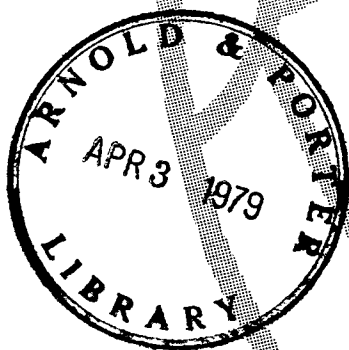


**BOLTS, NUTS, AND LARGE SCREWS OF IRON OR STEEL:  
U.S. PRODUCERS' PROFITS, UNFILLED ORDERS,  
INVENTORIES, CAPITAL EXPENDITURES,  
AND CAPACITY,  
AND U.S. IMPORTERS'  
UNFILLED ORDERS,  
INVENTORIES,  
AND PRICES, ANNUAL  
SURVEY 1978**

**Report to the President on  
investigation No. 332-103  
Under Section 332 of  
the Tariff Act of 1930**



**USITC PUBLICATION 963**

**MARCH 1979**

# UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

## COMMISSIONERS

Joseph O. Parker, Chairman  
Bill Alberger, Vice Chairman  
George M. Moore  
Catherine Bedell  
Paula Stern

---

**Kenneth R. Mason, Secretary to the Commission**

---

This report was prepared principally by

James M. Brandon, Minerals and Metals Division

---

Office of Industries  
Norris A. Lynch, Director

---

**Address all communications to  
Office of the Secretary  
United States International Trade Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20436**



# NEWS

(202) 523-0161

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION • Office of the Secretary • Washington, D.C. 20436

FOR RELEASE  
MARCH 31, 1979

CONTACT: William E. Wright  
(202) 523-0275

USITC 79-030

## USITC REPORTS RESULTS OF ANNUAL SURVEYS OF PRODUCERS AND IMPORTERS OF BOLTS, NUTS, AND LARGE SCREWS OF IRON OR STEEL

The United States International Trade Commission has completed its first annual surveys of U.S. producers and importers of bolts, nuts, and large screws, required under Presidential Proclamation No. 4632. The report, which provides information on a quarterly and annual basis for 1978, is necessary for the monitoring of the effects of temporary increases in duties on imports. The information developed covers profit, unfilled orders, inventories, capital expenditures, capacity, and net selling prices.

Major findings of the survey indicate that U.S. producers' ratio of net operating profit to net sales declined from 7.6 percent in 1977 to 7.4 percent in 1978. Producers' unfilled orders increased 22 percent from the first quarter to the last quarter of 1978, whereas importers' unfilled orders declined 7 percent during the same period.

Quarterly information on producers' inventories reveals a decline of 10 percent from the first quarter to the last quarter of 1978, compared with a 14-percent increase in importers' inventories during the same period.

U.S. producers' capital expenditures were 8 percent less in 1978 than total capital expenditures in 1977. The manufacturing capacity of domestic producers of bolts, nuts, and large screws was 6 percent less in 1978 than in 1977.

more

USITC REPORTS RESULTS OF ANNUAL SURVEYS OF PRODUCERS AND IMPORTERS OF BOLTS,  
NUTS, AND LARGE SCREWS OF IRON OR STEEL

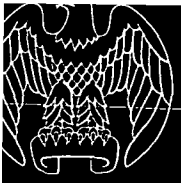
2

The average lowest net selling prices received by importers during each quarter of 1978 were, on an average, 33 percent higher than prices received by importers in 1977.

The report is sent to the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, who is responsible for monitoring the effects of the temporary duty increases implemented by the Presidential proclamation.

