



# Global Steel Trade Monitor

## Steel Imports Report: France

May 2019

### Background

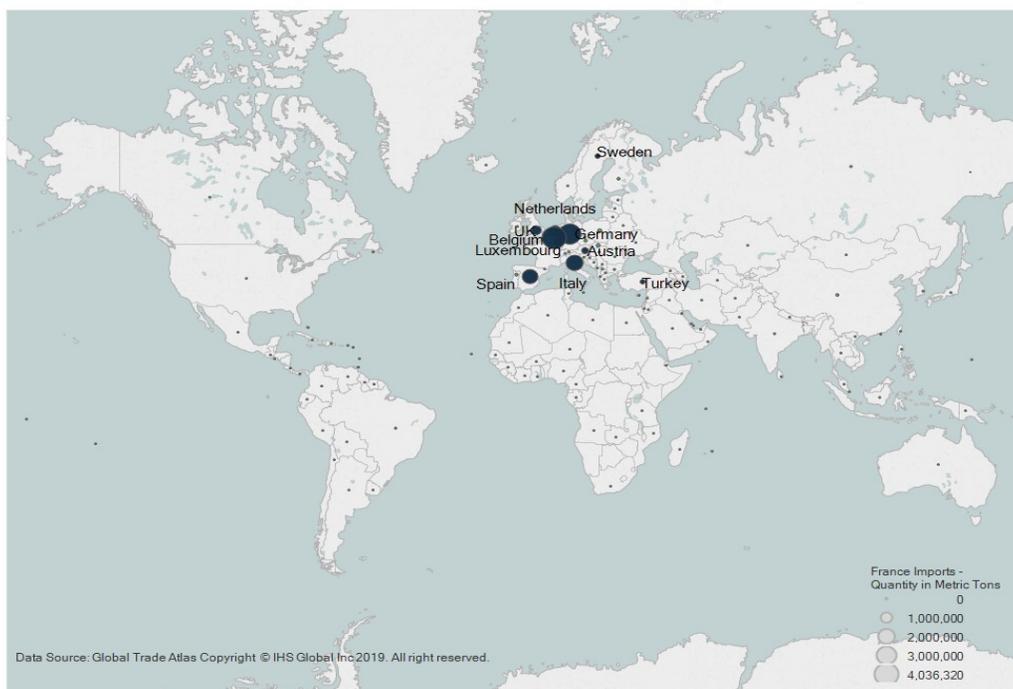
France was the world's fifth-largest steel importer in 2017. In 2018, France imported 14.8 million metric tons of steel, a 1 percent decrease from 14.9 million metric tons in 2017. France's imports represented about 4 percent of all steel imported globally in 2017. The volume of France's 2018 steel imports was slightly more than half that of Europe's largest and the world's second-largest importer, Germany, and slightly less than half of the United States, the world's largest steel importer. In value terms, steel represented just 2.1 percent of the total goods imported into France in 2018.

France imports steel from 95 countries and territories. The ten countries labeled in the map below represent France's top sources of steel in 2018, together accounting for 94 percent of steel imports.

### Quick Facts:

- Imported 14.8 million metric tons (2018)
- 33% steel import growth since 2009
- 2018 import volume down 1%, while import value up 12%
- Import penetration at 92.6% in 2018, down from 94.8% in 2017
- Top three import sources: Belgium, Germany, and Italy
- Largest producers: ArcelorMittal, RIVA Group, CELSA
- 38 European Union trade remedies in effect against imports of steel mill products

France's Imports of Steel Mill Products-2018 (Top Ten in Blue)

