



Global Steel Trade Monitor

Steel Exports Report: Belgium

October 2018

Background

Belgium is the world's sixth-largest steel exporter. In year-to-date 2018 (through June), further referred to as YTD 2018, Belgium exported 9.4 million metric tons of steel, a 1 percent decrease from 9.5 million metric tons in YTD 2017. Belgium's exports represented about 4 percent of all steel exported globally in 2017. The volume of Belgium's 2017 steel exports was almost one quarter the size of the world's largest exporter, China. In value terms, steel represented 2.3 percent of the total amount of goods Belgium exported in 2017.

Belgium exports steel to more than 170 countries and territories. The ten countries labeled in the map below represent Belgium's top steel markets, receiving more than 200 thousand metric tons each and accounting for 86 percent of Belgium's steel exports in 2017.

Belgium's Exports of Steel Mill Products-2017 (Top Ten in Blue)



Quick Facts:

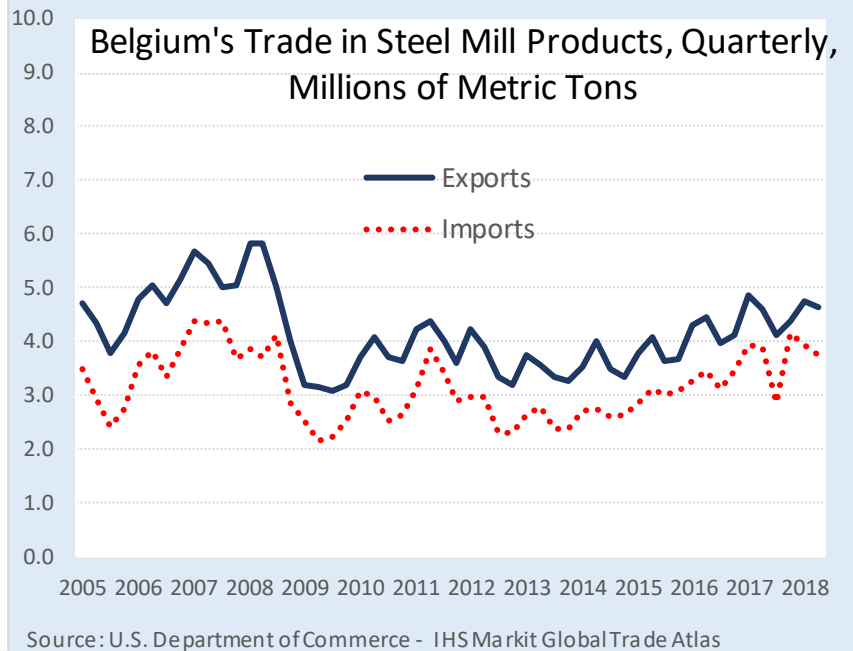
- World's sixth-largest steel exporter: 9.4 million metric tons (YTD 2018)
- 51% steel export growth since Q3 2009
- Exports as a share of production down from 239.4% in YTD 2017 to 232.8% in YTD 2018
- YTD export volume down 1% while export value up 18%
- Top three markets: Germany, France, Netherlands
- Largest producers: Arcelor Mittal and NLMK
- 2 trade remedies in effect involving steel mill imports from Belgium; 4 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.

