

Latest News

North Africa

- Rebar prices in Egypt December 16, 2024.
- Ezz Steel Decides to Delist Its Shares from the Egyptian Stock Exchange.
- Egypt's imports of iron raw materials decreased by 19% in September.
- Egyptian-Chinese talks to establish HRC and CRC factories.
- Egypt's iron and steel exports decline by 13% in January-October 2024.
- Mauritania: SNIM borrows \$150 million to expand its iron ore transport capacity.

Gulf Area


- Report: GCC economies have resisted shocks, outlook is positive.
- Rebar prices in Saudi Arabia decreased by 3.5% in January-November 2024.

World

- Steel prices in the third week of December 2024.
- Nippon Steel achieves 43% carbon emission reduction.
- Tata Steel UK inks first green steel supply agreement with JCB
- India's iron ore exports fall 55% in November.
- Ukraine's flat steel imports up 7.8% in January-November 2024
- US steel imports up 10.7% in October 2024.
- US Federal Reserve cuts interest rates for the third time in a row in 2024.



KUWAIT STEEL حديد الكويت
الشركة المتحدة لصناعة الحديد (ش.م.ك.م.)
United Steel Industrial Co. (S.C.C.)



AISU
Arab Iron & Steel Union
www.aisusteel.org

Website is interested in publishing
All Arab and International Steel News
and reports, statistics and studies

Arab Steel Magazine
Can be Downloaded

Website contains
All Member Companies data

Production capacities of Arab
steel companies

website is a link
between producers and customers
through sales and purchase offers

Latest News

North Africa

Rebar prices in Egypt December 16, 2024

Rebar prices in Egypt this week ranged between EGP 34,000 – EGP38,200. The prices were as follows: Ezz Steel EGP 38,200, Suez Steel EGP 38,100, Bishay Steel EGP 38,200, El Marakby Steel EGP 36,800, Egyptian Steel EGP 38,100, Ashry Steel EGP 36,000. Garhy Steel EGP 36,800, Misr Steel EGP 35,000, El Komy Steel EGP 34,700, El Ola Steel EGP 34,000 and Al Gioshy Steel EGP 34,600.

Today steel prices are as follows:

| Company | EGP/t | Pointer | w-w |
|------------------|--------|---------|------|
| Ezz Steel | 38,200 | 🟡 | 0 |
| Suez Steel | 38,100 | 🟡 | 0 |
| Beshay Steel | 38,200 | 🟡 | 0 |
| El Marakby Steel | 36,800 | 🟡 | 0 |
| Egyptian Steel | 38,100 | 🟡 | 0 |
| Ashry Steel | 38,800 | 🔴 | -800 |
| Garhy Steel | 36,800 | 🟡 | 0 |
| Misr Steel | 35,000 | 🔴 | -500 |
| El komy Steel | 34,700 | 🔴 | -300 |
| El Ola steel | 34,000 | 🔴 | -500 |
| Al Gioshy steel | 34,600 | 🔴 | -400 |

Prices include 14% VAT

Ezz Steel Decides to Delist Its Shares from the Egyptian Stock Exchange

Egyptian Ezz Steel revealed the reasons behind its decision to seek to delist its shares from the Egyptian Stock Exchange for three reasons, including the increase in risks in light of the fluctuations witnessed by the industry resulting from the spread of protectionist measures in Europe.

The company added in a letter sent to the Egyptian Stock Exchange that it seeks to avoid the repercussions of stock price fluctuations, while the third reason behind the company's decision to delist from the Egyptian Stock Exchange is to relieve pressure on investors amid a risky future outlook resulting from the increase in global steel production surpluses.

The company said that it intends to finance the process of delisting its shares from the Egyptian Stock Exchange with external financing with a maximum limit of \$300 million, and the Egyptian Financial Supervisory Authority approved the publication of Ezz Steel's disclosure report and the completion of procedures related to inviting the company's extraordinary general assembly to consider the voluntary delisting decision.

Ezz Steel is among the top 20 companies listed on the Egyptian Stock Exchange in terms of market value, which is close to EGP 60 billion. It is the second largest company in terms of relative weight in the basic resources sector, as the company has a production capacity of approximately 7 million tons of rebar and flat steel.



Egypt's imports of iron raw materials decreased by 19% in September

Egypt's imports of iron raw materials decreased by about 19.1% during September, recording \$327 million, compared to \$405 million in the same period last year 2023, according to data from the external bulletin of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics.

