



ABOUT THE STEEL MILL IMPORT MONITOR

Updated March 27, 2009

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, 2005¹. 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.

The goal of the Import Monitor 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, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) compares the data collected from SIMA to the data collected through the Automated Commercial System (ACS) on a weekly basis. SIMA then takes 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 SIMA strives 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, followed by the official month's statistics about two weeks later. Using this monthly data, SIMA reconciles 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 Census and Commerce that pertain to the Census definition of steel mill products.

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

Commerce currently presents analysis of its steel 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 classification of global steel safeguard. However, the Department has moved to reporting all steel mill products as of June 9, 2005.

Data may be viewed by three separate categories: by country, by product, 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, by country:

US Imports of Steel Mill Products

[FOR All Steel Mill Products](#)

Quantity in Metric Tons

[Same Table - US Dollars](#)

[Same Table - Average Unit Value](#)

'C & A' = Carbon and Alloy products, 'S' = Stainless products

Graph	Country	Census Data												License Data		
		JAN08	FEB08	MAR08	APR08	MAY08	JUN08	JUL08	AUG08	SEP08	OCT08	NOV08	DEC08	JAN09	FEB09	MAR09
M	WORLD	2,419,198	2,252,849	2,332,179	2,702,525	2,288,814	2,476,551	2,638,789	2,310,852	2,674,915	2,828,485	2,183,803	1,874,759	2,148,659	1,506,455	748,321
M	CHINA	247,663	214,876	220,440	163,873	261,950	334,487	322,481	447,406	515,664	660,013	548,709	441,165	396,119	279,934	84,579
M	CANADA	669,422	607,619	658,467	705,445	630,408	609,755	596,238	440,736	498,180	466,386	301,766	243,537	256,484	273,650	117,767
M	KOREA	210,616	136,752	144,080	191,717	183,054	152,181	232,126	152,395	223,183	152,802	210,279	102,086	235,614	134,293	85,145
M	RUSSIA	13,712	57,701	70,755	124,047	73,451	49,268	129,421	138,282	73,983	69,715	101,369	116,637	197,812	66,193	3,757
M	MEXICO	278,115	290,863	289,838	278,552	268,428	235,793	249,972	225,170	213,338	337,021	119,844	111,857	169,970	183,461	59,526
M	JAPAN	149,157	80,494	131,203	190,525	107,959	113,818	172,459	158,718	114,166	144,259	134,515	105,511	134,749	93,015	79,672
M	TURKEY	63,000	65,701	27,509	142,939	5,158	31,509	33,742	11,700	97,107	65,118	141,579	65,505	101,720	88,294	54,243
M	INDIA	117,307	117,409	105,121	110,387	111,589	46,257	72,786	87,012	215,676	69,363	83,521	111,787	73,047	46,204	60,810
M	GERMANY	78,816	88,243	76,348	133,253	89,718	118,374	106,335	66,979	95,662	83,438	66,309	75,824	93,034	34,052	31,104
M	BRAZIL	116,494	109,964	52,342	156,464	92,846	154,488	96,617	80,865	96,878	105,606	34,085	101,281	39,550	56,414	15,442
M	TAIWAN	59,682	51,152	58,301	37,935	47,140	60,105	43,823	51,525	63,659	51,730	40,575	34,851	70,055	35,917	22,989
M	UKRAINE	74,167	54,946	68,036	134,005	54,423	180,596	204,807	130,137	64,960	184,083	47,798	64,520	28,713	300.5	94.9
M	NETHERLANDS	18,066	25,655	19,461	53,596	19,820	27,124	27,673	39,521	31,616	100,431	56,713	10,761	14,413	11,254	3,895
M	ITALY	27,295	44,702	51,519	13,444	61,296	35,012	30,553	17,559	16,002	19,962	18,020	21,023	34,719	11,461	10,501
M	SWEDEN	19,995	23,970	25,770	15,463	23,975	24,003	17,938	22,401	15,531	15,992	30,097	20,756	22,270	21,199	3,320
M	FRANCE	30,175	19,953	16,441	27,157	23,195	22,607	31,654	22,776	20,432	19,970	24,052	15,582	27,277	20,633	18,010
M	AUSTRALIA	57,148	91,179	27,972	53,615	54,885	59,972	59,007	56,758	69,524	63,758	1,060	40,811	24,793	18,574	11,328
M	UNITED KINGDOM	36,476	22,036	24,279	37,642	20,194	39,484	30,741	30,881	17,366	35,402	27,341	18,750	20,416	18,210	7,266
M	THAILAND	508.1	3,627	40,224	633.4	676.2	31,316	2,045	7,400	74,165	7,729	29,099	11,731	22,210	8,510	926.3
M	SPAIN	17,508	28,301	21,278	16,786	6,041	16,482	14,812	13,263	13,932	13,840	22,882	13,163	16,561	31,837	5,822
M	ARGENTINA	736.4	7,968	2,231	7,604	8,185	4,128	7,497	8,362	12,463	36,143	14,572	18,636	15,750	6,597	3,902
M	GREECE	20,880	21,528	.	141.4	16,442	24,317	10,217	.	7,879	11,085	26,382	11,588	10,824	138.6	12,145