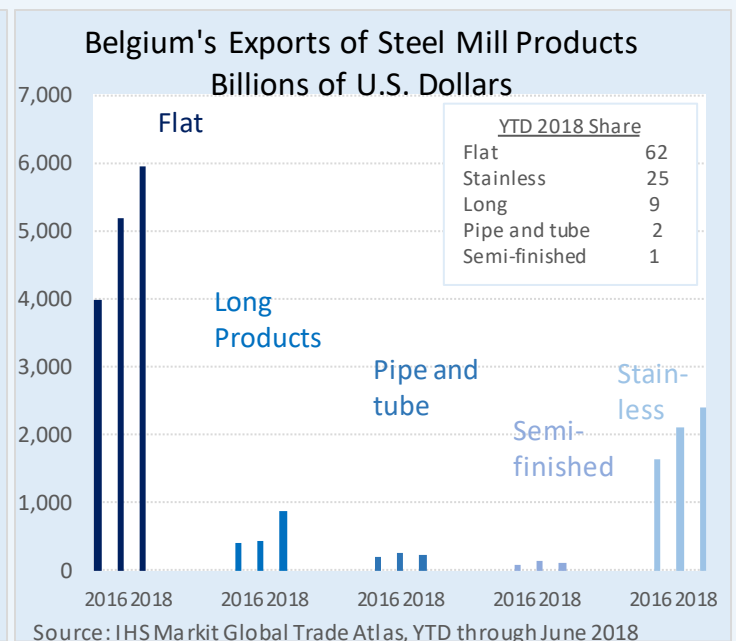
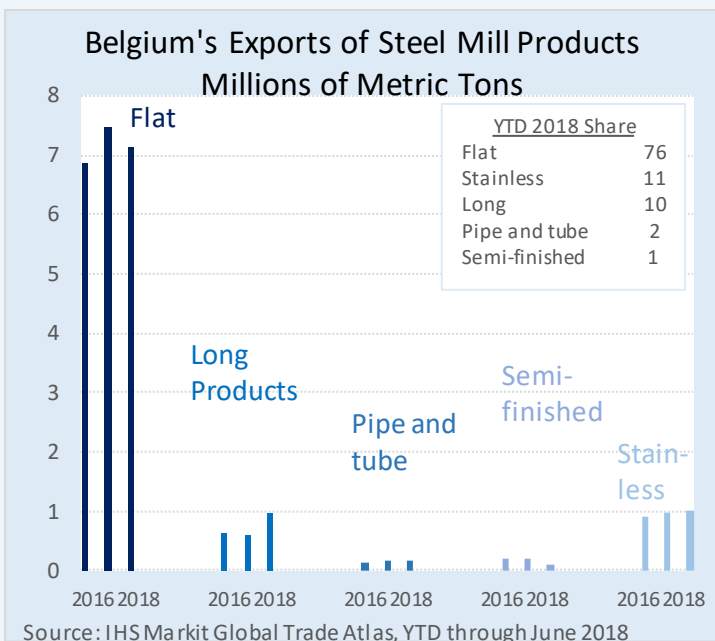
After a sharp 41 percent decline from 2007 to 2009, Belgium's steel exports have mostly recovered, growing 51 percent from Q3 2009 to Q2 2018. After increasing by 16 percent between 2015 and 2016, the steel trade surplus increased as imports fell in 2017. In YTD 2018, imports have rebounded and Belgium's steel trade surplus narrowed.



Export Volume, Value, and Product

Belgium's volume of steel exports has trended upwards since 2013. Between 2013 and 2016, exports grew 3.1 million metric tons in volume — a 22 percent increase. In YTD 2018, exports decreased 1 percent to 9.4 million metric tons from 9.5 million metric tons in YTD 2017. Between YTD 2017 and YTD 2018, export value increased by 18 percent due to rising global steel prices.

In YTD 2018, Belgium exported 7.1 million metric tons of flat products, comprising 76 percent of the country's steel exports by volume. With 994 thousand metric tons, stainless products represented the second-largest share of exports at 11 percent, followed by long products (10% or 980 thousand metric tons), pipe and tube products (2% or 162 thousand metric tons), and semi-finished products (1% or 93 thousand metric tons).

