

**STAINLESS STEEL AND ALLOY TOOL STEEL:
U.S. IMPORTERS' PRICES UNSHIPED ORDERS
AND INVENTORIES ANNUAL SURVEY 1977**

**Report to the President
on Investigation No. 332-94
Under Section 332
of the Tariff Act of 1930**



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CONTACT: Mr. William Wright
(202) 523-0275
USITC 78-038

USITC REPORTS RESULTS OF SURVEY OF THE SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY

The United States International Trade Commission has completed its second annual survey of U.S. importers in connection with the quantitative limitations imposed on imports of specialty steel. The survey, required by Presidential Proclamation No. 4445, covers the year of 1977.

Major findings of the importers' survey indicate that importers' prices in 1977 increased an average of 9 percent on 8 of the 16 stainless steel and alloy tool steel products covered, and decreased an average of 2 percent on 2 of 16 products. Little or no usable information was received on 6 products.

U.S. importers' unshipped orders of stainless steel and alloy steel were 29,300 as of January 1, 1978, an increase of 10,400 tons (55 percent) compared to January 1, 1977.

U.S. importers' inventories of stainless steel and alloy tool steel were 31,900 tons as of January 1, 1978, a decrease of 5,600 tons (15 percent) compared to January 1, 1977.

Table 1.--Stainless steel sheet (cold rolled): Range and weighted average of lowest net selling prices and price at which the largest volume was shipped and weighted average prices of total quantity shipped by U.S. importers of selected types of sheet to steel-service centers or distributors, by months, January 1977-December 1977

(Prices in cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Price, total quantity shipped
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	Weighted average
Grade 430, 2B finish, 20 gauge x coil					
1977:	:	:	:	:	:
January-----	-	-	-	-	-
February-----	65	65	65	65	65
March-----	66	66	66	66	66
April-----	-	-	-	-	-
May-----	-	-	-	-	-
June-----	-	-	-	-	-
July-----	64	64	64	64	64
August-----	-	-	-	-	-
September-----	-	-	-	-	-
October-----	67	67	67	67	67
November-----	60	60	60	60	60
December-----	68-69	69	68-69	69	69
Grade 304, 2B finish, 8-14 gauge x 36' x coil					
1977:	:	:	:	:	:
January-----	-	-	-	-	-
February-----	-	-	-	-	-
March-----	-	-	-	-	-
April-----	-	-	-	-	-
May-----	72-76	73	72-76	73	73
June-----	70-78	70	70-78	70	70
July-----	-	-	-	-	-
August-----	77	77	77	77	77
September-----	60	60	60	60	60
October-----	74-77	76	74-77	76	76
November-----	74-76	75	74-76	75	75
December-----	73-95	84	73-95	84	84

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

Note.--The number of U.S. importers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 2.--Stainless steel plate (hot rolled): Range and weighted average of lowest net selling prices and price at which the largest volume was shipped and weighted average price of total quantity shipped by U.S. importers of selected types of plate of steel service centers of distributors, by months, January 1977-December 1977

(Prices in cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Price, total quantity shipped
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	Weighted average
Grade 304, HRAP, 1/4" x 72" x 240"					
1977:	:	:	:	:	:
January-----	-	-	-	-	-
February-----	-	-	-	-	-
March-----	76-83	80	76-85	81	81
April-----	77-83	78	77-85	78	79
May-----	76-84	78	76-84	78	78
June-----	74-84	75	74-84	75	75
July-----	76-87	83	76-87	83	83
August-----	76-87	82	76-87	82	82
September-----	76-83	80	76-83	80	80
October-----	83	83	83	83	83
November-----	76	76	76	76	76
December-----	76	76	76	76	76

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

Note.--The number of U.S. importers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 3.--Stainless steel bars: Range and weighted average of lowest net selling prices and price at which the largest volume was shipped and weighted average prices of total quantity shipped by U.S. importers of selected types of bars to steel-service centers or distributors, by months, January 1977-December 1977

