

**QUARTERLY SURVEY ON CERTAIN
STAINLESS STEEL AND ALLOY
TOOL STEEL (COVERING
FOURTH QUARTER OF 1982
AND FIRST AND SECOND
QUARTERS OF 1983)**

Report to the President on
Investigation No. 332-167
Under Section 332 of the
Tariff Act of 1930



USITC PUBLICATION 1432

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UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

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NOTE

Data which would disclose confidential operations of individual concerns may not be published and, therefore, has been deleted from this report. In particular, pricing data were collected on 17 stainless steel and alloy tool steel products; due to confidentiality requirements, much of those data have been deleted.

QUARTERLY REPORT ON CERTAIN STAINLESS STEEL
AND ALLOY TOOL STEEL

HIGHLIGHTS

During the second quarter (April-June) 1983, compared to the fourth quarter of 1982:

- DOMESTIC PRODUCTION of certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel products increased 50 percent to 141,157 tons.
- U.S. PRODUCERS' SHIPMENTS increased 41 percent to 206,481 tons.
- EMPLOYMENT of production and related workers increased 30 percent to 72,644 workers.
- U.S. PRODUCERS' PRICES of seventeen representative products declined.
- U.S. IMPORTERS' PRICES of seventeen representative prices declined, and were generally lower than U.S. producers' prices.
- U.S. IMPORTERS' UNFILLED ORDERS declined 7 percent to 23,898 tons.
- U.S. IMPORTERS' INVENTORIES declined 24 percent, to 18,765 tons.

U.S. production and producers' shipments

U.S. production of certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel products increased from October-December 1982 to April-June 1983, with stainless steel sheet and strip showing the greatest increase (57 percent) and stainless steel plate the least (2 percent). U.S. producers' shipments of all products also rose, closely tracking the production increases.

Employment and hours worked

The average number of all persons employed in U.S. establishments producing certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel increased by 22 percent from October-December 1982 to April-June 1983. Employment of production and

related workers rose 30 percent over the same period, with increases reported in all product categories. The number of hours worked by production and related workers, however, showed an even greater increase, 73 percent, from October-December 1982 to April-June 1983.

U.S. producers' prices

The weighted average prices of certain domestic stainless steel and alloy tool steel products generally declined throughout the period October 1982-June 1983. The exceptions to this trend were stainless steel sheet and strip, and stainless steel plate. U.S. producers of these products reported declining prices through the first quarter of 1983, with price increases beginning in the second quarter of 1983. U.S. producer prices to end-use customers were higher than those to service center/distributors, and price declines which occurred were less pronounced for end-users than price reductions to service centers/distributors.

U.S. importers' prices

Pricing data reported by U.S. importers for certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel products followed trends similar to U.S. producer prices. With the exception of stainless steel sheet and strip and stainless steel plate, prices generally declined from the last quarter of 1982 to the second quarter of 1983. For the stainless flat-rolled products, importer prices declined through the first quarter of 1983, with price increases beginning in the second quarter of 1983. For most products, importers' prices were below those of U.S. producers, with the exception of stainless steel wire rod and some alloy tool steel products, where importer prices were higher.

U.S. importers' unfilled orders and inventories

Data on importers' unfilled orders from foreign sources indicate declines in such orders for all product categories from those levels reported for December 31, 1982. The exception to this trend was alloy tool steel, where importers' unfilled orders were 42 percent greater on June 30, 1983 than on December 31, 1982. Importers' inventories of certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel products fluctuated within a narrow range over the period, with all products showing slight declines, except stainless steel wire rod, which slightly increased.

Table 1.--Certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel: U.S. production, by types and by specified periods, October 1982-June 1983

(In tons)

Period	Stainless steel				Alloy tool steel, all forms
	Sheet and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod	
1982:					
October-----	28,392	7,452	5,758	1,891	2,288
November-----	31,355	6,788	5,752	1,459	1,935
December-----	30,768	8,065	5,811	1,717	1,726
1983:					
January-----	35,655	6,096	7,087	1,656	2,229
February-----	36,402	6,862	6,403	2,173	2,650
March-----	53,718	8,734	7,623	2,366	3,553
April-----	42,102	7,139	8,090	1,953	3,451
May-----	48,070	7,551	9,249	2,842	3,907
June-----	51,835	8,032	9,766	3,694	3,613
1982:					
Oct.-Dec-----	90,515	22,305	17,321	5,067	5,949
1983:					
Jan-March----	125,775	21,692	21,113	6,195	8,431
Apr.-June----	142,007	22,722	27,105	8,489	10,971

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Table 2.--Certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel: U.S. producers' shipments, by types, by specified periods, October 1982-June 1983

(In tons)

