

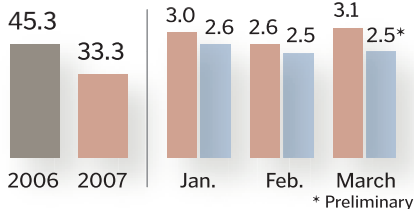
Steel imports drop, exports rise, prices soar

A weak dollar has helped keep steel imports at bay, while providing more export opportunities for U.S. steel makers and their U.S. customers. Both factors, along with strong demand, have contributed to a historic rise in steel prices.

U.S. steel imports

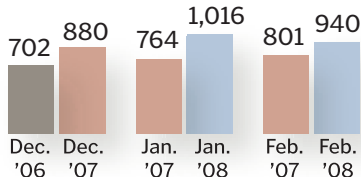
(million tons)

2007 2008

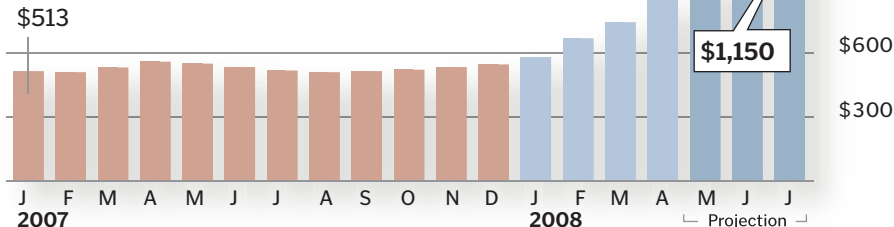


U.S. steel exports

(thousand tons)



Spot-market steel prices (Midwest, per ton of hot-rolled steel sheet)



SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Department of Commerce; Purchasing Magazine

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