ABOUT THE STEEL IMPORT MONITORING AND ANALYSIS:

The purpose of the Steel Import Monitoring & Analysis System (SIMA) is to collect timely detailed statistics on steel mill imports. The 'Import Monitor' aggregates detailed license information and makes it available for public analysis on a weekly basis. All imported steel products under the U.S. Bureau of the Census (Census) definition of steel mill products are required to have an import license effective June 9, 2005[1]. The data from the licensing system are used in conjunction with similar Census data to put together the 'Import Monitor'. This Monitor helps alert users to changes in import patterns.

In the 'Import Monitor', the goal is to publish accurate, close to real-time aggregate volume, value, and pricing (average unit values of imports) data on steel imports through an easily accessible website. In order to achieve this, Commerce compares the data collected from SIMA to the data collected through the Automated Commercial System (ACS) on a weekly basis. We then take three primary steps to ensure that the data is accurate:

- Verify the data by license number and HTS codes
- Identify discrepancies
- Notify license applicants if discrepancies are found.

License applicants can correct errors through the on-line license application system. Although we strive to present the most accurate data possible on our website, it is important to keep in mind that data from the license system are preliminary and are subject to revisions.

The license data in the import monitor are updated weekly. Twice a month, Census releases import statistics on steel – first the preliminary statistics (their Cut 3), followed by the official month's statistics about two weeks later. Using this monthly data, we can reconcile the license information further. A schedule of the updates is posted on the website.

The data files shown in the 'Import Monitor' are created using import statistics compiled by the Census Bureau and the Department of Commerce that pertain to the Census definition of steel mill products.

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[1] As stated in the Final Rule, December, 2005, please see: http://ia.ita.doc.gov/steel/license .

Commerce currently presents analysis of its import trends using both data tables and graphical illustrations. The tables allow you to view the data compiled from two different sources: the Census data and the Steel Import Licensing data.* Commerce started collecting import statistics through the Steel Import Licensing System in mid-January 2003 using products previously under the Section 201 Tariffs. However, the Department has moved to reporting all steel mill products as of June 9, 2005. As illustrated in the table below, data may be viewed by three separate categories: by product, by country, or by 6 digit HTS code. There are links in each table to the concepts listed in the left column going to different data tables. For example:

US Imports of Steel Mill Products

For All Products

Average Unit Value in US$ per Metric Ton

Same Table - Metric Tons *Same Table - US Dollars*

Graph	Country	Census Data									Preliminary Census Data	License Data		
		JAN05	FEB05	MAR05	APR05	MAY05	JUN05	JUL05	AUG05	SEP05	OCT05	OCT05	NOV05	DEC05
M	WORLD	$780	$795	$821	$817	$850	$847	$806	$857	$771	$745	$737	$791	$706
M	CANADA	$824	$818	$840	$833	$853	$853	$820	$776	$747	$756	$759	$777	$820
M	MEXICO	$708	$709	$694	$701	$729	$717	$676	$629	$664	$611	$622	$686	$543
M	BRAZIL	$568	$583	$578	$635	$651	$682	$534	$795	$664	$501	$543	$549	$390
M	CHINA	$722	$734	$771	$707	$700	$778	$712	$901	$842	$926	$893	$906	$661
M	KOREA	$751	$742	$754	$795	$865	$831	$997	$822	$790	$775	$779	$815	$564
M	RUSSIA	$632	$617	$598	$615	$709	$587	$730	$565	$472	$492	$501	$364	$414

TO SAVE THE DATA TABLES: Each of the data tables may be saved (using the following commands: FILE, SAVE AS, enter a name with a '.htm' extension). Then these files may be opened in a spreadsheet for further analysis. The tables may also be saved using these commands: EDIT-SELECT ALL, EDIT-COPY, then opening a spreadsheet program and saving them in a new worksheet.

US Imports of Steel Mill Products

FROM WORLD

Quantities in Metric Tons

		SEP05		OCT05		NOV05		DEC05	
Product	**HTS Description**	**Tons**	**AUV ($/ton)**	**Tons**	**AUV ($/ton)**	**Tons**	**AUV ($/ton)**	**Tons**	**AUV ($/ton)**
All Products	All Products	2,048,752.3	$795.77	2,489,292.0	$737.27	2,258,875.0	$791.03	648,674.7	$705.82
720712	SMFD IRN/NAL STL LT .25 PCT CRB RECT CS WID 2X THK	310,776.3	$336.98	506,669.5	$367.21	338,668.0	$344.24	130,183.6	$373.45
721391	BARS,RODSHOT-ROLL,IRNNOAL ST COIL CIRC,<14MM NESOI	118,153.0	$518.15	164,369.3	$483.49	103,497.0	$537.64	53,771.6	$564.66
721049	FR IR/NAS CTD/PLTD W ZINC NT ELEC NT CORR 600MM OM	87,303.0	$683.07	119,419.6	$666.57	135,468.0	$674.90	35,115.5	$666.66
721420	OTH BRS RDS IOS NA HOT-WRKD, CONC REINFRCNG	47,069.0	$400.10	103,494.9	$391.80	166,604.5	$432.87	18,730.2	$414.29

