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Imports of Brass Mill Products Fell while Exports were Essentially Flat in May 2016

U.S. imports declined while exports of brass mill products rose slightly in May 2016 compared with the corresponding 2015 period.

Imports of brass mill products in May 2016 totaled 42,740,455 pounds compared to 47,069,467 in May 2015, a decrease of 9.2 percent. Exports totaled 20,410,035 pounds in May 2016, up from 20,365,804 in May 2015, a 0.2 percent increase.

For YTD 2016 through May, imports of brass mill products totaled 190,352,164 pounds compared to 217,226,348 pounds through May 2015 YTD, a decrease of 12.4 percent. Exports YTD 2016 totaled 147,674,441¹ pounds compared to 107,149,094 pounds in the same 2015 period, an increase of 37.8 percent.

Mexico was the leading destination for U.S. exports of brass mill products in May at 8,269,799 pounds followed by Canada at 5,372,641 pounds, China at 1,058,462 pounds, Germany at 617,482 pounds, and Saudi Arabia at 559,541 pounds.

Imports from Germany in May 2016 totaled 11,147,090 pounds, followed by South Korea at 4,867,874 pounds, Mexico at 4,677,817 pounds, Canada at 3,875,797 pounds, and Vietnam at 3,706,294 pounds.

Imports of all sheet, strip, plate and foil products totaled 14,296,300 pounds while exports of those products totaled 8,045,337 pounds.

Imports of all pipe and tube products totaled 16,046,333 pounds while pipe and tube exports totaled 4,056,652 pounds.

Imports of all profiles, rods and bars totaled 9,164,267 pounds while exports totaled 6,121,224 pounds.

Imports of copper alloy wire totaled 3,233,555 pounds while exports totaled 2,186,822 pounds.

Brass mill products are widely used in building construction, automotive products and in electronic and electrical applications.

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¹As reported in earlier releases, export data for February, March and April are suspected to contain a combined approximately 45 million pounds of product misclassified by importers or brokers as copper rod and bar. A formal inquiry has been initiated and it is expected that this error will be removed from the YTD data in subsequent reports.