Ayman Al-Ashry, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Ashry Steel Group, attributed the reasons for the decline to the lack of financing needed by companies to import production requirements and raw materials.

Al-Ashry added to Al-Borsa that companies need financing with easy interest rates to support the return of importing raw materials so that they can operate at full production capacity.

Mohamed Hanfy, Executive Director of the Chamber of Metallurgical Industries at the Federation of Industries, said that the decline in Egypt's primary imports of iron and steel is due to the decline in demand in the local market.

Hanfy added to "Al Borsa" that most companies in the sector operate at rates ranging between 40 and 50% of their production capacity, except for Ezz Steel, whose production capacity reaches 80%.

He noted that Egypt has about 35 factories for the production of iron and steel with a production capacity of 15 million tons, but the actual production does not exceed 8 million tons, while Egypt's consumption of iron reached 3.059 million tons during the first half of 2024.

He pointed out that Egypt's iron exports recorded a decrease of 15.4% during the period from January to August 2024, reaching \$1.368 billion compared to \$1.617 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Egyptian-Chinese talks to establish HRC and CRC factories

Talks were held between Lieutenant General Engineer Kamel El-Wazir, Deputy Prime Minister for Industrial Development, Minister of Industry and Transport, and Tian Haikui, Chairman of "Chinese steelmaker XinFeng", within the framework of discussing the latest developments in the plan to establish an integrated industrial complex with a total area within the integrated Sokhna area, affiliated to the Suez Canal Economic Zone, in the presence of Walid Gamal El-Din, Chairman of the General Authority for the Suez Canal Economic Zone.

In the talks, the Minister reviewed the executive steps for establishing the new industrial complex, which includes 9 factories, as these factories are scheduled to be established on an area of 3.75 million square meters, with total investments of \$ 1.65 billion, in two phases over 5 years.

The first phase is scheduled to include 4 factories to produce hot rolled steel coils, car brake discs, home appliance components, and standard fasteners, screws and nuts.

The second phase includes the establishment of 5 factories for automotive components made of aluminum and magnesium alloys, steel structure equipment, brake drum components for cars, a fourth factory for construction machinery components, and a fifth for the production of cold rolled coils.

Lieutenant General Kamel El-Wazir stressed the Ministry of Industry's keenness to provide all forms of support to the company, including accelerating the procedures for obtaining industrial licenses, and all other procedures related to establishing factories.

Walid Gamal El-Din explained that the strategic vision of the Suez Canal Economic Zone is based on localizing industry and advanced manufacturing technology in the targeted sectors, stressing that the economic zone is keen to achieve leaps in the file of localizing industry.



Egypt's iron and steel exports decline by 13% in January-October 2024

Egypt's iron and steel exports declined in January-October of this year to record \$1.695 billion, a decline of 13%, compared to the same period in 2023, which amounted to \$1.942 billion.

A report issued by the Export Council for Building Materials, Refractories and Metal Industries revealed that the total number of countries to which exports were made amounted to about 83 in that period.

Turkey came in first place on the list of the largest importers of Egyptian iron and steel in the first ten months of 2024, as the value of imports amounted to about \$190.574 million, compared to \$231.983 million in the same period last year, a decrease of 18%.

Exports to Spain declined by 46%, recording \$187.564 million compared to \$346.329 million in the same period in 2023. Italy also ranked third among the largest importers of Egyptian iron and steel, with exports valued at \$154.789 million compared to \$266.171 million last year, representing a decrease of 42%, while the United States ranked fourth with imports amounting to \$108.281 million compared to \$190.474 million, a decrease of 43%.

Mauritania: SNIM borrows \$150 million to expand its iron ore transport capacity

The African Development Bank has approved a \$150 million concessional loan to the National Industrial and Mining Company (SNIM).

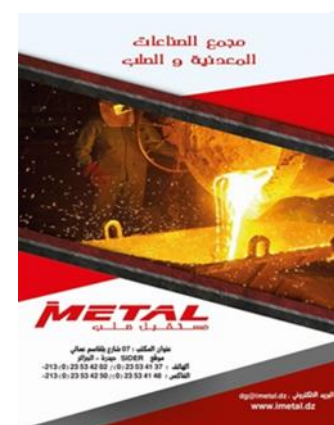
The loan from the African Development Bank will enable SNIM to acquire up to 36 locomotives and 1,743 wagons to transport iron ore production to the iron ore port in Nouadhibou. The loan, provided by the bank, represents nearly a third of the company's \$467 million budget, as part of a program aimed at expanding the company's logistics capacity, with the aim of doubling the transport capacity of its iron ore railway by 2030.