Copies of the report (USITC Publication 963), can be obtained by calling (202) 523-5178, or from the Office of the Secretary, 701 E Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20436.

o0o



# NEWS

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION • Office of the Secretary • Washington, D.C. 20436

FOR RELEASE  
MARCH 31, 1979

CONTACT: William E. Wright  
(202) 523-0275

USITC 79-030

## USITC REPORTS RESULTS OF ANNUAL SURVEYS OF PRODUCERS AND IMPORTERS OF BOLTS, NUTS, AND LARGE SCREWS OF IRON OR STEEL

The United States International Trade Commission has completed its first annual surveys of U.S. producers and importers of bolts, nuts, and large screws, required under Presidential Proclamation No. 4632. The report, which provides information on a quarterly and annual basis for 1978, is necessary for the monitoring of the effects of temporary increases in duties on imports. The information developed covers profit, unfilled orders, inventories, capital expenditures, capacity, and net selling prices.

Major findings of the survey indicate that U.S. producers' ratio of net operating profit to net sales declined from 7.6 percent in 1977 to 7.4 percent in 1978. Producers' unfilled orders increased 22 percent from the first quarter to the last quarter of 1978, whereas importers' unfilled orders declined 7 percent during the same period.

Quarterly information on producers' inventories reveals a decline of 10 percent from the first quarter to the last quarter of 1978, compared with a 14-percent increase in importers' inventories during the same period.

U.S. producers' capital expenditures were 8 percent less in 1978 than total capital expenditures in 1977. The manufacturing capacity of domestic producers of bolts, nuts, and large screws was 6 percent less in 1978 than in 1977.

more

USITC REPORTS RESULTS OF ANNUAL SURVEYS OF PRODUCERS AND IMPORTERS OF BOLTS,  
NUTS, AND LARGE SCREWS OF IRON OR STEEL

2

The average lowest net selling prices received by importers during each quarter of 1978 were, on an average, 33 percent higher than prices received by importers in 1977.

The report is sent to the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, who is responsible for monitoring the effects of the temporary duty increases implemented by the Presidential proclamation.

Copies of the report (USITC Publication 963), can be obtained by calling (202) 523-5178, or from the Office of the Secretary, 701 E Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20436.

oOo

## Summary Highlights of the First Annual Surveys of U.S. Producers and Importers of Bolts, Nuts, and Large Screws of Iron or Steel

### Profits

The economic performance of U.S. producers of bolts, nuts, and large screws registered an upward trend during the four quarters of 1978. The ratio of net operating profit to net sales increased from 7.0 percent in the first quarter to 7.8 percent in the last quarter. The annual ratio of net operating profit to net sales, however, was 7.4 percent in 1978 compared with 7.6 percent in 1977.

### U.S. producers' and importers' unfilled orders

From the first quarter of 1978 to the last quarter of 1978, U.S. producers' unfilled orders of bolts, nuts, and large screws increased 22 percent, from 183 million pounds to 223 million pounds. During the same period, importers' unfilled orders fluctuated and declined 7 percent, from 109 million pounds to 101 million pounds.

### U.S. producers' and importers' inventories

The 1978 quarterly information provided by U.S. producers and importers regarding their inventories reveals opposite trends. The inventories reported by U.S. producers declined 10 percent, from 164 million pounds in the first quarter to 148 million pounds in the last quarter. Conversely, inventories reported by U.S. importers during the same period increased 14 percent, from 276 million pounds to 315 million pounds.

### Capital expenditures

U.S. producers' capital expenditures totaled \$35 million in 1978, about 8 percent less than total capital expenditures in 1977.

### Capacity

The manufacturing capacity of U.S. producers of bolts, nuts, and large screws in 1978 dropped 6 percent from the 1977 level. For bolts and large screws, producers' capacity declined from 1.6 billion pounds to 1.5 billion pounds. U.S. producers' capacity to manufacture nuts declined from 533 million pounds to 452 million pounds.

### Importers' prices

The average lowest net selling prices received by importers on sales of six representative fastener products during each quarter of 1978 were, on an average, 33 percent higher than prices received by importers during the comparable periods of 1977. Prices received for three of the products, hexagon nuts, 1/4"-20, hexagon nuts, 1/2"-13, and structural bolts were 54, 46, and 32 percent higher, respectively, in 1978 than in 1977.



