

**STAINLESS STEEL AND ALLOY TOOL STEEL :
U. S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS,
EMPLOYMENT, MAN-HOURS, AND PRICES
FIRST CALENDAR QUARTER 1979**

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



USITC PUBLICATION 973

May 1979

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

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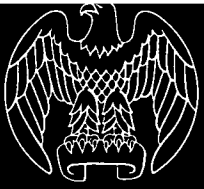
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USITC PUBLISHES 12TH QUARTERLY REPORT ON CERTAIN STATISTICS FOR THE SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY

The United States International Trade Commission has completed its 12th quarterly statistical report on specialty steel, required under Presidential Proclamation No. 4445. The report, covering the first quarter of 1979, provides information necessary for the monitoring of the orderly marketing agreement (OMA) between the United States and Japan, which limits imports into the United States of specialty steel from Japan, and quantitative limitations imposed on imports of specialty steel from other countries. The data cover U.S. production, shipments, employment, and net selling prices.

According to the USITC report, domestic production of specialty steel for the first quarter of 1979 was 349,000 tons, or 21 percent higher than in the corresponding period of 1978. Domestic shipments increased in January-March 1979 to 344,000 tons, compared with 288,000 tons in January-March 1978.

Employment in the specialty steel industry during January-March 1979 averaged 27,104 workers, up 2,289 workers or 9 percent from the January-March 1978 average; production and related workers accounted for 75 percent of total employment. Increases in employment occurred in all stainless steel and alloy tool steel categories, except plate.

more

USITC PUBLISHES 12TH QUARTERLY REPORT ON CERTAIN STATISTICS FOR THE SPECIALTY
STEEL INDUSTRY

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Man-hours worked in the specialty steel industry increased from 9.3 million man-hours in January-March 1978 to 10.3 million man-hours in the corresponding period of 1979, or by about 10 percent. Man-hours worked increased in all stainless steel and alloy tool steel categories.

Average quarterly prices increased for 11 of 16 products surveyed and decreased for 2 products; price data were unchanged for 3 products. The average price increase was 6.0 percent, and the average price decrease was 1.9 percent.

The report is sent to the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, who is responsible for monitoring the OMA implemented by the Presidential proclamation.

Copies of the report (USITC Publication 973) can be obtained by calling (202) 523-5178, or from the Office of the Secretary, 701 E Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20436.

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Summary Highlights of Economic Conditions in the Stainless Steel and Alloy Tool Steel Industry in the First Calendar Quarter of 1979

U.S. production

Production of stainless steel and alloy tool steel in the first quarter of 1979 was 349,000 tons, an increase of 21 percent over the same period in 1978, and 10 percent over the fourth quarter of 1978.

U.S. shipments

Shipments of stainless steel and alloy tool steel in the first quarter of 1979 were 344,000 tons, an increase of 19 percent over the same period in 1978 and 17 percent over the fourth quarter of 1978.

Employment

The number of persons employed in establishments in which stainless steel and alloy tool steel were produced averaged 27,104 in the first quarter of 1979, an increase of 9 percent over the same period in 1978, and 6 percent over the fourth quarter of 1978. The number of production and related workers employed in these establishments in the first quarter of 1979 averaged 20,463, an increase of 9 percent over the same period in 1978, and 6 percent over those employed in the fourth quarter of 1978.

Man-hours worked

Man-hours worked in the production of stainless steel and alloy tool steel totaled 10.3 million man-hours in the first quarter of 1979, an increase of 11 percent over both the first quarter of 1978 and the fourth quarter of 1978.

Prices

Average quarterly prices for eleven products increased an average of 6.0 percent; prices for two products declined an average of 1.9 percent.

