

EUROPEAN STEEL REVIEW

July 2025

UK importers angered by tighter trade defence measures

Steel importers in the United Kingdom expressed anger about the sudden application of stringent new trade defence measures when talking to MEPS researchers this month.

MEPS's UK steel prices were more stable than those in other European countries after the changes, announced on June 30, were implemented on July 1. The weaker downward pressure on UK prices could be partially attributed to concerns over increased import duties.

Most UK importers had expected 40% caps to be applied to individual nations' use of the quarterly quotas for Category 4 (metallic coated sheet), Category 7 (non-alloy and other alloy quarto plates) and Category 13 (rebar). This had been the recommendation of the Trade Remedies Authority (TRA).

However, following intervention from the nation's Secretary of State for Business and Trade, a 15% cap was applied to coil and sheet, with 20% caps for plate and rebar.

Furthermore, the volume by which the tariff-rate quotas for each of the UK's 14 product categories was due to be liberalised, from July 1, was reduced from 3% to 0.1%. The changes also prevent unused quarterly quotas from being made available in the following quarter. WTO members with a country-specific quota will be prevented from accessing the residual quota in the final quarter of the safeguard year (April 1 to June 30, 2026).

Flat Rolled Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices - Germany

EUR/tonne		Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25
Hot Rolled Coil	High	610	640	650	650	620	570
	Low	580	610	630	630	600	550
Hot Rolled Plate	High	680	700	710	700	670	650
	Low	650	660	670	660	650	630
Cold Rolled Coil	High	700	730	750	750	720	670
	Low	670	710	720	720	700	650
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High	715	750	760	760	730	690
	Low	685	720	740	740	710	670
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High	730	760	780	780	750	730
	Low	700	740	760	760	730	700

Influence of the new quota caps

Despite prices remaining stable in July, just GBP20 per tonne above the four-year lows seen in quarter four last year, UK stockists expect the new import restrictions to prompt an uptick in galvanised coil values. The 15% quota cap leaves South Korea and Vietnam with access to tariff-free quotas of 50,938 tonnes each over the next 12 months. In 2024, 131,097 tonnes of South Korean galvanised coil and 183,848 tonnes of material from Vietnam were imported into the UK.

The influence of the 20% cap will be less pronounced. Import sources without a country-specific quota for plate retain access to a tariff-free quota of 20,155 tonnes over the next 12 months. Only the 37,392 tonnes of South Korean-origin imports exceeded this level in 2024. The TRA's antidumping investigation into South Korean plate may have a greater effect in reducing the influence of this material.

Algerian-origin rebar is likely to be affected by the 20% cap on that product. Imports reached 82,296 tonnes in 2024. The new cap introduces a 19,072-tonne tariff-free limit between July and June.

Importers will be forced to diversify their overseas sources in order to maintain a supply of low-cost material.

Balancing steelmakers' needs with supply requirements

Many UK stockholders say that the changes to the safeguard measures are too heavily focussed on meeting the needs of domestic steelmakers. Tata Steel UK is currently reliant on imports after it stopped steelmaking at Port Talbot, South Wales. However, last October, the TRA created a new 2.3 million tonne per year Category 1B quota for coil and sheets imported to the UK for the purpose of downstream processing.

The UK's revised safeguard measures will have to mitigate the threat of material redirected from the EU and United States. Unless negotiations over "reciprocal" US tariffs – due to be completed by August 1 – also provide reductions in the 50% Section 232 tariff on steel imports, the UK will remain an attractive market for Asian steel producers. The EU's January 1, 2026, introduction of CBAM taxes is also likely to make the UK a more appealing export destination than its neighbouring countries. The UK CBAM is not scheduled for introduction until 2027.

The UK government has now opened consultation on a trade defence mechanism to replace its current tariff-rate quota system, which expires in June 2026. The replacement scheme's importance is clear, as import safeguard measures continue to be the main factor supporting steel prices in an ongoing period of low demand.

Long Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices - Germany

EUR/tonne		Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25
Wire Rod (Drawing Quality)	High	650	650	665	670	660	650
	Low	630	630	635	640	630	620
Medium Sections and Beams	High	780	790	800	790	780	760
	Low	770	770	780	780	770	750
Reinforcing Bar	High	380	380	410	425	400	380
	Low	360	370	390	400	380	370
Merchant Bar	High	280	300	300	300	290	270
	Low	260	280	280	280	270	260

MEPS - Steel Price Index API Line Pipe X60/65 Composite			
	Hot Rolled Plate	Hot Rolled Coil	
	Q1/25	Q2/25	Q1/25
Europe Av			
Non Sour	123.9	123.9	136.5
Sour	141.9	141.9	143.0
			141.3

* Q4/06 = 100 - based on euro values

	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25
Europe Average	101.9	98.6	94.2
Year-on-year % +/-	-0.2	-3.4	-7.1

* Jan 2007 = 100 - based on transaction prices

Flat Products

Coil

Buyers negotiate ‘fire sale’ prices in Northern Europe

Northern Europe's coil buyers described EU mills' low-priced offers of hot rolled material as pre-holiday "fire sales" as values continued to decline, this month.

Major producers negotiated prices as low as EUR510-535 per tonne on special deals, for delivery in September, as they sought to improve their production outlook ahead of the summer holidays. Respondents in Belgium and Germany said that some were still quoting August delivery, indicating weak order books.