To bring up a product view, simply click on a country in the left-hand column. For example:

US Imports of Steel Mill Products

[FROM WORLD](#)

Quantity in Metric Tons

[Same Table - US Dollars](#)

[Same Table - Average Unit Value](#)

'C & A' = Carbon and Alloy products, 'S' = Stainless products

Graph	Product	Census Data												License Data		
		JAN08	FEB08	MAR08	APR08	MAY08	JUN08	JUL08	AUG08	SEP08	OCT08	NOV08	DEC08	JAN09	FEB09	MAR09
All Steel Mill Products																
M	All Steel Mill Products	2,419,196	2,252,849	2,332,179	2,702,525	2,268,814	2,476,551	2,638,789	2,310,852	2,674,915	2,828,485	2,183,803	1,874,759	2,148,659	1,506,455	748,321
Carbon and Alloy Products																
M	All Carbon and Alloy Products	2,336,651	2,166,107	2,243,699	2,611,246	2,177,715	2,389,385	2,542,842	2,226,981	2,603,831	2,749,004	2,110,094	1,814,790	2,086,259	1,458,003	713,399
M	Oil Country Goods -- C & A	193,894	133,794	199,844	171,527	207,309	236,157	284,014	289,382	428,530	471,961	506,839	417,652	461,293	274,186	111,024
M	Line Pipe -- C & A	277,392	263,219	248,313	255,591	244,650	257,202	255,925	169,805	253,012	257,104	232,739	205,688	258,580	119,704	122,152
M	Blooms, Billets and Slabs -- C & A	408,530	491,765	403,963	670,189	402,592	539,563	590,893	438,335	439,520	557,864	158,181	186,097	183,890	94,012	10,460
M	Sheets Hot Rolled -- C & A	219,120	225,957	173,798	246,790	238,641	223,417	218,168	206,031	239,696	214,943	138,091	137,436	137,299	157,707	85,734
M	Sheets & Strip Galv Hot Dipped -- C & A	135,159	102,648	151,644	104,324	197,727	123,255	147,047	132,566	179,810	157,402	108,878	112,357	92,146	83,426	54,956
M	Plates Cut Lengths -- C & A	87,199	57,764	109,505	80,532	67,699	88,141	95,766	96,490	101,784	87,568	118,283	71,250	102,194	60,227	22,873
M	Standard Pipe -- C & A	73,853	60,778	103,821	92,718	70,846	104,017	87,937	89,376	109,982	95,446	89,537	92,532	102,625	44,019	16,971
M	Bars-Hot rolled -- C & A	105,327	81,710	100,034	105,722	82,213	124,677	127,992	151,140	98,197	155,874	109,481	74,942	94,119	60,433	18,798
M	Wire Rods -- C & A	87,139	70,502	75,402	145,798	66,256	107,118	85,280	70,449	87,637	106,175	96,663	93,443	78,378	40,625	19,079

To bring up a 6 digit HTS code view, simply click on the chart title at the top of the page:

US Imports of Steel Mill Products

HTS Code All Products

FROM WORLD

Quantities in Metric Tons

Product	HTS Description	DEC08		JAN09		FEB09		MAR09	
		Tons	AUV (\$/ton)	Tons	AUV (\$/ton)	Tons	AUV (\$/ton)	Tons	AUV (\$/ton)
All Products	All Products	1,841,665.7	\$1,487.86	2,073,751.0	\$1,372.54	1,506,455.7	\$1,280.42	748,321.7	\$1,375.24
730429	CASING AND TUBING,OIL,GAS DRILLING, IRON OR STEEL	289,500.0	\$1,966.21	280,613.2	\$2,075.78	178,441.2	\$1,964.79	70,162.9	\$2,158.72
720712	SMFD IRN/NAL STL LT .25 PCT CRB RECT CS WID 2X THK	152,399.0	\$649.79	148,238.5	\$571.93	78,942.2	\$578.42	149.3	\$1,152.33
730829	Casing/Tubing,I/S, Wld O/T Ss, Riveted Or Sim Clsd, Nes, For Oil/Gas Drilling	99,688.0	\$1,474.46	126,032.5	\$1,365.01	82,346.1	\$1,242.24	33,320.4	\$1,223.03
730839	FLAT-HOT-ROLL IRN, NONALY STL, COIL, >3MM THICK, NESOI	70,838.5	\$672.28	67,173.5	\$571.47	83,624.5	\$541.83	41,776.4	\$570.04
721049	FR IR/NAS CTD/PLTD W ZINC NT ELEC NT CORR 600MM OM	83,626.7	\$1,089.66	74,315.5	\$980.38	49,185.1	\$913.89	41,729.3	\$758.54
730830	PIPE ETC NESOI, WELD CIR CR SECT, IRON OR NONAL ST	83,671.2	\$1,674.53	86,406.2	\$1,305.30	38,649.0	\$1,248.51	16,818.3	\$1,284.33
730511	PIPE, OIL LINE ETC OV16IN IR ST, LONG SUB ARC WELD	51,922.1	\$1,548.86	74,212.0	\$1,724.38	36,826.9	\$1,842.09	46,910.0	\$1,797.84
730819	Pipe, Line, Welded O/T Ss, Riveted Or Sim Closed, Nes, For Oil/Gas Pipeline	51,084.8	\$1,464.50	93,801.4	\$1,380.98	34,865.9	\$1,314.47	25,356.8	\$1,147.35

