

# THE UNITED STATES (U.S.) STEEL IMPORT CRISIS AND THE GLOBAL PRODUCTION OVERCAPACITY TILL 2016

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The aim of the present research is to examine and evaluate the swift growth in surplus steel production capacity and international supply chain integration, the effects of steel manufacturing on U.S. employment, raising imports of unfairly traded steel and steel goods, and the global steel sector's structural overcapacity. This paper contributes to the literature by providing evidence on the mechanisms forming the foundation of the first-rate productivity growth in the U.S. steel industry, models of growth in the international steel supply chains, and the advantages of adequate trade remedy implementation for the U.S. steel sector.

*Key words:* steel industry, U.S., import, crisis, global production overcapacity

## INTRODUCTION

The United States (U.S.) steel sector is in the thick of an import crisis developing from a convergence of forces comprising the fast growing excess in international steel capacity and a rise in dishonest import competition. The international steel industry has been troubled by uneconomic production capacity supplements which bring about market-distorting escalations [1-3] of exports by other nations in periods of economic hardship. The steel sector's capital intensity, associated with state backing for overseas steel manufacturers, generates surplus capacity and production. The massive and developing overhang is a serious matter for steel manufacturers at a global scale, impelling the international sector's operation to degrees that may be more inferior than that undergone throughout the former crisis. The swift growth in surplus international steel manufacturing capacity has brought about increasing U.S. imports, decreasing import prices, and dropping medium unit values, which have diminished internal steel manufacturing and returns (a chief cause for overcapacity in the steel industry is powerful government backing for steel in economies around the world). The steel sector is predisposed to structural manufacturing overcapacity, which has generated the introduction of antidumping and offsetting duties on several steel goods. [4]

## THE U.S. STEEL SECTOR'S LIABILITY TO DISHONEST COMPETITION

The North American steel sector powerfully backs the enforcement of an internal pro-production program to make sure U.S. producers can struggle in the current

international economy. Steel and other U.S. producers keep on tackling relevant trade challenges from overseas government trade-distorting schemes and practices. Tax reform should as well be adjusted toward making U.S. manufacturers more competitive at a worldwide scale, thus backing tax code provisions that decrease the expenditure of capital. The U.S. should moderate CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations internationally without winding down the competitiveness and growth chances of internal steel manufacturers.

Overseas government subventions and other market-distorting schemes in the steel industry have brought about substantial international steel overcapacity that, associated with slow global demand and import obstacles in other markets [5-7], has led to significant levels of steel imports into the U.S. market, encapsulating a historically-high share of market portion and affecting thousands of U.S. jobs everywhere in the steelmaking supply chain (more effective endeavors should be made by the U.S. government to challenge overseas trade distorting practices that have been instrumental in international steel surplus capacity and generate rises in imports). [8] (Figures 1-2)

Output growth in steel is well-nigh unambiguously impelled by process innovation, and not via the launch of new products. The U.S. steel sector furloughed about 75 % of its personnel between 1962 and 2015, or about 450 000 workers. This radical drop in hiring has widespread economic and social consequences. Production per employee increased by a factor of five, and total factor productivity (TFP) raised by 38 %, making the steel industry one of the swiftest developing of the production sectors. The chief grounds for the fast productivity growth and the linked drop in hiring [9-11] can be unswervingly related to the launch of a new manufacturing technology, the steel minimill. We can straightaway ascribe about half of the aggregate output growth in steel to

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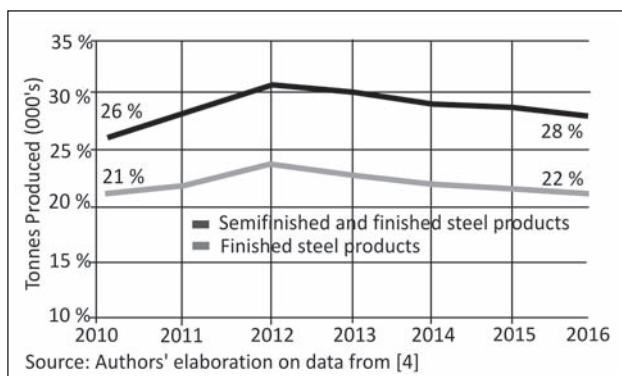


