

PERILS FROM ABROAD

How Turkey Threatens to Disrupt America's Ability to Produce Critical Manufacturing Materials

The U.S. manufacturing sector is under growing strain, driven by foreign countries implementing market-manipulating manufacturing and trade practices that disrupt America's domestic industries. One of the key economic sectors most affected by unfair trade practices is America's cement industry, which is currently experiencing a decline in production in the face of high volumes of imports that undermine U.S. producers.

Turkey is a major contributor to this trend, increasing its cement production and surging its exports. Since the U.S. government does not stockpile cement or have national security protections in place for this critical input, high import levels of cement threaten America's ability to carry out large-scale, essential infrastructure projects with durable materials on demand.

**THE U.S. IMPORTS MORE THAN
20% OF THE CEMENT IT CONSUMES
EVERY YEAR, WITH NEARLY A THIRD
OF ALL IMPORTS COMING FROM TURKEY**

SOURCE: U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CEMENT BY THE NUMBERS:

34 STATES
producing cement

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

\$159 BILLION
in economic impact

Source: American Cement Association

577,000 JOBS
supported

Source: American Cement Association



SUBSIDIZING KEY EXPORT INDUSTRIES

Turkey has a history of subsidizing key export industries, including steel concrete reinforcing bar (rebar), through direct government backing and indirect export support that skews markets in Turkish producers' favor. In March 2026, the U.S. Department of Commerce determined that countervailing duties on Turkish rebar should remain in place to preserve fair competition between and guard against the risk of renewed adverse impacts on American producers from Turkish imports. Specifically, the U.S. International Trade Commission contended that Turkey's rebar industry "lacks sales opportunities in its home market, and continues to ship significant volumes of rebar to the United States under the discipline of the countervailing duty order," with imports from Turkey underselling domestic products in 109 of 123 available comparisons.

The system of government subsidies that facilitated rebar dumping is available to Turkish cement manufacturers that continue to push products in the U.S., undercutting both American producers and workers.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

While comparable sectors, including the iron and steel industries, benefit from protections meant to bolster the use of American-made products in domestic construction projects, the cement industry does not. This jeopardizes our ability to build essential infrastructure if we can't ensure the quality of the materials used in homes, roads, hospitals, and other structures.

The U.S. government has determined that excess manufacturing can severely harm America's industrial capacity, and investigations have been initiated into the cement production practices of Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Vietnam. Crucially, Turkey was not included. To ensure America's foundations are poured using products created here at home, policymakers must:

Initiate a Section 301 investigation into Turkey under the Trade Act of 1974 to ensure fair trade and ensure excess production capacity does not manipulate U.S. markets.

Expand Buy America requirements to ensure cement receives equal protection similar to the U.S. iron and steel sectors.

Recognize cement as a national security material so the U.S. has an adequate supply to build essential transportation, water, energy, and military-related infrastructure.