



Global Steel Trade Monitor

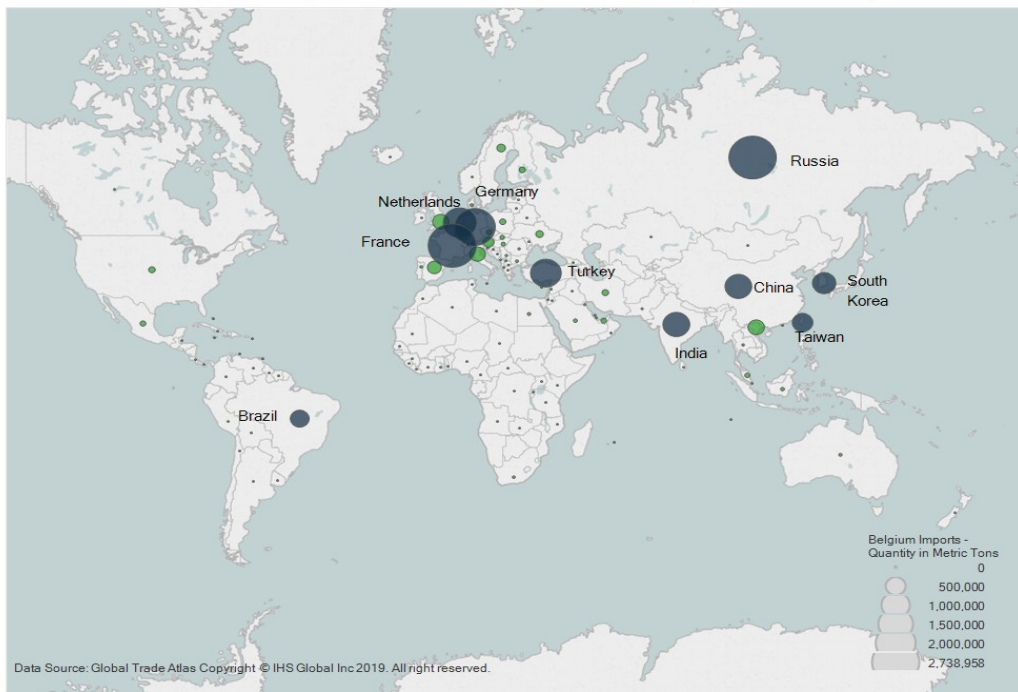
Steel Imports Report: Belgium

Background

Belgium was the world's sixth-largest steel importer in 2017. In 2018, Belgium imported 15.0 million metric tons of steel, an 8 percent increase from 14.0 million metric tons in 2017. Belgium's imports were about 4 percent of all steel imported globally in 2017. The volume of Belgium's 2018 steel imports was slightly more than half that of the European Union's largest importer, Germany, and slightly more than half that of the United States, the world's largest importer. In value terms, steel contributed just 2.6 percent of the total goods imported into Belgium in 2018.

Belgium imported steel from more than 80 countries and territories in 2018. The 10 countries highlighted in the map below represent the top sources for Belgium's imports of steel, with the Belgium receiving more than 400 thousand metric tons from each and together accounting for 86 percent of Belgium's steel imports in 2018.

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



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

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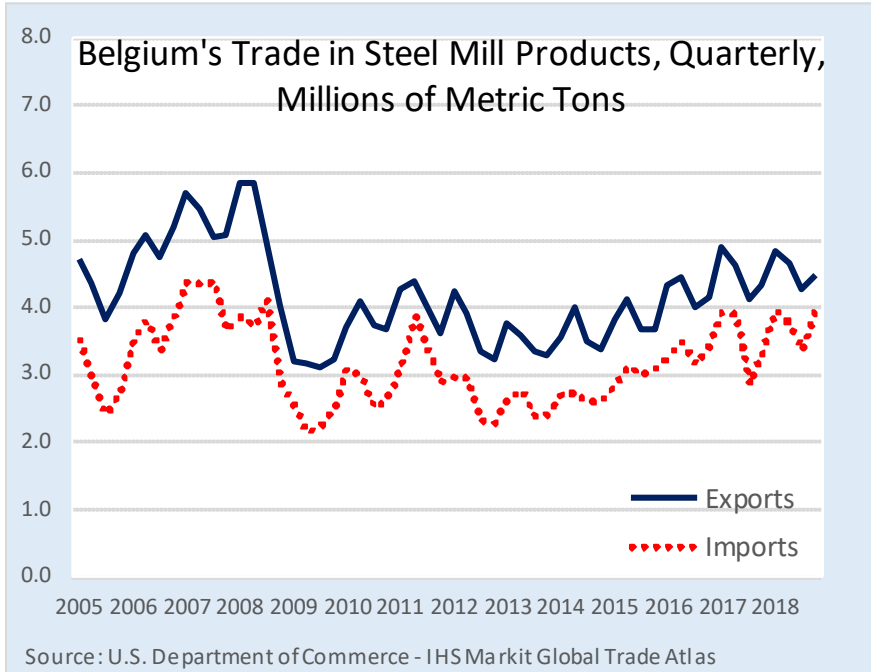
Quick Facts:

