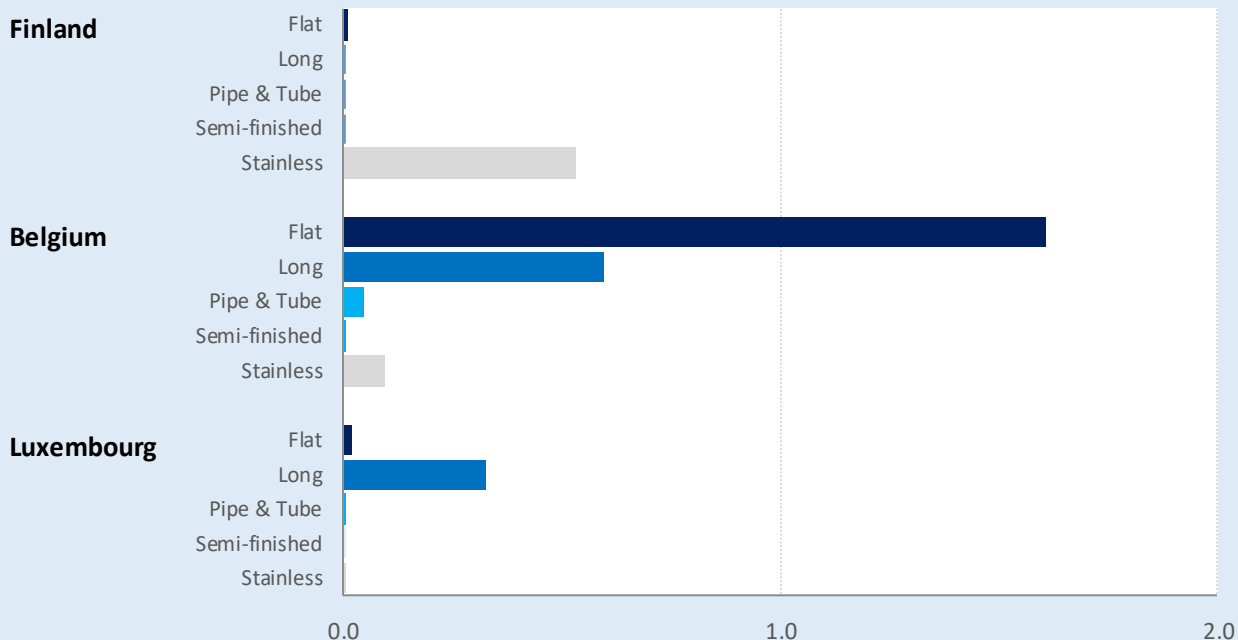
Netherlands' Steel Export Market Share					
Top 10 Import Sources	Share of Exports to Netherlands - 2017	Netherlands' Rank in 2017	Share of Exports to Netherlands - 2018	Netherlands' Rank in 2018	Change in Share
Germany	8.4%	4	7.7%	4	↓
Belgium	11.4%	3	12.9%	3	↑
Luxembourg	10.0%	3	11.3%	2	↑
Finland	27.9%	1	19.9%	2	↓
Turkey	2.1%	13	2.5%	10	↑
United Kingdom	5.9%	7	8.4%	4	↑
France	2.3%	8	2.2%	9	↓
Italy	1.8%	15	1.8%	15	↑
Brazil	0.2%	37	0.7%	26	↑
Spain	2.0%	11	1.7%	11	↓

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

Among the Netherlands' top import sources Finland, Belgium and Luxembourg sent the largest share of their exports to the Netherlands at 19.9, 12.9, and 11.3 percent, respectively.

In 2018, stainless steel accounted for the largest share of steel exports to the Netherlands from Finland at 98 percent (532 thousand metric tons), while flat products accounted for 69 percent of exports to the Netherlands from Belgium (1.6 million metric tons), and long products accounted for 95 percent (323 thousand metric tons) of imports from Luxembourg.

