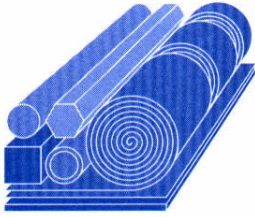


NEWS



SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY OF NORTH AMERICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Specialty Metals Industry Group Releases Latest Market Data Covering January 2006

(Washington, D.C.)(April 6, 2006)—The Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA) today released the latest available statistical data on imports, U.S. consumption and import penetration covering January 2006 versus January 2005. Following data presented by specialty steel product line, total stainless steel, and total specialty steel:

- Stainless steel sheet/strip: January imports were 36,542 tons, a 12% decrease over January 2005; U.S. consumption was 143,467 tons, a 6% decrease; one-month import penetration was 25%, a two percentage point decrease.
- Stainless steel plate: January imports were 6,014 tons, a 17% increase over January 2005; U.S. consumption was 26,973 tons, a 24% increase; one-month import penetration was 22%, a two percentage point decrease.
- Stainless steel bar: January imports were 8,208 tons, a 12% decrease over January 2005; U.S. consumption was 17,823 tons, a 12% decrease; one-month import penetration was unchanged at 46%.
- Stainless steel rod: January imports were 3,395 tons, a 34% decrease over January 2005; U.S. consumption was 6,317 tons, a 19% decrease; one-month import penetration was 54%, a 12 percentage point decrease.
- Stainless steel wire: January imports were 4,261 tons, an 18% increase over January 2005; U.S. consumption was 7,032 tons, an 11% increase; one-month import penetration was 61%, a four percentage point increase.

Imports of total stainless steel (comprising the foregoing product lines) in January 2006 were 58,420 tons, a 10% decrease compared to January 2005; U.S. consumption was 201,612 tons, a 4% decrease; import penetration was 29%, a two percentage point decrease.

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SSINA/April 6, 2006/page two

- Alloy tool steel: January imports were 9,000 tons, a 4% increase over January 2005; U.S. consumption and import penetration are not calculable.

- Electrical steel: January imports were 2,597 tons, a 65% decrease over January 2005; U.S. consumption was 27,703 tons, a 7% decrease; one-month import penetration was 9%, a 16 percentage point decrease.

Imports of total specialty steel (comprising stainless steel, alloy tool steel and electrical steel) in January 2006 were 70,018 tons, a 14% decrease compared to January 2005; U.S. consumption was 236,806 tons, a 4% decrease; import penetration was 30%, a three percentage point decrease. See chart for additional data on imports, U.S. consumption and import penetration for 2005 and 2004.

SSINA is a Washington, DC-based trade association representing virtually all continental specialty metals producers. Specialty metals are high technology, high value stainless and other specialty alloy products.

Member companies are: AK Steel Corporation, Middletown, OH; Allegheny Ludlum Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA and Allvac, Monroe, NC (both Allegheny Technologies companies); Carpenter Technology Corporation, Reading, PA; Crucible Specialty Metals, Syracuse, NY; Electralloy, Oil City, PA; Haynes International Inc., Kokomo, IN; ThyssenKrupp Mexinox SA de CV, San Luis Potosí, S.L.P., Mexico; North American Stainless, Ghent, KY; Outokumpu Stainless, Inc., Schaumburg, IL; Precision Rolled Products, Inc., Florham Park, NJ; Special Metals Corporation, Huntington, WV; Timken Latrobe Steel, Latrobe, PA; Universal Stainless and Alloy Products, Bridgeville, PA; and Valbruna Slater Stainless Inc., Fort Wayne, IN.

David A. Hartquist, an international trade attorney with the Washington, DC law firm Collier Shannon Scott, PLLC, serves as lead counsel to SSINA.

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**U.S. Imports, Consumption and Market Penetration Data 1/
For Specialty Steel Product Lines
2006/2005/2004
(in short tons)**

Specialty Steel Product Lines	Imports			U.S. Consumption			One Month Import Penetration	
	Month Jan 2006	YTD Jan 2006	Increase/Decrease YTD 2006-05	Month Jan 2006	YTD Jan 2006	Increase/Decrease YTD 2006-05	YTD Jan 2006	YTD Jan 2005
Stainless Sheet/Strip	36,542	36,542	-12%	143,467	143,467	-6%	25%	27%
Stainless Plate	6,014	6,014	17%	26,973	26,973	24%	22%	24%
Stainless Bar	8,208	8,208	-12%	17,823	17,823	-12%	46%	46%
Stainless Rod	3,395	3,395	-34%	6,317	6,317	-19%	54%	66%
Stainless Wire 1/	4,261	4,261	18%	7,032	7,032	11%	61%	57%
Total Stainless Steel (Sheet, Strip, Plate, Bar, Rod & Wire)	58,420	58,420	-10%	201,612	201,612	-4%	29%	31%
Alloy Tool Steel 2/	9,000	9,000	4%	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Electrical Steel	2,597	2,597	-65%	27,703	27,703	-7%	9%	25%
Total Specialty	70,018	70,018	-14%	236,807	236,807	-4%	30%	33%

2005 and 2004 statistical data in tons follow:

Specialty Steel Product Lines	Imports		U.S. Consumption		Twelve Month Import Penetration	
	2005	Increase/Decrease 2005 vs. 2004	2005	Increase/Decrease 05 vs. 04	2005	2004
Stainless Sheet/Strip	378,748	-13%	1,624,772	-10%	23%	24%
Stainless Plate	83,374	22%	253,462	-12%	33%	24%
Stainless Bar	124,008	48%	236,185	15%	53%	41%
Stainless Rod	41,538	-13%	66,095	-10%	63%	65%
Stainless Wire	43,654	4%	76,289	-7%	57%	51%
Total Stainless Steel (Sheet, Strip, Plate, Bar, Rod & Wire)	671,322	-1%	2,256,803	-8%	30%	28%
Alloy Tool Steel 2/	121,860	29%	NC	NC	NC	NC
Electrical Steel	82,595	-5%	406,473	2%	20%	22%
Total Specialty	875,778	2%	2,764,237	-6%	32%	29%

NOTE: Changes in import penetration are percentage point changes.

1/ January 2006 Shipments of Wire are estimated based on 2005 data.

2/ Shipments of Alloy Tool Steel unavailable; hence consumption and import penetration not calculable.

NC = Not calculable.

Prepared by Georgetown Economic Services for the Specialty Steel Industry of North America