- Imported 15.0 million metric tons in 2018
- 60% steel import growth since 2009
- 2018 import volume up 8% while import value up 15% from 2017
- Import penetration down from 354.3% in 2017 to 307.2% in 2018
- Top three import sources: France, Russia and Germany
- Largest producers: ArcelorMittal, NLMK, and Aperam
- 32 European Union trade remedies in effect against imports of steel mill products

Steel Imports Report: Belgium

Steel Trade Balance

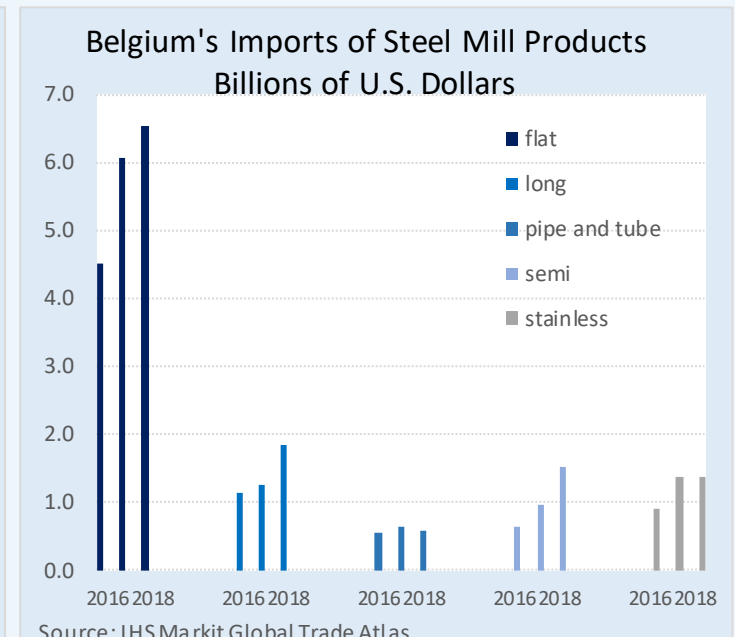
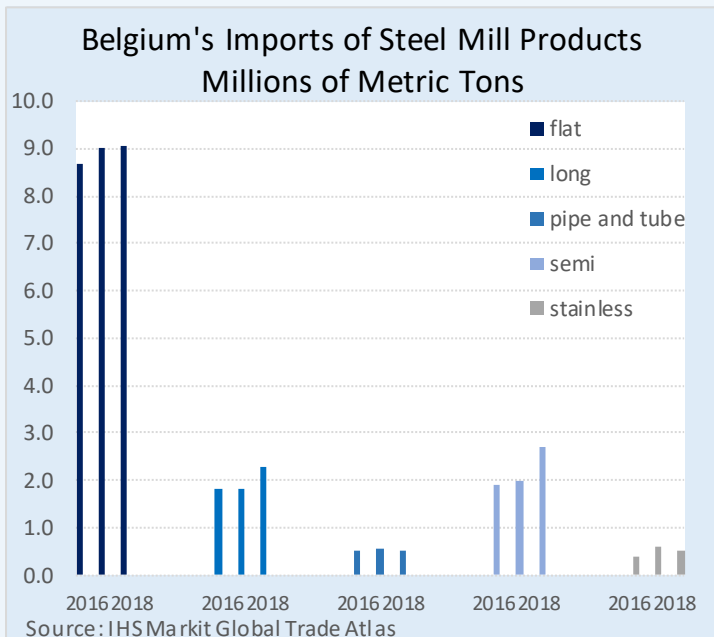
Over the past decade, Belgium has maintained a consistent trade surplus as its imports and exports have displayed roughly similar trends: both saw notable increases between 2005 and 2007, declined significantly by 2009, and have since gradually recovered. Between 2009 and 2018, Belgium's steel imports and exports have grown 60 percent and 44 percent respectively. In 2018, Belgium's steel trade surplus amounted to 3.1 million metric tons, a 21 percent decrease from a surplus of 3.9 million metric tons in 2017.



