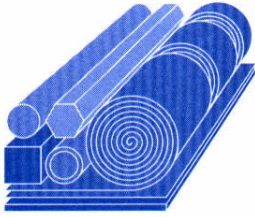


NEWS



SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY OF NORTH AMERICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Specialty Metals Industry Group Releases Four Month Market Data

(Washington, D.C.)(July 17, 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 year-to-date April 2006 compared to the same four-month period in 2005. Following data presented by specialty steel product line, total stainless steel, and total specialty steel:

- Stainless steel sheet/strip: YTD April imports were 153,707 tons, a 13% increase over YTD April 2005; U.S. consumption was 596,851 tons, a 2% increase; four-month import penetration was 26%, a three percentage point increase.
- Stainless steel plate: YTD April imports were 24,333 tons, a 5% decrease over YTD April 2005; U.S. consumption was 98,979 tons, a 15% increase; four-month import penetration was 25%, a five percentage point decrease.
- Stainless steel bar: YTD April imports were 34,869 tons, a 16% decrease over YTD April 2005; U.S. consumption was 72,040 tons, a 13% decrease; four-month import penetration was 48%, a two percentage point decrease.
- Stainless steel rod: YTD April imports were 10,505 tons, a 37% decrease over YTD April 2005; U.S. consumption was 22,266 tons, a 17% decrease; four-month import penetration was 47%, a fifteen percentage point decrease.
- Stainless steel wire: YTD April imports were 15,458 tons, a 6% increase over YTD April 2005; U.S. consumption was 28,403 tons, an 8% increase; four-month import penetration was 54%, a two percentage point decrease.

Imports of total stainless steel (comprising the foregoing product lines) in the first four months of 2006 were 238,871 tons, a 2% increase compared to the same 2005 period; U.S. consumption was 818,538 tons, a 1% increase; import penetration was unchanged at 29%.

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- Alloy tool steel: YTD April imports were 34,055 tons, a 15% decrease over YTD April 2005; U.S. consumption and import penetration were not calculable.
- Electrical steel: YTD April imports were 25,221 tons, an 22% decrease over YTD April 2005; U.S. consumption was unchanged at 139,549 tons; four-month import penetration was 18%, a five percentage point decrease.

Imports of total specialty steel (comprising stainless steel, alloy tool steel and electrical steel) in the first four months of 2006 were 298,147 tons, a 3% decrease compared to the same 2005 period; U.S. consumption was unchanged at 983,942 tons; import penetration was 30%, a one 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.

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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			Four Month Import Penetration	
	Month Apr 2006	YTD Apr 2006	Increase/Decrease YTD 2006-05	Month Apr 2006	YTD Apr 2006	Increase/Decrease YTD 2006-05	YTD Apr 2006	YTD Apr 2005
Stainless Sheet/Strip	36,836	153,707	13%	138,205	596,851	2%	26%	23%
Stainless Plate	5,876	24,333	-5%	22,097	98,979	15%	25%	30%
Stainless Bar	9,224	34,869	-16%	18,756	72,040	-13%	48%	50%
Stainless Rod	2,518	10,505	-37%	4,670	22,266	-17%	47%	62%
Stainless Wire 1/	3,789	15,457	6%	7,019	28,403	8%	54%	56%
Total Stainless Steel (Sheet, Strip, Plate, Bar, Rod & Wire)	58,243	238,871	2%	190,747	818,538	1%	29%	29%
Alloy Tool Steel 2/	8,082	34,055	-15%	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Electrical Steel	4,426	25,221	-22%	32,434	139,549	0%	18%	23%
Total Specialty	70,751	298,147	-3%	228,633	983,942	0%	30%	31%

2005 and 2004 statistical data in tons follow:

Specialty Steel Product Lines	Imports		U.S. Consumption		Twelve Month Import Penetration	
	2005.00	Increase/Decrease 2005 vs. 2004	2005.00	Increase/Decrease 05 vs. 04	2005	2004.00
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/ Year-to-date 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