

Steel rails—The production of steel rails in Canada in 1916, was 90,170 short tons as against 232,411 tons in 1915 and was the smallest output since 1901. The annual production from 1905 to 1915 varied between 200,000 tons and 500,000 tons per annum.

There is no record of exports of steel rails although in recent years such exports have been made to South Africa and to the United States.

The imports of steel rails during 1916 is recorded by the Customs Department as 11,227 short tons valued at \$344,802. This record, however, is possibly not complete since the United States Department of Commerce reports the exports of steel rails from the United States to Canada during the same period as 46,011 tons valued at \$1,586,639.

The annual imports of steel rails as shown in the following table from 1895 to 1905 ranged between 50,000 and 212,000 tons, averaging about 125,000 tons. From 1906 to date, however, or since the establishment of rail mills at Sydney and Sault Ste. Marie, the imports have fallen to an annual average of 60,000 tons, the variation being between a minimum of 10,420 tons in 1915 and a maximum of 177,041 tons in 1913.