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Use of trade data in steel industry analysis

Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics
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The World Steel Association (worldsteel)

- worldsteel is one of the largest and most dynamic industry associations in the world

- worldsteel represents approximately 170 steel producers (including 18 of the world's 20 largest steel companies), national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes

- worldsteel members represent around 85% of world steel production

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Trade of steel products and raw materials
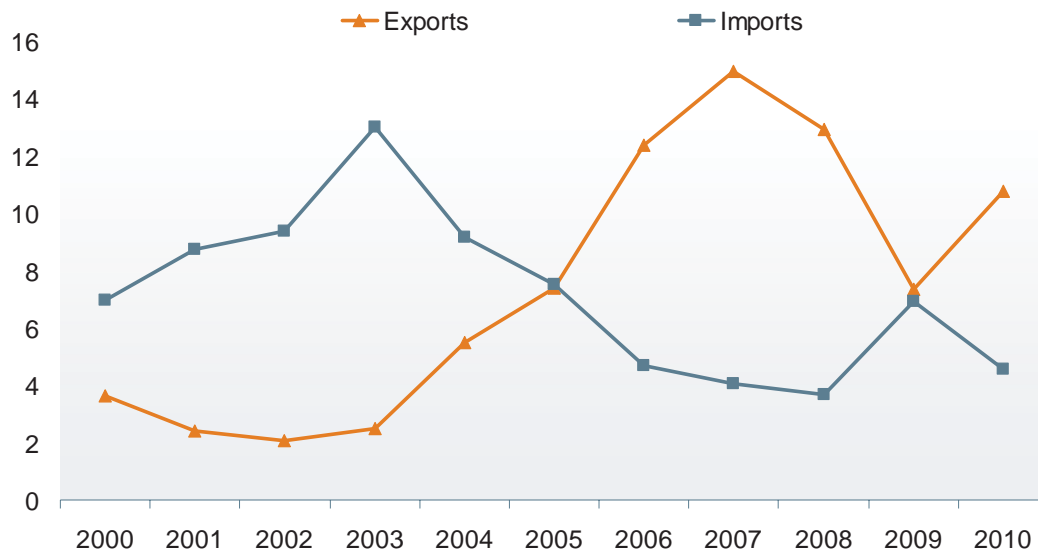
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Key features

- Long series

- Yearly and monthly data collection and publication

- Wide country range

- HS codes: 7206-7306 (steel products), 7204 (scrap) and numerous codes for other raw materials

- Mainly focused on tonnages

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Share of China in global steel trade
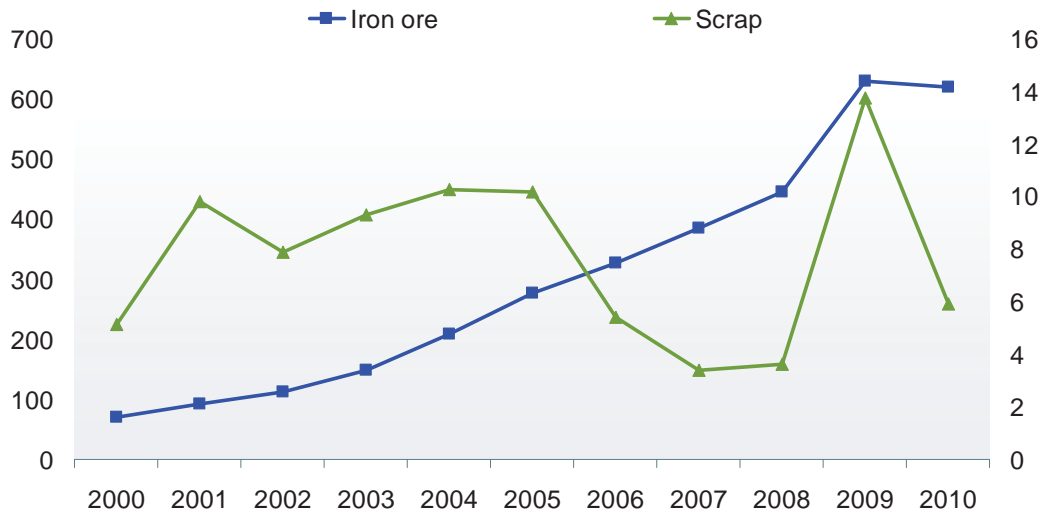2000-2010, semi-finished and finished steel products, %

