

WORLD STEEL REVIEW

Iron & Steel Statistics Bureau, January 2016



Crude steel production in the 66 countries reporting to the World Steel Association totalled 127 million tonnes in November 2015, 4.1% less than in November 2014. The eleven months total was 1,471 million tonnes, which was 2.8% lower than the same period last year. However, excluding China, the monthly total fell by 6.4%, whereas the year to date total decreased by 3.3%.

Steel production in the 28 member countries of the European Union decreased by 7.5% in November 2015 compared to the previous November to 13.2 million tonnes, although the eleven months total was just 1.5% down at 154.5 million tonnes. German production fell by 3.1% in November, leaving the eleven months total flat at 39.7 million tonnes. Production in Italy, however, rose by 0.4% in November, while the year to date total decreased by 7.8% to 20.5 million tonnes. French steel production, on the other hand, fell by 14.7% in the month, while the year to date total decreased by 6.8% to 14 million tonnes. Spanish November production was down by 2.9%, while the eleven months total increased by 3.7% to 13.8 million tonnes. UK monthly steel production dropped by 32.6%, bringing the year to date total down 9.6% to 10.2 million tonnes. The Polish eleven months total actually rose by 9.5% to 8.7 million tonnes.

Turning to the rest of Europe Turkish steel production fell by 7.2% in November, and by 8% in the year to date to 28.8 million tonnes. The Serbian eleven months total jumped by 72% to 883 thousand tonnes, while in Bosnia-Herzegovina the year to date total increased by 2.7% to 737 thousand tonnes. In Norway production declined by 2.9% to 529 thousand tonnes.

According to ACEA, the European car manufacturers' association, European car registrations rose by 13.7% in November, and by 8.6% in the eleven months. Registrations in Germany, the largest market, increased by 8.9% in November, and by 5.4% in the year to date to almost 3 million cars. UK registrations were up by 3.8% in November and by 6.2% in the eleven months to 2.45 million cars. In France, on the other hand, registrations showed an 11.3% increase in November, while the year to date total was 6.2% higher at 1.7 million cars. In Italy monthly registrations jumped by 23.5% with the year 15.5% up at nearly 1.5 million cars. The fifth largest market, Spain, showed an increase of 25.4% in the month and 20.9% in the year to date to 945 thousand cars, while the Belgian eleven months total was just 2.7% higher at 468 thousand cars.

In the CIS countries crude steel production in Russia decreased by 3.1% in November bringing the year to date total down by just 0.2% to 65 million tonnes. However, Ukrainian November production increased by 3.1%, bringing the eleven months total to 21 million tonnes, a drop of 16.8%. Steel production in Kazakhstan fell by 3.8% in the year to date to 3.3 million tonnes, while in Belarus production rose by 5.5% to 2.4 million tonnes.

Steel production in the USA dropped by 15.6% in November, and by 9.7% in the year to date to 73 million tonnes. Canadian production fell by 5.2% in November, and by 2.4% in the eleven months to 11.4 million tonnes. Mexican steel production was 9.5% down in the month, while the year to date total decreased by 3.9% to 16.8 million tonnes.

Exports of steel and ferrous scrap by the USA in October at 1.7 million tonnes was the lowest monthly total since December 2006. In fact the total exports for the first ten months was 19.5 million tonnes, some 15.4% lower than the same period in 2014. Canada and Mexico accounted for 51% of exports in November, roughly the same as in earlier months; however, exports to Asian countries were up a little, especially to India. On the other hand exports to Turkey and also Central and South America were down.

In South America, Brazilian crude steel production fell by 4.4% in November, making the year to date total 1.9% lower at 30.8 million tonnes compared to last year. However, Argentinian production in November fell by 12.2%, bringing the eleven months total down 7.6% to 4.7 million tonnes. Venezuelan crude steel production, on the other hand, dropped by 33% in the month, making the year to date total fall by 6.8% to 1.2 million tonnes.

Crude steel production in the MENA region was mixed with Iranian production down 12.2% in November and by 0.9% in the year to date to 14.8 million tonnes. The Egyptian total, on the other hand, fell by 42% in the month, and by 14.3% in the year to date to 5 million tonnes. Saudi Arabian production fell by 27.6% in November, making the eleven months 8.5% lower at 5.3 million tonnes. However, South African steel production rose by 20.8% in the month, while the eleven months total was 15.8% up at almost 7 million tonnes. The UAE eleven months total rose by 26% to 2.7 million tonnes, while in Qatar the total fell by 13.7% to 2.4 million tonnes.

In Asia Chinese steel production decreased by just 1.6% in November, while the eleven months total was down by 2.2% to 738 million tonnes, 50% of the world total. Indian steel production decreased by 0.2% in the month, but increased by 2.8% in the year to date to 82 million tonnes making it the third largest steel producing nation in the world, ahead of the USA. Japanese production fell by 4.7% in November, and the year to date total was down by 5% to 96.5 million tonnes. South Korean steel production decreased by 0.5% in the month, and by 2.9% in the year to date to 63.8 million tonnes. Taiwanese steel production, however, dropped by 22.8% in November and by 5.9% in the January to November period to 19.8 million tonnes.

Chinese steel exports rose again from just below 9 million tonnes in October to 9.5 million tonnes in November. The increase went mainly to other Asian countries with exports up by 857 thousand tonnes to 5.7 million tonnes, an increase of 17.5%. Conversely exports to the European Union fell by 188 thousand tonnes to 676 thousand tonnes in November with Italy and Belgium still the largest markets.

P G Hunt
ISSB Ltd

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 website: www.issb.co.uk or write to:
Publications Dept, ISSB Limited, Corinthian House, 17 Lansdowne Road, Croydon CR0 2BX
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