



Specialty Steel Industry
of North America

For Immediate Release

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SSINA RELEASES MARKET DATA FOR DECEMBER 2008

(Washington, DC, March 19, 2009) – The Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA) has released the statistical data on imports, U.S. consumption, and import penetration for December 2008. The data represents U.S. consumption, imports, and import penetration for YTD December 2008 compared to the same 2007 twelve-month period. The following data is presented by specialty steel product line, total stainless steel, and total specialty steel:

- Stainless steel sheet/strip: Imports in YTD December 2008 were 441,313 tons, a 4.7% increase compared to YTD December 2007; U.S. consumption was 1,245,825 tons, an 18.1% decrease; twelve-month import penetration was 35.4%, a 7.7 percentage point increase from 2007.
- Stainless steel plate: Imports in YTD December 2008 were 93,492 tons, a 35.4% decrease compared to YTD December 2007; U.S. consumption was 234,122 tons, a 30.0% decrease; twelve-month import penetration was 39.9%, a 3.3 percentage point decrease from 2007.
- Stainless steel bar: Imports in YTD December 2008 were 120,928 tons, a 1.5% decrease compared to YTD December 2007; U.S. consumption was 227,078 tons, a 0.1% decrease; twelve-month import penetration was 53.3% a 0.7 percentage point decrease from 2007.
- Stainless steel rod: Imports in YTD December 2008 were 29,889 tons, a 2.2% decrease compared to YTD December 2007; U.S. consumption was 60,780 tons, a 4.8% decrease; twelve-month import penetration was 49.2%, a 1.3 percentage point increase from 2007.
- Stainless steel wire: Imports in YTD December 2008 were 42,864 tons, a 6.8% decrease compared to YTD December 2007; U.S. consumption was 74,161 tons, a 3.9% decrease; twelve-month import penetration was 57.8%, a 1.8 percentage point decrease from 2007.

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Imports of total stainless steel (comprising the foregoing product lines) in YTD December 2008 were **728,487** tons, a 4.8% decrease compared to YTD December 2007; U.S. consumption was **1,841,966** tons, a 17.2% decrease; twelve-month import penetration was 39.5%, a 5.1 percentage point increase from 2007.

- Alloy tool steel: Imports in YTD December 2008 were 96,357 tons, a 7.3% decrease compared to YTD December 2007; U.S. consumption and import penetration were not calculable.
- Electrical steel: Imports in YTD December 2008 were 120,898 tons, a 9.3% increase compared to YTD December 2007; U.S. consumption was 344,984 tons, a 19.7% decrease from December 2007; twelve-month import penetration was 35.0%, a 9.3 percentage point increase from 2007.

Imports of total specialty steel (comprising stainless steel, alloy tool steel and electrical steel) in YTD December 2008 were **945,742** tons, a 3.5% decrease compared to YTD December 2007; U.S. consumption was **2,262,832** tons, a 17.4% decrease; twelve-month import penetration was 41.8%, a 6.0 percentage point increase from 2007.

“The close of 2008 was marked with the lowest consumption of total stainless steel products since 1992. Compounding that, import penetration levels of total stainless steel products continue to surge,” said Doug Kittenbrink, Chairman of SSINA. “These statistics shed light on the fact that foreign competitors are able to unfairly target our markets through currency manipulation and other subsidies. These issues need to be addressed by our government as our member companies face growing challenges.”

For additional data on imports, U.S. consumption and import penetration for 2007 and 2006 please refer to the following chart.

About Specialty Steel Industry of North America

Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA) is a Washington, DC-based trade association representing virtually all continental specialty metals producers, which include high technology, high value stainless and other specialty alloy products.

SSINA member companies include: ATI Allegheny Ludlum, Pittsburgh, PA and ATI Allvac, Monroe, NC (both Allegheny Technologies companies); Carpenter Technology Corporation, Reading, PA; Crucible Specialty Metals, Syracuse, NY; Electralloy, Oil City, PA; 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; Latrobe Specialty Steel Company, Latrobe, PA; Universal Stainless and Alloy Products, Bridgeville, PA; and Valbruna Slater Stainless Inc., Fort Wayne, IN.

**U.S. Imports, Consumption and Market Penetration Data 1/
For Specialty Steel Product Lines
2008/2007/2006
(in short tons)**

Specialty Steel Product Lines	IMPORTS			U.S. CONSUMPTION			Twelve Month Import Penetration	
	MONTH DECEMBER 2008	YTD DECEMBER 2008	Increase/Decrease YTD 2008-07	MONTH DECEMBER 2008	YTD DECEMBER 2008	Increase/Decrease YTD 2008-07	YTD DECEMBER 2008	YTD DECEMBER 2007
Stainless Sheet/Strip	17,720	441,313	4.7%	54,347	1,245,825	-18.1%	35.4%	27.7%
Stainless Plate	4,368	93,492	-35.4%	12,013	234,122	-30.0%	39.9%	43.2%
Stainless Bar 1/	7,588	120,928	-1.5%	12,144	227,078	-0.1%	53.3%	54.0%
Stainless Rod 1/	1,110	29,889	-2.2%	2,551	60,780	-4.8%	49.2%	47.9%
Stainless Wire 2/	2,444	42,864	-6.8%	5,215	74,161	-3.9%	57.8%	59.6%
Total Stainless Steel (Sheet, Strip, Plate, Bar, Rod & Wire)	33,230	728,487	-4.8%	86,270	1,841,966	-17.2%	39.5%	34.4%
Alloy Tool Steel 3/	6,794	96,357	-7.3%	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Electrical Steel	10,003	120,898	9.3%	26,851	344,984	-19.7%	35.0%	25.7%
Total Specialty	50,028	945,742	-3.5%	118,699	2,262,832	-17.4%	41.8%	35.8%

2007 AND 2006 STATISTICAL DATA IN TONS AS FOLLOWS:

Specialty Steel Product Lines	IMPORTS		U.S. CONSUMPTION		Twelve Month Import Penetration	
	2007	Increase/Decrease 2007 vs. 2006	2007	Increase/Decrease 07 vs. 06	2007	2006
Stainless Sheet/Strip	421,510	-18.2%	1,521,146	-17.5%	27.7%	27.9%
Stainless Plate	144,638	28.6%	334,499	-6.7%	43.2%	31.4%
Stainless Bar	122,734	1.9%	227,392	-2.5%	54.0%	51.6%
Stainless Rod	30,567	-2.9%	63,862	-10.5%	47.9%	44.1%
Stainless Wire	45,971	-5.5%	77,151	-7.9%	59.6%	58.1%
Total Stainless Steel (Sheet, Strip, Plate, Bar, Rod & Wire)	765,420	-7.6%	2,224,050	-14.1%	34.4%	32.0%
Alloy Tool Steel 2/	103,950	2.9%	NC	NC	NC	NC
Electrical Steel	110,612	35.2%	429,651	-2.2%	25.7%	18.6%
Total Specialty	979,981	-3.1%	2,740,593	-11.7%	35.8%	32.5%

NOTE: Changes in import penetration are percentage point changes.

1/ Year-to-date 2008 shipments of bar and rod estimated based on 2007 data.

2/ Year-to-date 2008 shipments of wire are estimated based on January - March 2008 data.

3/ 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