

## **WORLD STEEL REVIEW**

**Iron & Steel Statistics Bureau, January 2011**



Crude steel production in the 66 countries reporting to the World Steel Association totalled 114 million tonnes in November 2010, 5.1% higher than in November 2009. However, the eleven months total was 1,281 million tonnes, 16.2% higher than the same period last year. Excluding China, the monthly rise was 5.3%, whereas the year to date total increased by 21.7%. All regions showed an increase in the month and year to date, except for the November total for South America and Oceania.

Steel production in the 27 member countries of the European Union increased by 4.1% in November 2010 compared to the previous November to 14.7 million tonnes; the eleven months total, however, was 26% higher at 160 million tonnes. German production rose in November by 8%, bringing the eleven months total up 37% to 40.6 million tonnes. Production in Italy, on the other hand, increased by 19% in November, while the year to date total rose by 30% to 23.8 million tonnes. However, Spanish steel production actually fell by 20% in the month, although the year to date total increased by 13.6% to 15.1 million tonnes. French November production was down by 1.6%, while the eleven months total rose by 21.7% to 14.3 million tonnes. UK monthly steel production dropped by 22.8%, the largest fall in the EU, bringing the year to date total up 1.6% to 9.1 million tonnes. The Belgian eleven month total rose by nearly 45% to 7.4 million tonnes.

In the rest of Europe the largest producer is Turkey, where steel production increased by 15.7% in November, and by 12.9% in the year to date to 26.1 million tonnes. Although the monthly total in Serbia actually fell compared to November 2009, the eleven months total rose by 31.4% to 1.2 million tonnes, just ahead of the Swiss total.

While Turkish steel production rose by 13% in 2010 compared to 2009, Turkish steel exports fell by 10% to 14.5 million tonnes. The largest drop in exports was in deformed reinforcing bars, down from 8.1 to 5.4 million tonnes in 2010. However, exports of billets rose from 2.2 to 3.4 million tonnes. Total imports of steel in the eleven months rose by 8.7% to just under 10 mt.

Turkey's largest export market was the Middle East which took 6.9 million tonnes (47.5%) in the first eleven months of 2010; United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Iraq were the three largest markets within that. Africa accounted for 2.8 million tonnes (19.5%) in 2010 with Egypt, Libya and Algeria the top three markets. The European Union only accounted for 1.8 million tonnes (12.7%) with Italy, Romania and the United Kingdom being the largest recipients. Asian countries accounted for less than one million tonnes (6.3%) with Singapore and Thailand taking over 60% of the tonnage.

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According to ACEA, the European car manufacturers' association, European car registrations fell by 6.5% in November, and were down by 5.1% in the eleven months. Registrations in Germany, the largest market, decreased by 6.2% in November, and by 25% in the year to date to 2.7 million cars. French registrations were down by 10.8% in November but only by 2.4% in the year total to 2.0 million cars. The UK total showed an 11.5% fall in November, but the eleven months total was 3.4% up at 1.9 million cars, while in Italy monthly registrations were down by 21% with the year 8% down at 1.8 million cars. The fifth largest market, Spain, was 25% down in November, but 6% up in the year to date at 913 thousand cars.

In the CIS countries crude steel production in Russia rose by 2.7% in November bringing the year to date total up 12% to 61.1 million tonnes. Ukrainian November production increased by 6.8%, making the eleven months total 30 million tonnes, an increase of 12.7%. Steel production in Kazakhstan only increased by 3.3% in the year to date to 3.9 million tonnes.

Steel production in the USA rose by 13% in November, bringing the year to date total up 41% to 73.9 million tonnes. Canadian production was up just 2% in November, while the eleven months total was up by 44% to 12 million tonnes. Mexican steel production rose by 7.7% in the month, although the year to date total increased by 21% to 15.3 million tonnes.

In South America, Brazilian crude steel production actually fell by 2.8% in November, although the year to date total was up 27% to 30.4 million tonnes compared to last year. Argentinian production in November rose by 10%, bringing the eleven months total up nearly 31% to 4.7 million tonnes. Venezuelan crude steel production, on the other hand, decreased by 37% in the month, while the year to date total was down by 45% to 1.9 million tonnes.

In Africa and the Middle East steel production rose overall. Iranian production jumped by 23% in November, while the year to date total rose by 7.8% to 10.9 million tonnes. The South African monthly total was only 3.7% up with the eleven months total 14% higher at 7.75 million tonnes. In Egypt steel production rose by nearly 26% in the month, and was 16.5% up in the year to date to 5.8 million tonnes. Saudi Arabian production rose by 8.6% in the month bringing the January to November total up 8.3% to 4.6 million tonnes. Qatar steel production increased by 39% in the eleven months to 1.8 million tonnes.

In Asia Chinese steel production only increased by 4.8% in November, while the eleven months total was up by 10% to 577 million tonnes, 45% of the world total. Indian steel production increased by 3.2% in the month, and by 7.4% in the year to date to 61.3 million tonnes. Japanese production showed a very slight increase in November, while the year to date total was up by nearly 28% to 100 million tonnes. South Korean steel production rose by 16.4% in the month, and by 19.2% in the year to date to 52.5 million tonnes. Taiwanese steel production, however, fell by 12% in November, although the January to November total increased by 25.6% to 17.8 million tonnes.

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