

## WORLD STEEL REVIEW

Iron & Steel Statistics Bureau, January 2007



Crude steel production in the 62 countries reporting to the IISI totalled 104 million tonnes in November, 10.3% up on October 2005. The eleven months total was 1,113 million tonnes, 8.9% higher than the same period last year. Nearly all regions showed a rise in both the month and year to date.

Steel production in the 25 member countries of the European Union increased by 2.5% in November 2006 compared to November 2005 to 16.3 million tonnes; the eleven months total was 5.9% higher at 182.7 million tonnes. German production rose in November by 9.2%, bringing the ten months total up 5.8% to 43.4 million tonnes. Production in Italy increased by 8.2% in November, while the year to date total was up 7.4% to 29.1 million tonnes. French steel production only fell by 1.1% in the month, but the year to date total was up 2.6% to 18.3 million tonnes. Spanish production rose by 10.3% in November, with the eleven months total up 3.1% to 17.2 million tonnes. UK monthly steel production actually decreased by 7.1%, while the year to date total rose by 5.3% to 12.8 million tonnes. Poland showed one of the largest rises in steel production with the eleven months up 17.8% to 9.2 million tonnes. There were also large rises in the Czech Republic, up 12.1% to 6.4 million tonnes, and Slovakia, up 15.1% to 4.7 million tonnes.

In the rest of Europe the largest producer is Turkey, where steel production increased by 13.4% in November, and by 11.3% in the year to date to 21.3 million tonnes, making it the eleventh largest steel producer in the world. Romanian steel production remained fairly steady, only showing a decrease of 0.3% in the year to date to 5.8 million tonnes. The eleven months total for Serbia and Montenegro was 44.7% up at 1.7 million tonnes.

In the CIS countries crude steel production in Russia rose by 7.5% in November bringing the year to date total up 7% to 64.5 million tonnes. Ukrainian November production increased slightly, and the eleven months total was up 6.1% to 37.3 million tonnes. Steel production in Kazakhstan decreased by 5.5% in the year to date to 3.9 million tonnes.

Steel production in the USA was down by 5.5% in November, although the year to date total was 7% up at 91.5 million tonnes. Canadian production increased by 8.2% in November, with the eleven months total up 3.8% at 14.6 million tonnes. Mexican steel production jumped by 8.3% in the month, while the year to date total was the same as last year at 14.9 million tonnes.

In South America, Brazilian crude steel production increased by 2.6% in November, although the year to date total was down by 2.4% to 28.3 million tonnes compared to last year. Argentinian production in November decreased by 12.2%, while the ten months total was up 4.5% to 5.1 million tonnes. Venezuelan crude steel production was fairly flat in the month, while the year to date total increased by 4.1% to 4.7 million tonnes.

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For further information please contact: Phil Hunt Tel: +44 (0) 20 7343 3916 Fax: +44 (0) 020 7343 3903  
e-mail: [tradeadmin@issb.co.uk](mailto:tradeadmin@issb.co.uk) website: [www.issb.co.uk](http://www.issb.co.uk) or write to:  
Publications Dept, Ref: SOTN, ISSB Limited, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5DB, England

Middle Eastern steel showed mixed fortunes with Iranian production in the eleven months up 4.4% to 8.9 million tonnes, equal to the South African year to date total, which increased by 2.1%. However, in Egypt steel production fell by 10.6% in the month and by 12.7% in the year to date to 4.5 million tonnes, while Saudi Arabian production during January to November was down 4.4% to 3.7 million tonnes.

In Asia Chinese steel production is still rising, up 24.1% in November and by 18.4% to 381.5 million tonnes in the eleven months. Indian steel production rose by 10.1% in the month, while the year to date total was up 4.1% to 38.8 million tonnes. Japanese production showed a rise of 9.5% in the month, with the year to date total up 2.7% to 106.2 million tonnes. South Korean steel production reached 44 million tonnes in the ten months, up 0.9%, and showed an increase of 0.7% in the month. Taiwanese steel production rose by 17.3% in October, and by 8.6% to 18.5 million tonnes in the January to November period.

Chinese steel exports reached a new high at over 45 million tonnes in the first eleven months of 2006, about a 82% increase on the same period in 2005. Exports of semis topped 8.5 million tonnes, an increase of 20.8%, while hot rolled coil exports rose by 87% to 7.4 million tonnes. Imports, on the other hand, fell by 43% to 17.5 million tonnes.

In terms of export markets, South Korea remains the largest market for China with a 52% increase on 2005 to 9.3 million tonnes, but the USA has jumped up ahead of other Asian countries with the export tonnage more than doubling to 4.9 million tonnes. Italy was the fifth largest market at 2.8 million tonnes, over 4 times the tonnage exported in 2005.

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