Global Steel Trade Monitor

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Global Steel Trade Monitor?

The **Global Steel Trade Monitor** (the Monitor) is a centralized platform for stakeholders and interested parties to access aggregated data on global imports and exports of steel mill products and a variety of other factual information concerning steel trade. Launched in 2016, the Monitor provides a series of interactive data tables and graphs summarizing steel trade data related to the top steel importing and exporting countries. The Monitor expands upon the early release information already provided by the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) system, which collects and publishes data on U.S. imports of steel mill products. A key component of the Monitor is the series of country-level reports, as well as a global summary report, on steel trade trends published on a regular basis. These reports provide current publicly available global steel industry information about the top countries that play an essential role in the global steel trade.

The **SIMA System** uses the Department of Commerce's 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/

Why do you publish the country-level reports?
The reports provide broad overviews about steel trade and the changing trade patterns. Given the importance of steel trade issues, the Department of Commerce is supplementing its SIMA data to provide a new level of data transparency to the public.

Why only cover steel?
The Department of Commerce has had an existing means for publishing trade and other data on the U.S. steel industry through the SIMA program for several years. The Monitor and reports represent an extension of the SIMA system to a global coverage of the steel trade.

How frequently do you update the Monitor's country reports?
The reports will be updated semi-annually with the latest year to date information available from each country. The top importing country, the United States, and the top exporting country, the People's Republic of China, are updated on a quarterly basis. The Global Steel Report provides regional analysis and is updated annually.

How frequently do you update the interactive Monitor?
The Monitor will be updated regularly depending on each monitored country's release of monthly data.

Which countries does the Global Steel Trade Monitor cover?
The Monitor and country-level reports cover the 20 largest steel exporting countries and the 20 largest steel importing countries.

What time periods are covered in the Monitor?
The monitor includes aggregated annual steel trade data for the past six years and additionally, the year-to-date data for the current year.

What are your data sources?
Trade data are extracted from IHS Global Trade Atlas for imports and exports of steel mill products from each reporting country. Additionally, annual trade data in the Monitor are extracted from the United Nations Comtrade Database. Steel mill products are defined in broad, common commodity terms at the 6-digit Harmonized System (HS) level. For detailed information on the 6-digit HS codes used, please see: http://trade.gov/steel/globalmonitor/SMP_HS6.pdf. Production figures are obtained from the World Steel Association.

What units of measure are available?
Trade data are available by value in U.S. dollars and quantity in metric tons.

What type of data is available in the country reports?
Information in these reports includes global export and import trends by country of origin/destination and by product, production and consumption data and, where available, information regarding trade remedy actions taken on steel mill products. Data such as market shares, growth rates, comparisons by country, and rankings are also included.

What type of data is available in the interactive Monitor?
Information in the interactive Monitor includes global steel trade trends by country of origin/destination, product group, time interval, and by quantity/value in the form of interactive charts.

How do I generate graphs in the interactive dashboard?

To generate graphs in the dashboard that reflect a desired steel trade flow follow these steps. First select a "Trade Flow", then "Reporting Country", "Partner Country", "Product Group", and "Quantity" or "Value". After entering all applicable values, click "Generate Dashboard" to see the resulting graphs. The "Time Interval" for both the subsequently created bar and pie graphs can further be customized through the separate drop-down menus.

Are the reports intended to provide a basis for trade remedy actions?
The reports are solely intended to provide publicly available global steel trade flow data.

Who can I contact for more information?
For general, technical, or data-related questions: ECGlobalSteelStats@trade.gov or (202) 482-2105.

For inquiries from the Press: (202) 482-3809

Global Steel Trade Monitor Glossary

Trade Flow: Direction of trade — exports or imports.

Reporting Country: A country reporting trade from either exporting or importing perspective.

Partner Country: Destination of a reporting country's exports or imports.

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.

Trade Remedies: 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.