Source: worldsteel, Steel Statistical Yearbook

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Imports of iron ore and scrap to China
2000-2010, mln tonnes

Source: worldsteel, Steel Statistical Yearbook

Apparent steel use
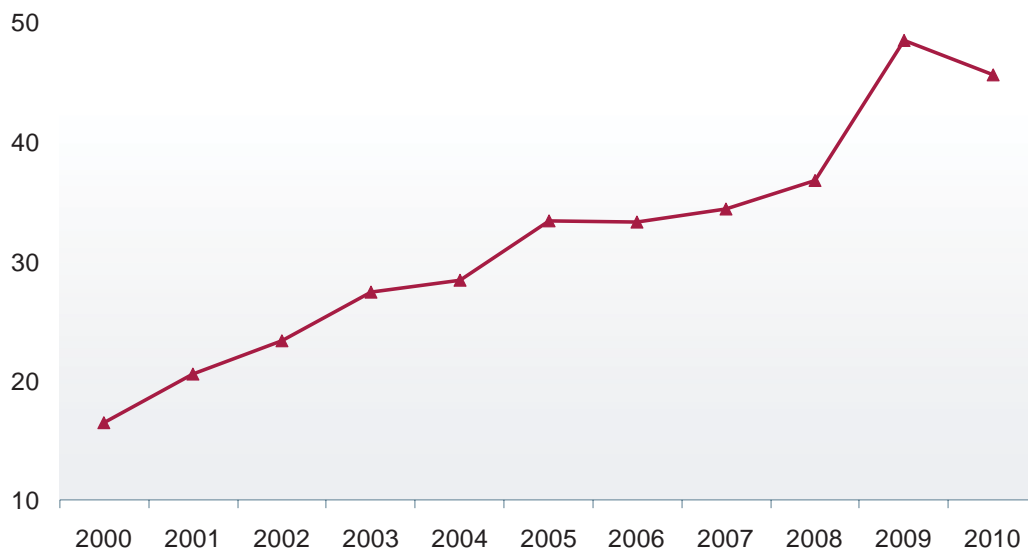
Key features

- Method of calculation:

  apparent steel use (ASU) = deliveries + imports - exports

- ASU represents demand for steel products

- Long series

- Yearly and monthly data collection and publication

- Wide country range

- Mainly focused on tonnages

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Share of China in global steel demand
2000-2010, apparent steel use of finished steel products, %

Source: worldsteel, Steel Statistical Yearbook, Short Range Outlook

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Indirect trade in steel

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Indirect trade in steel: objectives

- True picture of steel use

- Restoring and maintaining the indirect trade database

- Analysis of strategic factors affecting direct and indirect steel trade
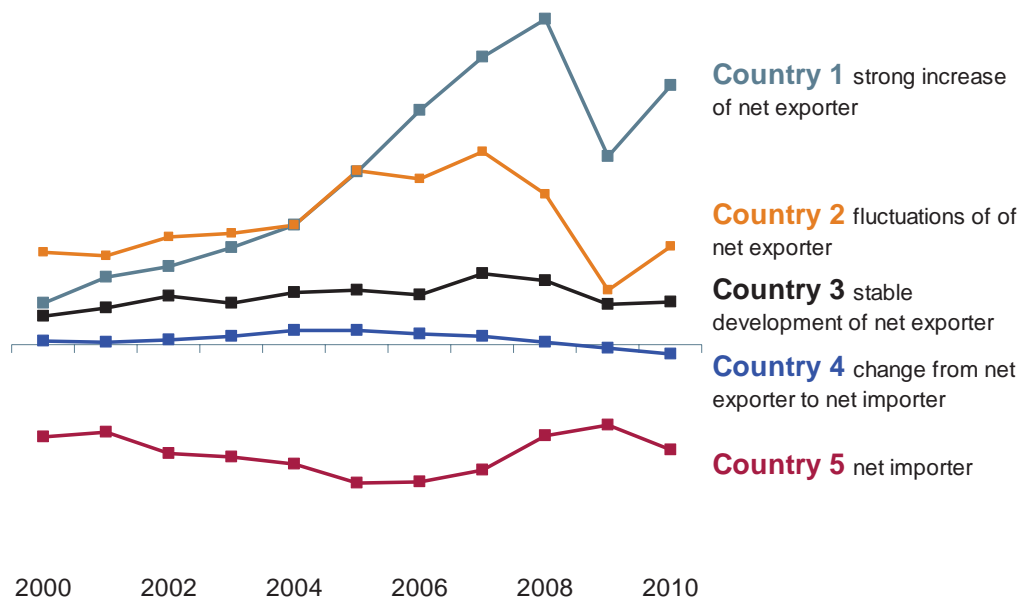
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Key features