Import Volume, Value, and Product

After reaching recently low point in 2009, Belgium's steel imports increased in 2010 and 2011, before falling in 2012 and 2013. Since 2013, Belgium's steel imports have trended generally upwards. In 2018, imports have increased percent to 15.0 million metric tons, up from 14.0 million metric tons in 2017. From 2011 to 2016, the value of Belgian steel imports generally trended downwards as global steel prices fell. In 2017, the value of imports increased from \$7.7 billion metric tons to \$10.3 billion. In 2018, Belgium's import value has increased another 15 percent to \$11.8 billion.

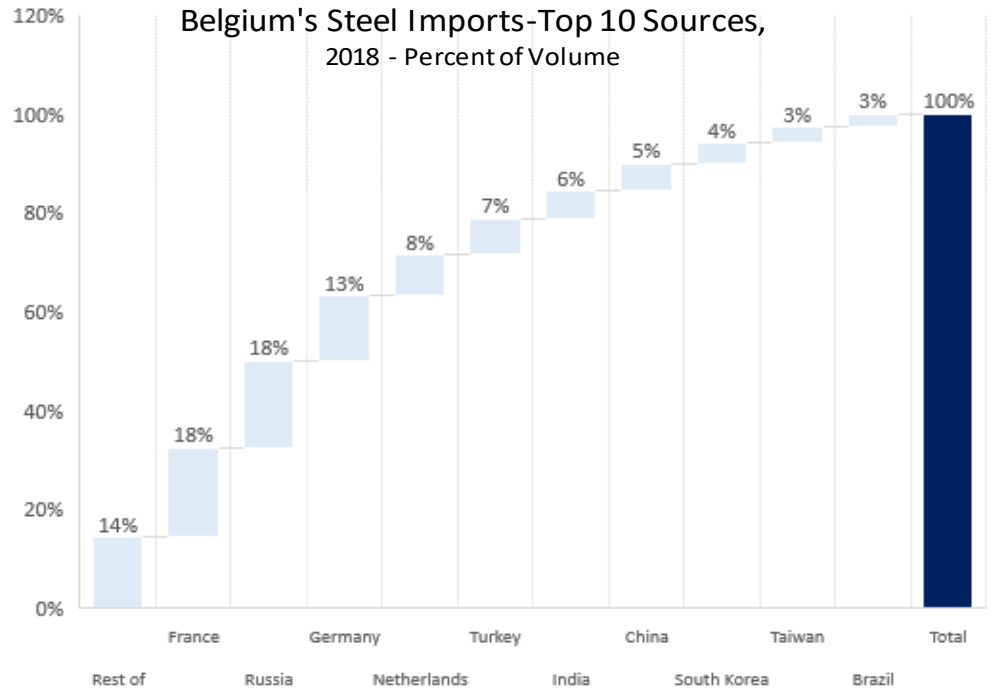
Flat products accounted for 60 percent of Belgium's steel imports (9.0 million metric tons) in 2018. Semi-finished steel accounted for 18 percent (2.7 million metric tons), followed by long products at 15 percent (2.3 million metric tons), pipe and tube products at 3 percent (520 thousand metric tons), and stainless steel at 3 percent (512 thousand metric tons).



Steel Imports Report: Belgium

Imports by Top Source

The top 10 source countries for Belgium's steel imports represented 86 percent of the total steel import volume in 2018 at 12.9 million metric tons (mmt). France accounted for the largest share of Belgium's imports by source country at 18 percent (2.7 mmt), followed by Russia at 18 percent (2.6 mmt), Germany at 13 percent (2.0 mmt), the Netherlands at 8 percent (1.3 mmt), and Turkey at 7 percent (1.1 mmt).

