

WORLD STEEL REVIEW

Iron & Steel Statistics Bureau, January 2008



Crude steel production in the 67 countries reporting to the IISI totalled 109 million tonnes in November 2007, 4% up on November 2006. The eleven months total was 1,211 million tonnes, 7.7% higher than the same period last year. Excluding China, the monthly rise was almost the same at 3.8%, whereas the year to date total was only 3.1% higher. All regions showed a rise in both the month and year to date except for the 11 month North American total.

Steel production in the 27 member countries of the European Union increased by 2.6% in November 2007 compared to the previous November to 17.4 million tonnes; the eleven months total was only 1.6% higher at 193.3 million tonnes. German production rose in November by 2.4%, bringing the eleven months total up 3.3% to 44.8 million tonnes. Production in Italy was flat in November, while the year to date total was very slightly up at 29.2 million tonnes. French steel production actually fell by 8.9% in the month, bringing the year to date total down 2.2% to 17.9 million tonnes. Spanish production was flat in November, with the eleven months total up 2.7% to 17.5 million tonnes. UK monthly steel production jumped by 20.1%, while the year to date total rose by 3.3% to 13.2 million tonnes. The Netherlands showed the largest rise in steel production in the eleven months, up 15.2% to 6.7 million tonnes. The Polish year to date total exceeded that of Belgium, rising by 6.8% to 9.8 million tonnes, while the Belgian total fell by 8.5% to just under 9.8 million tonnes.

German steel imports have risen by 10.5% in the first ten months of 2007 compared to 2006 to reach 23.6 million tonnes. The total for the ten months of 2007 was 31% up on the same period in 2005. The largest product imported in 2007 was galvanised steel at 3.2 million tonnes, an increase of 8.1%. HR wide coil came next at 2.7 million tonnes, up 18.2%, and HR plate at 2.6 million tonnes, up 8.7%. Imported semis jumped by 23% to 2.5 million tonnes. 81% of Germany's imports came from other EU countries, particularly Belgium, Italy and France. The largest non EU supplier was Russia.

In the rest of Europe the largest producer is Turkey, where steel production increased by 10.3% in November, and by 11.1% in the year to date to 23.6 million tonnes, making it the third largest European steel producer.

According to ACEA, the European car manufacturers' association, European car registrations fell by 1.1% in November, but were up 1.1% in the eleven months. Registrations in Germany, the largest market, fell by 8.2% in the eleven months to 2.9 million cars, while in Italy they were up by 6.6% to over 2.3 million cars. The UK total rose by 2.5% to just under 2.3 million cars.

In the CIS countries crude steel production in Russia fell by 2.8% in November bringing the year to date total up 2.5% to 66.1 million tonnes. Ukrainian November production, however, rose by 4% making the eleven months total 39.1 million tonnes, an increase of 5%. Steel production in Kazakhstan increased by 13.4% in the year to date to 4.4 million tonnes.

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Steel production in the USA was up by 8.5% in November, although the year to date total was 2.1% lower at 89.6 million tonnes. Canadian production increased by 11.5% in November, with the eleven months total up 5.1% at 15 million tonnes. Mexican steel production rose by 2.2% in the month, bringing the year to date total up 6.1% at 15.8 million tonnes.

In South America, Brazilian crude steel production increased by 6.2% in November, while the year to date total was up 8.9% to 30.8 million tonnes compared to last year. Argentinian production in November increased by 19.8%, while the eleven months total was down 4.8% to 4.9 million tonnes. Venezuelan crude steel production also showed a significant rise in the month, 19.4%, while the year to date total increased by just 1.4% to 4.5 million tonnes.

Middle Eastern steel showed increasing production with Iranian production up 3.6% in November and 2% in the eleven months to 9.2 million tonnes. In Egypt steel production rose by 10.3% in the month and by 3.4% in the year to date to 5.7 million tonnes, while Saudi Arabian production jumped by 84% in the month bringing the January to November total up 14.9% to 4.2 million tonnes. Although South African production was up 0.5% in November, the year to date total was down 5.7% to 8.4 million tonnes.

In Asia Chinese steel production rose by 4.3% in November, but by 16.7% to 447.8 million tonnes in the eleven months. Indian steel production increased by 7.8% in the month, while the year to date total was up 7.3% to 48.4 million tonnes. Japanese production only rose by 1.1% in November, with the year to date total up 3.4% to 109.8 million tonnes. South Korean steel production reached 46.9 million tonnes in the eleven months, up 6.2%, but only showed an increase of 0.8% in the month. Taiwanese steel production was flat in November, but was up by 1.4% to 18.7 million tonnes in the January to November period.

Chinese steel exports continue to fall, month on month, reaching 4.2 million tonnes in November, its lowest level since May 2006, and almost half the peak April figure of 8 million tonnes. The eleven months total was 63.7 million tonnes, 39% higher than the equivalent 2006 figure. Hot rolled plate exports doubled in 2007 to 8.6 million tonnes, whereas semis fell by 26% to 6.3 million tonnes; coated sheet exports were up 63% to almost 5 million tonnes.

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