C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
1. Profit-and-loss experience of U.S. producers on their bolt, nut, and large screw operations, 1975-Dec. 1978-----	1
2. Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Unfilled orders held by U.S. producers and importers, by specified dates, Dec. 31, 1975-Dec. 31, 1978-----	2
3. Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Inventories held by U.S. producers and importers, by specified dates, Dec. 31, 1975-Dec. 31, 1978-----	3
4. Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Total capital expenditures by U.S. producers, 1975-1978-----	4
5. Bolts, nuts, and large screws: U.S. producers' capacity 1975-78-----	5
6. Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Ranges and averages of lowest net selling prices received by importers to distributors, by specified periods, January 1975-Dec. 1978-----	6
7. Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Ranges and averages of lowest net selling prices received by importers to distributors, by specified periods, January 1975-Dec. 1978-----	7
8. Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Ranges and averages of lowest net selling prices received by importers to distributors, by specified periods, January 1975-Dec. 1978-----	8



Table 1.--Profit-and-loss experience of U.S. producers on their bolt, nut, and large screw operations, 1975-Dec. 1978

Item	1975	1976	1977	1978 <u>1/</u>	1978			
					Jan. - Mar.	April - June	July - Sept.	Oct. Dec.
Net sales-----1,000 dollars---	680,151	692,694	694,280	852,779	205,915	218,438	204,401	224,025
Cost of goods sold-----do-----	494,344	524,326	522,879	683,709	166,144	174,873	164,338	178,354
Gross profit-----do-----	185,807	168,368	141,401	169,070	39,771	43,565	40,063	45,671
Selling and administrative expenses 1,000 dollars---	85,653	89,708	88,548	105,683	25,350	27,146	25,098	28,089
Net operating profit-----do-----	100,154	78,660	52,853	63,387	14,421	16,419	14,965	17,582
Other income or (expenses)-----do-----	(210)	145	(411)	(6,112)	(1,008)	(2,887)	(519)	(1,698)
Net profit before income taxes-----do-----	99,944	78,805	52,442	57,275	13,413	13,532	14,446	15,884
Ratio of net operating profit to Net sales-----percent---	14.7	11.4	7.6	7.4	7.0	7.5	7.3	7.8

1/ Data were submitted by 35 producers.

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

Table 2.--Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Unfilled orders held by  
U.S. producers and importers, by specified  
dates, Dec. 31, 1975-Dec. 31, 1978

(In million of pounds)

Date	U.S. producers' unfilled orders	Importers unfilled orders
Dec. 31, 1975-----	165	87
June 30, 1976-----	176	152
Dec. 31, 1976-----	189	131
June 30, 1977-----	196	113
Dec. 31, 1977-----	198	142
Mar. 31, 1978-----	183	109
June 30, 1978-----	202	116
Sept. 30, 1978-----	207	94
Dec. 31, 1978-----	223	101

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

Table 3.--Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Inventories held by  
U.S. producers and importers, by specified dates,  
Dec. 31, 1975-Dec. 31, 1978

(In million of pounds)

Date	U.S. producers' inventories	Importers inventories
Dec. 31, 1975-----	255	261
June 30, 1976-----	230	233
Dec. 31, 1976-----	245	319
June 30, 1977-----	215	320
Dec. 31, 1977-----	208	283
March 31, 1978-----	164	276
June 30, 1978-----	194	303
Sept. 30, 1978-----	151	304
Dec. 31, 1978-----	148	315

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

Table 4.--Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Total capital expenditures by U.S. producers, 1975-1978

(In thousands of dollars)

Period	Total capital expenditures
1975-----	24,633
1976-----	32,194
1977-----	38,314
1978-----	35,404

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

Note.--Data are based on responses to Commission questionnaires by U.S. producers which accounted for approximately 50 percent of the value of total domestic shipments in 1977.

Table 5.--Bolts, nuts, and large screws: U.S. producers' capacity, 1/ 1975-78.