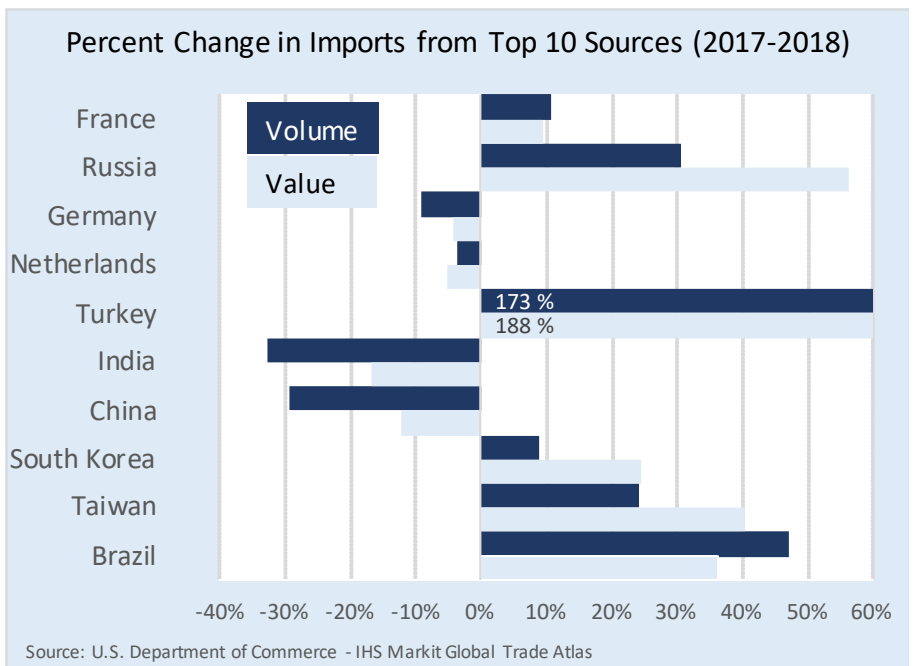


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce - IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas

Trends in Imports from Top Sources

The volume of Belgium's steel imports increased from 6 of its top 10 import sources in 2018. Imports from Turkey showed the largest increase in volume, up 173 percent, followed by Brazil (47%), Russia (31%), Taiwan (24%), France (11%), and South Korea (9%). Belgian imports declined in volume from four countries: India (-33%), China (-29%), Germany (-9%), and the Netherlands (-4%).

The value of Belgium's steel imports increased in 6 of its top 10 steel import sources in 2018. Imports from Turkey increased the most: up 188 percent. Imports from Russia had the second-largest increase and were up 56 percent, followed by Taiwan (40%), Brazil (36%), South Korea (25%), and France (10%). The value of Belgian steel imports declined from India (-17%), China (-12%), the Netherlands (-5%), and Germany (-4%).



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

Steel Imports Report: **Belgium**

Top Sources by Steel Product Category

The top source countries for Belgium’s imports by volume vary across types of steel products. Belgium imported the largest share of flat products from France in 2018 at 22 percent (2.0 million metric tons), followed by Germany at 18 percent (1.7 million metric tons). Turkey was Belgium’s largest source for long product imports at 22 percent (499 thousand metric tons), while France sent the second largest share of long products at 16 percent (354 thousand metric tons).