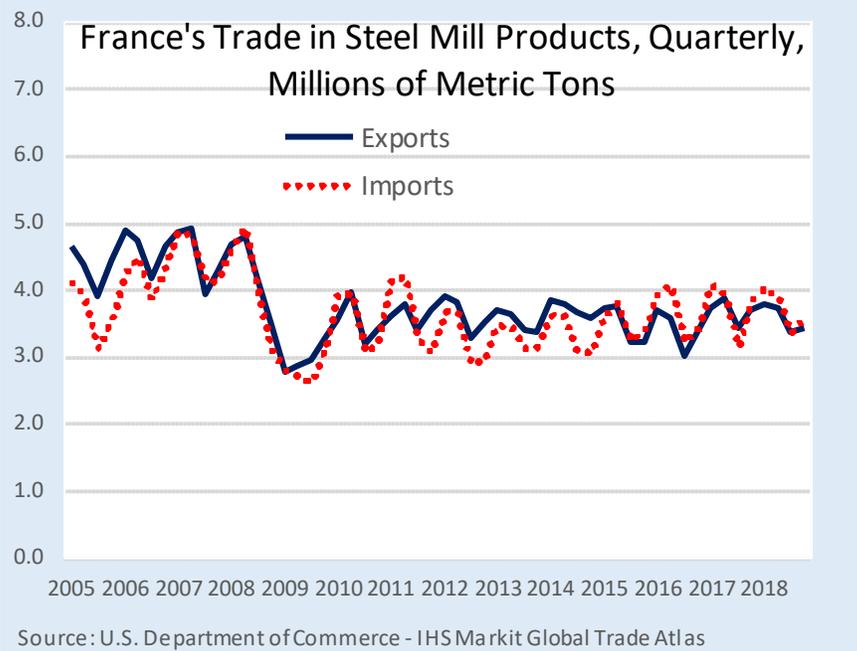


Data Source: Global Trade Atlas Copyright © IHS Global Inc 2019. All right reserved.

# Steel Imports Report: France

## Steel Trade Balance

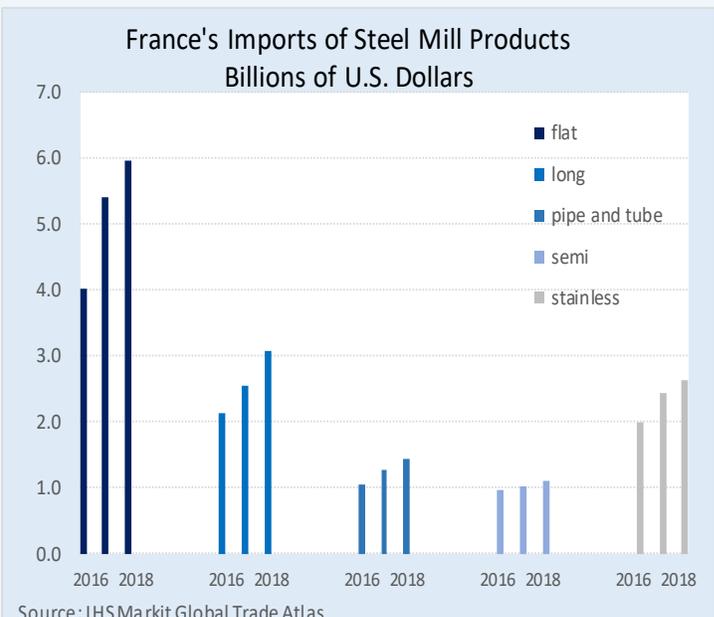
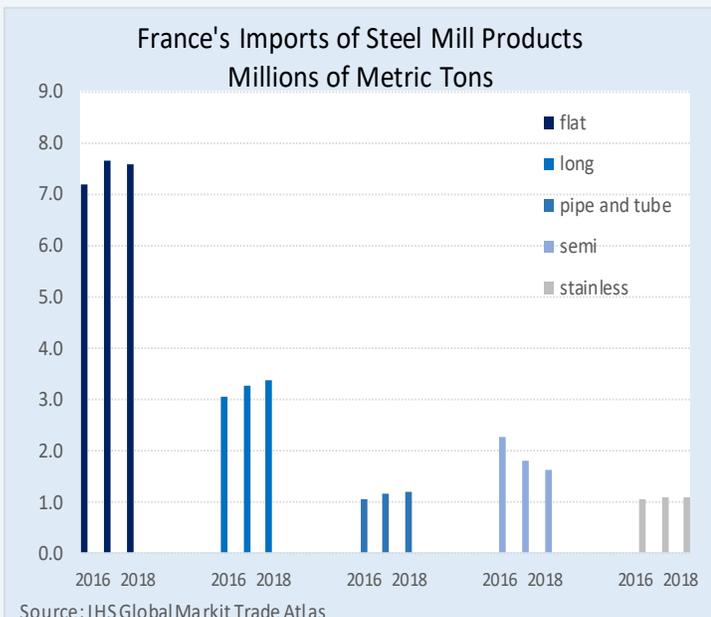
France's steel imports and exports have risen and fallen mostly in tandem since 2005. After falling in 2009, annual imports and exports have increased by 33 percent and 21 percent, respectively, between 2009 and 2018. France maintained an annual trade surplus between 2005 and 2009, before running a deficit from 2010 to 2012. Between 2012 and 2014, France was again a net steel exporter averaging a 1.2 million metric ton surplus over the three years. Since 2015, France has been a net importer of steel. In 2018, France's steel deficit was 622 thousand metric tons, an increase of 135 percent from the 2017 deficit of 265 thousand metric tons.



