



Brazil's Flat Steel Exports Jump 292% in August



Brazilian exports of carbon steel sheet products in August jumped 292% from the year-ago month to 315,447 mt, foreign trade ministry data MDIC showed.

In August 2014, the country exported 80,564 mt of carbon steel sheet products, according to MDIC.

Exports of hot-rolled steel goods totaled 256,675 mt, up 293% from 65,283 mt in the same month last year. Cold-rolled coil exports reached 32,279 mt, up 152% from 12,832 mt in August 2014. Hot-dipped galvanized exports were 26,493 mt, up 981% from 2,450 mt. Total exports were valued at \$128.24 million FOB, up 134% from \$54.81 million

FOB a year ago. HRC shipments only were valued at \$98.19 million FOB, up 133% from \$98.19 million FOB in the year-ago month. CRC shipments were up 57% to \$15.83 million FOB from \$10.06 million FOB. Exports of HDG were valued at \$14.21 million FOB, up 462% from \$2.53 million FOB.

In January-August, Brazil sent abroad 1.62 million mt of these products, up 189% from 560,847 mt exported in the same period last year. In monetary terms, exports grew 128% to \$818.85 million FOB. In January-August 2014, total exports were valued at \$358.13 million FOB.

Massive Steel Imports from China, A Worry for Latin America : Alacero



The huge volume of steel product imports into Latin America originating from China is a subject of growing concern, the president of the Latin American steel chamber, Alacero, said.

Martin Berardi said the steel and metal-mechanic sector is worried about the influx of Chinese products in what it sees as unfair trade conditions.

"China's steel exports to Latin America reached 9 million mt in 2014, the equivalent to 13% of the regional steel consumption. These shipments grew 70% in just two years," Berardi said.

In 2013, direct imports to Latin America totaled 5.3 million mt, with indirect imports of 6.5 million mt.

"The huge idle capacity of China in the steel industry 425 million mt, equivalent to 6.6 times the annual output of Latin America and four times the US annual consumption plus zero profitability by Chinese steel companies owned by the state show that China is not a market economy," Berardi said.

In 2014, Latin America received around \$80 billion in manufactured goods from China, he said.

Regarding the direct Chinese investments in Latin America, Berardi said China is "entering in the financing of infrastructure projects and managing special conditions for the supply of manufactured goods. Some agreements avoid bidding processes and eliminate competence. The fundamental problem is unfair competition."

These agreements and the massive entrance of products under unfair competition, Berardi said, are eroding trade in the region.

"When looking at the numbers of exports among the countries of the region, it becomes evident that the massive imports from China are causing loss of interest in regional agreements," he said.

UK Steel Industry in Crisis : Minister



Britain's steel industry is in crisis, the government said during a debate on the sector, promising to talk to China about concerns it is forcing manufacturers out of business by flooding the market with cheap products.

Producing steel profitably in Britain has become increasingly difficult due to cheap imports and a strong currency, plus relatively high energy costs and "green" taxes imposed on heavy industry.

Lawmaker Anna Turley who represents thousands of workers at threatened steelmaker SSI UK, said the industry was at a crisis point due to falling global steel prices

"I wish she weren't right but she is right

it's in crisis," government minister Anna Soubry said in response to Turley during the parliamentary debate.

Media reports have said some 2,000 jobs are directly at risk at SSI UK, a unit of Thailand's Sahaviriya Steel Industries (SSI) (SSI.BK), after the company missed several debt repayments.

Soubry said the government was doing all it could to help the sector, but that its hands were tied by strict European Union state-aid rules and commitments to produce electricity in an environmentally friendly way, not just as cheaply as possible. But she promised to raise allegations of "dumping" by Chinese firms where products are sold at below fair value, depressing prices worldwide. "We want to talk to them about dumping, we want to talk to them about production and we want to talk to them about the future of their own steel industry," Soubry said.

In August, the U.S. Commerce Department said China was dumping steel shelving units in the U.S. market at below fair value and unfairly subsidizing the producers. It said China was dumping the products at margins of up to 112.68 percent, with subsidies ranging as high as 80.45 percent.