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North Africa

Eng. Ahmed Ezz to the Financial Times: EU-wide steel tariffs punish compliant suppliers

Eng. Ahmed Ezz – Chairman and Founder of *Ezz Steel* – told the *Financial Times* that the company recognizes the significant challenges facing the European steel industry, including high energy costs, global production surpluses, and structural pressures. His remarks were featured in the newspaper’s report published on September 7 under the headline: “European steelmakers urge tariffs on cheap imports to avoid collapse.”

Ezz added that attributing these difficulties solely to “cheap imports” is an excessive simplification of the problem and unfairly penalizes responsible and compliant suppliers such as *Ezz Steel*.

He emphasized that for more than two decades, *Ezz Steel* has been a trusted supplier to some of the most demanding industrial sectors, particularly the automotive industry. He stressed that the company’s products are manufactured entirely with advanced European technology, produced strictly to customer orders rather than for stockpiling, and fully comply with the EU’s technical and environmental standards, holding both ISO14001 and ISO50001 certifications. Ezz also noted that the company has invested heavily in green steel technologies that directly support the EU’s emission reduction goals.

According to Ezz, the European Union imported 27.4 million tons of steel in 2024 — equal to a quarter of total sales and double the volume imported in 2012–2013. He underlined that these figures reflect shifts in global trade flows, not dumping practices by producers such as *Ezz Steel*. He cautioned that the blanket tariffs, set to be adopted on October 7, make no distinction between compliant and non-compliant suppliers. Such measures, he argued, risk disrupting supply chains, raising costs for European manufacturers, and undermining the long-standing strategic partnership between the EU and Egypt.

In conclusion, Ezz urged policymakers to adopt evidence-based solutions that protect European industry without penalizing reliable partners. He stressed that cooperation — not protectionism — is what will ultimately resolve Europe’s challenges.

8 Egyptian Companies Win New Licenses to Produce Billet

Eight Egyptian companies have secured new licenses to produce billet, a key component in the steel industry, as part of a government plan to boost local manufacturing and reduce imports. The licenses cover production capacities ranging from 200,000 tons to 1.5 million tons, with total additional capacity expected to reach 3.7 million tons.

Ataqa Steel and El Ezz El Ashry Steel obtained the two largest licenses, with capacities of 1.5 million tons and 1 million tons respectively, worth a combined 2.8 billion EGP. Six other companies, including Bianco China, North Africa, Misr Steel, and Anter Steel, won licenses of 200,000 tons each, bringing total license revenues to around 7.5 billion EGP. The final decision naming the winning companies will be issued by the Prime Minister, with companies required to settle license fees within one year of the decision, subject to the Central Bank’s prevailing interest rate.



Rebar Prices in Egypt – September 09, 2025

Recently, steel prices in the Egyptian market have witnessed a state of relative stability, with some variation among the producing companies. Ezz Steel recorded 38,200 EGP per ton, while Suez Steel was priced at 38,100 EGP, Beshay Steel at 37,500 EGP, and Egyptian Steel at 38,000 EGP per ton, all without change.

On the other hand, El Marakby Steel prices declined to 35,400 EGP, down by 500 EGP, while Ashry Steel saw an increase of 500 EGP, reaching 32,200 EGP per ton. Meanwhile, Garhy Steel remained stable at 35,500 EGP without change.

Misir Steel recorded a slight increase of 200 EGP, reaching 31,700 EGP per ton, while El Komy Steel prices remained steady at 32,500 EGP. Both El Ola Steel and El Gioshy Steel registered a similar increase of 400 EGP, bringing their prices to 32,000 EGP per ton.

Overall, steel prices in Egypt continue to move within a limited range between stability, slight increases, and minor declines, reflecting a state of relative balance in the market.

Rebar prices compared to last week's prices are as follows:

Company	EGP/t	Pointer	w-w
Ezz Steel	38,200	⊖	0
Suez Steel	38,100	⊖	0
Beshay Steel	37,500	⊖	0
El Marakby Steel	35,400	↓	-500
Egyptian Steel	38,000	⊖	0
Ashry Steel	32,200	↑	500
Garhy Steel	35,500	⊖	0
Misir Steel	31,700	↑	200
El komy Steel	32,500	⊖	0
El Ola steel	31,600	↑	400
Al Gioshy steel	31,600	↑	400

Prices include 14% VAT



Egypt Considers Imposing Safeguard Duties on Rolled Steel Imports for 200 Days

The Egyptian government is studying the introduction of temporary safeguard duties of **13.6%** on hot-rolled steel imports for a period of 200 days, according to an official document reviewed by Asharq.