Buyers in Belgium say that French service centres are also competing fiercely for sales, offering low prices. Nonetheless, most buyers continue to buy on a "need only" basis.

MEPS's July hot and cold rolled coil prices declined by EUR50 per tonne month-on-month in Belgium, Germany and France.

Despite a weak US dollar, which allows low-cost offers from Asia to undercut even EU mills' lowest prices, imports increasingly lack appeal. A continued absence of clarity on the cost of CBAM taxes, set to be introduced from January 1, 2026, ensure that overseas purchases present a risk to buyers.

Earlier overseas orders continue to fill the EU import safeguard measures' quarterly coil quotas. By July 4, Taiwan had exceeded the 13% cap (112,707 tonnes) on the hot rolled coils quota's "other countries" category. South Korea's 163,078-tonne individual quota was 83% full.

Among the tariff-rate quotas for coated coils, Vietnam had exceeded its 119,429-tonne cap within the "other countries" category's quota for 4A material, by July 4. Meanwhile, China had again used up its individual quota for the 4B coils widely used by Europe's automotive sector, with Turkey and Vietnam having also exceeded their 20% cap in the "other countries" category.

Safeguard changes squeeze galvanised coil supply

MEPS respondents in the United Kingdom expressed concerns about galvanised coil supply, this month. The previous low-cost offers from Vietnam and South Korea are no longer available following the introduction of a 15% cap to individual countries' use of the UK safeguard measures' residual quotas. UK buyers expect prices to rise.

Comparison of Low Market Domestic Basis Prices - Cold Rolled Coil				
price/ tonne	Local currency		US dollars	
	Last Month	This Month	Last Month	This Month
Germany	700	650	796	766
France	700	650	796	766
Italy	670	625	762	736
UK	570	555	770	761
Belgium	700	650	796	766
Spain	685	620	779	730

Note: Exchange rates used for conversion are based on the figures given in our currency exchange rate table.

Flat Rolled Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices

		Germany EUR/t	France EUR/t	Italy EUR/t	UK GBP/t	UK EUR/t	Belgium EUR/t	Spain EUR/t
Hot Rolled Coil	High	570	570	550	500	583	570	550
	Low	550	550	525	480	559	550	530
Hot Rolled Plate	High	650	640	620	600	699	650	640
	Low	630	620	590	570	664	620	610
Cold Rolled Coil	High	670	670	650	585	682	670	650
	Low	650	650	625	555	647	650	620
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High	690	680	660	605	705	690	660
	Low	670	660	635	575	670	670	640
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High	730	730	700	650	758	730	700
	Low	700	700	680	620	723	700	680

Month on Month % Change

Hot Rolled Coil	Low	-8.3	-8.3	-9.5	-2.0	-4.1	-8.3	-10.2
Hot Rolled Plate	Low	-3.1	-3.1	-3.3	-1.7	-3.8	-3.1	-3.2
Cold Rolled Coil	Low	-7.1	-7.1	-6.7	-2.6	-4.6	-7.1	-9.5
HD Galv Coil	Low	-5.6	-7.0	-6.6	0.0	-2.0	-5.6	-7.2
EZ Coated Coil	Low	-4.1	-4.1	-4.2	-0.8	-2.7	-4.1	-4.2

Price & Product Definitions

MEPS International's published price assessments relate to regular business, between buyers and steel mills, for newly produced, prime material, negotiated during the current month, for forward delivery. They refer to commercial grade steel for use in general industrial applications.

Quarterly, half-yearly and annual contract prices are excluded from the MEPS published assessments. These longer-term agreements are calculated using various methods and may not reflect the movements or absolute level of prices negotiated for regular monthly business.

Carbon steel basis prices exclude extras for dimensions of the product – for example thickness, width and diameter. They also exclude extras for coating, when coating is traditionally charged at an additional cost.

All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

Despite tighter trade defence measures, any reduction in supply will have a limited effect on prices in Northern Europe in the months ahead due to continued low demand. MEPS respondents expect CBAM taxes to define the direction of domestic coil prices.

Steelmakers and stockists in Germany are more positive about the longer-term economic outlook following major investments in infrastructure and defence announced by the country's government. However, demand remains at a low level and coil-consuming projects are scarce. An EU-US trade deal would improve buyer confidence.

Fall in South European prices reduces gap to imports

The price of coils in Italy and Spain has fallen by EUR30-60 per tonne, this month, as mills struggle to fill their order books.

Stocks remain high in a context of weak demand and end-users' needs are reduced.

Imports were purchased for delivery ahead of the January 1, 2026, implementation of CBAM taxes. Even though the price gap between third-country and European material has reduced, imports remain competitive due to support from the US dollar-euro exchange rate.

Hot rolled coils were bought from Indonesia for below EUR500 per tonne CIF for November delivery. However, the window is now closing to avoid the CBAM tax. With higher prices but shorter delivery times, Turkish and Indian-origin coil has been a popular alternative to some Asian sources.

Following the opening of the EU import safeguard measures' quarter three quotas, South Korea has used up its hot rolled coil quota, while Taiwan has exceeded the "other countries" category's volume cap. However, the allocations of Vietnam, Japan and Egypt have not been used. Importers have been deterred by provisional antidumping duties.

Turkish producers are making competitive offers of cold rolled coils. The country's quota has already been exceeded, attracting an expected duty of 12%. Nonetheless, the price of Turkish-origin material remains competitive.

