

WORLD STEEL REVIEW

Iron & Steel Statistics Bureau, December 2015



Crude steel production in the 66 countries reporting to the World Steel Association totalled 133 million tonnes in October, 3.1% less than the October 2014 total. The ten months total was 1346 million tonnes, 2.5% lower than the same period last year. However, excluding China, the monthly total still fell by 3.1%, while the year to date total was down 2.8%.

Steel production in the 28 member countries of the European Union decreased by 3.8% in October to 14.2 million tonnes; this brought the ten months total down by 0.7% to 141 million tonnes. German production actually rose by 2.7% in October, bringing the ten months total to 36.2 million tonnes, an increase of 0.3%. Production in Italy decreased by 8.6% in October, and by 8.8% in the year to date to 18.6 million tonnes. French production, however, fell by 20.9% in October, and the ten months total was down by 6% to 12.8 million tonnes. Spanish steel production declined by 3.1% in the month, but increased by 4.4% in the year to date to 12.6 million tonnes. UK monthly steel production was 4.8% lower, while the year to date total was 7.4% down at 9.5 million tonnes. The ten months total for Poland rose by 11% to 8 million tonnes.

EU28 imports of steel from China have been rising over the last two years and in the first 8 months of 2015 reached 4.9 million tonnes, a 31.5% increase on the same period in 2014. While German imports from China in 2015 were only 2.5% of the German import total, UK imports from China were 11.6% of the UK total in 2015. Belgian imports from China in 2015 were 13.6% of the total and Spanish imports were 13.9% of the total. The main products imported from China were HR wide strip, HR plates, CR and hot dipped galvanised steel plus deformed reinforcing bars in the case of the United Kingdom.

European car registrations published by ACEA showed an increase of 2.7% in October, while the ten months total was up by 8.2% to 11.9 million cars. The largest market, Germany, showed an increase in registrations in the month of 1.1%, while the year to date total was up by 5.1% to 2.7 million cars. In the United Kingdom, October's total was actually 1.1% down, bringing the year to date total up by 6.4% to 2.3 million cars. In France registrations rose by 1% in October, while the year to date was up 5.7% to 1.6 million cars. Italy's monthly registrations rose by 8.6%, bringing the year to date total up by 14.7% to 1.3 million cars. In Spain registrations were up by 5.2% in the month, and were 20.5% up in the ten months to 864 thousand cars. These five countries accounted for 73% of total registrations in Europe in the first ten months of 2015.

In the rest of Europe Turkish steel production rose by 2% in October, but fell 6.9% in the year to date to 26.5 million tonnes. Bosnia's year to date total rose by 3.4% to 672 thousand tonnes while the Norwegian total was down 3.2% to 479 thousand tonnes. The Serbian year to date total, however, jumped by 80% to 819 thousand tonnes.

Among the CIS countries crude steel production in Russia fell by 2.4% in October to 5.7 million tonnes, making the year to date total 59.3 million tonnes, very slightly less than in 2014. In the Ukraine, however, October steel production increased by 6.4%, although the ten months total was down by 18.3% to 19.1 million tonnes. Kazakhstan's year to date total decreased by 3.8% to 3 million tonnes, and the Belarus total was up by 7.5% to 2.2 million tonnes.

Steel production in the USA fell by 8.8% in October and also by 8.8% in the year to date to 67.2 million tonnes. Canadian production declined by 7.2% in October, and by 1.2% in the ten months to 10.5 million tonnes. Mexican steel production, however, increased by 8% in the month, while the year to date total was down by 1% to 15.9 million tonnes. Guatemalan year to date production rose by 2% to 319 thousand tonnes.

In South America, Brazilian crude steel production decreased by 2.3% in October, bringing the year to date total down by 1.3% to 28.2 million tonnes compared to last year. Argentinian production in October fell 1.8%, while the ten months total was down 7.2% to 4.3 million tonnes. However, Venezuelan crude steel production dropped by 38% in the month, while the year to date total was just 0.8% lower at 1.2 million tonnes. Colombian year to date production showed an increase of 0.5% to just over one million tonnes while Chilean production declined by 0.5% to 900 thousand tonnes. In Peru the ten months total rose by 6.2% to 949 thousand tonnes.

Among Middle Eastern and African countries Iranian steel production decreased by 4.4% in the month, but rose by 0.7% in the ten months to 13.6 million tonnes. In Egypt, however, production fell by 19% in October and was 9.7% down in the year to date to 4.7 million tonnes. South African steel production, however, rose by 23.8% in the month and by 15.4% in the ten months to 6.3 million tonnes. Saudi Arabia steel production dropped by 26% in October, while the year to date total fell by 6.5% to 4.9 million tonnes. Year to date production in Qatar decreased by 13% to 2.2 million tonnes, while in the UAE, on the other hand, production rose by 28.6% to 2.5 million tonnes.

In Asia Chinese monthly steel production declined of 3.1% in October, bringing the ten months total down by 2.2% to 675 million tonnes, 50% of world production. Japanese monthly steel production decreased by 3.8% while the year to date total fell by 5.1% to 87.8 million tonnes. Indian production, however, increased by 4.9% in the month, bringing the year to date total up by 3.3% to 75 million tonnes. South Korean steel production fell by 5.6% in October, bringing the ten months total to 57.7 million tonnes, a decrease of 3.6%. Taiwanese steel production was 17.6% down in October, and 3.6% lower in the year to date at 18.3 million tonnes.

Indian imports of steel reached a peak of 1.2 million tonnes in July 2015 and dropped to 1.17 million tonnes in August. This was the highest tonnage since March 2013. 38% of the August total was HR wide strip. Other Asian countries accounted for 84.5% of India's imports in August 2015 with China and South Korea each taking 28.5% of total imports.

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