The document indicates that the measure comes after the local industry suffered severe damage due to a sharp and unexpected surge in imports, which increased as a result of lower international prices compared to domestic products.

Imports Worth USD 260 Million in Half a Year

Egypt's imports of hot-rolled steel sheets reached about USD 260 million during the first half of 2025, according to official data.

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Industry is holding a consultative meeting to discuss possible safeguard measures against imports of hot-rolled steel sheets, as well as cold-rolled, galvanized, and pre-painted products. Asharq was unable to obtain an immediate comment from the Ministry of Industry.

Hot-rolled steel sheets are essential inputs in a wide range of industries, including home appliances, engineering products, drilling pipes, tubes, and automotive and ship components.

According to the document, the duties would take effect the day after their publication in the Official Gazette.

European Restrictions on Egyptian Exports

It is noteworthy that last March, the European Union imposed anti-dumping duties of 15.6% on Egyptian hot-rolled steel sheets, with enforcement set to begin in October 2025, as part of protective measures for the European steel industry.

Decline in Local Production and Sales

Meanwhile, official data showed that Egypt's rebar production dropped by about 7% in the first half of 2025, recording 3.8 million tons compared to 4.157 million tons in the same period of the previous year, due to a slowdown in construction activity.

Domestic rebar sales also fell by 3%, reaching 2.965 million tons between January and June 2025, compared to 3.058 million tons in the corresponding period last year.

Egypt currently has 14 rebar manufacturing plants, with the largest being Ezz Steel, Beshay Steel, Suez Steel, and El-Masryeen Steel.




Algerian Qatari Steel Expands its Presence in Africa with Agreements Exceeding USD 1.6 Billion at IATF 2025

In a move that reflects the strength of the Algerian-Qatari partnership and opens broader horizons for Arab-African cooperation, Algerian Qatari Steel announced the signing of a package of commercial and strategic agreements worth more than USD 1.6 billion during its participation in the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2025).

These agreements, which will enable the company to establish a presence in more than 40 African countries, mark a new milestone in a success story that began in Algeria and today reaches the heart of the African continent, carrying with it a shared vision from Qatar and Algeria to build a robust industry that contributes to sustainable development.

Historic Agreement with Shelter Development and Investment Bank

The most prominent of these signings was an agreement with Shelter African Bank worth USD 1.2 billion, aimed at marketing the company's products and supporting infrastructure and development projects across the continent. This cooperation represents a major leap in the company's African expansion strategy, placing it in a leading position among the largest joint Arab industrial ventures.

Four New Partnerships to Drive Growth

The company also concluded four additional agreements with leading African companies worth more than USD 420 million, including:

- Sahel Strategic Partnerships Ltd. to market products in Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Burkina Faso, and Ghana (USD 121 million).
- UniSteel S.A.: an agreement exceeding USD 195 million for multiple markets across the continent.
- Al-Najah Industrial Engineering Co.: an agreement worth USD 103 million to supply products to Libya.

Honoring a Track Record of Achievements

These steps come as an extension of previous successes that strengthened the company's position as the leading exporter of iron and steel to Africa, a role that was crowned by recognition from H.E. President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who honored the company as Africa's top exporter in 2024.

A Model of Arab Integration

Today, with investments exceeding USD 2.1 billion in Algeria and an annual production capacity of millions of tons, Algerian Qatari Steel — in which Qatar Steel International, a subsidiary of Qatar Mining, owns a 49% stake — embodies a pioneering model of Arab industrial integration, and sends a clear message that strategic partnerships are capable of making a real difference in shaping Africa's development future.



Gulf Area

EMSTEEL Launches the World's First Pilot of Electric Process Gas Heaters in Steelmaking

EMSTEEL Group, one of the largest publicly traded steel and building materials manufacturers in the region, has announced a landmark partnership with global technology leader Danieli to launch the first Electric Process Gas Heater (ePGH) pilot for the steel sector. The initiative marks a pivotal step in EMSTEEL's decarbonisation roadmap, reinforcing its leadership in the region's transition to low-emission industrial processes.