Period	Stainless steel				Alloy tool steel, all forms
	Sheet and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod	
1982:					
October-----	31,172	6,353	6,811	1,706	2,394
November-----	30,314	7,318	6,303	1,622	2,338
December-----	31,857	7,001	6,480	1,860	2,523
1983:					
January-----	34,193	6,440	8,022	1,769	2,904
February-----	32,307	6,856	7,339	1,927	2,734
March-----	46,459	8,223	8,811	2,280	3,423
April-----	41,513	7,776	7,936	2,181	3,142
May-----	48,620	7,378	8,228	2,780	3,087
June-----	49,340	8,610	9,216	3,278	3,432
1982:					
Oct.-Dec-----	93,343	20,672	19,594	5,188	7,255
1983:					
Jan-March-----	112,959	21,719	24,172	5,976	9,061
Apr.-June-----	139,437	23,764	25,380	8,239	9,661

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Table 3.--Certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel: Average number of all persons employed in U.S. establishments in which certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel are produced, by specified periods, October 1982-June 1983

Period	Stainless steel				Alloy tool steel, all forms
	Sheet and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod	
1982:					
October-----	13,254	3,993	4,311	2,014	3,203
November-----	12,456	3,514	4,267	1,965	3,200
December-----	13,694	3,216	4,145	2,054	2,991
1983:					
January-----	14,527	3,307	4,342	1,768	3,057
February-----	15,432	3,733	4,177	1,924	3,015
March-----	18,349	4,222	4,038	1,854	3,268
April-----	18,141	3,755	4,204	1,800	3,237
May-----	17,349	3,916	4,380	2,082	3,274
June-----	19,374	4,445	4,217	2,336	3,322
1982:					
Oct.-Dec-----	39,404	10,723	12,723	6,033	9,394
1983:					
Jan-March-----	48,308	11,262	12,557	5,546	9,340
Apr.-June-----	54,864	12,116	12,801	6,218	9,833

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Table 4.—Certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel: Average number of production and related workers employed in U.S. establishments in which stainless steel and alloy tool steel are produced, by specified periods, October 1982–June 1983

Period	Stainless steel				Alloy tool steel, all forms
	Sheet and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod	
1982:					
October-----	12,074	3,423	2,101	481	1,255
November-----	11,176	3,004	2,012	415	1,272
December-----	12,162	2,699	1,998	531	1,174
1983:					
January-----	13,070	2,823	2,030	387	1,314
February-----	13,803	3,247	2,028	522	1,324
March-----	16,716	3,700	1,955	460	1,366
April-----	16,556	3,275	2,069	444	1,422
May-----	15,735	3,416	2,181	607	1,399
June-----	17,361	3,926	2,130	744	1,379
1982:					
Oct.-Dec-----	35,412	9,126	6,111	1,427	3,701
1983:					
Jan.-March----	43,589	9,770	6,013	1,369	4,004
Apr.-June-----	49,652	10,617	6,380	1,795	4,200

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Table 5.--Certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel: Number of man-hours worked by production and related workers in U.S. establishments in which certain stainless steel and alloy tool steel products are produced, by specified periods, October 1982-June 1983

Period	Stainless steel				Alloy tool steel, all forms
	Sheet and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod	
1982:					
October-----	1,993,707	558,435	294,155	66,195	153,587
November-----	1,942,198	505,457	288,490	56,061	153,793
December-----	2,323,361	489,703	297,167	64,930	156,484
1983:					
January-----	2,407,877	503,874	333,027	59,000	153,216
February-----	2,341,852	539,967	316,351	80,000	161,684
March-----	3,217,105	691,245	352,770	80,000	203,727
April-----	2,834,743	543,962	332,530	68,000	176,429
May-----	2,854,398	602,778	368,868	102,000	188,782
June-----	3,248,989	704,593	404,678	132,000	236,103
1982:					
Oct.-Dec-----	6,259,266	1,553,595	879,812	187,186	463,864
1983:					
Jan-March-----	7,966,834	1,735,086	1,002,148	219,000	518,627
Apr.-June-----	8,938,130	1,851,333	1,106,076	302,000	601,314

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Table 6a.--Stainless steel sheet (cold-rolled) 1/: Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices and average price of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers and importers to steel service centers or distributors, by periods indicated, October 1982-June 1983

(Per ton)				
Period	Lowest price		Average price of total quantity shipped	
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average
U.S. producers				
1982:				
October-----	1400-1533	1529	1560-1752	1634
November-----	1102-1533	1523	1560-1752	1618
December-----	1329-1533	1527	1500-1752	1586
1983:				
January-----	1379-1440	1426	1445-1752	1534
February-----	1343-1424	1421	1428-1752	1545
March-----	1261-1424	1418	1424-1752	1518
April-----	1248-1424	1408	1381-1752	1503
May-----	1220-1424	1414	1364-1752	1487
June-----	1321-1440	1421	1459-1752	1567
U.S. importers				
1982:				
Oct.-Dec.-----	1620-1640	1632	1642-1668	1659
1983:				
Jan.-March-----	1469-1749	1525	1500-1749	1544
April-June-----	1473-1639	1526	1500-1640	1562

1/ Grade 304, 2B finish, 16 gage, 36" - 48", coil.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

UNITED STATES
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20436

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