Less than half of Taiwan's and Japan's cold rolled coil quotas have been used. Some more recent purchases have also been made from India.

Imports of galvanised material are more challenging. Vietnam has already exceeded its volume cap in the 4A and 4B galvanised coil categories, resulting in duties of 9-11%, while China has again exhausted its own quota of 4B material and Turkey has exceeded its country cap. Moreover, Taiwan's and Turkey's quotas for 4A material are well utilised.

Hopes of future coil price support

Activity has held at low levels, or weakened further, in Southern Europe, this month. The challenges faced by carmaker Stellantis, in Italy, which include the possibility of plant closures, have increased the levels of pessimism among suppliers to the automotive sector. Moreover, the United States' 25% automotive imports tariff is harming exports.

MEPS respondents believe that prices will reach the bottom of the current cycle in July. September price increases could be supported by the influence of CBAM and possible additional protectionist measures. Any EU-US trade deal may lead to an increase in the value of the US dollar, which would also make imports less attractive.

This month, however, distributors' selling prices have continued to decrease in line with their purchasing price, to around EUR640 per tonne, for hot rolled sheets. Material in stock, or on its way, is more expensive than the material they can buy at present, putting many in financial difficulties.

Plate

Pre-holiday sales push erodes European plate prices

Rising pressure to fill order books ahead of Europe's summer holidays prompted plate suppliers to reduce their prices in July.

As mills cut their prices, a combination of high inventories and low demand led to fierce competition among stockists and rerollers. The rush to secure sales continued the recent price weakness in Italy, in particular, where the low point of MEPS's price range declined to EUR590 per tonne – its lowest since December 2020.

Italian suppliers attempting to sell into Germany found transport costs prohibitive, this month. MEPS respondents in France reported similar issues. Some plate buyers, in France, reported improved demand from the country's agriculture sector. However, a shortage of transport capacity caused delayed deliveries.

Low demand in Germany applied downward price pressure as competition for pre-summer sales increased. Hopes of a demand recovery are restricted to the German government's new budget, which includes significant infrastructure investments and a 70% increase in defence spending by 2029. This is unlikely to affect demand in the near term.

MEPS's German prices declined by EUR20 per tonne this month to reach their lowest level since November 2024. Prices in neighbouring Belgium are at their lowest since quarter one of 2021.

Some German mills have announced summer maintenance stoppages of two-to-three weeks. Any reduction in supply is unlikely to be sufficient to support price rises.

Reduced competition from imports

The implementation of CBAM taxes on plate imports into the EU, from January 1, 2026, is likely to support European plate prices in the coming months. However, the European Commission has yet to publish the benchmark emissions figures that will allow EU importers to calculate their cost. Consequently, the appeal of imports is drastically reduced.

Importers in Italy and Spain report that South Korean mills have withdrawn from the market after shipping large volumes to the EU during the first half of the year. The EU safeguard measures' 111,358 tonne quarter three plate quota for South Korea was 51% full by July 4. However, the quotas for India and Indonesia were just 4% and 9% full, respectively, while 11% of the "other countries" quota had been used.

Offers of South Korean-origin plate have also been withdrawn from the United Kingdom after the Trade Remedies Authority opened an antidumping investigation into imports of hot rolled steel plate from that country in early June. Amendments to the UK's safeguard measures also mean that there is now a 20% cap on individual nations' use of the residual category of the quarterly plate quota, further restricting the influence of South Korean imports.

Despite the increased import restrictions, plate stocks remain elevated, with large volumes remaining at EU ports. In the UK, low-cost South Korean-origin plate remains in plentiful supply at Liverpool's port.

Long Products

Rebar & Wire Rod

North European buyers keep purchasing to a minimum

Domestic service centres trading in wire rod and rebar are buying only to meet actual customer orders as the summer holiday period gets underway amid persistent weak demand across Northern Europe.

The ongoing trade uncertainty between the European Union and the United States is adding to buyers' caution. Steel exports from the EU have been largely curtailed by the doubling of the Section 232 import tariff to 50%. The future export of many downstream products will be determined by the outcome of negotiations over the US's "reciprocal" tariffs, which now have an August 1 deadline.

European steel mills were forced to lower their prices, for both spot and contractual business, in recent negotiations. They conceded discounts in an effort to fill their order books for the July to September period.

A reduction in mill production will help minimise the extent of further price erosion, however. MEPS respondents say that wire rod producer Saarstahl is now quoting for deliveries in the second half of September. Market participants in Germany, meanwhile, report that ArcelorMittal Hamburg is pausing its steel mill operations for the whole of September due to scheduled maintenance and weak demand.

Buyers of wire rod and rebar in Germany report that the recently announced increase in public spending – much of which is linked to defence and infrastructure projects – will take time to generate any real pickup in demand. The German government's budget pledge has provided some cause for optimism, however. The ZEW Indicator of Economic Sentiment for Germany improved for a third consecutive month in July, reaching 52.7 points – its highest level since February 2022. The improvement was attributed to a sharp increase in expectations for mechanical engineering and metal production.

In Belgium, high inventories at both mills and stockholders, combined with low levels of steel consumption, notably for residential construction, are weighing down on domestic prices. Demand from the fastener segment is bucking the trend, however.

MEPS respondents say that the imposition of antidumping duties on certain Chinese-origin steel fasteners is supporting the local market.