The ePGH pilot replaces conventional gas-fired heaters with an electric alternative at EMSTEEL's DRI plants, eliminating over 2,200 tons of CO₂ annually using green electricity. This innovation directly supports EMSTEEL's commitment to reducing emissions by 40% by 2030 in its steel business division and represents a critical step in its broader green steel strategy.

Engineered in close collaboration with Danieli's R&D division, the system has undergone rigorous simulation, testing, and modeling to ensure optimal performance under industrial conditions. Starting with a 1.3 MW pilot phase, the project sets the foundation for scaling up to a 22.7 MW system that could redefine how thermal processes are decarbonised across the steel industry.

This pilot is not only a first in the global steel sector but also a scalable model for future retrofits. By replacing fossil-fuel-based heat sources with clean electric alternatives, EMSTEEL is creating a tangible pathway toward net-zero operations.

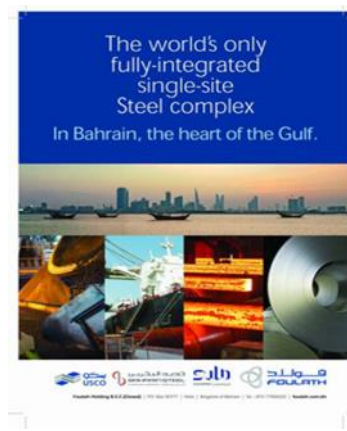
Engineer Saeed Ghumran Saeed Al Remeithi, Group CEO of EMSTEEL, stated: "At EMSTEEL, we are committed to shaping the future of sustainable manufacturing. By adopting scalable clean technologies, we accelerate our sustainable steel strategy and strengthen the UAE's position as a global hub for industrial innovation. Our goal is to deliver industrial solutions that create lasting positive impact for the environment, the economy, and future generations."

This milestone reaffirms EMSTEEL's leadership in sustainable manufacturing and underscores our commitment to advancing a low-carbon future for the UAE and beyond. The company has already made substantial progress, having reduced its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions intensity by 23%. As of 2023, EMSTEEL's total Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions stood at 4.5 million tonnes of CO₂, marking a significant step forward in its journey toward net-zero.

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World

Steel prices in the second week of September 2025

In the second week of September 2025, global iron and steel markets witnessed mixed price movements, with most products remaining stable while some recorded slight increases and others a limited decline.

The price of steel scrap (HS1&2 mix 80:20) imported by Turkey from the USA fell by USD 5 to settle at USD 338/ton CFR.

Meanwhile, iron ore (62% CFR Australia) edged up by USD 1 to USD 105/ton.

Prices of billets remained unchanged, with Russia FOB standing at USD 435–442/ton, while Turkey CFR from CIS recorded USD 455–465/ton.

As for rebar, prices in Turkey FOB held steady at USD 535–545/ton, while in CIS FOB markets they dropped by USD 5 to USD 510–520/ton.

Turkish wire rod FOB prices also remained stable at USD 545–550/ton.

In contrast, Russian hot-rolled coil FOB prices increased by USD 8 to USD 480–485/ton.

Meanwhile, Chinese cold-rolled coil FOB prices were unchanged at USD 545–560/ton.

These mixed trends highlight cautious market sentiment, as global price directions continue to be influenced by supply-demand dynamics and trade policies at the start of the year's final quarter.

The following is the **steel prices** statement in the global markets on 13 September 2025:

Product	Place	Min	Max	Date	w-0-w
ScrapHMS 1&2(mi x 80:20)	ex,USA,CFR Turkey	338	338	13/09/2025	↓ -5
Iron ore Fe 62%	CFR- Australia	105	105	13/09/2025	↑ 1
Billet	FOB Russia	435	442	13/09/2025	○ 0
	Turkey FOB	455	465	13/08/2025	○ 0
Rebar	FOB Turkey	535	545	13/08/2025	○ 0
	FOB Ukraine	510	520	13/08/2025	↓ -5
Wire Rod	FOB Turkey	545	550	13/08/2025	○ 0
HR coil	FOB Russia	480	485	13/08/2025	↑ 8
HR coil	FOB Russia	545	560	13/08/2025	○ 0

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Turkey's Billet Imports Rise by 61.6% in January and July 2025

In July 2025, Turkey's imports of billets and bloom reached 453,113 mt, down 9.7% compared to June, but up 73.4% year-on-year, according to preliminary data released by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK).