Table 1.--Stainless steel and alloy tool steel: U.S. production, by types, 1974-78 and specified periods, January 1978-March 1979

Period	(In tons)						Tool steel, all forms
	Stainless steel						
	Sheet and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod	Total		
1974-----	820,025	144,344	176,245	63,281	1,203,895	124,537	
1975-----	417,308	111,760	100,073	28,306	657,447	65,489	
1976-----	743,036	95,921	119,529	36,152	994,638	68,668	
1977-----	754,170	106,121	142,488	31,536	1,034,315	67,481	
1978 <u>1/</u> -----	859,885	132,973	148,127	39,936	1,180,921	72,869	
1978:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
January-March-----	192,870	32,467	37,760	6,511	269,608	18,045	
April-June-----	235,311	31,877	43,459	8,619	319,266	18,588	
July-September----	216,016	29,078	31,891	11,704	288,689	18,017	
October-December--	212,459	30,939	40,058	11,770	295,226	20,285	
1979:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
January-March-----	230,089	38,322	46,448	14,083	328,942	20,351	
1979:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
January-----	72,933	12,245	14,832	4,456	104,466	6,864	
February-----	71,993	10,609	15,001	3,496	101,099	6,240	
March-----	85,163	15,468	16,615	6,131	123,377	7,247	
	:	:	:	:	:	:	

1/ The total for 1978 does not equal the quarterly totals for 1978 because of adjustments and corrections made by some companies in their questionnaires to the Commission.

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

Table 2.--Stainless steel and alloy tool steel: U.S. producers' shipments, by types, 1974-78 and specified periods, January 1978-March 1979

Period	(In tons)						Tool steel, all forms
	Sheet and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod	Total		
1974-----	825,298	140,167	168,460	25,816	1,159,741	104,555	
1975-----	440,696	109,696	111,781	10,453	672,626	71,272	
1976-----	692,399	93,668	120,893	17,397	924,357	69,111	
1977-----	728,487	98,587	139,006	22,989	989,069	67,960	
1978 1/-----	826,105	129,811	152,914	25,346	1,134,176	74,052	
1978:							
January-March-----	197,180	33,081	36,288	5,329	271,878	16,513	
April-June-----	223,793	29,435	41,809	7,004	302,041	19,425	
July-September----	201,359	30,513	34,734	6,091	272,697	18,988	
October-December--	198,507	30,709	38,110	7,878	275,204	18,786	
1979:							
January-March-----	234,367	35,945	42,113	9,116	321,541	22,843	
1979:							
January-----	76,562	11,747	13,794	2,858	104,961	7,067	
February-----	72,274	11,904	11,392	2,262	97,832	6,898	
March-----	85,531	12,294	16,927	3,996	118,748	8,878	

1/ The total for 1978 does not equal the quarterly totals for 1978 because of adjustments and corrections made by some companies in their questionnaires to the Commission.

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

Table 3.--Average number of all persons employed in U.S. establishments in which stainless steel and alloy tool steel were produced, 1974-78 and specified periods, January 1978-March 1979

Period	Stainless steel					Total	Tool steel, all forms
	Sheet and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod			
1974-----	15,271	3,130	6,666	734	25,801	6,210	
1975-----	9,288	2,236	5,050	386	16,960	4,741	
1976-----	11,903	2,307	5,249	618	20,077	4,690	
1977-----	11,566	2,253	5,703	656	20,178	4,157	
1978-----	11,788	2,507	5,919	686	20,900	4,286	
1978:							
January-March----	11,934	2,628	5,832	535	20,929	3,886	
April-June-----	11,274	2,389	6,137	643	20,443	4,102	
July-September----	12,131	2,575	5,742	723	21,171	4,622	
October-December--	11,810	2,437	5,966	844	21,057	4,535	
1979:							
January-March----	12,519	2,586	6,485	882	22,472	4,632	
1979:							
January-----	12,462	2,552	6,376	811	22,201	4,607	
February-----	12,467	2,486	6,356	756	22,065	4,510	
March-----	12,628	2,719	6,724	1,079	23,150	4,779	

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

Table 4.--Average number of production and related workers employed in U.S. establishments in which stainless steel and alloy tool steel were produced, 1974-78 and specified periods, January 1978-March 1979

Period	Stainless steel					Total	Tool steel, all forms
	Sheet and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod			
1974-----	12,439	2,397	4,136	501	19,473	4,351	
1975-----	7,331	1,807	3,255	288	12,681	3,421	
1976-----	9,360	1,715	3,613	439	15,127	3,497	
1977-----	9,302	1,656	4,001	455	15,414	3,059	
1978-----	9,425	1,857	4,152	482	15,916	3,100	
1978:							
January-March-----	9,468	2,008	4,086	368	15,930	2,797	
April-June-----	9,132	1,725	4,328	470	15,655	2,930	
July-September----	9,781	1,872	3,999	501	16,153	3,363	
October-December--	9,320	1,824	4,195	589	15,926	3,308	
1979:							
January-March-----	9,968	1,882	4,547	674	17,071	3,392	
1979:							
January-----	9,967	1,867	4,488	626	16,948	3,389	
February-----	9,977	1,797	4,425	574	16,773	3,393	
March-----	9,961	1,981	4,728	823	17,493	3,393	