Steel Export Composition of Top Market-Share Countries-2018

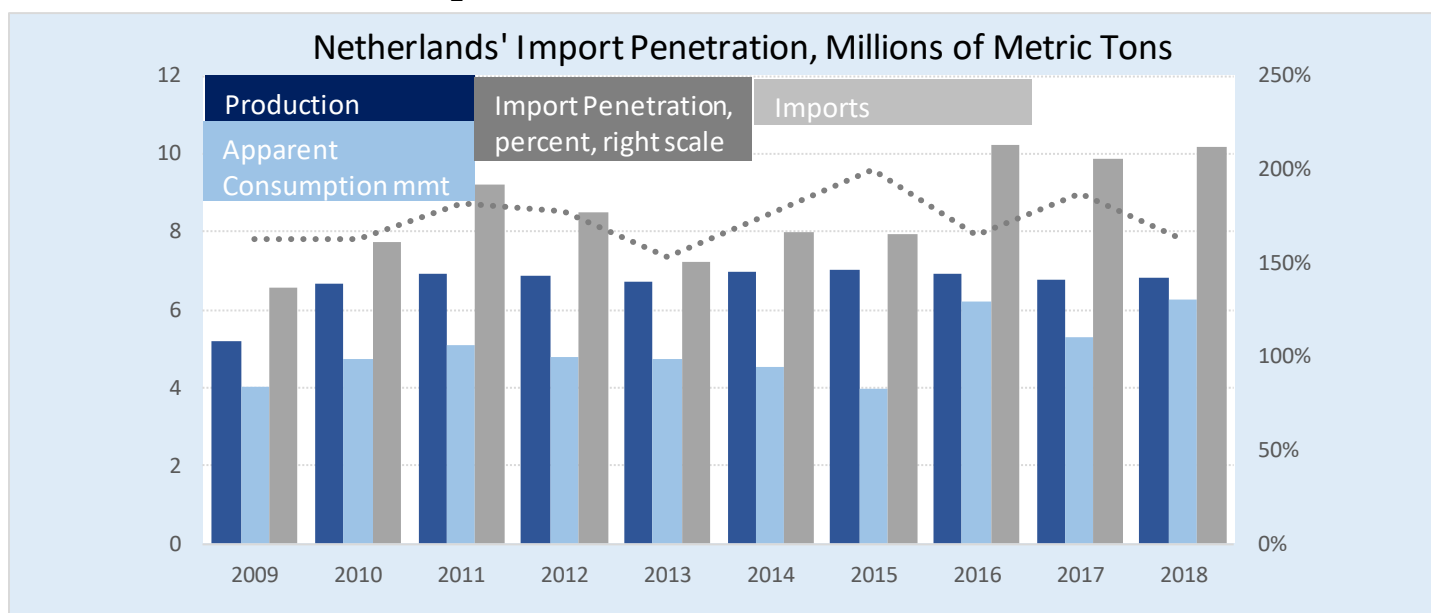


Source: IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country

Millions of Metric Tons

Steel Imports Report: Netherlands

Overall Production and Import Penetration



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Production	5.2	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8
Apparent Consumption	4.0	4.7	5.1	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.0	6.2	5.3	6.3
Imports	6.6	7.7	9.2	8.5	7.2	8.0	7.9	10.2	9.8	10.2
Import Penetration	163.0%	162.7%	181.7%	177.3%	153.6%	176.8%	200.1%	164.3%	186.7%	162.6%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, World Steel Association, IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas - 2018

Crude steel production in the Netherlands increased by 34 percent between 2009 and 2011 from 5.2 to 6.9 million metric tons. Between 2011 and 2018, production held steady at an average of 6.9 million metric tons. The Netherlands produced 6.8 million metric tons of steel in both 2018 and 2017. Production has consistently outpaced apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand), and the gap between the two more than doubled from 1.2 million metric tons in 2009 to 3.0 million metric tons in 2015. This gap narrowed dramatically in 2016 to just 0.7 million metric tons as apparent consumption increased 57 percent to 6.2 million metric tons. In 2018 apparent consumption increased from 5.3 to 6.3 million metric tons. The Netherlands' annual import penetration levels peaked at 200.1 percent in 2015. In 2018 the Netherlands' import penetration was 162.6 percent, down from 186.7 percent 2017.

Top Producers

Steel production in the Netherlands consists of subsidiaries of private, foreign-owned firms. Tata Steel, one of the world's largest steel-producing firms, dominates steel production in the Netherlands, accounting for most of its output.