Figure 1 Import share of U.S. steel products market 2010-2016

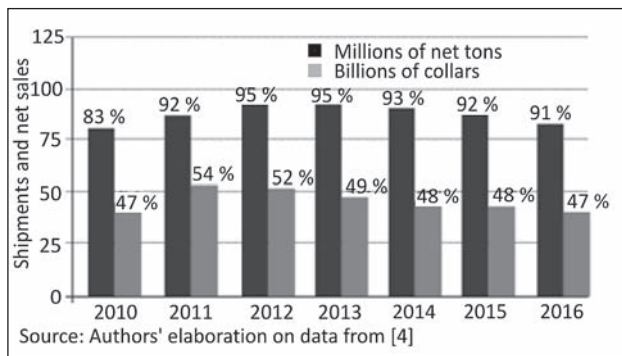


Figure 2 U.S. steel shipments and net sales 2010-2016

the introduction of this technology. The launch of minimills in steel manufacturing represented a radical alteration in the current manufacturing process of steel goods. Quantitatively, the steel sector's participation in import and unionization rates is not different from the standard for U.S. production, and its TFP growth is remarkable. The decrease in demand for U.S. steel manufacturers and the modification in the market-shares routes across goods indicate radical alterations in contest in the steel market. Net incomes have constantly dropped over time and are compatible with the decrease in prices and external measures of convergence announced for the steel industry (net incomes dropped as the product market for steel came to be more aggressive). [12]

For a great extent of time, the U.S. steel sector has been regarded as a leading indicator of the American manufacturing index and of the entire economy. The steel sector has made a lagging improvement since the 2008 depression, which led to demand and prices to unexpectedly collapse. This restoration, which has left manufacturing short of pre-crisis levels, has been extensively impelled by substantial demand in the automotive, energy and manufacturing industries.

The U.S. steel market is presently confronting three main headwinds: decreasing prices, overstock and overseas steel dumping. The decrease in both oil prices and drilling rig counts has severely dropped demand for tubular goods and flat-rolled goods employed to primarily produce the former. Important U.S. manufacturers are cooperating with Congress to adopt trade advancement authority legislation to employ tariffs and other remedies for overseas manufacturers presently saturating the market. Several primary manufacturers in North Amer-

ica are completely vertically assimilated and have inconstant cost structures that enable them to withstand declines. With anticipated downturns in yearly output, conjugated with decreasing prices because of international overstock, the U.S. steel sector may undergo rises in corporate reinforcements and bankruptcies. Corporations with purchasers in the steel manufacturing and steel services industries should employ circumspection when extending credit to the former because of enhanced unpredictability. [13]

## THE EFFECTS OF STEEL MANUFACTURING ON U.S. EMPLOYMENT

Employees in the internal steel sector have experienced lost jobs and diminished wages (if imports keep on growing, internal manufacturers and steelmakers will unavoidably undergo diminished output, persistent operating losses, and unemployment). Rising imports of unfairly traded steel are a constant menace to the soundness of the internal steel sector, decreasing its prices and markups, and taking market portion and production away from U.S. steel manufacturers. As a capital-intensive, periodic business, internal steel manufacturers rely on gaining permanent, substantial profits during restorations for the purpose of compensating losses during downswings. Swiftly expanding imports of semi-finished and finished steel goods have affected internal manufacturers and steelmakers by supplanting manufacturing and sales of internally produced steel goods, diminishing U.S. steel manufacturing and employment. Several sections of the steel sector are experiencing considerable harm because of the crisis in overcapacity and increasing steel imports. If jobs are lost in the steel sector, this will affect negatively hiring in the U.S. economy. Up to 600 000 jobs backed by the steel sector are in an endangered state if rising imports of unfairly traded steel are enabled to displace internal steel manufacturing. [4] (Figure 3)