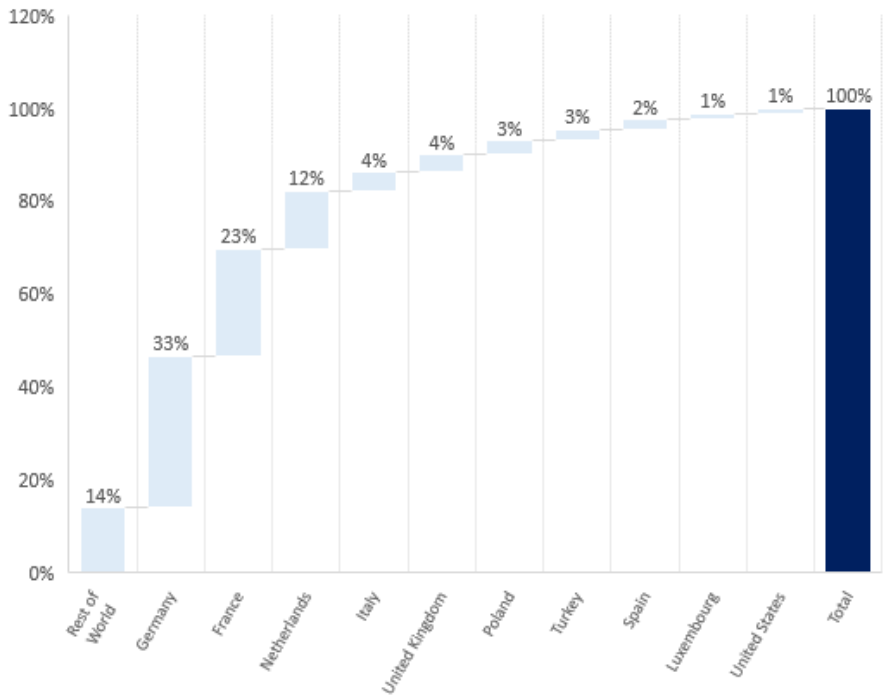


Steel Exports Report: Belgium

Exports by Top Market

Exports to Belgium’s top 10 steel markets represented 86 percent of Belgium’s steel export volume in YTD 2018 at 8.1 million metric tons (mmt). Germany was the largest market for Belgium’s exports at 33 percent (3.1 mmt), followed by France at 23 percent (2.2 mmt), the Netherlands at 13 percent (1.2 mmt), Italy at 4 percent (0.4 mmt), and the United Kingdom at 4 percent (0.3mmt).

The United States placed 10th as a destination for Belgium’s steel exports in YTD 2018, accounting for 1 percent of exports (106 thousand metric tons) – a 42 percent increase from 75 thousand metric tons in YTD 2017.

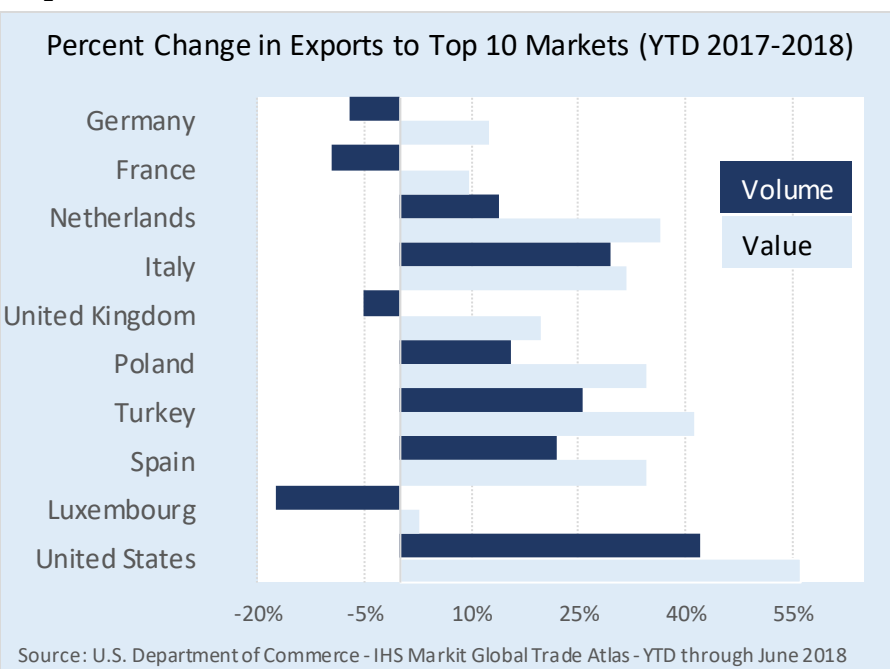


Trends in Exports to Top Markets

The volume of Belgium’s steel exports increased to six of its top 10 steel export markets in YTD 2018.

The United States experienced the largest increase in volume, up 42 percent in YTD 2018, followed by Italy (+29%), Turkey (+26%), and Spain (+22%). Belgium’s exports declined the most to Luxembourg (-17%), followed by France (-10%), German (-7%), and the United Kingdom (-5%).