## Import Volume, Value, and Product

Between 2012 and 2017, the volume of France's imports of steel mill products trended modestly upwards. In 2018, France imported 14.8 million metric tons of steel mill products, a 1% reduction from 14.94 million metric tons in 2017. By contrast, the value of France's imports declined between 2011 and 2016, before increasing in 2017 and 2018 due to rising global steel prices. In 2018, import value increased by 12 percent to \$14.24 billion, from \$12.66 billion in 2017.

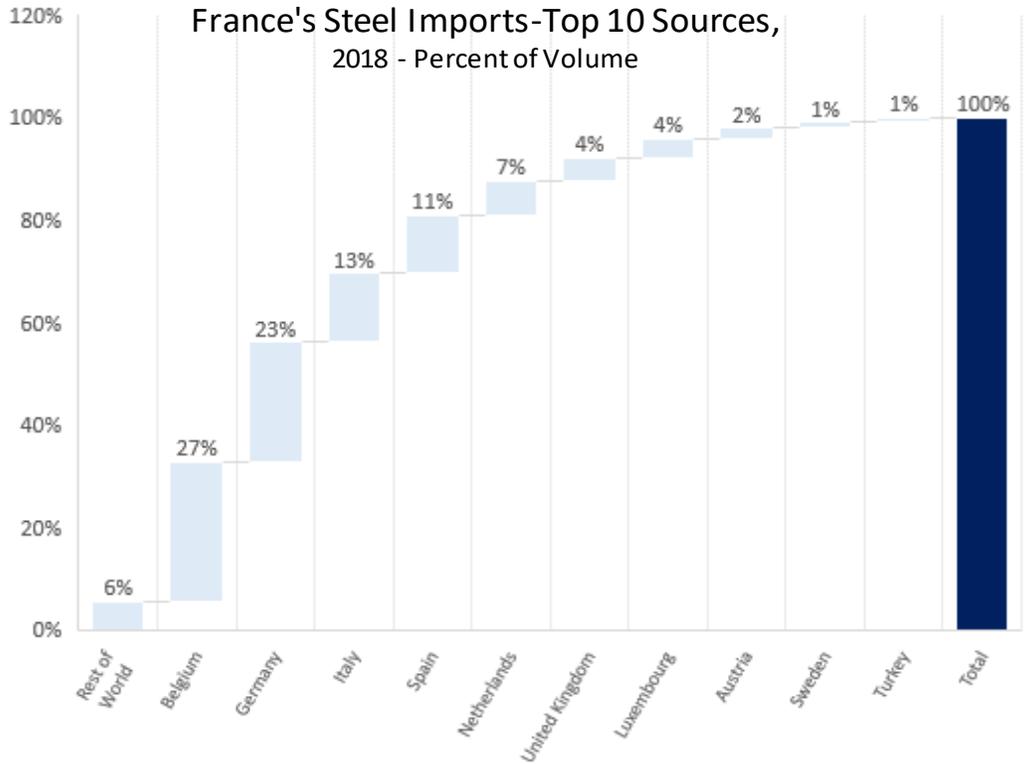
Flat products account for just over half of France's steel imports by volume in 2018 — at a total of 7.59 million metric tons. Long products accounted for 23% of imports (3.36 million metric tons), followed by semi-finished products at 11% (1.61 million metric tons), and stainless products at 7% (1.10 million metric tons).



# Steel Imports Report: France

## Imports by Top Source

The top 10 source countries for France's steel imports represent 94 percent of the total steel import volume in 2018 at 14.01 million metric tons (mmt). Belgium accounted for the largest share of France's imports by source country with 27 percent (4.0 mmt), followed by Germany at 23 percent (3.5 mmt), Italy at 13 percent (2.0 mmt), Spain at 11 percent (1.7 mmt), and the Netherlands at 7 percent (1.01mmt).