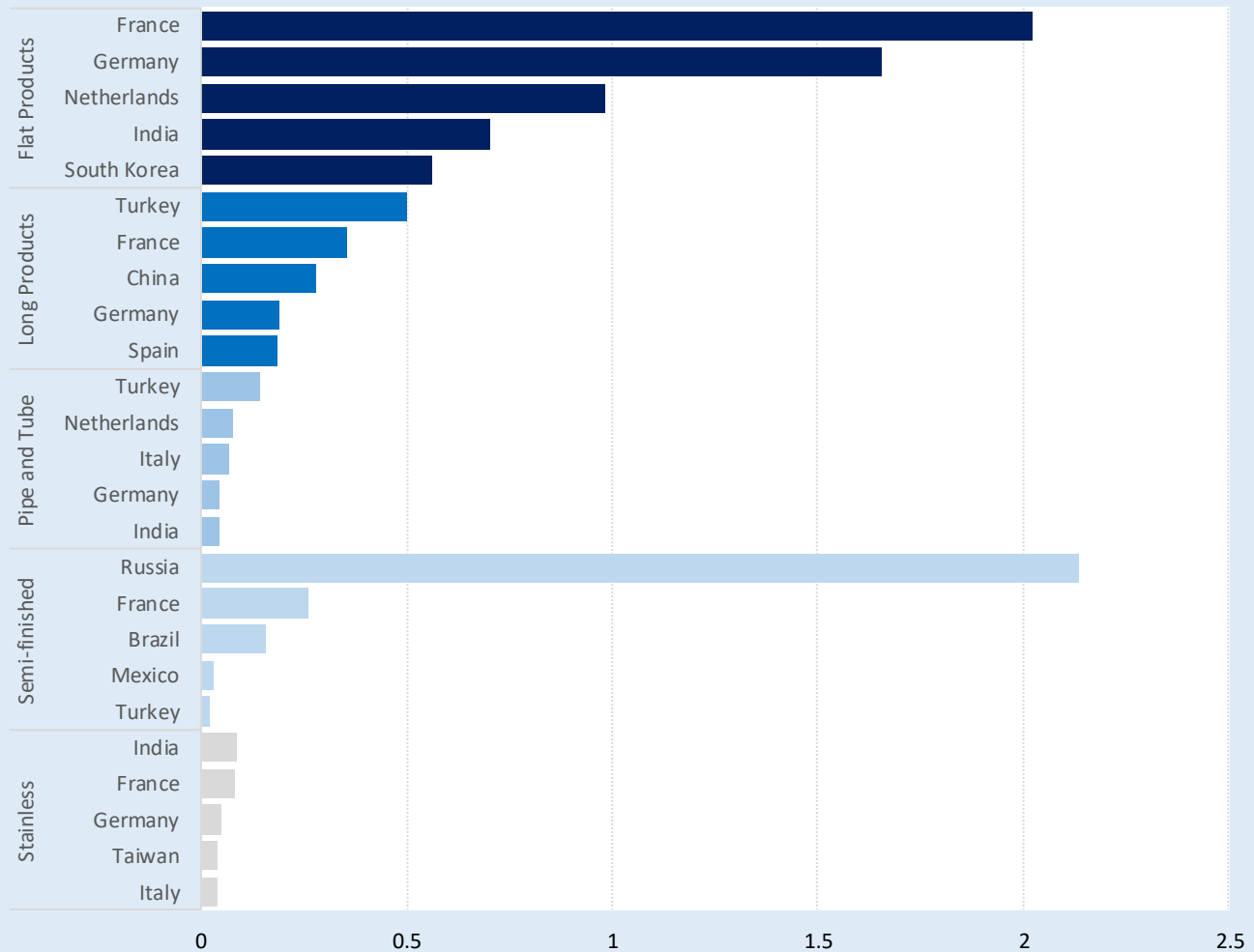
Belgium imported 28 percent of its pipe and tube imports from Turkey (143 thousand metric tons), followed by the Netherlands at 14 percent (75 thousand metric tons).

The majority of Belgium’s imports of semi-finished steel came from Russia in 2018, at 79 percent (2.1 million metric tons). France was the second-largest source for semi-finished steel at 10 percent (262 thousand metric tons).

India was the largest source of imported stainless products at 17 percent (87 thousand metric tons), followed closely by France at 16 percent (82 thousand metric tons).

The U.S. was not a top-5 source country for Belgium’s imports of any major category of steel.