Rank	Company	Production (mmt)	Main Products
1	Tata Steel IJmuiden	7.5	Hot-rolled, cold-rolled, sheets, strips, rolls
2	Van Merksteijn International BV	0.9	Wire rod, fence panels
3	Wuppermann Staal Nederland BV	0.5	Galvanized strips

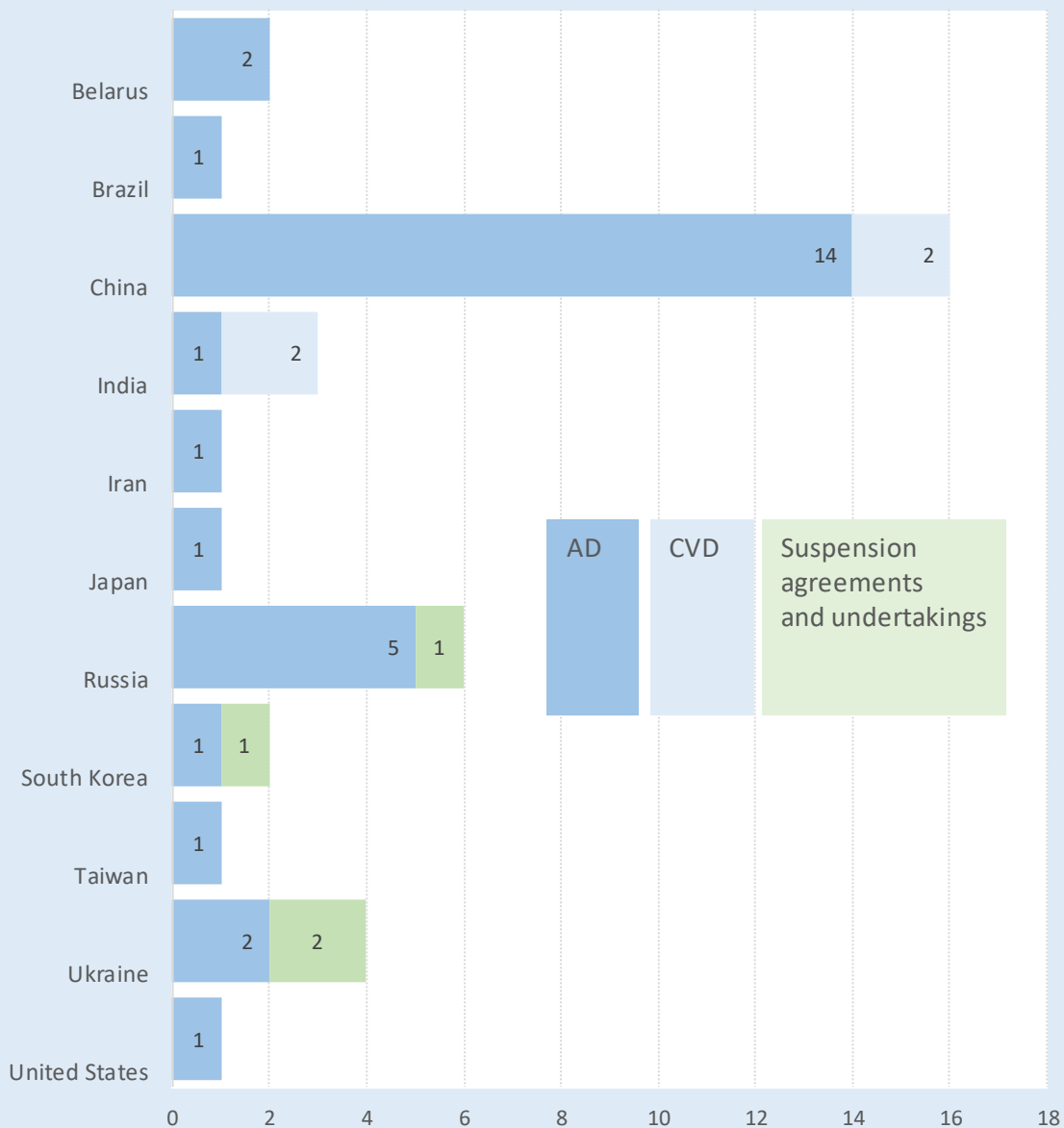
Source: Iron and Steelworks of the World Directory (2019 edition); Company websites

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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 the United States has against imports of steel mill products from various countries. The U.S. has no steel mill safeguards in effect.

E.U. Steel Trade Remedies in Effect Against Steel Mill Imports



Source: World Trade Organization, through June 30, 2018

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.

Special Note on U.S. Import Data: Import data for the United States used in this report are general imports, rather than imports for consumption, so as to be consistent across countries. Therefore, U.S. import data in this report may not match similar data used in our other U.S. import data products.

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 ECGlobalSteelStats@trade.gov

trade.gov/steel