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

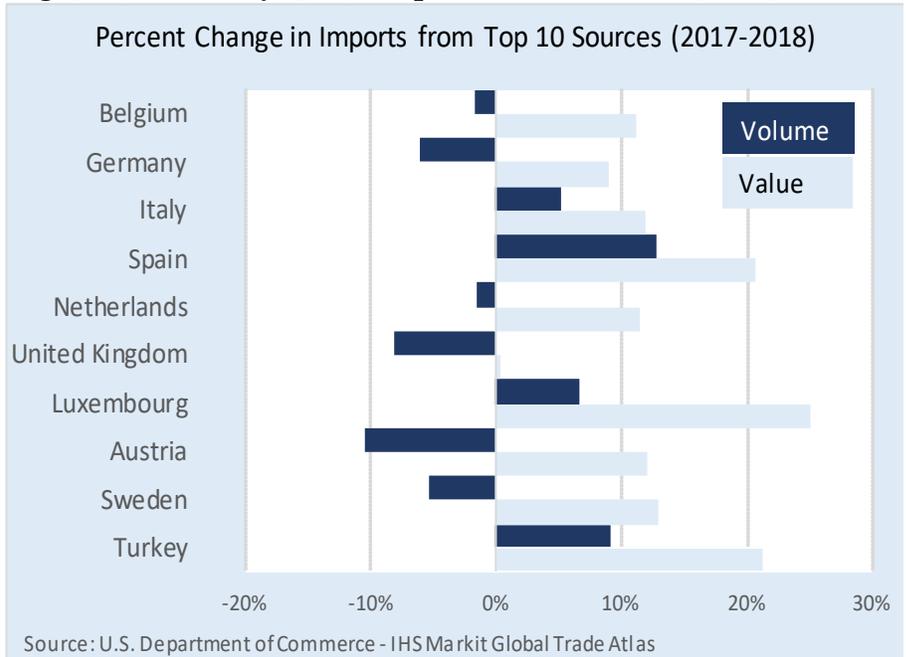
The United States ranked 29th as a source for steel imports at just 6.2 thousand metric tons in 2018.

## Trends in Imports from Top Sources

The volume of France's steel imports increased from 4 of France's top 10 steel import sources between 2017 and 2018. Imports from Spain increased the most, up 13 percent, followed by France's imports from Turkey (9%), Luxembourg (7%), and Italy (5%). Imports from Austria (-11%), United Kingdom (-8%), Germany (-6%), Sweden (-5%), Belgium (-2%), and the Netherlands (-1%) all decreased in volume in 2018.

France's imports in value terms increased from all of its top 10 sources with the largest increases from Luxembourg (25%), Spain (21%), Turkey (21%), Sweden (13%), Italy (12%), Austria (13%), the Netherlands (12%), Belgium (11%), Germany (9%), and the United Kingdom (0.4%).

Outside the top 10 sources, other notable changes in France's import volume included imports from 11th-ranked Poland (-18%), 19th-ranked Brazil (-67%), and 22nd-ranked India (103%).