"The program will allow for the creation of a regional industrial hub," commented Solomon Quaynor, Vice President of the African Development Bank Group, "and represents an important step forward for the mining sector in Mauritania."

The program seeks to develop the company's production, in order to reach "higher value" products, such as iron ore pellets, and to build a photovoltaic solar power plant, which will enable the company to decarbonize its activities.

The project, in addition to its production and development aspect, focuses on addressing climate change, as the Global Adaptation Center will provide technical assistance to SNIM, in the form of a detailed assessment of the risks related to climate change for its logistics and operations.

SNIM, the second largest producer of iron ore in Africa, contributes 9% of Mauritania's GDP and 14% of public revenues, "and this project will allow it to bring its planned production projects closer to the implementation stage," according to the company's CEO, Mohamed Fall Ould Talmidi.



Gulf Area

Report: GCC economies have resisted shocks, outlook is positive

GCC economies have proven resilient to external shocks such as regional conflicts and oil production cuts over the past period, according to a report written by analysts at the International Monetary Fund, who expected positive performance for the region in the near term amid balanced risks.

“The repercussions of the Red Sea tensions on Gulf economies have been limited so far, with trade, investment and tourism flows largely unaffected,” according to the report prepared by Amin Mati, the IMF’s mission chief to Saudi Arabia and head of the GCC Department, and Ken Miyajima, chief economist in the GCC Department.

Port exports recover

The IMF analysts noted a recovery in daily export volumes from the region’s major ports, although they remain at historical lows, as some countries, such as Kuwait, quickly adapted to navigation disruptions thanks to the flexibility of their navigation and storage networks.

“High-frequency indicators point to a rapid recovery in portfolio flows to the region, supported by strong reform momentum after a dip in Q4 2023, while inbound tourism remained strong despite the Gaza conflict, with visitor numbers hitting record levels in some countries such as Qatar and Saudi Arabia.”

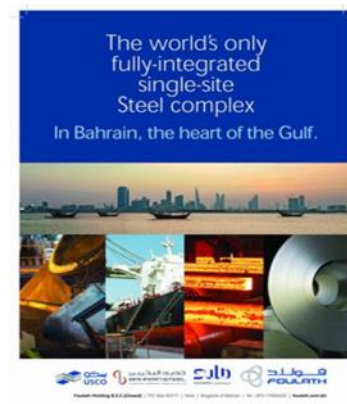
Tourism is a key pillar of the Kingdom’s economic diversification efforts, which has taken measures such as facilitating visas and increasing entertainment events to support the sector, and has raised its tourism target to 150 million visits annually by the end of the current decade, after achieving the previous target of 100 million visits seven years ahead of schedule under Vision 2030.

The Fund’s analysts said that progress on reforms such as improving the business climate, human capital, and digital transformation have contributed to supporting Gulf countries’ efforts to diversify their economies, stressing the need to intensify these reforms to achieve governments’ visions, in addition to continuing efforts to integrate trade and finance as a priority to fully benefit from the reforms.

حديده
hadeed

إمستيل
EMSTEEL

فولاد
FOULATH



Positive outlook

The report expects real growth for the Gulf region's economy in general to reach 3.5% next year, accelerating from an estimated growth of 1.4% this year, and real growth to reach 4.6% in Saudi Arabia and 5.1% in the UAE in 2025, in line with the Fund's expectations last October.

The report said that strong non-oil activities supported growth in the Gulf countries in general, thanks to strong spending on projects and the implementation of reforms aimed at supporting economic diversification efforts, while the lack of significant trade or financial links between the region and Gaza or Israel contributed to limiting the impact of the conflict.

It added that the hydrocarbon sector is expected to receive support in the near term from the expected increase in oil production during the second quarter of 2025 and the expansion of natural gas production, while local economic activity will benefit in the medium term from the non-oil sector, which will continue to grow.

The OPEC+ alliance decided earlier this month to postpone the gradual cancellation of oil production cuts until April of next year, after it was scheduled to start in January.

Real non-oil growth is expected to reach 4.4% in Saudi Arabia and 4.5% in the UAE next year, after an estimated growth of 3.7% and 5.3% for the two countries, respectively, during the current year, according to the report.