Activity levels in most of the United Kingdom's rebar and wire rod-consuming sectors remain low. Planned building projects linked to the Labour government's pledge to build 1.5 million homes by 2029 are being stalled by regulatory pressures, including new safety guidelines.

UK market participants involved with bright bar production report that their profit margins are becoming increasingly tight. This is because of low-cost competition from imports, in the absence of any trade protection measures.

Imports of rebar, into the UK, could tighten, however. A new 20% cap has been applied to individual countries' use of the residual quarterly import quota by the nation's Secretary of State for Business and Trade. This is despite the Trade Remedies Authority's earlier recommendation of a 40% cap.

Further price reductions for South European wire rod

The price of wire rod in Spain, Italy and France has decreased by as much as EUR20 per tonne compared with last month in a context of ongoing subdued demand, MEPS research shows.

Wire rod processors have seen their sales slow down and many are now cutting production. This is especially true in Italy, which recorded this month's largest price decline.

MEPS respondents say that there is strong price competition among sellers of commodity grades with tight profit margins realised from sales to downstream customers such as those in the wood packaging sector.

Imported material has been despatched following customs clearance of the third quarter's safeguard quotas from July 1. Turkey's wire rod quota filled up quickly, while Algeria and Malaysia have exceeded the tariff-free quota caps within the "other countries" category. Egypt has also used up most of its allocation.

Indonesian and Tunisian-origin material is now arriving in EU ports as importers turn to alternative quota-free origins.

Some processors supplying more specialist product sectors, such as submarine cables, have experienced a pickup in demand. However, exporters to the United States are negotiating with their customers over how to share the burden of the country's 50% Section 232 import tariffs, while also looking for alternative markets.

Rebar prices fall further in Italy

Rebar prices in Italy have fallen by a further EUR20-30 per tonne compared with last month, as domestic mills continued to compete against each other.

Meanwhile, French rebar shows a limited downward price adjustment of EUR5 per tonne. Spanish rebar has remained stable following last month's increase, as the buying activity has come to a halt after a wave of purchasing. This relative stability makes Italian rebar increasingly competitive in neighbouring countries, especially Germany, France and those in Central Europe. Italian mills have focused more on export markets to obtain better profit margins.

Beams & Merchant Bar

Construction demand weak ahead of N. European holidays

Subdued demand from the construction sector continued to weigh down on MEPS's Northern European beam and bar prices, this month.

The HCOB Eurozone Construction PMI fell from 45.6 in May to 45.2 in June. A score below 50 indicates a sector in contraction. The decline was attributed to a steep reduction in new orders.

Market participants in Germany report that there is little appetite to place new orders prior to the summer break. The majority of domestic beam and bar buyers are opting to work with existing inventories, keeping their procurement to a minimum. Project-based activity remains limited.

Long Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices

		Germany EUR/t	France EUR/t	Italy EUR/t	UK GBP/t	UK EUR/t	Belgium EUR/t	Spain EUR/t
Wire Rod (Drawing Quality)	High	650	650	600	540	629	650	620
	Low	620	620	580	510	594	620	610
Medium Sections and Beams	High	760	780	780	660	769	760	750
	Low	750	760	760	640	746	750	740
Rebar	High	380	370	260	530	618	375	370
	Low	370	360	250	510	594	365	360
Merchant Bar	High	270	240	280	615	717	240	260
	Low	260	230	260	585	682	230	240

Month on Month % Change

Wire Rod	Low	-1.6	-1.6	-3.3	-1.9	-3.9	-1.6	-1.6
Medium Sections	Low	-2.6	-1.3	-1.3	0.0	-2.0	-1.3	-1.3
Rebar	Low	-2.6	-1.4	-7.4	-2.9	-4.8	-2.7	0.0
Merchant Bar	Low	-3.7	-4.2	-3.7	-0.8	-2.8	-4.2	-4.0

Price & Product Definitions

MEPS International's published price assessments relate to regular business, between buyers and steel mills, for newly produced, prime, commercial quality material, negotiated during the current month, for forward delivery.

All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

Prices for low carbon drawing quality wire rod and medium sections (I beams) refer to effective values, including size extras. Prices for rebar and merchant bar refer to basis values, excluding size extras, with the exception of those in the UK.

Disclaimer

All price and market data, in this report, is researched by MEPS International's staff and its local correspondents. The information is obtained from respondents who the company consider provide accurate intelligence on the steel market. The company makes its best endeavours to be assured that the information is correct and that its analysis is reliable. MEPS International Ltd. cannot be made liable for any loss resulting from the use of the published data, however it may arise.

Slow order intake was also reported by MEPS respondents in Belgium. Demand from the residential construction sector is weak. Permit requests for new building projects have declined. Difficulty accessing finance remains a key consideration for developers. This is despite the European Central Bank lowering its key interest rate for the eighth time in just over a year, in June, to 2.15%.

Beam and merchant bar buyers in the United Kingdom described day-to-day steel trading as being “mediocre”, this month. Like their counterparts in mainland Europe, UK stockholders are keen to reduce their stock levels. Beam and bar mills are reluctant to offer price concessions. Resale values for both products remain under negative pressure, however.

Northern Europe's beam and merchant bar producers are scaling down their operations during the summer months. This will help to align their supply with current market demand and, in turn, support their price ambitions.