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

# Steel Imports Report: France

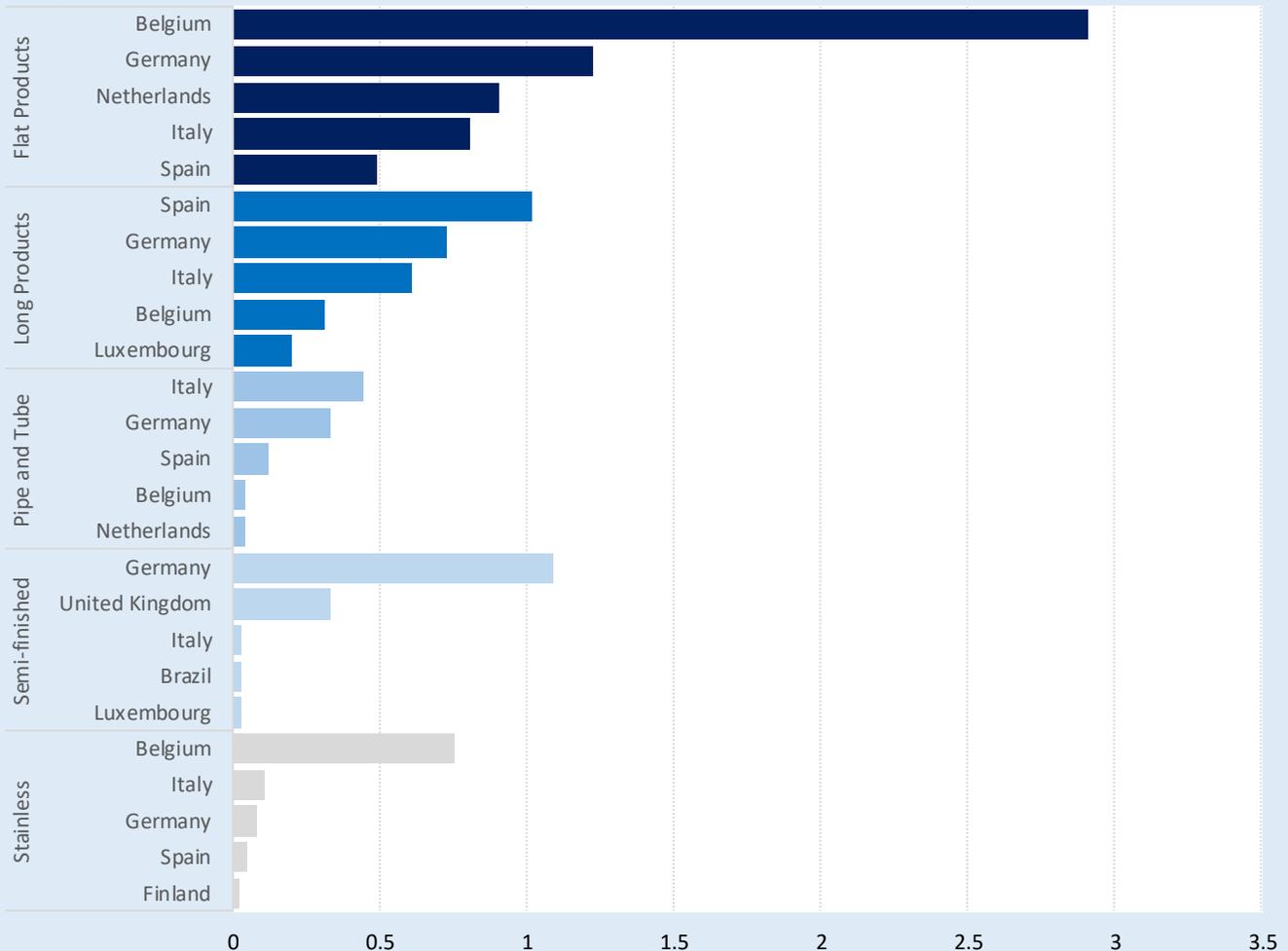
## Top Sources by Steel Product Category

The top source countries for France’s imports by volume vary across types of steel products. In 2018, Belgium was France’s largest source of imported flat products at 38 percent (2.9 million metric tons) followed by Germany at 16 percent (1.2 million metric tons). Belgium was also the largest source for stainless products accounting for 68 percent of imports at (753 thousand metric tons).

Spain represented the largest source of France’s long product imports at 30 percent (1.02 million metric tons) followed by Germany at 22 percent (729 thousand metric tons), and Italy at 18 percent (605 thousand metric tons). Italy represented the largest source of pipe and tube imports at 38 percent (443 thousand metric tons), followed by Germany at 28 percent (332 thousand metric tons). Germany represented the largest source of France’s semi-finished steel imports at 68 percent in 2018 (1.1 million metric tons), while the United Kingdom represented the next largest share at just 10 percent (109 thousand metric tons).

The United States was not a top import source for any product category.