Belgium's 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: **Belgium**

Belgium's Export Market Share from Top Source Countries

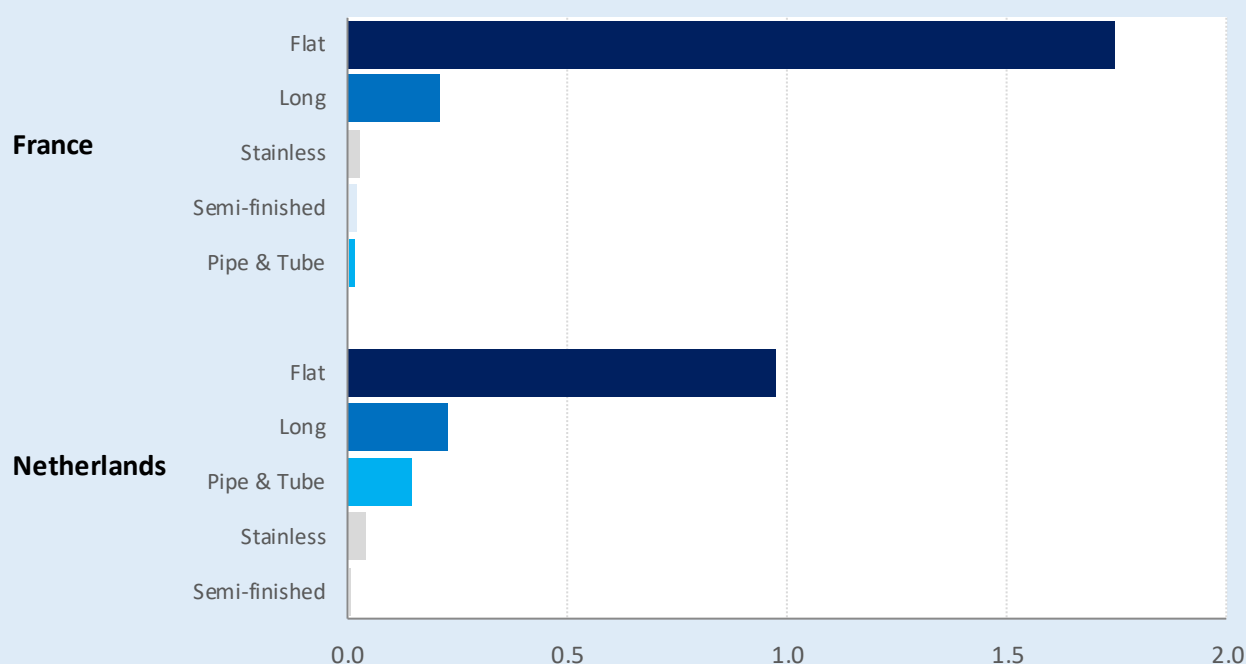
In 2017, the share of steel exports sent to Belgium from its top import sources slightly increased from five of its top 10 sources. In 2017, the share of Taiwan's steel exports to Belgium showed the largest increase (up 2.1 percentage points from 2016), followed by Turkey (up 1.0 percentage point), then Germany (up 0.9 percentage points), and Luxembourg (up 0.2 percentage points). India's share of steel exports to Belgium decreased by 1.3 percentage points, followed by France (down 0.8 percentage points), then China (down 0.4 percentage points), with Russia and China both (down 0.1 percentage points each).

| Belgium's Steel Export Market Share | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Top 10 Import Sources | Share of Exports to Belgium - 2016 | Belgium's Rank in 2016 | Share of Exports to Belgium - 2017 | Belgium's Rank in 2017 | Change in Share | |
| France | 14.6% | 3 | 13.8% | 3 | ↓ | |
| Germany | 5.8% | 5 | 6.7% | 5 | ↑ | |
| Russia | 6.6% | 4 | 6.5% | 4 | ↓ | |
| Netherlands | 12.5% | 2 | 12.4% | 2 | ↓ | |
| India | 8.8% | 2 | 7.5% | 4 | ↓ | |
| China | 1.6% | 17 | 1.2% | 22 | ↓ | |
| South Korea | 1.5% | 13 | 2.1% | 12 | ↑ | |
| Turkey | 0.9% | 26 | 1.9% | 16 | ↑ | |
| Taiwan | 1.3% | 20 | 3.4% | 8 | ↑ | |
| Luxembourg | 7.8% | 4 | 8.0% | 4 | ↑ | |

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

In 2017, Belgium was the second largest destination for the Netherlands' steel exports at 12.4 percent and the third largest destination for France's steel exports at 13.8 percent. Flat products accounted for the largest share of steel exports to Belgium from France at 86 percent (1.7 million metric tons) and the Netherlands at 69 percent (1 million metric tons). Long products accounted for the second largest share of steel exports to Belgium from France at 10 percent (212 thousand metric tons) and the Netherlands at 16 percent (231 thousand metric tons).