UK buyers of merchant bar report that 7 Steel UK (formerly Celsa Steel UK) is taking an extended stoppage. Furthermore, beam mills in Spain are quoting long lead times for deliveries to the UK due to their August holiday period. Imports from outside Western Europe are likely to fill the void, however. Significant quantities of Turkish material, most notably merchant bar, were customs cleared at UK ports at the beginning of July.

Slight price adjustments on S. European beam and merchant bar

Beam prices declined in France, Italy and Spain after mills adjusted their prices to book orders ahead of summer shutdowns, this month.

Small decreases were also seen for merchant bar, with MEPS prices widely down by EUR10 per tonne.

The recent downturn in scrap prices has applied further downward pressure to prices. In mid-July, the LME's one month futures contract price was 8.8% down on its March high.

Buyers negotiating large volumes can achieve discounts in the context of continued low demand. Price competition is fierce at the distribution level, in particular, where sellers' profit margins are extremely tight.

MEPS's Southern Europe respondents describe sales as either holding at a low level, or slightly down. Most stockists and service centres report adequate volumes for June but expect the summer slowdown to commence from the second half of this month.

Demand has mainly come from small orders. There is a lack of private investment for large projects. Nonetheless, in Italy, activity from the construction sector has been holding as it continues to be supported by public investment, notably into railway infrastructure.

The HCOB Italy Construction PMI stood at 50.2 in June, remaining above 50 for the fourth consecutive month. A score above 50 indicates a sector in growth. The HCOB France Construction PMI decreased further, in June, however. It declined from 43.1 to 41.6.

Some mills in Southern Europe have been concentrating production on times when electricity prices are lower, especially in Italy and Spain. Summer shutdowns starting from the second half of the month may help support prices, but MEPS respondents say that mills have enough stock to satisfy demand.

Market & Industry Scene

ArcelorMittal

ArcelorMittal has placed the decarbonisation plans for its Bremen and Eisenhüttenstadt plants in Germany on hold.

The project, originally scheduled to begin construction in June 2025, aimed to replace traditional blast furnaces with DRI and EAF equipment.

However, the steelmaker has now determined that the economic case for the transformation was unviable, despite receiving EUR1.3 billion in financial support from the German federal government and regional authorities.

In stating the reasons for its decision, ArcelorMittal said that green hydrogen is not yet a viable fuel source, while natural gas-based DRI production is not competitive as an interim solution.

ArcelorMittal has reaffirmed its commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of its operations but acknowledges that meeting its 2030 carbon emissions target is becoming increasingly unlikely.

Separately, ArcelorMittal has confirmed that it will sell its operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Zenica steel mill and Prijedor iron ore mine, to Bosnia-based Pavgorod Group. Net of sale proceeds, the company anticipates recording a USD200 million accounting loss in the transaction. The deal is expected to be finalised in quarter three.

UK trade defence

The UK government has launched a formal call for evidence to determine a replacement for current steel safeguard measures, which are due to expire in June 2026.

Stakeholders are invited to provide data on production, imports, and the impact of safeguards, as well as views on how to protect the domestic industry after expiry of the current measures. Their input will guide future trade policy decisions. Submissions must be made via an online survey by August 7.

Tata Steel UK

After several months of preparatory work, Tata Steel UK has broken ground on the new EAF development at its site in Port Talbot, South Wales.

The GBP1.25 billion facility will have an annual production capacity of 3.2 million tonnes and is expected to begin operations in late 2027 or early 2028.

Once commissioned, the EAF is projected to reduce carbon emissions by around 90% compared with the blast furnaces that previously operated at the site.

Medium Term Price Forecasts

Further European flat product price decline to come

MEPS International forecasts a modest decline in European flat steel prices in August following the sharp downward correction recorded in July.

Flat product prices are expected to drop by 1-2% next month, following a steep 7-8% decrease this month. The anticipated August price dip is primarily driven by persistently weak demand and intensified competition from low-cost imports. However, MEPS projects a reversal of this trend from September as several factors support prices through the remainder of 2025 and into mid-2026.

The European steel market's price weakness has been exacerbated by elevated inventory levels and an influx of imports ahead of the imposition of CBAM taxes from January 1, 2026. Hot rolled coil prices are expected to bottom out in August, reaching their lowest level since October 2024.

Downstream flat products, except hot dipped galvanised coils, are likely to face similar downward pressure from subdued demand and cheaper imports. However, hot dipped galvanised coil prices are expected to remain relatively stable, supported by tightened import conditions. A 15% cap has been introduced to individual countries' use of the UK import safeguard measures' residual quota for hot dipped galvanised coils. This follows the European Commission's tightening of the EU quota from April 1.

Hot rolled plate prices are also projected to follow the downward trajectory in August, in line with the broader flat product trend.

Long steel prices remain under price pressure

European long steel product prices are forecast to decline by 1-2% in August, mirroring July's modest drop. Weak construction demand, exacerbated by a lack of major infrastructure projects across the EU and UK, continues to suppress buying interest.

According to S&P Global's latest Construction PMI report, companies across the eurozone remain pessimistic about the near-term outlook, as the industry struggles to benefit from easing interest rates and softened inflation in construction costs.

Meanwhile, scrap prices are expected to remain under negative pressure in the coming months, with lacklustre finished steel demand countering any potential inflationary influences.

September turning point for steel prices

MEPS forecasts that steel price increases, starting in September, will be supported by reduced imports due to CBAM-related uncertainty and seasonal restocking.