(In millions of pounds)

Item	1975	1976	1977	1978
Bolts and large screws-----	1,553	1,651	1,598	1,544
Nuts-----	513	538	533	452
Total-----	2,066	2,187	2,131	1,996

1/ Capacity is defined as the normal sustained production that can be achieved on an annual basis and is based upon a firm's average product mix during 1975-78 with allowance made for anticipated maintenance downtime.

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

Table 6.--Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Ranges and averages <sup>1/</sup> of lowest net selling prices received by importers to distributors, by specified periods, January 1975-Dec. 1978

		Import Price	
Period	Range	Average	
	Per 1,000 pieces	Per 1,000 pieces	
Cap screws, grade 2, 3/8" - 16 x 1"			
1975:			
Jan.-Mar---	13.33- 33.53		15.82
Apr.-June--	12.38- 33.53		15.55
July-Sept--	11.14- 25.10		15.64
Oct.-Dec.--	10.75- 25.10		14.52
1976:			
Jan.-Mar---	11.37- 15.90		13.50
Apr.-June--	12.28- 15.90		14.32
July-Sept--	12.85- 15.95		14.74
Oct.-Dec---	10.16- 16.90		14.50
1977:			
Jan.-Mar---	13.44- 17.25		15.06
Apr.-June--	13.36- 17.25		14.79
July-Sept--	12.70- 18.15		14.88
Oct.-Dec---	12.67- 18.15		14.99
1978:			
Jan.-Mar---	13.66- 19.06		16.24
Apr.-June--	15.03- 19.93		17.83
July-Sept--	16.09- 22.00		19.10
Oct.-Dec---	16.72- 22.36		19.85
Cap screws, grade 8, 3/8" - 16 x 1			
1975:			
Jan.-Mar---	25.82- 33.82		28.67
Apr.-June--	19.35- 33.09		23.13
July-Sept--	22.45- 29.79		26.12
Oct.-Dec.--	20.24- 29.79		25.02
1976:			
Jan.-Mar---	20.24- 29.79		25.02
Apr.-June--	22.09- 27.82		24.96
July-Sept--	21.40- 29.77		24.86
Oct.-Dec---	21.40- 29.77		24.72
1977:			
Jan.-Mar---	22.54- 40.30		27.63
Apr.-June--	21.40- 40.30		27.87
July-Sept--	21.28- 40.30		26.41
Oct.-Dec---	21.67- 40.30		27.12
1978:			
Jan.-Mar---	22.70- 44.10		29.38
Apr.-June--	23.90- 44.10		31.76
July-Sept--	26.39- 55.00		37.93
Oct.-Dec---	28.42- 52.50		38.16

<sup>1/</sup> Weighted averages are used for the specified periods January 1975-June 1975; simple averages are used for the specified periods July 1975-Dec. 1978.

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



Table 7.--Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Ranges and averages 1/ of lowest net selling prices received by importers to distributors, by specified periods, January 1975-Dec. 1978

Import Price		
Period	Range	Average
	Per 1,000 pieces	Per 1,000 pieces
Hexagon Nuts, 1/4" - 20		
1975:		
Jan.-Mar----	1.36- 10.00	2.08
Apr.-June--	1.46- 10.00	2.35
July-Sept--	1.60- 2.70	2.05
Oct.-Dec.---	1.50- 2.70	2.14
1976:		
Jan.-Mar----	1.71- 2.70	2.21
Apr.-June--	1.71- 2.61	2.17
July-Sept--	1.68- 2.84	2.31
Oct.-Dec.---	1.80- 3.01	2.35
1977:		
Jan.-Mar----	2.10- 2.94	2.47
Apr.-June--	2.10- 2.94	2.40
July-Sept--	2.00- 3.10	2.47
Oct.-Dec.---	2.20- 3.10	2.52
1978:		
Jan.-Mar----	2.44- 3.50	2.84
Apr.-June--	2.87- 4.60	3.96
July-Sept--	3.65- 4.91	4.24
Oct.-Dec.---	3.55- 4.91	4.16
Hexagon Nuts 1/2" - 13		
1975:		
Jan.-Mar----	8.80- 37.80	11.36
Apr.-June--	9.85- 37.80	11.43
July-Sept--	8.75- 14.50	11.55
Oct.-Dec.---	8.79- 13.50	11.25
1976:		
Jan.-Mar----	9.15- 13.50	11.79
Apr.-June--	9.00- 14.98	12.22
July-Sept--	8.84- 15.44	12.78
Oct.-Dec.---	10.67- 15.73	13.07
1977:		
Jan.-Mar----	10.60- 15.19	12.76
Apr.-June--	10.58- 14.02	12.51
July-Sept--	9.13- 16.90	12.66
Oct.-Dec.---	10.04- 16.90	12.77
1978:		
Jan.-Mar----	10.49- 18.50	14.01
Apr.-June--	10.68- 23.28	18.59
July-Sept--	14.49- 24.60	20.54
Oct.-Dec.---	17.00- 24.60	20.73