Steel Export Composition of Top Market-Share Countries - 2017

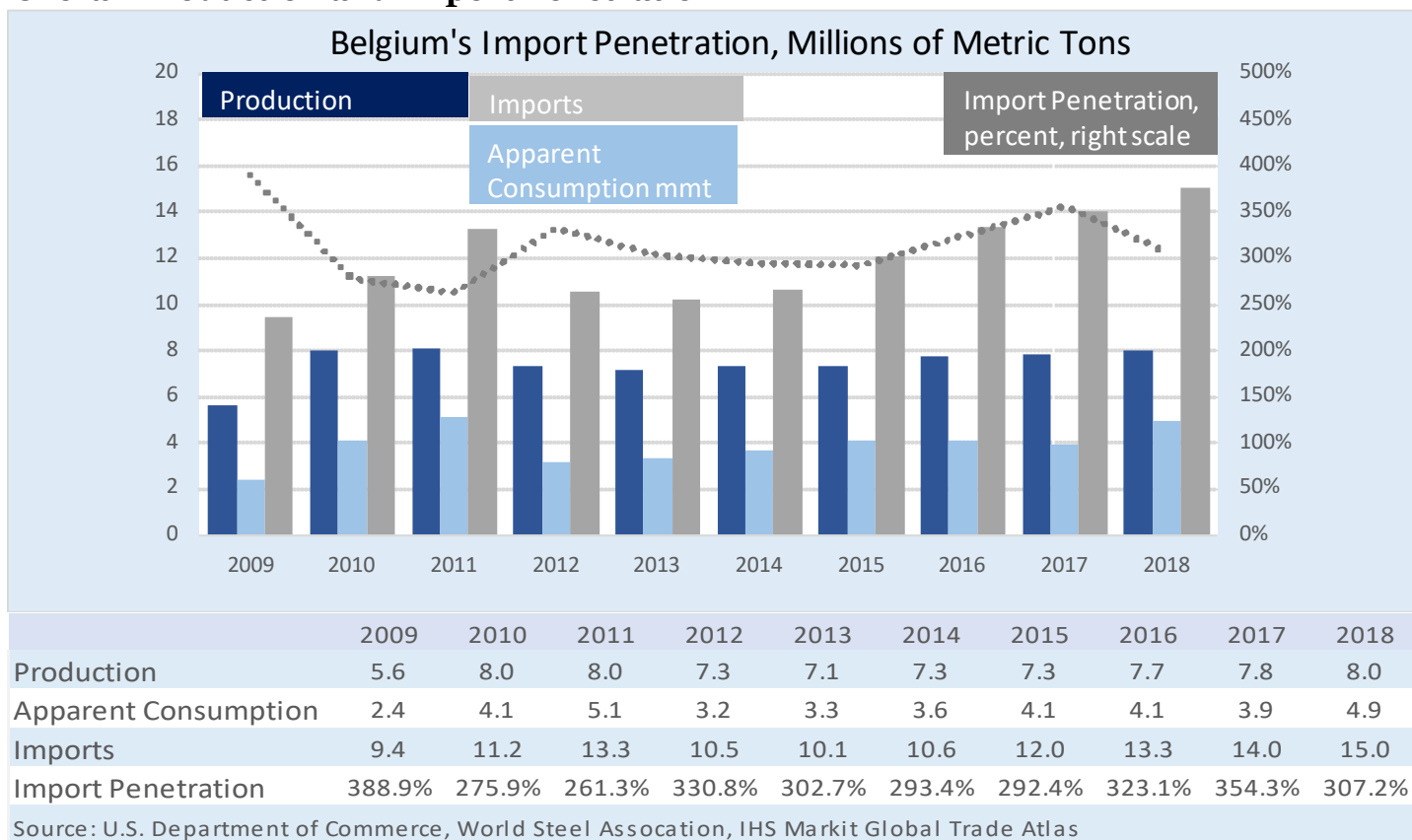


Source: IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas, based on import data per reporting country

Millions of Metric Tons

Steel Imports Report: **Belgium**

Overall Production and Import Penetration



After increasing from 2009 to 2011, Belgium’s crude steel production declined in 2012 and remained almost flat through 2015 before increasing again 2016 and 2017. In 2018, Belgium’s steel production continued to increase, growing 2 percent from 7.8 million metric tons in 2017 to 8.0 million metric tons in 2018. After remaining relatively steady between 2010 and 2017, Apparent consumption (a measure of steel demand) increased sharply in 2018, growing from 3.9 million metric tons in 2017 to 4.9 million metric tons in 2018. Belgium’s imports have consistently exceeded both production and demand. Belgium’s import penetration averaged 304.2 percent between 2009 and 2017, and reached a recent high of 354.3 percent in 2017. In 2018, import penetration stood at 307.2 percent — down 47.1 percentage points from 354.3 percent in 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 NLMK has a large production capacity, based on available data.