The continued absence of the European Commission's benchmark emissions data means that European steel buyers remain unaware of the true cost implications of CBAM. Market estimates ranging between EUR50 and EUR200 per tonne are prompting caution among importers.

Moreover, the ongoing effects of the US dollar's depreciation against the euro, which had made imports more attractive in recent months, could be mitigated by further interest rate cuts by the European Central Bank and a more cautious approach by the US Federal Reserve. A possible EU-US trade agreement would also improve sentiment and support prices.

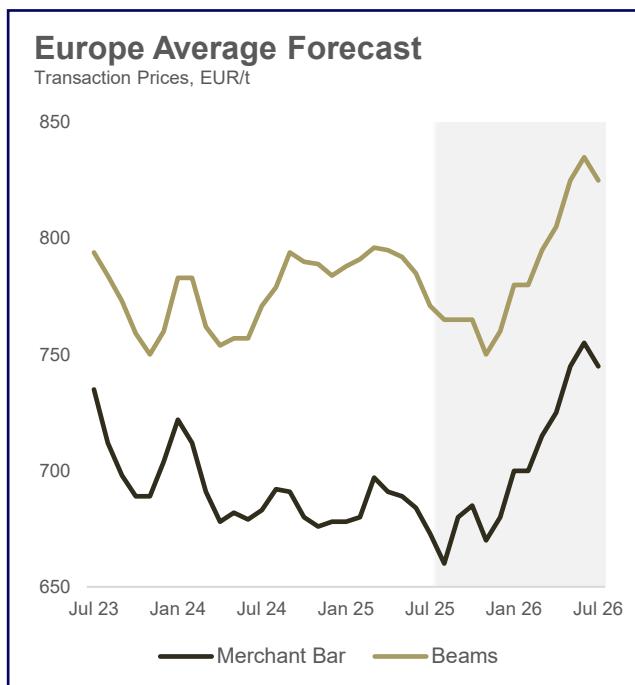
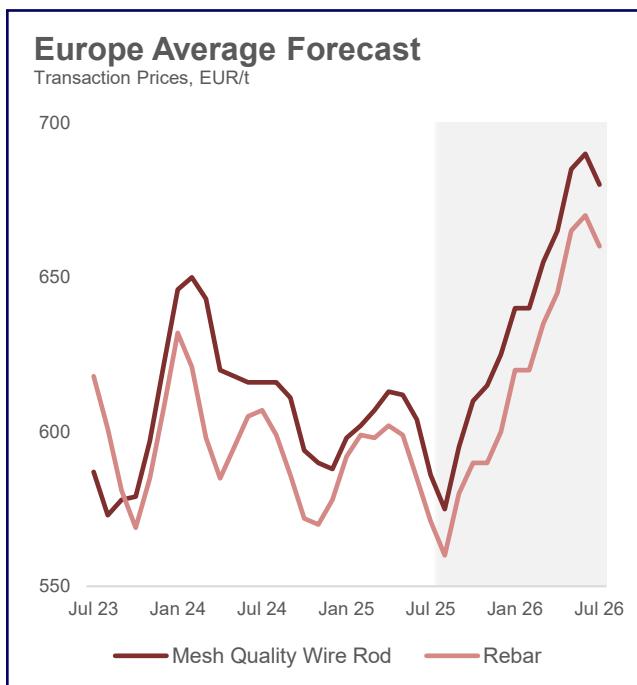
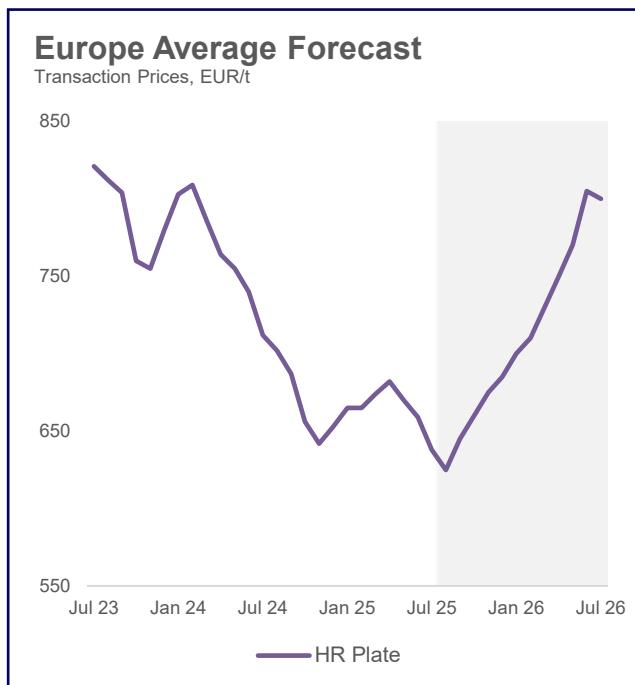
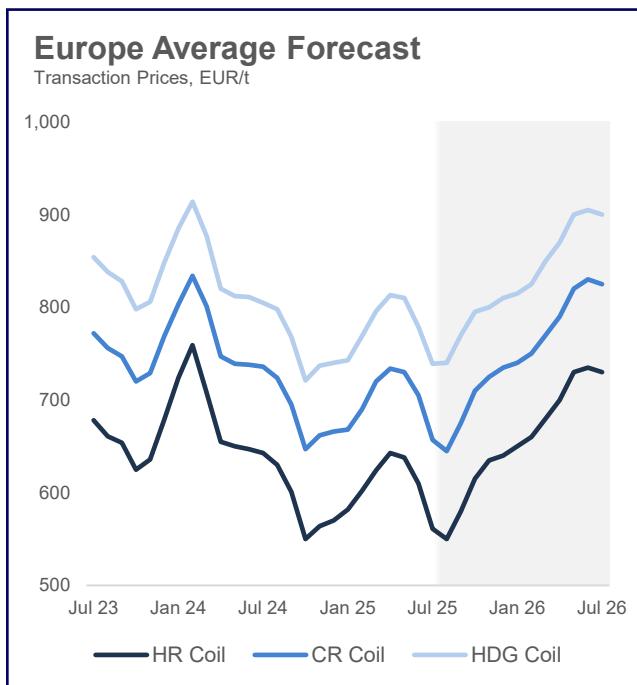
Improved economic sentiment is forecast to support a stronger steel market in the first half of 2026. The recent reduction of interest rates across Europe is expected to bolster consumer purchasing power and lead to improved demand.

