

WORLD STEEL REVIEW

Iron & Steel Statistics Bureau, March 2014



Total crude steel production for the 65 countries reporting to the World Steel Association in January 2014 was estimated to be nearly 130 million tonnes, which was a decrease of 0.4% on January 2013. If China is excluded, the remaining 64 countries showed a 2.4% increase in crude steel production.

In the European Union crude steel production for the 28 countries (including Croatia) rose in January by 7.3% compared to January 2013 to 14.4 million tonnes. In Germany steel production rose by 2.2% to nearly 3.7 million tonnes, while Italian production jumped by 28% to 2.2 million tonnes. French steel production was flat at 1.35 million tonnes, while Spanish steel production increased by 11.1% to 1.1 million tonnes. In the UK, on the other hand, production increased by 31.5% to almost 1.1 million tonnes.

Outside of the European Union, steel production in Turkey decreased by 0.9% to 2.8 million tonnes, while Bosnian production rose by 22% to 75 thousand tonnes. Norwegian steel production fell by 5.9% to 49 thousand tonnes.

Registrations of new cars in Europe showed an increase of 5.2% in January 2014 to a total of 968 thousand. German registrations rose by 7.2% to 206 thousand units, while French registrations increased by just 0.5% to 125 thousand units. In the United Kingdom, however, registrations actually rose by 7.6% to 154 thousand units, while in Italy they rose by 3.2% to 118 thousand units. Belgian registrations, on the other hand, fell by 2.2% to under 50 thousand units, while Spanish registrations increased by 7.6% to 53 thousand units. Dutch registrations decreased by 7.1% to 45 thousand units.

In Russia crude steel production was up by 4.1% compared to January 2013 at 5.9 million tonnes, while Ukrainian production fell by 13.5% to 2.5 million tonnes. Steel production in Kazakhstan rose by 51% to 300 thousand tonnes.

In North America January crude steel production decreased by 0.6%, with US production down by 0.5% to 7.3 million tonnes. Canadian steel production declined by 4.2% to 1.1 million tonnes, while Mexican production was almost flat at 1.55 million tonnes.

South American crude steel production increased by 0.9% in January, with Brazilian production down by 1.4% to 2.7 million tonnes. Argentinian steel production, on the other hand, rose by 24% to 397 thousand tonnes, while Venezuelan production dropped by 37% to 110 thousand tonnes. Colombian steel production increased by 40% to 125 thousand tonnes.

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In Africa and the Middle East Iranian steel production rose by 21.5% to 1.35 million tonnes in January, while South African production was flat at 615 thousand tonnes. However, in Egypt, steel production decreased by 28% on January 2013 to 489 thousand tonnes. Saudi Arabian production, on the other hand, rose by 1.4% to 469 thousand tonnes.

Asian crude steel production for the five major countries in January was down by 1.5%. China's steel production actually declined by 3.2% to 61.6 million tonnes, while Japanese production rose by 6.1% to 9.4 million tonnes. Indian steel production was flat at 7 million tonnes, while South Korean production was up by 1.9% to 6 million tonnes. Taiwanese steel production increased by 3.6% to 1.8 million tonnes.

India's exports of steel in the first 11 months of 2013 reached 9 million tonnes, 19% higher than the same period in 2012. In fact the November monthly total topped one million tonnes which was 66% above the November 2012 total. The largest product exported in November 2013 was hot rolled wide coil at 349 thousand tonnes, more than double the November 2012 total. India's next largest export in November was semis at 157 thousand tonnes which was more than 4x the total in November 2012; some 85% of this total was low carbon rounds.

India's largest export market in 2013 was the United Arab Emirates at 823 thousand tonnes followed by the USA at 794 thousand tonnes. The Middle East accounted for 20% of total exports in 2013 at nearly 1.9 million tonnes, although other Asian countries took 2.7 million tonnes, some 30% of the total. The European Union took 18% of India's exports in 2013 at 1.6 million tonnes.

India's imports of steel in the first 11 months of 2013 were 6.9 million tonnes, 19% lower than in 2012. In fact the November 2013 total was half the November 2012 figure. The largest import in November 2013 was hot rolled wide coil at 80 thousand tonnes, down by nearly 70% on the same month last year, followed by CR at 74 thousand tonnes, down 44% on November 2012. Most products showed a decline in November, although seamless tube imports rose by 5.9% to 44 thousand tonnes.

India's largest suppliers of steel in 2013 were Japan, South Korea and China which together accounted for two thirds of all India's imports. Other Asian countries in total supplied 72% of India's imports in 2013. The European Union supplied 825 thousand tonnes of steel in 2013, some 12% of the total, down from 16% the previous year.

In 2013 India was the second largest exporter of ferro alloys after South Africa, primarily ferro silico manganese and high carbon ferro chrome.

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