| Belgium's Top Steel Producers in 2017 | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---|
| Rank | Company | Production (mmt) | Main Products |
| 1 | NLMK* | 5.45 (Capacity) | Strip products, plate Flat, long, and stainless products |
| 2 | ArcelorMittal* | 5 | Stainless Products |
| 3 | Aperam* | 1.1 | |

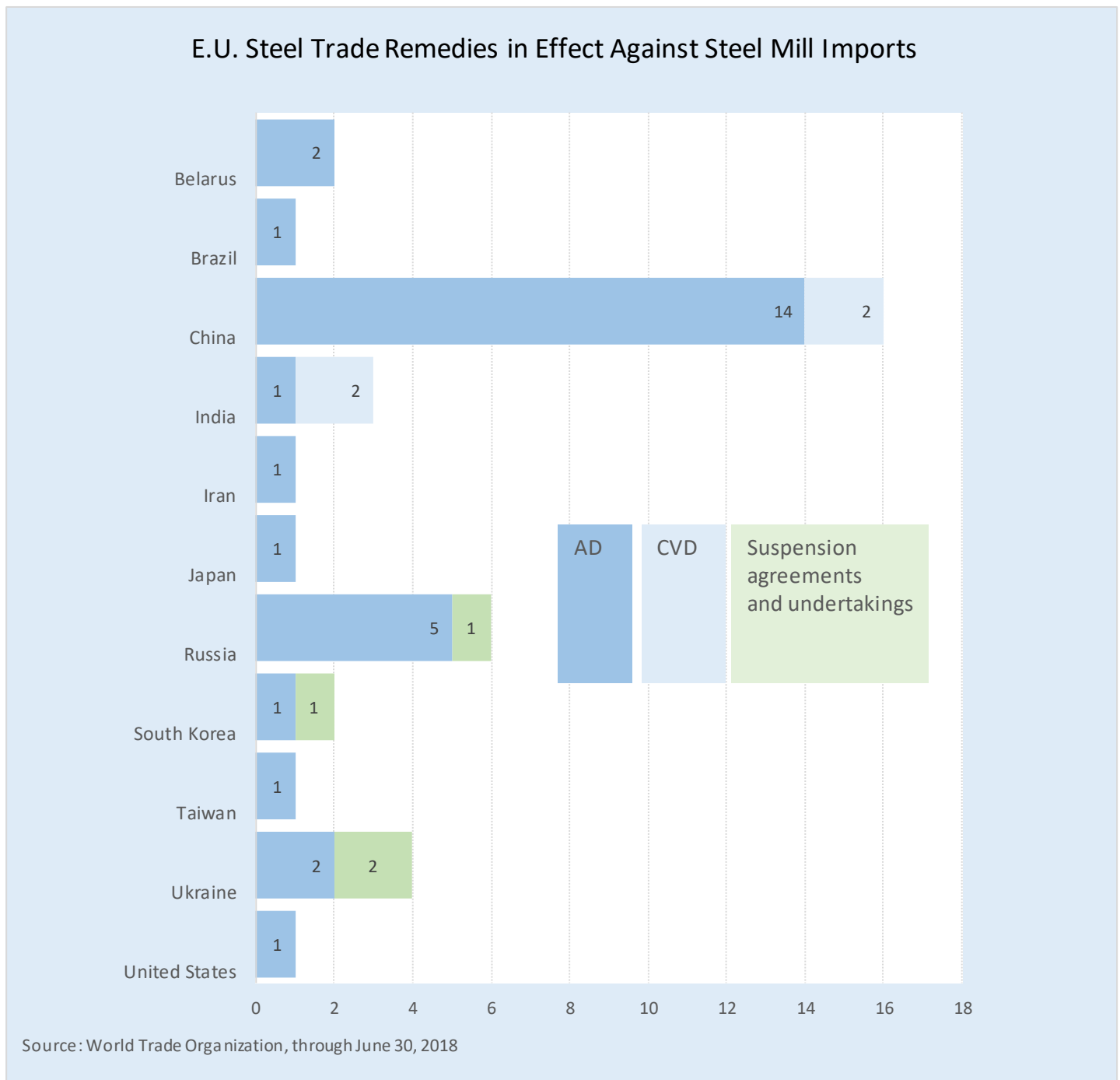
Source: Bloomberg; Company websites

*Denotes foreign-owned producer

Steel Imports 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 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.



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/>.



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