

# STEEL

## News & Views

A Publication of



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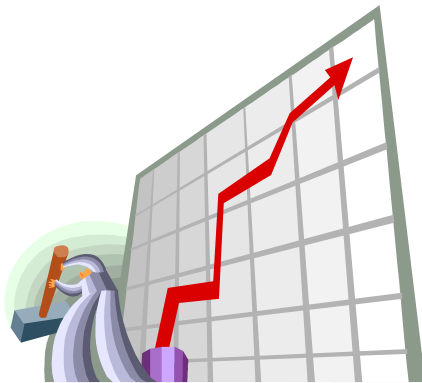
"Innovators in steel and wood components"

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## Steel Imports on the Rise

Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that the United States experienced a net increase in imports of steel in March compared to the same period in 2004.

Not surprisingly, many areas showed increases such as: hot-rolled sheet, up 27%; galvanized (hot-dipped) sheet and strip, up 18%; and cold-rolled sheet, up 17%. Comparing year-to-date statistics for 2005 versus 2004, imports of hot-rolled sheet have increased 35%; cold-rolled sheet is up 87%; and galvanized (hot-dipped) sheet and strip is up 76%.



John Surma, president and CEO of United States Steel Corp. and the current Chairman of AISI

commented, "The recent decision by the International Trade Commission to retain duties on hot-rolled steel imports only reinforces the continuing threat posed by unfair trade as the industry attempts to build upon the progress it has made."

## China Trade Gap Widening

In the past, China has run deficits with trading partners other than the United States. Currently China is exporting at such a rapid rate that it is rapidly narrowing the trade deficit they have with

these other countries. This increase has occurred much faster than most analysts had expected. Some of the likely fallout of this will be increasing pressure on China to reevaluate its currency coupled with an increase in trade tensions. Trade restrictions are also a possibility.

China is growing to be a large exporter of industrial commodities such as chemicals and some steel products. An April 9, 2005, article in *The New York Times* reported that China is becoming a net exporter of steel with exports nearly quintupling in the first two months of this year compared to a year ago.

By keeping their currency tied to the dollar, which has declined the last three years, the Chinese have made their goods even more competitive in countries using currencies like the euro that have appreciated against the dollar. This helps China's exports and discourages businesses in China from importing.

China has now become the world's largest steel consumer as its economy continues to expand. Despite the government's attempts to slow down growth, development continues. Many Chinese provinces have erected their own steel mills despite weakness in domestic pricing due to overcapacity. According to AISI, China's domestic output of crude steel increased by over 25% in April 2005 over the same month in 2004. For the first four months of 2005, output increased by just under 25% year-on-year.

## TrusSteel Website Redesigned

TrusSteel cold-formed steel trusses are the product of choice by contractors. TrusSteel also has a very informative website. Log on at [www.TrusSteel.com](http://www.TrusSteel.com).



Light Gauge Steel Engineers Association

Architects, engineers, and specifiers can access current product information and specifications to use in designing projects with cold-formed steel trusses. A full range of construction details are available to view and download in a variety of common CAD formats. In addition, case studies are available that illustrate the versatility of applications with TrusSteel.

Builders and contractors are able to find information on installation topics such as handling, storage, bracing, and rafting. Mechanical contractors can view and download details that show attachment of mechanical systems to TrusSteel trusses.

Do you maintain a database of suppliers to email bid invitations?  
Please use our direct email address:  
[steel@cascade-mfg-co.com](mailto:steel@cascade-mfg-co.com).  
We look forward to bidding your next project!

## Photo Gallery

The feature project for this issue of *Steel News and Views* truly demonstrates the versatility of design and installation options available by the use of cold-formed steel trusses.

Opus, a national design/build company, contacted Cascade Mfg Co about a retail development that involved several buildings on a site in Woodbury, Minnesota. Each building was to have its own entry feature. Instead of a hip or gable roof, some of the buildings were to have domed or round roofs. Furthermore, Opus wanted to assemble the roofs on the ground and lift them into place with the sheathing attached.

Cascade Mfg Co worked with Alpine Structural Consultants (ASC) on this project. The truss roofs were assembled on temporary platforms. Next the permanent bracing was installed and hoisting



Picture of a circular roof assembled on a temporary platform prior to sheathing being applied.

locations for the crane were identified. Finally, roof sheathing was applied and the roof was lifted into place as one unit.



By locating the hoisting points for the crane, the contractor made one lift from the ground to the top plate.

George Parrino, Project Manager for Opus was pleased with the results of using trusses on his project. "The trusses provided by Cascade Mfg Co allowed us to save time by providing all engineering and clear installation instructions that our field carpenters were able to easily follow. We were able to significantly reduce our labor costs compared to using standard metal stud construction, and were able to erect the towers on the ground, improving safety on the jobsite. The truss system was a definite advantage. I will consider using trusses again in the future when the opportunity arises."



Completed circular roof with slate roofing applied.

Do you have a project that might be a candidate for cold-formed steel trusses? Call the company that will work with you to design and provide a truss package that will be cost-effective and "contractor friendly."

Put the experience of over 40 years in the design and fabrication of trusses to work on your next project. Call Cascade Mfg Co at 800/942-4685 today!

**Our people make the difference!**