(Prices in cents per pound)						
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Price, total quantity shipped	
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	Weighted average	
Grade 304, cold finished, 1-1/2" round						
1977:						
January-----	75-93	83	75-93	83		83
February-----	84-90	88	87-95	90		89
March-----	89-100	95	89-100	96		96
April-----	79-100	87	79-100	87		87
May-----	91-93	92	91-100	95		93
June-----	92-98	93	92-100	96		94
July-----	84-105	95	84-115	98		96
August-----	78-106	91	79-116	95		92
September-----	100-106	102	100-116	105		108
October-----	99-107	103	99-107	105		106
November-----	84-107	97	79-118	99		103
December-----	95-108	101	95-118	104		107
Grade 303, cold finished, 1/2" round						
1977:						
January-----	84-105	94	84-110	97		97
February-----	102-105	105	102-105	105		105
March-----	102-108	107	104-108	107		107
April-----	104-108	107	106-108	107		107
May-----	100-113	105	100-113	105		105
June-----	107-113	109	107-113	109		109
July-----	107-109	108	107-109	108		108
August-----	92-109	104	92-120	104		104
September-----	107-112	108	107-120	110		110
October-----	88-110	90	88-120	91		90
November-----	94-110	95	94-120	96		96
December-----	94-113	102	104-120	108		107

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

Note.--The number of U.S. importers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 4.--Stainless steel bars: Range and weighted average of lowest net selling prices and price at which the largest volume was shipped and weighted average prices of total quantity shipped by U.S. importers of selected types of bar to steel-service centers or distributors, by months, January 1977-December 1977

(Prices in cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Price, total quantity shipped
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	Weighted average
Grade 416, cold finished, 2" round					
1977:					
January-----	78-85	82	85-90	87	85
February-----	76-85	83	83-90	88	86
March-----	75-83	81	82-88	86	87
April-----	65-80	74	72-85	80	80
May-----	70-80	76	77-85	81	81
June-----	72-86	78	79-91	83	82
July-----	75-84	81	83-90	86	84
August-----	61-78	75	61-90	78	80
September-----	76-87	82	84-90	87	84
October-----	77-87	82	87-92	90	84
November-----	78-87	84	87-92	89	87
December-----	80-87	84	87-92	90	87

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

Note.--The number of U.S. importers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 5.--High-speed tool steel bars: Range and weighted average of lowest net selling prices and price at which the largest volume was shipped and weighted average prices of total quantity shipped by U.S. importers of selected types of bars to steel-service centers or distributors, by months, January 1977-December 1977

(Prices in cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Price, total quantity shipped
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	Weighted average
Grade M2, 1" round x random lengths					
1977:					
January-----	-	-	-	-	-
February-----	170-287	201	170-287	201	201
March-----	250	250	250	250	250
April-----	-	-	-	-	-
May-----	-	-	-	-	-
June-----	-	-	-	-	-
July-----	-	-	-	-	-
August-----	328	328	328	328	328
September-----	191-351	194	191-351	194	194
October-----	-	-	-	-	-
November-----	294	294	294	294	294
December-----	201-242	209	201-305	250	240
Grade 0-1, 1" x 4", cold finished decarb free					
1977:					
January-----	92	92	92	92	92
February-----	127	127	127	127	127
March-----	127	127	127	127	127
April-----	156	156	156	156	156
May-----	156	156	156	156	156
June-----	136	136	136	136	136
July-----	135-140	138	138	138	138
August-----	135-140	138	138	138	138
September-----	135-140	138	138	138	138
October-----	135	135	135	135	135
November-----	135-140	139	135-140	139	139
December-----	135-141	140	135-141	140	140

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

Note.--The number of U.S. importers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 6.--Stainless steel strip: Range and weighted average of lowest net selling prices and price at which the largest volume was shipped and weighted average prices of total quantity shipped by U.S. importers of selected types of sheet to steel-service centers or distributors, by months, January 1977-December 1977

(Prices in cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price	Weighted average	Price at which largest volume was shipped	Weighted average	Price, total quantity shipped
	Range	Range	Range	Range	Weighted average
Grade 430, 2 finish, .060" x 3" to 12" x coil					
1977:	:	:	:	:	:
January-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
February-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
March-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
April-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
May-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
June-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
July-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
August-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
September-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
October-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
November-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
December-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
Grade 430, 2 finish, .02" x 1" to under 1-1/2" x coil					
1977:	:	:	:	:	:
January-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
February-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
March-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
April-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
May-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
June-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
July-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
August-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
September-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
October-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
November-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-
December-----	- :	- :	- :	- :	-