Among Belgium’s top 10 export markets, the value of exports increased to all of the ten markets. Exports to the United States increased the most (+56%) Turkey (+41%), the Netherlands (+36%), Poland (+34%), Italy (+32%), the United Kingdom (+20%), France (+10%), and Luxembourg (+3%).



Outside the top 10 markets, notable changes in YTD 2017 steel export volume were seen in 17th-ranked Hungary (+101%), 25th-ranked Ecuador (+662%), and 23rd-ranked Bangladesh (+84%), 21st-ranked Mexico (-37%), and 24th-ranked Denmark (-26%).

Steel Exports Report: Belgium

Top Markets by Steel Product Category

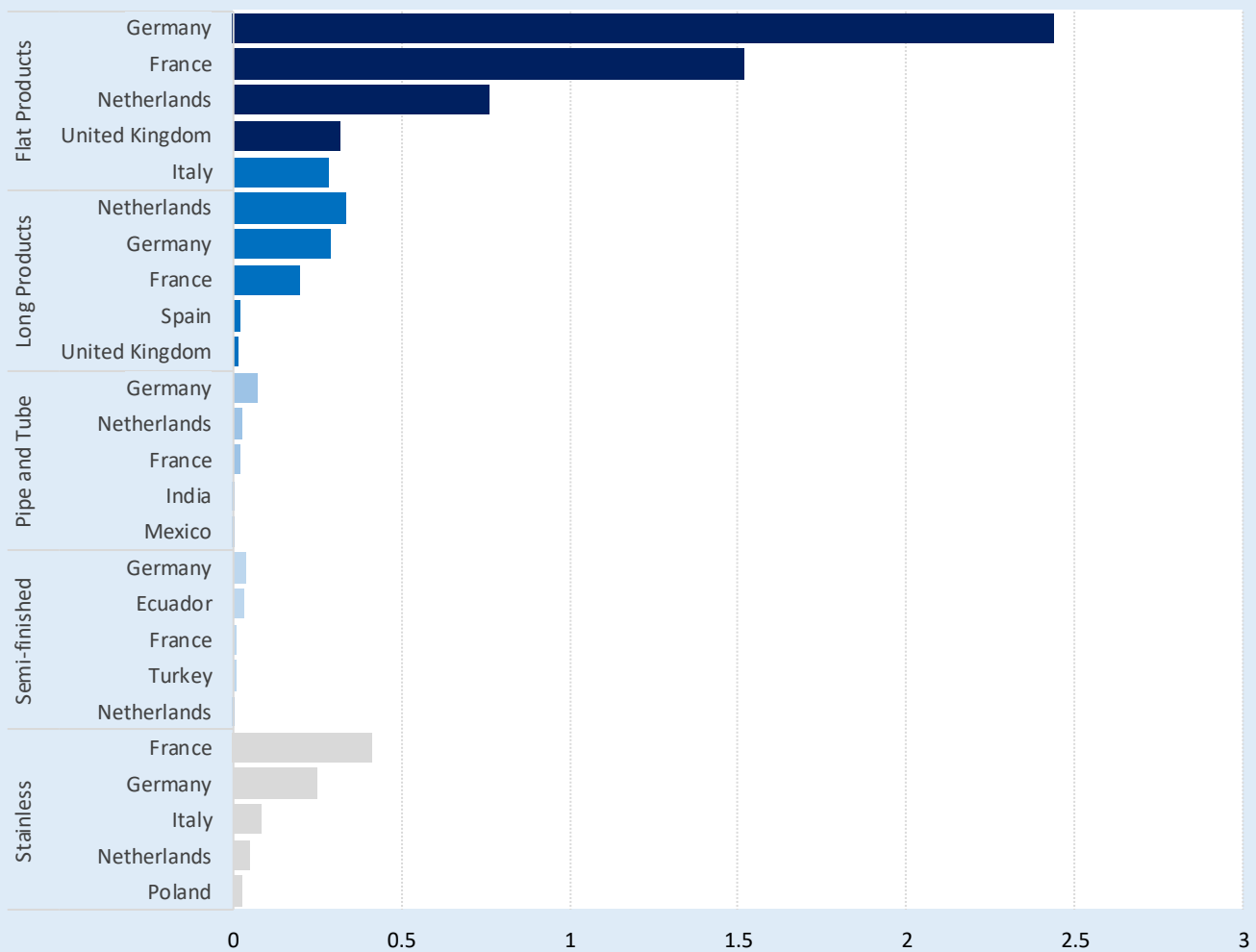
Belgium's top export markets by volume vary across types of steel products, however Germany, the Netherlands, and France were usually highly ranked in YTD 2018. Germany held the top spot for Belgium's exports of flat products at 34 percent (2.4 million metric tons), pipe and tube products at 45 percent (73 thousand metric tons), and semi-finished products at 38 percent (35 thousand metric tons).