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:

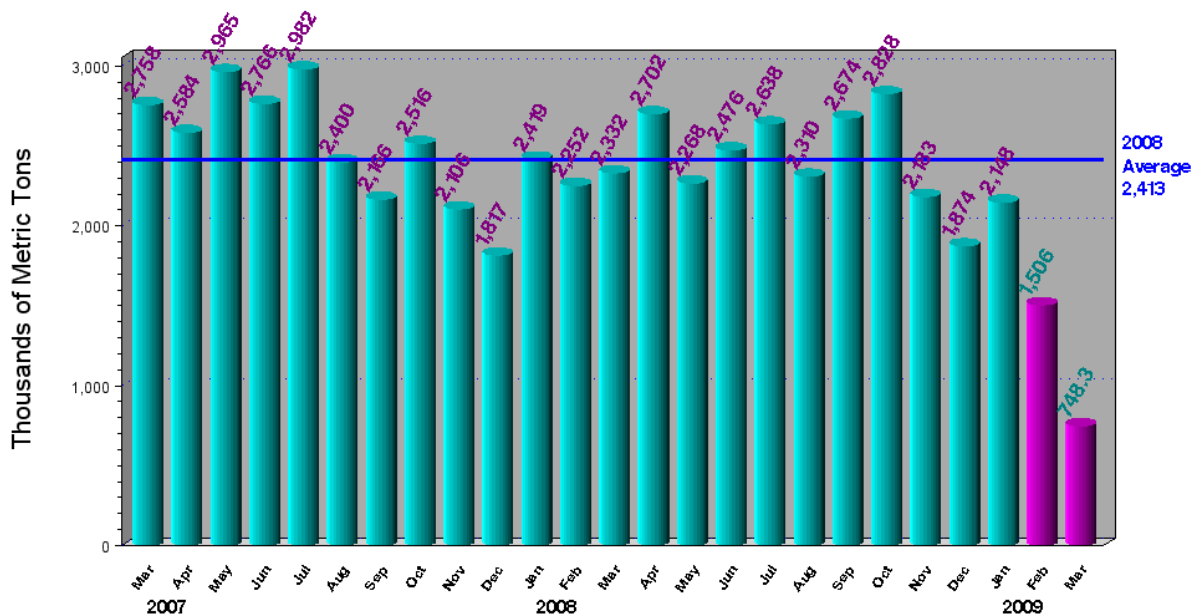
Product Groups Included in HTS Code 730630
Based on 2004 Census Data

6-digit HTS Code	Product Groups	2004 Census Data		Licensing Data Early Warning March 2008- March 2009	
		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 – C & A	7.60%	14.35%	6.46%	9.75%
	Pressure Tubing – C & A	0.50%	0.70%	0.71%	3.45%
	Standard Pipe – C & A	88.73%	80.58%	90.49%	82.69%
	Structural Pipe & Tube – C & A	3.16%	4.37%	2.34%	4.11%

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:

US Imports of All Steel Mill Products
From World



Graph last modified as of March 17, 2009 ; Commerce license data used for the last months appear in a different color. Licensing for Steel Mill Products began on June 9, 2005

The Import Monitor has a search function available to view specific tables and graphs. For example, to search for a table:

PLEASE SELECT

1. Monitor:

2. Table Type:

3. Country: OR Category:

(Please select ONLY a Country OR a Category)

4. Frequency:

5. Measurement:

To search for a graph:

PLEASE SELECT

Monitor: **Steel Mill Products - Product Table**

1. Country:

2. Category:

3. Measurement:

The Import Monitor also provides 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. For example:

January Data Comparison: Final Census and License Data (in metric tons)

Product	January 2009 Final Census Data	January 2009 License Data	January 2009 Census - License	Percent Difference: License relative to Census
All Products	2,148,660	2,073,751	74,909	3%
Bars-Cold Finished -- C & A	15,580	14,009	1,571	10%
Bars-Cold Finished -- S	5,389	5,544	-155	(3%)
Bars-Hot rolled -- C & A	94,119	95,599	-1,480	(2%)
Bars-Hot rolled -- S	1,919	1,866	52	3%

Additionally, the Import Monitor contains the option to export three months of the latest license data into a text file. This option allows 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,730661,1.838,4754.570,2586.62,MAR2009  
BELGIUM,730690,0.001,393.670,393670.00,JAN2009  
BRAZIL,720711,1260.420,1675532.510,1329.34,JAN2009  
BRAZIL,720711,2516.654,1645043.960,653.66,FEB2009
```

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 March 18, 2009, the licensing program will continue at least through March 21, 2013. The products covered by the licensing program shifted from Section 201 monitored products to all steel mill products under the Census definition as of June 9, 2005.

A detailed Import Monitor tutorial will be forthcoming.

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