Additionally, uncertainty surrounding the expiry of the EU's safeguard measures in July 2026 may further deter buyers from securing low-cost imports in early 2026.

Europe Average Domestic Transaction Price Forecasts

EUR/tonne	Actual		Forecast				
	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Hot Rolled Coil	561	550	580	615	635	640	650
Hot Rolled Plate	638	625	645	660	675	685	700
Cold Rolled Coil	657	645	675	710	725	735	740
HD Galv Coil	739	740	770	795	800	810	815
EZ Coated Coil	790	780	810	835	845	860	865
Wire Rod (Drawing)	604	595	615	630	645	655	670
Wire Rod (Mesh)	586	575	595	610	615	625	640
Sections (I Beam)	751	745	745	745	730	740	760
Sections (H Beam)	771	765	765	765	750	760	780
Reinforcing Bar	571	560	580	590	590	600	620
Merc Bar (Round)	677	665	685	690	675	685	705
Merc Bar (Eq Angle)	673	660	680	685	670	680	700

Price Definitions
MEPS regional average steel prices for Europe are computed from a weighted average of prices in Germany, France, Italy, Spain and the UK. The weighting is based on steel consumption in individual countries. Prices are collected in the appropriate local currency and converted into euros to provide a basis for comparison.



Transaction Price Data Sheet								
Negotiated Domestic Transaction Prices								
Flat Products		Europe Average	Germany	France	Italy	UK	UK	Spain
			EUR/t	EUR/t	EUR/t	GBP/t		
Hot Rolled Coil	High	583	591	591	568	520	606	571
	Low	561	571	571	543	500	583	551
Hot Rolled Plate	High	663	665	655	635	614	716	655
	Low	638	645	635	605	584	681	625
Cold Rolled Coil	High	681	686	686	665	599	698	666
	Low	657	666	666	640	569	663	636
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High	762	765	755	735	695	810	735
	Low	739	745	735	710	665	775	715
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High	818	823	823	793	720	839	793
	Low	790	793	793	773	690	804	773
Long Products		Europe Average	Germany	France	Italy	UK	UK	Spain
			EUR/t	EUR/t	EUR/t	GBP/t		
Wire Rod (Drawing Quality)	High	630	650	650	600	540	629	620
	Low	604	620	620	580	510	594	610
Wire Rod (Mesh Quality)	High	607	610	620	590	540	629	605
	Low	586	590	600	570	510	594	595
Medium Sections (I Beam)	High	766	760	780	780	660	769	750
	Low	751	750	760	760	640	746	740
Medium Sections (H Beam)	High	786	780	800	800	675	787	770
	Low	771	770	780	780	655	763	760
Reinforcing Bar	High	582	640	630	520	530	618	630
	Low	571	630	620	510	510	594	620
Merchant Bar (Round)	High	694	695	665	705	615	717	685
	Low	677	685	655	685	585	682	665
Merchant Bar (Equal Angle)	High	690	690	660	700	615	717	680
	Low	673	680	650	680	585	682	660

All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

Currency Exchange Rates				
	US dollars USD		Euros EUR	
	3-Jun	1-Jul	3-Jun	1-Jul
Eurozone EUR	0.879	0.849	-	-
UK GBP	0.740	0.729	0.841	0.858

MEPS Industrial Sector Steel Purchasing Price Index - Europe Average			
Jan 2007 = 100	Jun-25	Jul-25	% change
Construction Industry	107.6	108.3	0.7
Household Appliances	89.7	88.1	-1.8
Machinery Sector	98.8	99.0	0.2
Shipbuilding Industry	85.5	85.8	0.4
Shipping Containers	101.6	99.3	-2.3
Yellow Goods	105.0	101.7	-3.1

Transaction Price Index - Europe Average				
	Jun-25	Jul-25	% change	
Hot Rolled Coil	233.7	214.9	-8.0	
Hot Rolled Plate	229.6	222.3	-3.2	
Cold Rolled Coil	193.7	180.5	-6.8	
HD Galv Coil	169.0	160.3	-5.1	
EZ Coated Coil	194.3	187.6	-3.4	
Wire Rod (Drawing)	233.6	227.9	-2.4	
Wire Rod (Mesh)	254.9	247.3	-3.0	
Sections (I Beam)	249.2	244.6	-1.8	
Sections (H Beam)	224.9	220.9	-1.8	
Reinforcing Bar	257.7	251.5	-2.4	
Merc Bar (Round)	259.0	254.5	-1.7	
Merc Bar (Eq Angle)	265.1	260.9	-1.6	

Note: Based on low transaction values.