Analysts pointed to the stability of inflation rates, which fell by about half in 2023 to below 2% at the same levels, supported by monetary and fiscal policies. They added that enhancing synergies with the International Monetary Fund would complement the efforts of the Gulf countries to enhance macroeconomic stability and resilience.

Balanced risks

The economies of the Gulf region face balanced risks in the near term, according to the report, which pointed to positive factors, including a higher-than-expected increase in oil production due to the cancellation of the OPEC+ alliance to cut production at a faster pace, increasing natural gas production, rising commodity prices, accelerating the implementation of investment projects and structural reforms, and the rapid easing of monetary policy in advanced economies.

However, the report also pointed to negative factors on the region's prospects, including the impact of a global economic slowdown on oil and other exports, especially in China, and the continuation of high interest rates for a longer period, which will restrict growth and may affect public finances and financial stability. "In addition, the increased activity in major projects may lead to the return of inflation, while the conflict in Gaza, if it continues for an extended period or expands, may affect the region through fluctuations in hydrocarbon prices, reducing exports, declining tourism and investment, and raising the cost of external financing," according to the report.

Steelco

for
metal trading &
environmental
projects

سابكو
شركة صلب
SULB COMPANY



حديد الكويت
الشركة المتحدة لصناعة الحديد (ش.م.ك.م.)
United Steel Industrial Co. (S.C.C.)

THE KEY
in building Kuwait's future

Rebar prices in Saudi Arabia decreased by 3.5% in January-November 2024

The rebar market in Saudi Arabia witnessed a decrease in prices in the first eleven months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023.

The average price of rebar in January-November of current year amounted to 2899.11 riyals, a decrease of -3.5% compared to the average for the same period in 2023, which amounted to 3004.96 riyals.

The average price for January was the lowest at 2878.09 riyals, a decrease of 12.5% compared to the average price for January 2023, and the average price for September was the highest at 2921.19 riyals, an increase of 1.0% compared to the same month in 2023.

Average rebar prices in Saudi Arabia in January-November 2023-2024

| Month | 2024 | 2023 | Change |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Jan. | 2878.09 | 3287.43 | -12.5% |
| Feb. | 2883.31 | 3170.95 | -9.1% |
| Mar. | 2885.91 | 3132.27 | -7.9% |
| Apr. | 2886.27 | 3108.3 | -7.1% |
| May | 2885.41 | 3009.56 | -4.1% |
| Jun. | 2891.46 | 2887.52 | 0.1% |
| Jul. | 2916.82 | 2874.45 | 1.5% |
| Aug. | 2920.15 | 2883.24 | 1.3% |
| Sep. | 2921.19 | 2891.18 | 1.0% |
| Oct. | 2903.29 | 2900.53 | 0.1% |
| Nov. | 2918.4 | 2909.13 | 0.3% |
| Average | 2899.11 | 3004.96 | -3.5% |



MAGHREB STEEL 


قطر ستيل
QATAR STEEL

بناء المستقبل
BUILDING THE FUTURE

World

Steel prices in the third week of December 2024

According to the prices announced in the global steel markets, scrap prices amounted to \$351/ tonne, \$3 up compared to last week's prices. and iron ore prices \$100/ tonne, \$4 down compared to last week's prices.

While the prices of billets ranged between 440 – 465 Dollars per tonne, while it was between 440 – 465 dollars per tonne last week, and rebar prices ranged between 520 – 585 dollars/tonne, while it was between 520 – 585 dollars per tonne last week.

The following is the **steel prices** statement in the global markets on 21 December 2024

| Product | Place | Min | Max | Date | w-0-w |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|------------|-------|
| Scrap HMS 1&2(mix 80:20) | CFR Turkey | 351 | 351 | 21/12/2024 | ↑ 3 |
| Iron ore Fe 62% | CFR- Australia | 100 | 100 | 21/12/2024 | ↓ -4 |
| Billet | FOB Russia | 440 | 450 | 21/12/2024 | ○ 0 |
| | Turkey FOB | 455 | 465 | 21/12/2024 | ○ 0 |
| Rebar | FOB Turkey | 465 | 485 | 21/12/2024 | ↓ -3 |
| | FOB Ukraine | 520 | 540 | 21/12/2024 | ○ 0 |
| Wire Rod | FOB Turkey | 580 | 590 | 21/12/2024 | ↑ 5 |
| HR coil | FOB Russia | 485 | 495 | 21/12/2024 | ○ 0 |
| CR coil 1mm | FOB China | 550 | 560 | 21/12/2024 | ↑ 13 |

Nippon Steel achieves 43% carbon emission reduction

Japanese steelmaker Nippon Steel has announced that it has achieved the world's first carbon emission reduction of over 40% in a test furnace at the East Nippon Works Kimitsu Area.