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

Note.--The number of U.S. importers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 7.--Stainless steel strip: Range and weighted average of lowest net selling prices and price at which the largest volume was shipped and weighted average prices of total quantity shipped by U.S. importers of selected types of strip to end-use customers, by months, January 1977-December 1977

(Prices in cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price	Price at which largest volume was shipped	Price, total quantity shipped	Range	Weighted average
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	Weighted average
Grade 434, 2 finish, BA .017 to under .020" x 1" to under 1-1/2" x coil					
1977:					
January-----	-	-	-	-	-
February-----	-	-	-	-	-
March-----	-	-	-	-	-
April-----	-	-	-	-	-
May-----	-	-	-	-	-
June-----	-	-	-	-	-
July-----	-	-	-	-	-
August-----	-	-	-	-	-
September-----	-	-	-	-	-
October-----	-	-	-	-	-
November-----	-	-	-	-	-
December-----	-	-	-	-	-

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

Note.--The number of U.S. importers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 8.--Stainless steel sheet (cold rolled): Range and weighted average of lowest net selling prices and price at which the largest volume was shipped and weighted average prices of total quantity shipped by U.S. importers of selected types of sheet to end-use customers, by months, January 1977-December 1977

(Prices in cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price	Weighted average	Price at which largest volume was shipped	Weighted average	Price, total quantity shipped
	Range	Range	Range	Range	Weighted average
Grade 304, 2 finish, .035" to under .050" x over 12" to 18" x coil					
1977:					
January-----	-	-	-	-	-
February-----	-	-	-	-	-
March-----	-	-	-	-	-
April-----	-	-	-	-	-
May-----	-	-	-	-	-
June-----	-	-	-	-	-
July-----	-	-	-	-	-
August-----	-	-	-	-	-
September-----	-	-	-	-	-
October-----	-	-	-	-	-
November-----	-	-	-	-	-
December-----	-	-	-	-	-

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

Note.--The number of U.S. importers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 9.--Stainless steel wire rod: Range and weighted average of lowest net selling prices and price at which the largest volume was shipped and weighted average prices of total quantity shipped by U.S. importers of selected types of rod to end-use customers, by months, January 1977-December 1977

(Prices in cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Price, total quantity shipped
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	Weighted average
Grade 304, .250" to .287" round					
1977:					
January-----	-	-	-	-	-
February-----	-	-	-	-	-
March-----	-	-	-	-	-
April-----	-	-	-	-	-
May-----	-	-	-	-	-
June-----	84-89	84	84-89	84	84
July-----	82-125	96	82-125	96	97
August-----	128	128	128	128	128
September-----	86-130	108	86-130	108	110
October-----	-	-	-	-	-
November-----	132	132	132	132	132
December-----	83-133	101	83-133	110	108

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

Note.--The number of U.S. importers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 10.--High speed tool steel bar: Range and weighted average of lowest net selling prices and price at which the largest volume was shipped and weighted average prices of total quantity shipped by U.S. importers of selected types of bar to end-use customers, by months, January 1977-December 1977

(Prices in cents per pound)						
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Price, total quantity shipped	
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	Weighted average	
Grade M-7, 1" round x cold finished						
1977:						
January-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
February-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
March-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
April-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
May-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
June-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
July-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
August-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
September-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
October-----	253	253	253	253	253	253
November-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
December-----	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grade M-2, 1" round x random lengths cold finished						
1977:						
January-----	226-265	253	265-278	269	268	268
February-----	235	235	235	235	235	235
March-----	250-278	261	265-278	268	266	266
April-----	262	262	262	262	262	262
May-----	226-265	259	226-265	259	259	259
June-----	250-265	255	250-265	255	255	255
July-----	249-265	260	249-265	260	264	264
August-----	250-262	258	262-297	288	285	285
September-----	238-249	244	265-267	266	263	263
October-----	249-290	280	267-290	288	276	276
November-----	249-262	258	249-262	258	255	255
December-----	258-260	261	258-262	261	259	259