The Netherlands received the largest share (34%) of Belgian exports of long products, 335 thousand metric tons.

France received the most of Belgium's stainless products, accounting for 42 percent (416 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 2018



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce - IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas - YTD through June 2018

Millions of Metric Tons

Steel Exports Report: Belgium

Belgium's Import Market Share in Top Destinations

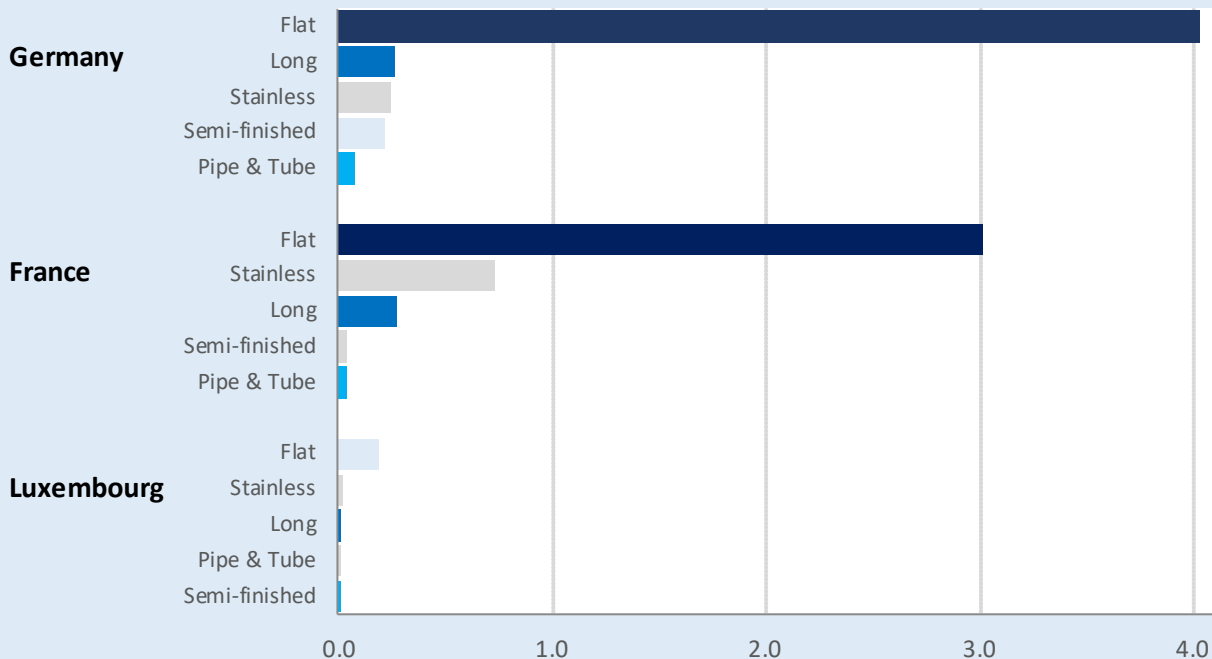
In 2017, Belgium's export market share increased or stayed the same for 9 of the country's top 10 export destinations. Countries with the largest increases in their share of steel imports from Belgium included Germany (up 6 percentage points) and Luxembourg (up 4.9 percentage points), as well as the 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). Losses 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%).

Belgium's Steel Export Market Share						
Top 10 Export Markets	Share of Imports from Belgium-2016	Belgium's Rank in 2016	Share of Imports from Belgium-2017	Belgium's Rank in 2017	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

Among Belgium's top export markets, Germany, France, and Luxembourg received the largest shares of their steel imports from Belgium. In 2017, flat products accounted for the largest share of Germany's steel imports from Belgium (83% or 4.0 million metric tons), and France (74% or 3.0 million metric tons), and Luxembourg (87% or 192 thousand metric tons).