France's Top 5 Import Sources by Product - 2018



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

Millions of Metric Tons

# Steel Imports Report: France

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

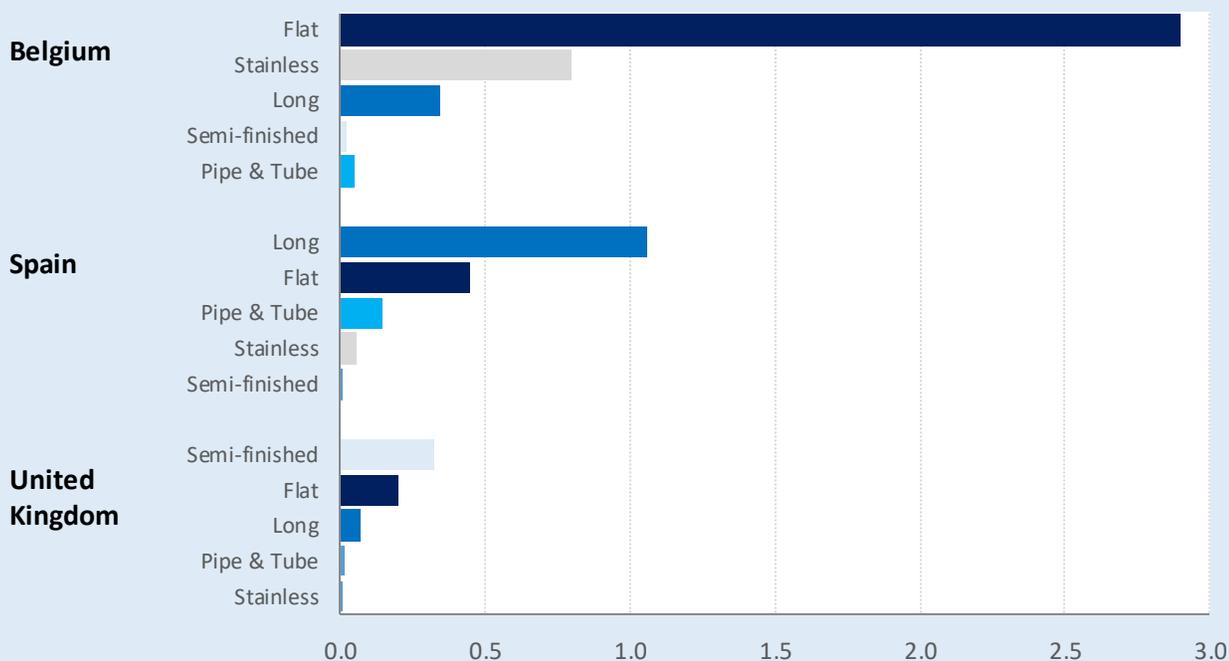
In 2018, the change in the share of steel exports sent to France from its top import sources was mixed, with six of ten import sources declining. The share of the United Kingdom's steel exports to France showed the largest decrease (down 2.5 percentage points from 2017), followed by Belgium (down 1.4 percentage points). The share of exports to France from Sweden, Germany, Italy, and Turkey decreased by less than one percentage point each. The share of Spain's exports to France increased the most (up 1.3 percentage points), followed by the Netherlands (up 0.9 percentage points). Export shares for Luxembourg and Austria also increased.

France's Steel Export Market Share					
Top 10 Import Sources	Share of Exports to France - 2017	France's Rank in 2017	Share of Exports to France - 2018	France's Rank in 2018	Change in Share
Belgium	24.1%	2	22.7%	2	↓
Germany	13.1%	1	12.8%	1	↓
Italy	10.6%	2	10.6%	2	↓
Spain	17.7%	1	19.0%	1	↑
Netherlands	7.7%	3	8.5%	3	↑
United Kingdom	16.1%	1	13.6%	1	↓
Luxembourg	10.2%	2	10.9%	3	↑
Austria	3.1%	8	3.4%	7	↑
Sweden	3.5%	11	3.3%	11	↓
Turkey	0.9%	26	0.9%	25	↓

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

Among France's top import sources, Belgium, Spain and the United Kingdom sent the largest shares of their total steel exports to France in 2018. Flat products accounted for the largest share of Belgium's steel exports to France at 71 percent (2.9 mmt). Long products accounted for the largest share of Spain's steel exports to France at 62 percent (1.1 mmt), and semi-finished steel comprised the largest share of the UK's steel exports to France at 53 percent (324 thousand metric tons).

