



SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY OF NORTH AMERICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Specialty Metals Industry Group Releases Year-End 2004 Market Data

(Washington, D.C.)(March 18, 2005)—The Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA) today released import, U.S. consumption, and import penetration data covering annual 2004 compared to 2003. Following data presented by specialty steel product line, total stainless steel, and total specialty steel:

- Stainless steel sheet/strip: Imports were 435,775 tons, a 42% increase; consumption was 1,811,334 tons, a 14% increase; import penetration was 24%, a five percentage point increase.
- Stainless steel plate: Imports were 68,433 tons, a 32% increase; consumption was 288,035 tons, a 2% increase; import penetration was 24%, a six percentage point increase.
- Stainless steel bar: Imports were 83,533 tons, a 23% increase; consumption was 204,638 tons, an 11% increase; import penetration was 41%, a four percentage point increase.
- Stainless steel rod: Imports were 47,616 tons, a 35% increase; U.S. consumption was 73,641 tons, a 16% increase; import penetration was 65%, a nine percentage point increase.
- Stainless steel wire: Imports were 41,816 tons, a 22% increase; U.S. consumption was 81,707 tons, a 13% increase; import penetration was 51%, a four percentage point increase.

Imports of total stainless steel (comprising the above product lines) were 677,173 tons, a 37% increase; U.S. consumption was 2,459,356 tons, a 13% increase; import penetration was 28%, a five percentage point increase.

- Alloy tool steel: Imports were 94,641 tons, an 8% increase; U.S. consumption and import penetration are not calculable.

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- Electrical steel: Imports were 86,702 tons, an 8% increase; U.S. consumption was 396,924 tons, a 2% increase; import penetration was 22%, a one percentage point increase.

Imports of total specialty steel (stainless steel, alloy tool steel, and electrical steel) were 858,516 tons, a 29% increase; U.S. consumption was 2,929,633 tons, an 11% increase; and import penetration was 29%, a four percentage point increase. See attached chart for additional data on imports, U.S. consumption, and import penetration for 2004, 2003 and 2002.

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.

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
(in short tons)**

Specialty Steel Product Lines	Imports			U.S. Consumption			Twelve Month Import Penetration	
	Month Dec 2004	YTD Dec 2004	Increase/Decrease YTD 2004-03	Month Dec 2004	YTD Dec 2004	Increase/Decrease YTD 2004-03	YTD Dec 2004	YTD Dec 2003
Stainless Sheet/Strip	53,095	435,775	42%	157,607	1,811,334	14%	24%	19%
Stainless Plate	5,254	68,433	32%	22,586	288,035	2%	24%	18%
Stainless Bar	9,647	83,533	23%	20,208	204,638	11%	41%	37%
Stainless Rod	4,820	47,616	35%	6,885	73,641	16%	65%	56%
Stainless Wire	3,964	41,816	22%	6,032	81,707	13%	51%	47%
Total Stainless Steel (Sheet, Strip, Plate, Bar, Rod & Wire)	76,781	677,173	37%	213,318	2,459,356	13%	28%	23%
Alloy Tool Steel 2/	10,237	94,641	8%	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Electrical Steel	5,735	86,702	8%	34,882	396,924	2%	22%	21%
Total Specialty	92,753	858,516	29%	256,115	2,929,633	11%	29%	25%

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%	1,593,816	0%	19%	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%	72,265	-6%	47%	43%
Total Stainless Steel (Sheet, Strip, Plate, Bar, Rod & Wire)	495,724	-7%	2,174,465	-2%	23%	24%
Alloy Tool Steel	87,690	14%	NC	NC	NC	NC
Electrical Steel	80,492	14%	387,994	-9%	21%	17%
Total Specialty	663,906	-3%	2,634,208	-2%	25%	25%

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 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

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