At the same time, revenues generated from these imports totaled USD 222.26 million, decreasing by 9.5% month-on-month, but rising 53.7% year-on-year.

From January to July 2025, Turkey's billet and bloom imports amounted to 2.52 million mt, marking a 61.6% increase, while the value of these imports rose by 41.1% to reach USD 1.26 billion year-on-year.

During this period, Malaysia was the largest supplier of billets and bloom to Turkey, with 687,262 mt, up 224.5% year-on-year. It was followed by Russia with 565,150 mt(+75.8%), and China with 379,458 mt.

Two Arab countries were also among the top ten suppliers:

- Oman, with 126,000 mt.
- United Arab Emirates, with 57,000 mt.

China's Steel Exports Rise 10% in the First Eight Months of 2025

China's finished steel exports reached 77.49 million tons from January to August 2025, marking a 10% year-on-year increase, according to the latest data released by the General Administration of Customs of China.

In August alone, finished steel exports totaled 9.51 million tons, down 3.3% month-on-month but up slightly by 0.1% year-on-year. Meanwhile, China's finished steel imports recorded 500,000 tons in August, up 10.6% month-on-month but down 1.96% year-on-year. For the first eight months of the year, total imports amounted to 3.977 million tons, reflecting a 14.1% year-on-year decline.

Market experts noted that China's steel exports are likely to remain strong in September, as exporters rush to increase shipments ahead of stricter tax evasion controls in trade, set to take effect on October 1. However, exports are expected to decline significantly in October, especially when compared with the 11.18 million tons recorded in October 2024.

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Iron Ore Hits 6-Month High

On September 8, Australian iron ore (62% Fe, CFR China) rose by USD 0.9 to reach USD 105.25, marking its highest level since February 28 and the first time in six months it surpassed the USD 105 mark. Monthly performance shows an increase of USD 2.45 this month (up 2.38%), while gains since the beginning of the year total USD 4.65, with a growth rate of 4.6%. Over the past week alone, the price rose by USD 1.55 (1.5%).

In August, China's iron ore imports exceeded 105 million tons, recording the second-largest monthly volume this year and the second time in 2025 that imports surpassed this level, highlighting strong ongoing demand for the commodity. Despite current steel price pressures, a rebound in iron futures supported iron ore gains.

Market participants note that Chinese steel demand since early September has been weaker than expected. However, expectations remain positive during the peak season, with short-term price volatility likely before a potential recovery.

Decline in Global Oil Prices

Global crude oil prices fell by around 2% on September 11, driven by concerns over a potential slowdown in U.S. demand and rising oversupply in global markets.

In its monthly report, the International Energy Agency (IEA) indicated that global oil supply is expected to grow at a faster pace than previously forecast, supported by OPEC+ production plans.

Nevertheless, OPEC+ maintained its outlook for strong demand growth in 2025 and 2026, while announcing on September 7 its decision to further increase production quotas starting in October.

- West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for October delivery fell \$1.30 or 2%, settling at \$62.37 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.
- Brent crude for November delivery dropped \$1.12 or 1.7%, closing at \$66.37 per barrel.

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Technology

Baosteel upgrades gearbox on SMS group hot strip mill

Baosteel has completed a major gearbox overhaul on its 2050 mm hot strip mill in Shanghai, supplied by SMS group. The upgrade, carried out during the plant's 2025 annual shutdown, included online adjustments, disassembly, inspection, bearing replacements, and reassembly—without additional downtime.

SMS group provided full support from technical planning to on-site commissioning, ensuring precise execution and detailed inspections that will guide Baosteel's long-term maintenance strategy.

With a design capacity of 4 million tons per year, Baosteel's hot rolling line—commissioned in 1989 and enhanced with a slab sizing press in 2013—regularly produces over 5 million tons annually, underlining its strategic role in China's steel industry.

The project highlights SMS group's technical expertise and commitment to long-term partnerships with Baosteel.

SMS group



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