Steel Export Composition of Top Market-Share Countries-2018

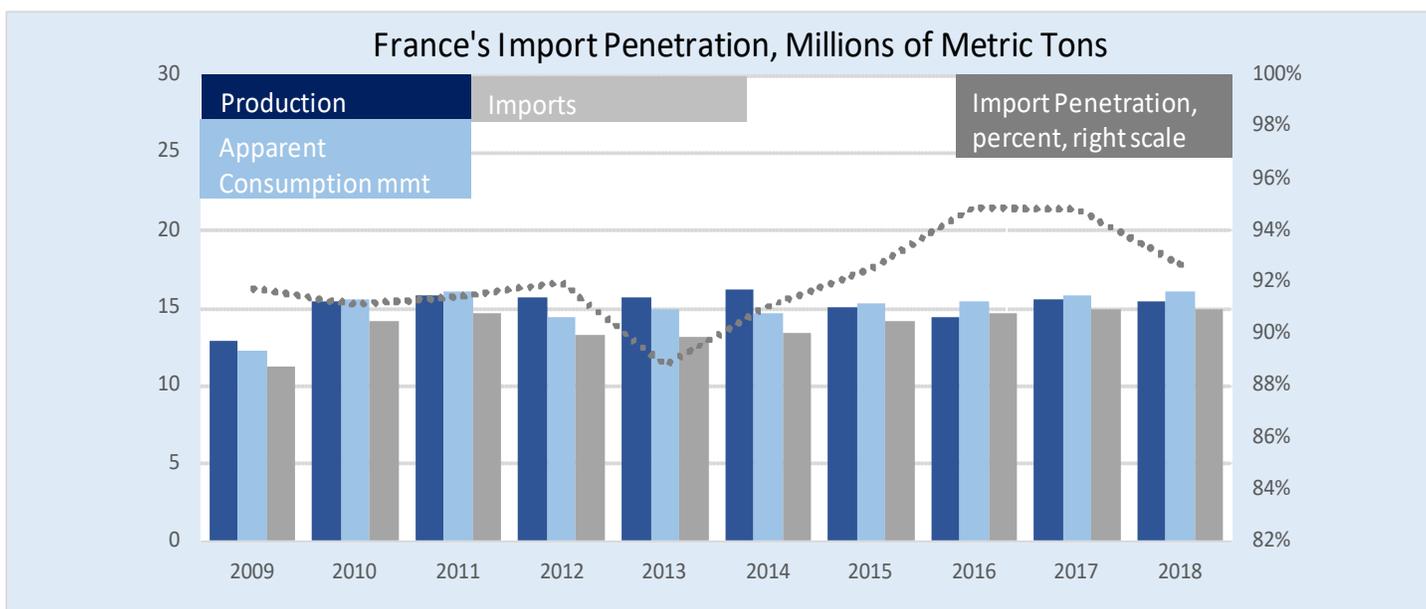


Source: IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country

Millions of Metric Tons

# Steel Imports Report: France

## Overall Production and Import Penetration



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Production	12.8	15.4	15.8	15.6	15.7	16.1	15.0	14.4	15.5	15.4
Apparent Consumption	12.2	15.5	16.1	14.3	14.8	14.7	15.2	15.4	15.8	16.0
Imports	11.2	14.1	14.7	13.2	13.2	13.4	14.1	14.6	14.9	14.8
Import Penetration	91.7%	91.1%	91.4%	91.9%	88.8%	91.0%	92.5%	94.8%	94.8%	92.6%

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

France’s crude steel production increased fairly steadily between 2010 and 2014 before declining in 2015 and 2016. In 2017, France’s steel production increased 8 percent from 14.4 million metric tons 2016 to 15.5 million metric tons in 2017. In 2018, France’s crude steel production decreased 1 percent to 15.4 million metric tons, down from 15.5 million metric tons in 2017. Apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) has tracked relatively closely to production, though it exceeded production in 2018 by approximately 600 thousand metric tons. France’s level of import penetration has averaged 92.1 percent since 2009. Import penetration reached a high of 94.8 percent in 2017 before declining to 92.6 percent in 2018.

### Top Producers

France’s steel production is heavily 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 with estimated production capacity of 10 million metric tons.

