



## **SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY OF NORTH AMERICA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Specialty Steel Industry Group Releases YTD November 2004 Data**

(Washington, D.C.)(February 23, 2005)—The Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA) today released import, U.S. consumption, and import penetration data covering January through November 2004. Percentage comparisons refer to the YTD November 2003 eleven-month period. Following data presented by specialty steel product line, total stainless steel, and total specialty steel:

- Stainless steel sheet/strip: Imports were 382,680 tons, a 37% increase; consumption was 1,653,727 tons, a 15% increase; import penetration was 23%, a four percentage point increase.
- Stainless steel plate: Imports were 63,179 tons, a 34% increase; consumption was 265,449 tons, a 2% increase; import penetration was 24%, a six percentage point increase.
- Stainless steel bar: Imports were 73,886 tons, a 17% increase; consumption was 184,431 tons, a 9% increase; import penetration was 40%, a two percentage point increase.
- Stainless steel rod: Imports were 42,796 tons, a 29% increase; U.S. consumption was 66,756 tons, a 12% increase; import penetration was 64%, an eight percentage point increase.
- Stainless steel wire: Imports were 37,852 tons, a 22% increase; U.S. consumption and import penetration are not calculable.

Imports of total stainless steel (comprising the above product lines) were 600,392 tons, a 32% increase; U.S. consumption was 2,199,729 tons, a 13% increase; import penetration was 27%, a four percentage point increase.

- Alloy tool steel: Imports were 84,404 tons, a 7% increase; U.S. consumption and import penetration are not calculable.

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- Electrical steel: Imports were 80,967 tons, a 4% increase; U.S. consumption was flat at 362,042 tons; import penetration was 22%, a one percentage point increase.

Imports of total specialty steel (stainless steel, alloy tool steel, and electrical steel) were 765,763 tons, a 25% increase; U.S. consumption was 2,627,208 tons, a 10% increase; and import penetration was 29%, a three percentage point increase. See attached chart for additional data on imports, U.S. consumption, and import penetration for 2003 and 2002.

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

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

**U.S. Imports, Consumption and Market Penetration Data 1/  
For Specialty Steel Product Lines  
2004/2003/2002**

Specialty Steel Product Lines	Imports			U.S. Consumption			Eleven Month Import Penetration	
	Month Nov 2004	YTD Nov 2004	Increase/Decrease YTD 2004-03	Month Nov 2004	YTD Nov 2004	Increase/Decrease YTD 2004-03	YTD Nov 2004	YTD Nov 2003
Stainless Sheet/Strip	42,398	382,680	37%	152,097	1,653,727	15%	23%	19%
Stainless Plate	5,399	63,179	34%	23,112	265,449	2%	24%	18%
Stainless Bar	7,197	73,886	17%	17,519	184,431	9%	40%	38%
Stainless Rod	4,814	42,796	29%	7,370	66,756	12%	64%	56%
Stainless Wire 2/	3,322	37,852	22%	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
<b>Total Stainless Steel (Sheet, Strip, Plate, Bar, Rod &amp; Wire)</b>	<b>63,130</b>	<b>600,392</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>202,816</b>	<b>2,199,729</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>23%</b>
Alloy Tool Steel 2/	8,926	84,404	7%	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Electrical Steel	11,287	80,967	4%	40,496	362,042	0%	22%	21%
<b>Total Specialty</b>	<b>83,343</b>	<b>765,763</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>249,824</b>	<b>2,627,208</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>26%</b>

2003 and 2002 statistical data in tons follow:

Specialty Steel Product Lines	Imports		U.S. Consumption		Twelve Month Import Penetration	
	2003	Increase/Decrease 2003 vs. 2002	2003	Increase/Decrease 03 vs. 02	2003	2002
Stainless Sheet/Strip	306,494	3%	1,571,120	-1%	20%	19%
Stainless Plate	51,994	-13%	283,334	13%	18%	24%
Stainless Bar	67,901	-20%	184,529	-8%	37%	42%
Stainless Rod	35,168	-39%	63,217	-30%	56%	65%
Stainless Wire	34,167	4%	NC	NC	NC	NC
<b>Total Stainless Steel (Sheet, Strip, Plate, Bar, Rod &amp; Wire)</b>	<b>495,724</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>2,127,194</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>25%</b>
Alloy Tool Steel	87,690	14%	NC	NC	NC	NC
Electrical Steel	80,492	14%	387,994	-9%	21%	17%
<b>Total Specialty</b>	<b>663,906</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>2,586,937</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>26%</b>

**NOTE: Changes in import penetration are percentage point changes.**

1/ Imports adjusted to exclude hot bands imported for re-rolling and reported under shipments.

2/ Shipments of Stainless Wire and 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*