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

Note.--The number of U.S. importers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 11.--High-speed tool steel rod: Range and weighted average of lowest net selling prices and price at which the largest volume was shipped and weighted average prices of total quantity shipped by U.S. importers of selected types of rod to end-use customers, by months, January 1977-December 1977

(Prices in cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price	Weighted average	Price at which largest volume was shipped	Weighted average	Price, total quantity shipped
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	Weighted average
Grade M-7, .250" round x HRA coil					
1977:					
January-----	-	-	-	-	-
February-----	-	-	-	-	-
March-----	163	163	163	163	163
April-----	-	-	-	-	-
May-----	-	-	-	-	-
June-----	-	-	-	-	-
July-----	-	-	-	-	-
August-----	-	-	-	-	-
September-----	-	-	-	-	-
October-----	-	-	-	-	-
November-----	-	-	-	-	-
December-----	-	-	-	-	-

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

Note.--The number of U.S. importers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 12.--Stainless steel and alloy tool steel: U.S. importers' unshipped orders, by quarters, Jan. 1, 1976-Jan. 1, 1978

(In thousands of tons)

Date	Stainless steel					Total	Alloy tool steel, all forms
	Sheets and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod			
Jan. 1, 1975----	9.3	3.5	10.4	5.6	28.9	9.0	
Apr. 1, 1975----	6.4	.9	6.8	3.1	17.2	8.0	
July 1, 1975----	8.4	1.0	6.1	2.3	17.8	7.2	
Oct. 1, 1975----	11.1	2.3	7.5	2.2	23.1	5.6	
Jan. 1, 1976----	8.5	3.6	1.8	4.3	18.2	3.3	
Apr. 1, 1976----	13.3	2.9	1.3	4.2	21.7	4.6	
July 1, 1976----	11.3	2.0	1.4	5.1	19.8	5.0	
Oct. 1, 1976----	6.7	1.2	1.8	3.9	13.6	4.4	
Jan. 1, 1977----	7.0	.6	2.6	4.0	14.1	4.8	
Apr. 1, 1977----	13.4	1.0	2.3	5.6	22.3	2.2	
July 1, 1977----	13.1	1.8	3.6	3.6	22.1	2.6	
Oct. 1, 1977----	15.0	0.6	5.0	2.9	23.5	4.1	
Jan. 1, 1978----	12.4	1.1	4.6	6.7	24.8	4.5	

Source: Compiled from responses to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Note.--Because of rounding, figures may not add to totals shown.

Table 13.--Stainless steel and alloy tool steel: U.S. importers' inventories, by quarters, Jan. 1, 1976-Jan. 1, 1978

(In thousands of tons)

Date	Stainless steel					Alloy tool steel, all forms
	Sheets and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod	Total	
Jan. 1, 1975----	4.9	1.0	11.0	0.6	17.5	10.6
Apr. 1, 1975----	6.5	1.2	14.8	2.2	24.7	11.5
July 1, 1975----	6.9	1.8	11.5	3.1	23.4	12.6
Oct. 1, 1975----	7.1	2.1	16.9	3.4	29.6	12.7
Jan. 1, 1976----	6.1	1.9	21.5	2.3	31.9	13.1
Apr. 1, 1976----	5.3	1.7	20.4	1.7	29.2	13.4
July 1, 1976----	5.2	1.4	18.9	1.3	26.7	13.7
Oct. 1, 1976----	4.0	2.2	16.6	1.1	23.9	12.8
Jan. 1, 1977----	5.1	2.3	16.4	1.1	24.9	12.6
Apr. 1, 1977----	6.3	0.3	10.8	3.5	20.9	8.5
July 1, 1977----	6.9	0.2	11.1	5.8	24.0	8.7
Oct. 1, 1977----	4.1	0.8	19.3	2.8	27.0	8.5
Jan. 1, 1978----	4.6	0.8	14.7	3.8	23.9	8.0

Source: Compiled from responses to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Note.--Because of rounding, figures may not add to totals shown.