Also, tables can be accessed which show the percentage of quantity that each 6 digit code makes up of the whole product category. For example:

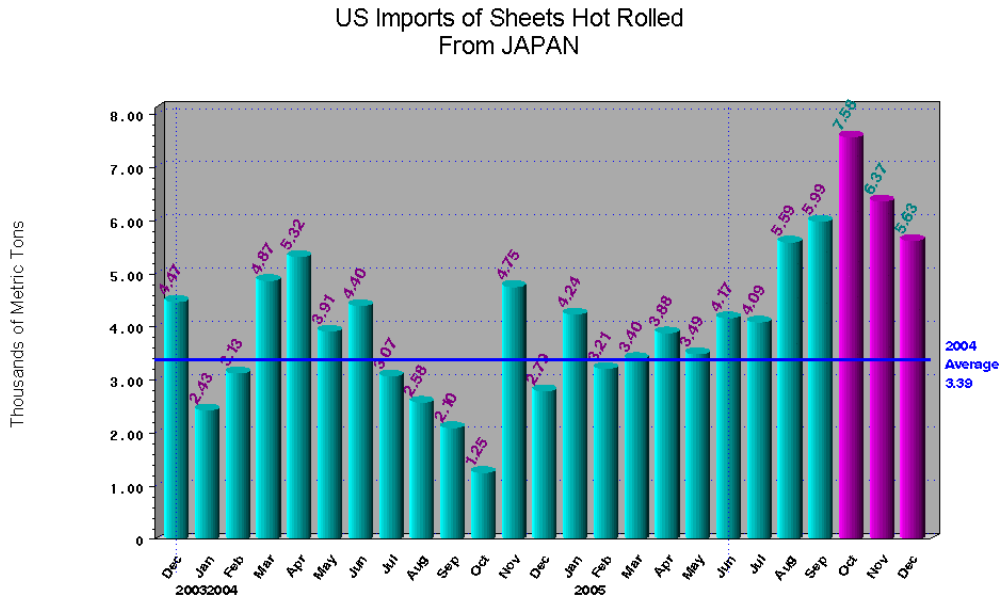
Product Groups Included in HTS Code 730630

Based on 2004 Census Data

		2004 Census Data		Licensing Data Early Warning June - September 2005	
6-digit HTS Code	**Product Groups**	**Percentage of Product's Quantity Makes of 6-digit code**	**Percentage of Product's Value Makes of 6-digit code**	**Percentage of Product's Quantity Makes of 6-digit code**	**Percentage of Product's Value Makes of 6-digit code**
730630	Mechanical Tubing	7.60%	14.3%	8.35%	15.7%
	Pressure Tubing	0.50%	0.70%	0.60%	0.79%
	Standard Pipe	88.7%	80.6%	89.8%	79.8%
	Structural Pipe & Tube	3.16%	4.37%	1.21%	3.68%

Note: Some 6-digit HTS codes contain 10-digit codes that call into multiple steel mill categories. So as not to release proprietary information, we are not dividing these codes into their respective product groups. These tables show the proportion of products within this 6-digit code that fall in each product group.

The graphical illustration alternative allows the viewer to analyze the data on a monthly basis. This monthly graph combines the 25-months of Census and the Steel Import Licensing data, with the Census data shown in blue and the license data in purple. For example:



Graph last modified as of December 6, 2005 ; Commerce license data used for the last months appear in a different color.
Licensing for Steel Mill Products began on June 9, 2005

The links at the top of the screen facilitate website navigation. You may click on:

- Home
- Search for Tables
- Search for Graphs
- About Import Monitor
- Monthly data: Country table
- Monthly data: Product table
- Annual data: Country table
- Annual data: Product table

The 'Import Monitor' also has the option to compare import data from License and Census. The monitor tracks the differential between the License data received and the port data compiled by Census. On average, the License data is within 2-4% of the Census data month to month.

Additionally, the 'Import Monitor' now contains the option to export three months of the latest license data in a text file. This option will allow users to generate their own data sets and graphs. The files have .txt extensions and are comma delineated, containing the variables country name, 6 digit HTS, quantity, value, AUV, and date. The following is a portion of one of the files:

BELGIUM,730640,0.014,227.790,16270.71,JUN2005
BELGIUM,730660,37.021,70501.820,1904.37,JUL2005
BRAZIL,720690,0.112,2778.220,24805.54,JUN2005
BRAZIL,720711,3452.823,2445606.760,708.29,JUL2005

Commerce welcomes comments about other display options for the 'Import Monitor.' Please send your comments to steel_license@ita.doc.gov.

As stated in the Final Rule published December 5, 2005, the licensing program will continue at least through March 21, 2009. The products covered by the licensing program will shift from Section 201 monitored products to all steel mill products under the Census definition as of June 9, 2005.