Negotiated Domestic Transaction Prices - Month on Month % Change							
		Europe Average	Germany	France	Italy	UK	UK
		EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	GBP	EUR
Hot Rolled Coil	Low	-8.0	-8.1	-8.1	-9.2	-2.0	-3.8
Hot Rolled Plate	Low	-3.2	-3.0	-3.1	-3.2	-1.7	-3.5
Cold Rolled Coil	Low	-6.8	-7.0	-7.0	-6.6	-2.6	-4.5
HD Galv Coil	Low	-5.1	-5.1	-6.4	-6.0	0.0	-2.0
EZ Coated Coil	Low	-3.4	-3.6	-3.6	-3.7	-0.7	-2.7
Wire Rod (Drawing)	Low	-2.4	-1.6	-1.6	-3.3	-1.9	-3.9
Wire Rod (Mesh)	Low	-3.0	-3.3	-1.6	-3.4	-1.9	-3.9
Sections (I Beam)	Low	-1.8	-2.6	-1.3	-1.3	0.0	-2.0
Sections (H Beam)	Low	-1.8	-2.5	-1.3	-1.3	0.0	-2.1
Reinforcing Bar	Low	-2.4	-1.6	-0.8	-3.8	-2.9	-4.8
Merc Bar (Round)	Low	-1.7	-1.4	-1.5	-1.4	-0.8	-2.8
Merc Bar (Eq Angle)	Low	-1.6	-1.4	-1.5	-1.4	-0.8	-2.8

MEPS European Steel Review - Price & Product Specifications

MEPS International's published price assessments relate to regular business, between buyers and steel mills, for newly produced, prime, commercial quality material, negotiated during the current month, for forward delivery. Transactions which involve abnormally large or small volumes, non-repeatable deals or sale of ex-stock material are omitted from consideration in the formulation of the published prices. Long-term contract prices are also excluded from the MEPS monthly assessments. Unless included as standard, at no additional cost to the buyer, all extras charged for processing, packaging, testing and certification are excluded from the published prices. The majority of MEPS International's price assessments refer to material sold ex-works, excluding local taxes. When delivery charges or local taxes are incorporated in a published figure, this is stated in the relevant specification.

Basis prices exclude extras for dimensions of the product – for example thickness, width and diameter. They also exclude extras for coating, when coating is traditionally charged at an additional cost. Transaction prices include applicable extra charges, such as those for thickness, width, diameter and coating. All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

Hot Rolled Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, Belgium, Spain
Ex works. Grade S235JR.
Basis - excludes size extras.
Transaction - Thickness 2-3mm, Width 1100-1549mm.

UK

Ex works. Grade S275JR.
Basis - excludes size extras.
Transaction - Thickness 2-3mm, Width 1100-1549mm.

Hot Rolled Plate

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, Belgium, Spain
Ex works. Grade S235JR.
Basis - excludes size extras.
Transaction - Thickness 15-40mm, Width 2000-2500mm.

UK

Ex works. Grade S275JR.
Basis - excludes size extras.
Transaction - Thickness 15-40mm, Width 2000-2500mm.

Cold Rolled Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain
Ex works. Grade DC01.
Basis - excludes size extras.
Transaction - Thickness 1.00-1.24mm, Width 1100-1549mm.

Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain
Ex works. Grade DX51D+Z.
Basis - excludes size extras, Coating Z100.
Transaction - Thickness 1.00-1.24mm, Width 1100-1299mm,
Coating Z275.

Electro Zinc Coated Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain
Ex works. Grade DC01+ZE.
Basis - excludes size extras.
Transaction - Thickness 1.00-1.24mm, Width 1100-1299mm,
Coating 2.5µm.

Wire Rod (low carbon drawing quality)

Germany, France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain
Delivered. Grade C4D, SAE1006.
Transaction - Diameter 5.5mm.

Wire Rod (low carbon mesh quality)

Germany, France, Italy, UK, Spain
Delivered. Grade SAE1008.
Transaction - Diameter 6-12mm.

Sections (I beam)

Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Spain
Delivered. Grade S235JR, S275JR.
Transaction - Category 1, Designation IPE 180-220.

UK

Delivered. Grade S275JR.
Transaction - Designation UB 203, UB 254.

Sections (H beam)

Germany, France, Italy, Spain
Delivered. Grade S235JR, S275JR.
Transaction - Category 3, Designation HEB 240.

UK

Delivered. Grade S275JR.
Transaction - Designation UC 254.

Rebar (deformed)

Germany, France, Belgium
Delivered. Grade B500B.
Basis - excludes size extras.
Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

Italy

Delivered. Grade B450C.
Basis - excludes size extras.
Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

UK

Delivered. Grade B500C.
Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

Spain

Delivered. Grade B500SD.
Basis - excludes size extras.
Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

Merchant Bar

Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Spain
Delivered. Grade S235JR, S275JR.
Basis - excludes size extras.
Transaction (round bar) - Diameter 16-50mm.
Transaction (equal angle) - Dimensions 50x50x5mm.

UK

Delivered. Grade S275JR.
Transaction (round bar) - Diameter 16-50mm.
Transaction (equal angle) - Dimensions 50x50x6mm.