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

Table 5.--Man-hours worked by production and related workers in U.S. establishments in which stainless steel and alloy tool steel were produced, 1974-78 and specified periods, January 1978-March 1979

(In thousands)

Period	Stainless steel					Total	Tool steel, all forms
	Sheet and strip	Plate	Bar	Rod			
1974-----	21,858	4,977	9,748	1,068	37,651	9,942	
1975-----	12,974	3,266	6,604	428	23,272	5,624	
1976-----	16,767	3,033	7,014	682	27,496	6,025	
1977-----	17,816	3,044	8,201	917	29,878	5,628	
1978 1/-----	18,849	3,580	8,546	961	31,936	5,210	
1978:							
January-March-----	4,687	949	2,110	174	7,920	1,355	
April-June-----	4,979	869	2,291	229	8,368	1,479	
July-September-----	4,749	907	1,854	241	7,751	1,465	
October-December--	4,553	846	2,044	297	7,740	1,558	
1979:							
January-March-----	4,982	964	2,322	326	8,594	1,748	
1979:							
January-----	1,648	314	752	103	2,817	590	
February-----	1,598	295	719	86	2,698	550	
March-----	1,736	355	851	137	3,079	608	

1/ The total for 1978 does not equal the quarterly total for 1978 because of adjustments and corrections made by some companies in their questionnaires to the Commission.

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

Table 6.--Stainless steel sheet (cold rolled): Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices, price at which the largest volume was shipped, and average unit value of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers of selected types of sheet to steel service centers or distributors, by months, 1979

(In cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Average unit value of total quantity shipped
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	
Grade 430, 2B finish, 20 gauge x coil					
1979:					
January-----	95 :	95 :	95 :	95 :	95
February-----	95 :	95 :	95 :	95 :	95
March-----	95 :	95 :	95 :	95 :	95
Grade 304, 2B finish, 8-14 gauge x 36" x coil					
1979:					
January-----	80-84 :	82 :	80-84 :	83 :	83
February-----	80-84 :	82 :	80-84 :	83 :	83
March-----	80-84 :	82 :	80-84 :	83 :	83

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

Note.--The number of domestic producers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 7.--Stainless steel plate (hot rolled): Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices, price at which the largest volume was shipped, and average unit value of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers of selected types of plate to steel service centers or distributors, by months, 1979

(In cents per pound)						
Grade 304, HRAP, 1/4" x 72" x 240"						
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Average unit value of total quantity shipped	
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average		
1979:						
January-----	88-95	90	90-95	91		91
February-----	88-95	92	90-95	93		93
March-----	88-95	92	90-95	93		93

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

Note.--The number of domestic producers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 8.--Stainless steel bars: Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices, price at which the largest volume was shipped, and average unit value of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers of selected types of bars to steel service centers or distributors, by months, 1979

(In cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Average unit value of total quantity shipped
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	
Grade 303, cold finish, 1/2" round					
1979:					
January-----	118-130	122	124-130	127	127
February-----	118-130	122	124-130	127	127
March-----	118-130	122	124-130	127	127
Grade 304, cold finished, 1-1/2" round					
1979:					
January-----	101-107	103	101-118	110	109
February-----	103-111	108	103-118	110	110
March-----	105-111	110	103-118	110	110

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

Note.--The number of domestic producers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 9.--Stainless steel bar: Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices, price at which the largest volume was shipped, and average unit value of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers of selected types of bar to steel service centers or distributors, by months, 1979

(In cents per pound)

Grade 416, cold finished, 2" round						
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Average unit value of total quantity shipped	
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average		
1979:						
January-----	95-102	97	100	100		98
February-----	95	95	100	100		99
March-----	95-100	97	100	100		98