- Method of calculation:

  true steel use (TSU) = ASU + net indirect steel imports

- Long series

- Yearly data collection and publication

- Wide country range

- HS codes: 40, 73, 82-89, 94

- Data source: Comtrade, UN Statistics Division

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Quality of data

- Underreporting. Suggested solution: mirror statistics.

- Discrepancies between value and volume reporting (trend and price analysis). Suggested solution: estimation of inconsistent data using ratio based on previous/ following year.

- Missing kg, while other units reported. Suggested solution: estimation of missing data using ratio based on available units (e.g. for previous years or other countries).

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Indirect net exports of steel

Country 1 strong increase of net exporter

Country 2 fluctuations of of net exporter

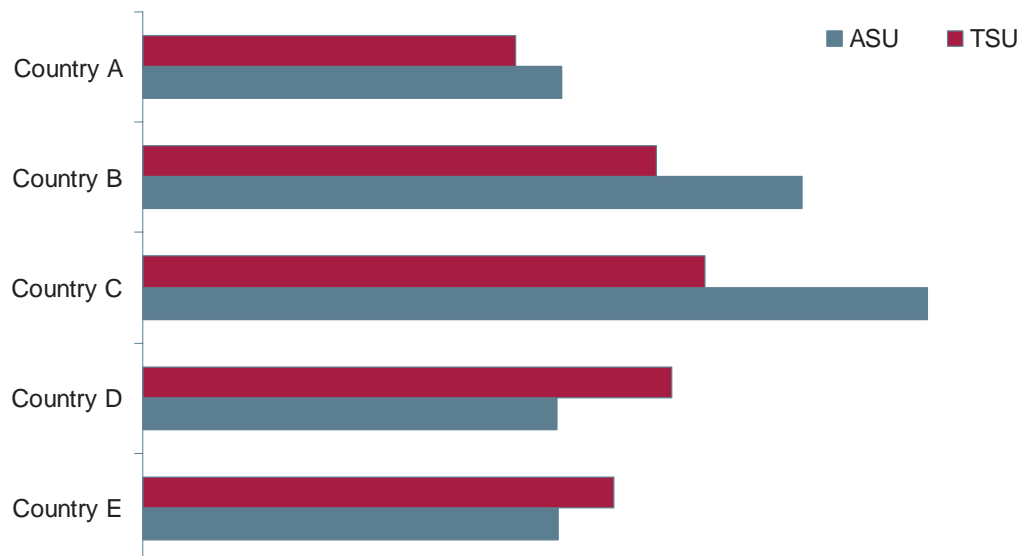**Country 3** stable development of net exporter

Country 4 change from net exporter to net importer

Country 5 net importer

2000　　2002　　2004　　2006　　2008　　2010

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TSU vs. ASU per capita
Comparison of true steel use per capita and apparent steel use per capita, 2008

■ ASU　■ TSU

Country A

Country B

Country C

Country D

Country E

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Summary

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Use of trade data in steel industry analysis

- Frequency: yearly and monthly basis

- Different analysis: trade of steel products, raw materials and steel containing goods

- Element in estimation of steel demand

- Importance of trade data quality

- Importance of tighter cooperation with providers of trade data

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