Steel Import Composition of Top Market-Share Countries-2017



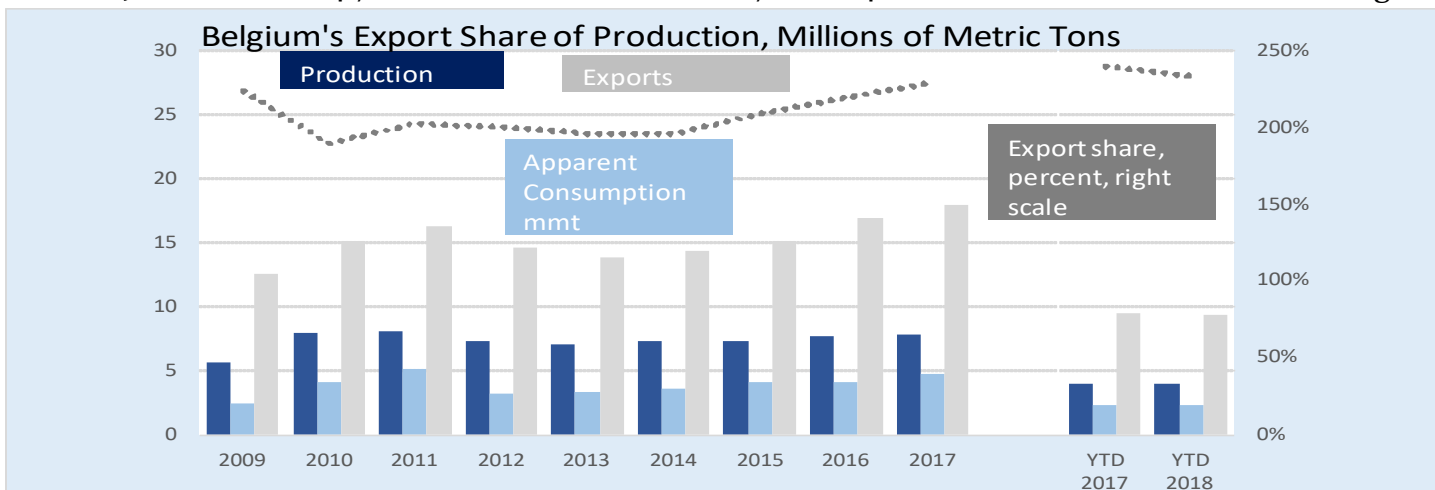
Source: IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country

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 in 2012, remained almost flat until 2015, and then over the next two years, increased 8 percent to 7.8 million metric tons in 2017. In YTD 2018, production was unchanged from YTD 2017, at 2.3 million metric tons. Apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) increased to 4.7 million metric tons in 2017 from 4.1 million metric tons in 2016. Belgian



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	YTD 2017	YTD 2018
Production	5.635	8.0	8.0	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.7	7.8	4.0	4.0
Apparent Consumption	2.4	4.1	5.1	3.2	3.3	3.6	4.1	4.1	4.7	2.3	2.3
Exports	12.6	15.1	16.2	14.6	13.9	14.4	15.2	16.9	18.0	9.5	9.4
Export Share of Production	223.6%	189.5%	201.9%	200.3%	195.7%	195.8%	209.0%	219.4%	229.2%	239.4%	232.8%

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

steel demand has held steady at 2.3 million metric tons during the first half of 2018, the same as it was in the first half of 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 204.8 percent since 2009, and have increased for most years since 2014. In YTD 2018, exports as a share of production were 232.8 percent down from 239.4 percent in YTD 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.