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

Note.--The number of domestic producers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 10.--High-speed tool steel bars: Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices, price at which the largest volume was shipped, and average unit value of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers of selected types of bars to steel service centers or distributors, by months, 1979

(In cents per pound)					
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Average unit value of total quantity shipped
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	
Grade M2, 1" round x random lengths					
1979:					
January-----	294-473	367	294-473	375	370
February-----	297-575	389	297-575	415	401
March-----	295-417	349	297-417	385	365
Grade 0-1, 1" x 4", cold finished, decarb free					
1979:					
January-----	154-202	176	154-202	176	176
February-----	154-202	176	154-202	176	176
March-----	154-202	172	172-202	184	184

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

Note.--The number of domestic producers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 11.--Stainless steel strip: Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices, price at which the largest volume was shipped, and average unit value of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers of selected types of strip to end-use customers, by months, 1979

(In cents per pound)						
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Average unit value of total quantity shipped	
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average		
Grade 430, 2 finish, .060" x 3" to 12" x coil						
1979:						
January-----	76-82	80	83		83	82
February-----	76-86	82	86		86	84
March-----	76-85	81	85		85	83
Grade 430, 2 finish, .02" x 1" to under 1-1/2" x coil						
1979:						
January-----	86-89	87	89		89	88
February-----	86-95	90	93-95		94	92
March-----	86-95	90	95		95	92

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

Note.--The number of domestic producers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 12.--Stainless steel strip: Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices, price at which the largest volume was shipped, and average unit value of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers of selected types of strip to end-use customers, by months, 1979

(In cents per pound)						
Grade 434, 2 finish, BA .017 to under .020" x 1" to under 1-1/2" x coil						
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Average unit value of total quantity shipped	
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average		
1979:	:	:	:	:	:	:
January-----	92-105	98	92-105	98	98	98
February-----	92-105	98	92-105	98	98	98
March-----	92-105	98	92-105	98	98	98
	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

Note.--The number of domestic producers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 13.--Stainless steel sheet (cold rolled): Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices, price at which the largest volume was shipped, and average unit value of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers of selected types of sheet to end-use customers, by months, 1979

(In cents per pound)						
Grade 304, 2 finish, .035" to under .050" x over 12" to under 18" coil						
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Average unit value of total quantity shipped	
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average		
1979:						
January-----	94- 99	95	94- 99	95		95
February-----	94-104	99	94-104	99		99
March-----	93-104	99	93-104	99		99

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

Note.--The number of domestic producers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 14.--Stainless steel wire rod: Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices, price at which the largest volume was shipped, and average unit value of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers of selected types of rod to end-use customers, by months, 1979

(In cents per pound)

Grade 304, .250" to .287" round						
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Average unit value of total quantity shipped	
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average		
1979:						
January-----	90	90	98	98	95	
February-----	90-99	95	99	99	97	
March-----	90-99	95	98	98	97	

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

Note.--The number of domestic producers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 15.--High speed tool steel bars: Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices, price at which the largest volume was shipped, and average unit value of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers of selected types of bars to end-use customers, by months, 1979

(In cents per pound)						
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Average unit value of total quantity shipped	
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average		
Grade M-7, 1" round x cold finished						
1979:						
January-----	220-260	242	220-260	242		242
February-----	249-260	256	249-260	256		256
March-----	220-260	246	220-260	246		246
Grade M-2, 1" round x random lengths, cold finished						
1979:						
January-----	311-360	331	333-375	358		350
February-----	311-359	331	333-379	363		351
March-----	311-358	331	333-379	363		351

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

Note.--The number of domestic producers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

Table 16.--High-speed tool steel rod: Ranges and weighted averages of lowest net selling prices, price at which the largest volume was shipped, and average unit value of total quantity shipped by U.S. producers of selected types of rod to end-use customers, by months, 1979

(In cents per pound)						
Grade M-7, .250" round x HRA coil						
Year and month	Lowest price		Price at which largest volume was shipped		Average unit value of total quantity shipped	
	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average		
1979:						
January-----	245	245	245	245	245	245
February-----	245	245	245	245	245	245
March-----	245	245	245	245	245	245

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

Note.--The number of domestic producers responding to the request for price data varied from month to month.

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