In the test conducted from November to December this year, the company verified a 43% reduction in carbon emissions.

In this test, this significant carbon emission reduction was achieved by improving the heat balance inside the blast furnace during the use of heated hydrogen when increasing the reduction with hydrogen instead of carbon.

Nippon Steel has been conducting development tests of its Super COURSE50 technology, which uses heated hydrogen to reduce carbon emissions, in the given test furnace since May 2022.

The company achieved a 22% emission reduction from the furnace in 2022 and a 33% reduction in 2023.

Nippon Steel stated that it will continue to develop technologies that reduce carbon emissions from the steelmaking process by more than 50%.



Tata Steel UK inks first green steel supply agreement with JCB

Tata Steel UK, a subsidiary of India-based steelmaker Tata Steel Limited, has announced that it has signed an agreement with UK-based construction equipment manufacturer JCB for the supply of green steel.

This marks Tata Steel UK's first supply agreement since the announcement of its transition to low-carbon steel production at Port Talbot.

Accordingly, JCB will outsource green steel from Tata Steel UK's planned electric arc furnace (EAF) with a low carbon steel production capacity of 3 million mt per year at Port Talbot, integrating green steel into its equipment production line and cutting its carbon emissions.

Meanwhile, Tata Steel UK will utilize locally sourced scrap to produce high-quality steel with a lower carbon footprint, eliminating its dependence on iron ore and coal.

As a result, it will reduce the emissions of its Port Talbot plant by up to 90% and of the UK by about 1.5%.

The Port Talbot plant is set to be recommissioned in the summer of 2025, with the EAF supplied by Tenova scheduled for start-up in late 2027.

India's iron ore exports fall 55% in November

In November 2024, India's iron ore exports fell 55% year-on-year and 24% month-on-month to 1.82 million tonnes. This is evidenced by CYBEX data, Kallanish reports.

The main reason behind the sharp decline was weak activity in the key market of China, which accounts for about 90% of India's iron ore exports. Chinese steelmakers prefer lower-grade ore, which helps in reducing costs amid volatile steel prices. This was particularly evident in November, when iron ore stocks at Chinese ports increased 29% year-on-year to 148.05 million tonnes, significantly reducing the need for additional supplies from India.

Although China's steel output rose 3% YoY to 78.4 million tonnes in November, weak domestic demand for finished products and high iron ore stockpiles in warehouses weighed on purchases.

India exported 35.9 million tonnes of iron ore in January-November 2024, down 3% from the same period in 2023. Meanwhile, exports of iron ore concentrate remained stable, while exports of pellets fell 15% to 7.77 million tonnes.

The decline in pellet exports was driven by a significant increase in domestic consumption in India. Direct reduced iron (DRI) production has increased by about 9% since the beginning of the year, leading to increased use of pellets by domestic consumers.

in November 2024, India's iron ore imports rose to a six-year high of 1.19 million tonnes, with imports of the raw material crossing 1 million tonnes for the first time since December 2018. JSW Steel became the largest and only importer.



Ukraine's flat steel imports up 7.8% in January-November 2024

In January-November 2024, Ukraine's flat steel imports increased by 7.8% compared to the same period in 2023, reaching 895.67 thousand tons. This is according to the State Customs Service.

Coated steel products (HS 7210) accounted for the largest share of imports with a volume of 426.35 thousand tons, up 4.7% year-on-year. Hot-rolled flat steel products (HS 7208) came in second place with a volume of 307.47 thousand tons, up 8.3% compared to January-November 2023. Cold-rolled flat products with a volume of 74.74 thousand tons, up 8% year-on-year, and imports of 87.1 thousand tons of the related products.

In November of this year, Ukraine's imports of flat steel products decreased by 17.5% compared to the previous month and by 3.3% compared to November 2023, reaching 72.29 thousand tons.

In 2023, Ukraine's imports of flat steel products increased by 93.2% compared to 2022, reaching 908.2 thousand tons.

Import costs increased by 48.4% year-on-year, reaching \$1.03 billion. The largest suppliers of products were Turkey, Romania, Slovakia and China.