As a capital-intensive industry tackling fierce contest in the U.S. and international markets, the former steel sector backs tax policies that will balance the global playing sphere and make U.S. companies more aggressive throughout the world. In capital intensive sectors, like iron and steel, new investment judgments are mostly impelled by the expenditure of capital and the rate of profit on an investment. [8]

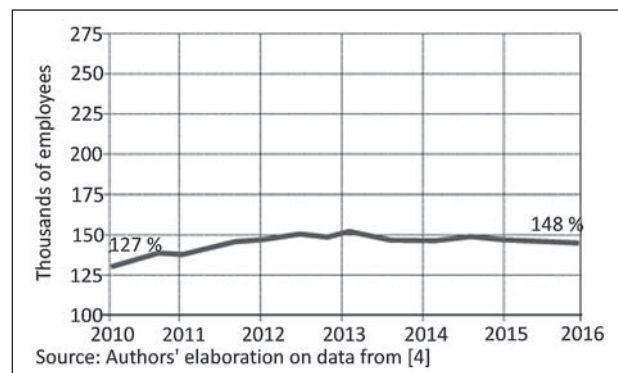


Figure 3 U.S. steel employment 2010-2016

## ADEQUATE TRADE REMEDY IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE U.S. STEEL SECTOR

The structural stimulants for the U.S. to keep on backing uneconomic investments in the steel sector carry on, and massive capacity overhangs persist in handling over-supplies in international steel provision and surges of unfairly traded imports when meltdown strikes. The U.S. trade remedy system is specifically adequate to furnish assistance concerning the harm generated by escalations in unfairly traded steel imports. The assistance that the domestic steel sector and its employees can get via reliable and successful application of U.S. trade remedy laws is crucial to the sector's viability. Just as successful application of the trade remedy laws provides significant advantages to the internal steel sector and its employees, the rejection of import assistance can maintain the sector liable to additional harm. [4]

The U.S. steel sector, characterized by restructuring and stagnant capacity, is at a decisive moment, although it has long been a strong pillar in U.S. production. There is a demand for coordinated industry endeavor to attract, instruct, and preserve new experienced personnel [14-15], as a critical element in restoring the internal steel industry. The responsibility is on the U.S. steel sector to address the present skills gap on its own interest with an interconnected endeavor to regenerate its personnel. The associated international iron and steel markets have lately varied from a condition of slow downturn, to expanding growth. For the steel sector to enlarge its employee base [16] will be an intricate operation at the junction of chance and challenge. The talent crunch appears not to be diminishing, and thus the demand of creative advances reinforces the U.S. steel industry's personnel base. A sound steel sector is decisive to the U.S. economy, granted relevant multiplier consequences in some economic indicators. Stimulating seeking of jobs in manufacturing industries may demand deftly enhanced marketing communications concerning the prevalent growth determinants for the U.S. steel sector. The latter is at a stimulating moment, and if it deals with the difficult tasks encountered it may brace itself for revived leadership in the international market. [17]

## CONCLUSIONS

Dishonest trade in steel goods has generated another crisis in the steel sector which may bring about additional insolvencies and shakeup or destruction of U.S. steel capacity. Besides the jobs lost, rising imports of unfairly traded steel displacing internal steel manufacturing would cut down links between steelworkers and steel-consuming industries. The harm of the U.S. steel manufacturing base may raise the liability of U.S. production to supply disturbances and to rapacious practices in steel and a broad range of steel-using sectors. The lagging economic improvement has stamped out request for steel in the U.S. and intensified the vulnerability of internal manufacturers to escalations of dumped

and subsidized imports of steel and steel goods. Substantial government backing for and participation in the international steel sector, associated with stimulants to export dumped steel in periods of economic decline, make the steel sector structurally liable to persistent rises in exports of unfairly traded steel. The U.S. market, with its considerable magnitude and open-market requirements, is a main objective for steel exports when the international industry undertakes a crisis period. [4]

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