Rank	Company	Production (mmt)	Main Products
1	ArcelorMittal	10.0	Slab, hot-rolled coil, sheets, galvanized, bars
2	Riva Acier	2.6 (est. capacity)	Billets, bars, rebar, wire, wire rod
3	CELSA	0.6	Billets
4	Vallourec	N/A	Pipe and tube, bars, stainless
5	Eramet (Aubert & Duval)	N/A	Semi-finished, bars, sheets, coils

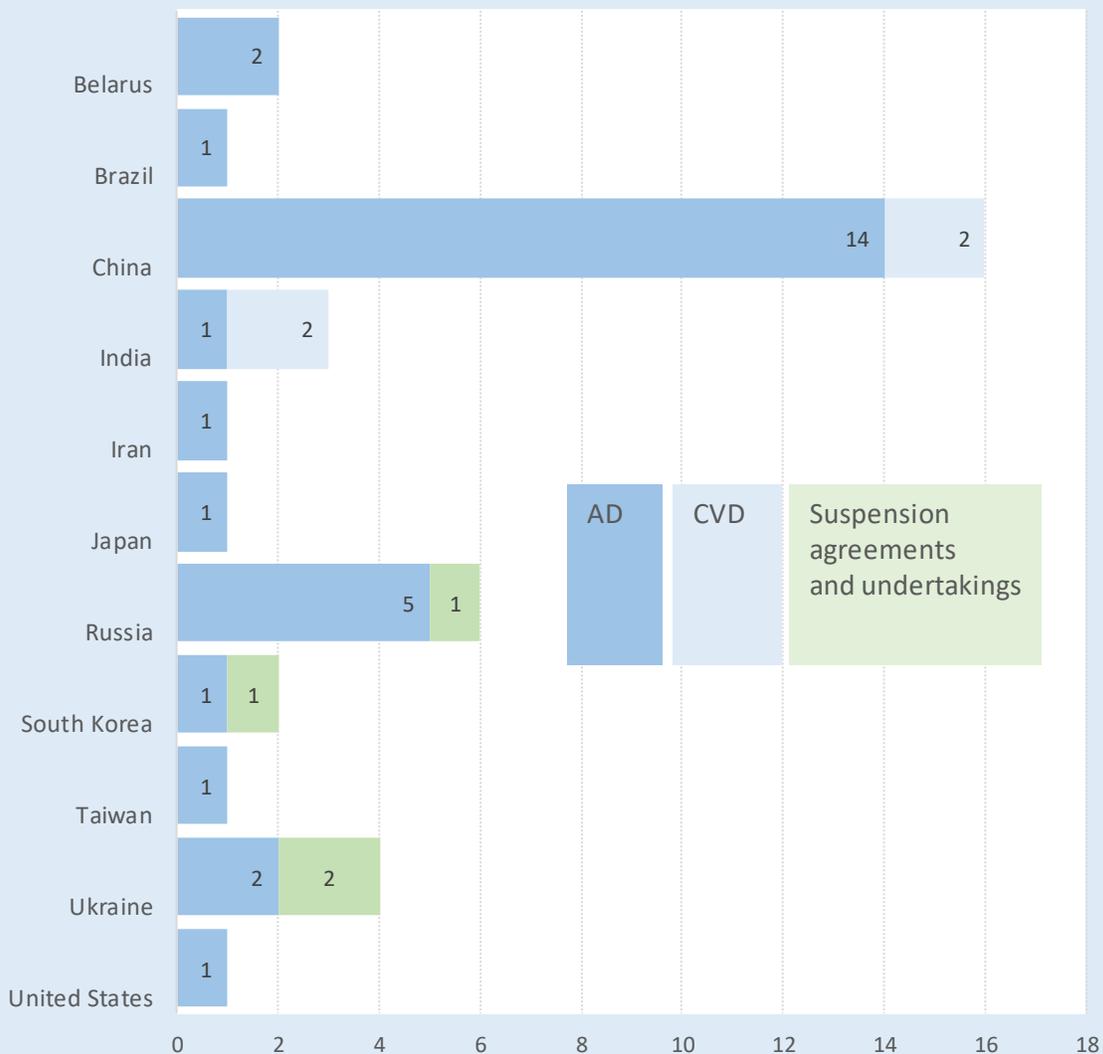
Source: Bloomberg; Company websites \*Denotes foreign-owned producer

# Steel Imports Report: France

## 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 European Union, which includes France, has against imports of steel mill products from various countries. The European Union 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

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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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