Turkey is the main supplier of products – 173.18 thousand tons. Another 58.75 thousand tons were imported from Poland.

US steel imports up 10.7% in October 2024

According to preliminary census data from the US Department of Commerce, US monthly steel imports in October this year up 10.7% from September and up 8.2% year on year to total 2,174,363 mt.

According to the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), the share of imports in the US steel market in October 2024 was estimated at 22%, compared to 21% in September.

In terms of value, US steel imports in October totaled \$2.5 billion, compared to \$2.3 billion in September and \$2.7 billion in October last year.

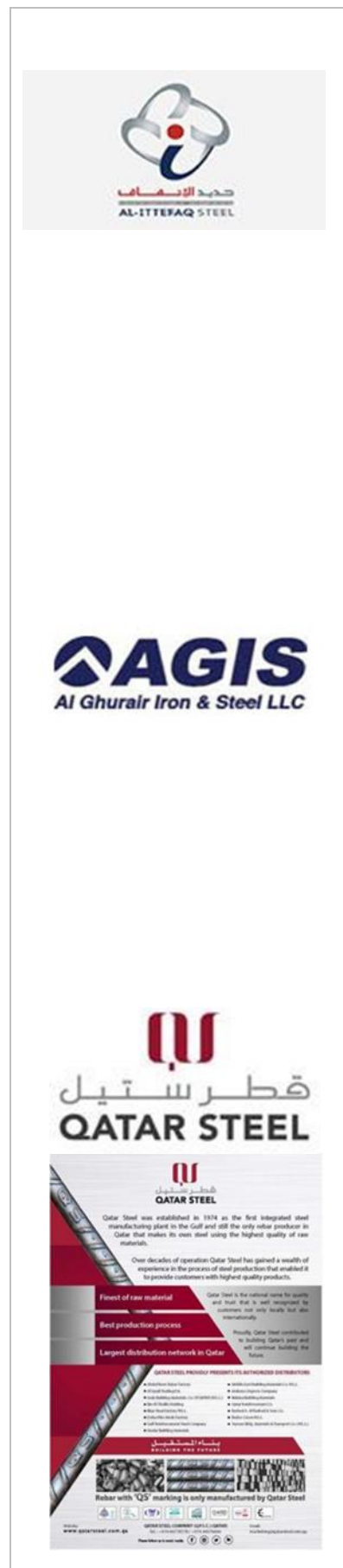
Top sources for US steel imports in October include: Canada with 494,573 mt, Brazil with 330,393 mt, Mexico with 327,116 mt, South Korea with 146,403 mt, Japan with 125,183 mt, and Vietnam with 91,803 mt.

By product group, semi-finished imports totaled 492,644 mt in October, up from 389,379 mt in September and 299,868 mt in October last year.

Flat product imports totaled 883,704 mt in October, up from 832,066 mt in September and 750,130 mt in October 2023.

Long product imports totaled 418,344 mt in October, up from 295,785 mt in September and down from 461,901 mt in October last year.

Pipe and tube imports amounted to 294,987 mt in October, down from 346,585 mt in September and 390,445 mt in October 2023.



US Federal Reserve cuts interest rates for the third time in a row in 2024

The Federal Reserve cut its main interest rate for the third time in a row by about a quarter of a percentage point to a range of 4.25%-4.50%.

The decision of the US central bank, headed by Jerome Powell, comes in response to the continued slowdown in inflationary pressures that have strained the US economy in the years following the Corona pandemic.

On September 18, the Federal Reserve (the US central bank) cut interest rates by about half a percentage point, for the first time in 4 years, after 11 times it raised interest rates and after stabilizing them for 8 consecutive times.

On November 7, the Federal Reserve cut its main interest rate for the second time in a row by about a quarter of a percentage point to a range of 4.50%-4.75%.





Arab Steel News is a Weekly pdf newsletter

To subscribe, please contact us on

E-mail info@aisusteel.org

General Secretariat

P.O. Box 04 Chéraga - Algeria

Tel: + 21320343324

Fax: + 21320343194

Email: relex@solbarab.org

www.aisusteel.org

Cairo Regional Office

P.O. Box: 515 Dokki - Giza - Egypt

Tel: + 20233356219

Fax: + 20233374790

Email: aisucairo@solbarab.org

© 1972- 2023 Arab Iron and Steel Union, all rights reserved

www.aisusteel.org