1/ Weighted averages are used for the specified periods January 1975-June 1975; simple averages are used for the specified periods July 1975-Dec. 1978.

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

Table 8.--Bolts, nuts, and large screws: Ranges and averages 1/ of lowest net selling prices received by importers to distributors, by specified periods, January 1975-Dec. 1978

		Import Price	
Period	Range	Average	
	Per 1,000 pieces	Per 1,000 pieces	
Structural bolts, A325, with nut, 3/4" x 2			
1975:			
Jan.-Mar---	251.00- 397.20		314.32
Apr.-June--	234.82- 397.20		268.50
July-Sept--	226.36- 313.33		262.52
Oct.-Dec.---	210.00- 282.00		237.34
1976:			
Jan.-Mar---	212.50- 282.00		238.95
Apr.-June--	189.00- 282.00		239.13
July-Sept--	217.00- 282.00		238.62
Oct.-Dec.---	194.00- 298.73		231.91
1977:			
Jan.-Mar---	204.09- 283.74		232.33
Apr.-June--	203.00- 283.74		230.17
July-Sept--	205.29- 283.74		243.65
Oct.-Dec.---	205.97- 288.31		248.71
1978:			
Jan.-Mar---	246.00- 293.69		275.18
Apr.-June--	267.72- 346.00		306.03
July-Sept--	295.42- 373.69		333.29
Oct.-Dec.---	310.75- 411.06		344.06
Carriage bolts, 3/8" x 3"			
1975:			
Jan.-Mar---	25.47- 66.20		30.01
Apr.-June--	22.63- 66.20		28.12
July-Sept--	21.30- 39.88		30.77
Oct.-Dec.---	29.34- 37.77		32.23
1976:			
Jan.-Mar---	21.94- 37.77		31.21
Apr.-June--	24.93- 37.77		32.32
July-Sept--	29.60- 39.20		32.94
Oct.-Dec.---	29.23- 38.85		34.01
1977:			
Jan.-Mar---	29.50- 41.36		36.14
Apr.-June--	28.50- 42.02		35.09
July-Sept--	26.00- 47.08		35.37
Oct.-Dec.---	29.58- 47.08		35.85
1978:			
Jan.-Mar---	31.29- 47.08		38.47
Apr.-June--	34.24- 46.35		41.86
July-Sept--	40.10- 47.61		44.75
Oct.-Dec.---	42.00- 50.93		45.09

1/ Weighted averages are used for the specified periods January 1975-June 1975; simple averages are used for the specified periods July 1975-Dec. 1978.

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

Library Cataloging Data

U.S. International Trade Commission.

Bolts, nuts, and large screws of iron and steel. Report to the President on investigation No. 332-103 under section 332(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930. Washington, 1979

28 cm. (USITC Publication  
963)

1. Bolts and nuts. 2. Screws. I. Title.

UNITED STATES  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20436

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Postage And Fees Paid  
U.S. International Trade Commission



**ADDRESS CHANGE**

- Remove from List
  - Change as Shown
- Please detach address