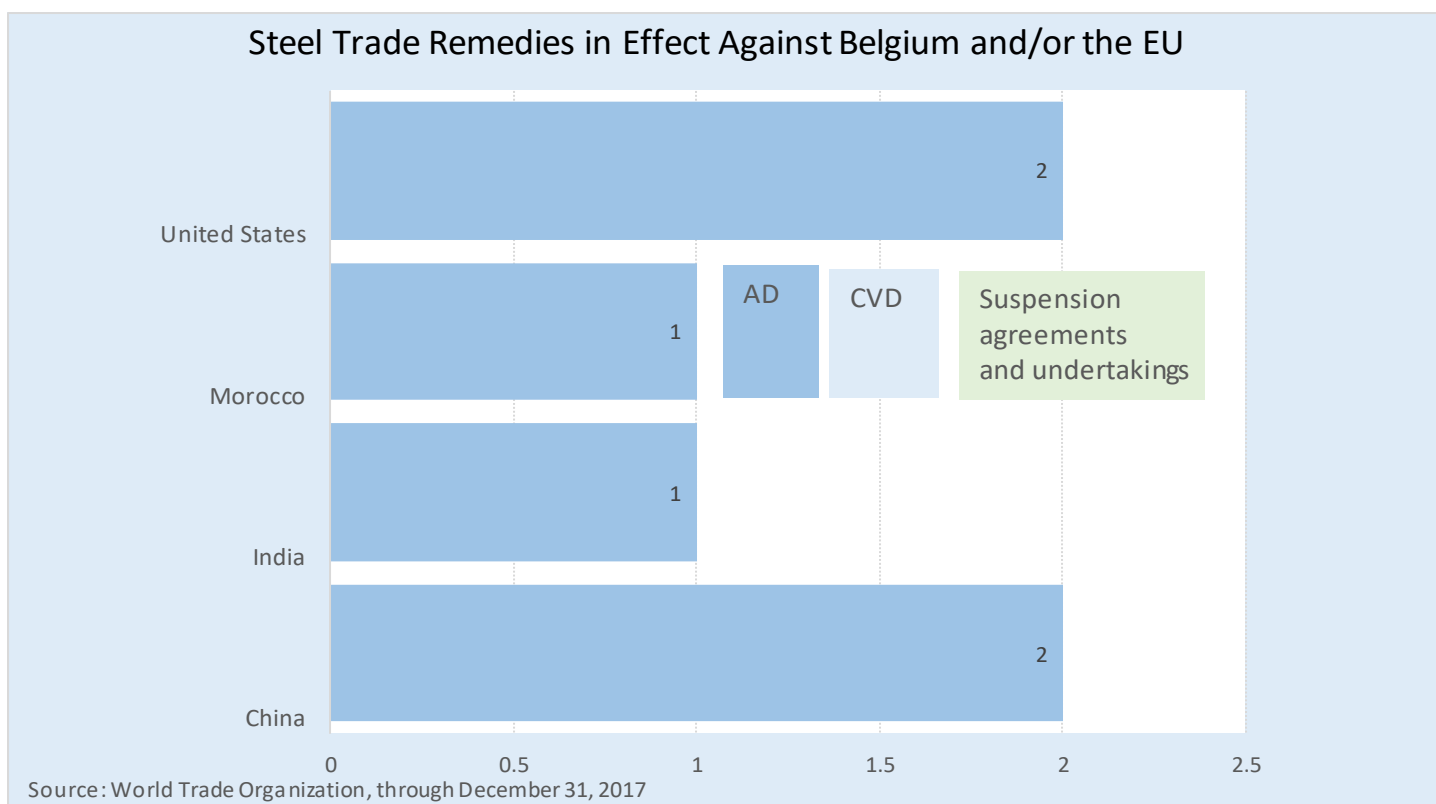
Belgium's Top Steel Producers in 2017			
Rank	Company	Production (mmt)	Main Products
1	Arcelor Mittal	6	sheets, coils
2	NLMK	0.75	Sheets, coils,

Source: World Steel Association; Hoover's; Bloomberg; 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.



Global Steel Mill Safeguards in Effect

Country	Product(s)
India	1) Hot rolled steel in coils; 2) Hot-rolled steel flat sheets and plates
Indonesia	1) Articles of finishing casing and tubing 2) Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy; 3) I and H sections of other alloy steel; 4) Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils
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
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	Semi-finished and certain finished products of alloy and non-alloy steel

Source: World Trade Organization, through February 28, 2018

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/>.



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 ECCGlobalSteelStats@trade.gov

trade.gov/steel