

WORLD STEEL REVIEW

Iron & Steel Statistics Bureau, January 2015



Crude steel production in the 65 countries reporting to the World Steel Association totalled 130 million tonnes in November 2014, just 0.1% higher than in November 2013. The eleven months total was 1,498 million tonnes, which was 1.8% higher than the same period last year. However, excluding China, the monthly total rose by 0.3%, whereas the year to date total increased by 1.7%.

Steel production in the 28 member countries of the European Union decreased by 0.8% in November 2014 compared to the previous November to 14.26 million tonnes, although the eleven months total was 2.3% higher at 156.7 million tonnes. German production fell by 1.9% in November, bringing the eleven months total up by 1.3% to 39.7 million tonnes. Production in Italy, however, fell by 13.9% in November, while the year to date total decreased by 0.2% to 22.3 million tonnes. French steel production, on the other hand, rose by 5.8% in the month, while the year to date total increased by 3.7% to 15 million tonnes. Spanish November production was down by 1.9%, while the eleven months total was just 0.3% down at 13.3 million tonnes. UK monthly steel production increased by 1.8%, bringing the year to date total up 3.6% to 11.2 million tonnes. The Polish eleven months total rose by 7.9% to 7.9 million tonnes.

Turning to the rest of Europe Turkish steel production fell by 8.6% in November, but fell by 1.7% in the year to date to 31.2 million tonnes. The Norwegian eleven months total was just 0.3% up at 545 thousand tonnes, while in Bosnia-Herzegovina the year to date total increased by 12% to 732 thousand tonnes. In Serbia production jumped by 30% to 513 thousand tonnes.

According to ACEA, the European car manufacturers' association, European car registrations rose by 1.2% in November, and by 5.5% in the eleven months. Registrations in Germany, the largest market, decreased by 1.8% in November, but rose by 2.6% in the year to date to 2.8 million cars. UK registrations, however, were up by 8% in November and by 9.4% in the eleven months to 2.3 million cars. In France, on the other hand, registrations showed a 2.7% decrease in November, while the year to date total was 1.1% higher at 1.6 million cars. In Italy monthly registrations increased by 5% with the year 4.3% up at 1.27 million cars. The fifth largest market, Spain however, showed an increase of 17.4% in the month and 18.1% in the year to date to 782 thousand cars, while the Belgian eleven months total was 1.1% down at 456 thousand cars.

In the CIS countries crude steel production in Russia increased by 5.8% in November bringing the year to date total up 2.8% to nearly 65 million tonnes. However, Ukrainian November production was down by 28.6%, making the eleven months total 25.3 million tonnes, a drop of 16%. Steel production in Kazakhstan increased by 14.8% in the year to date to 3.4 million tonnes, while in Belarus production rose by 9.2% to 2.3 million tonnes.

Steel production in the USA increased by 1.5% in November, and also 1.5% in the year to date to 81 million tonnes. Canadian production rose by 1.9% in November, and by 3% in the eleven months to 11.7 million tonnes. Mexican steel production was 8.8% up in the month, while the year to date total increased by 5.6% to 17.6 million tonnes.

In South America, Brazilian crude steel production rose by 2.4% in November, although the year to date total was down by 0.4% to 31.4 million tonnes compared to last year. However, Argentinian production in November fell by 1.7%, bringing the eleven months total up 6.1% to 5 million tonnes. Venezuelan crude steel production, on the other hand, jumped by 60% in the month on a very low base, making the year to date total fall by 34% to 1.35 million tonnes.

Crude steel production in the MENA region was mixed with Iranian production up 6.1% in November and 6.4% in the year to 15 million tonnes. The Egyptian total, on the other hand, fell by 29% in the month, and by 0.5% in the year to date to 6.2 million tonnes. Saudi Arabian production jumped by 24% in November, making the eleven months 15.8% higher at 5.7 million tonnes. However, South African steel production fell by 4% in the month, while the eleven months total was just 0.7% down at 6.6 million tonnes. The Qatar eleven months total rose by 34% to 2.8 million tonnes, while the UAE total was down 17.5% to 2.2 million tonnes.

In Asia Chinese steel production decreased by just 0.2% in November, while the eleven months total was up by 1.9% to nearly 749 million tonnes, 50% of the world total. Indian steel production increased by 4.8% in the month, but increased by 2.4% in the year to date to 76 million tonnes. Japanese production, however, fell by 1.1% in November, although the year to date total was up by 0.4% to 102 million tonnes. South Korean steel production increased by 5.5% in the month, and by 8.5% in the year to date to 65 million tonnes. Taiwanese steel production rose by 4.7% in November and by 1.7% in the January to November period to 20.8 million tonnes.

China exported almost 9.7 million tonnes in November, its highest monthly tonnage ever and more steel than Japan made in November. The monthly total was 14% higher than in October and almost double the November 2013 total. By far the largest product group exported in November was hot rolled bars and flats at 2.6 million tonnes, 37% higher than in October and more than triple the tonnage in November 2013. Exports of hot rolled wide strip were also up by 36% compared to October at nearly 1.5 million tonnes. Rods and bars in coil only showed a 4% increase to 1.2 million tonnes.

Other Asian countries took 57% of China's exports in November, some 5.5 million tonnes, with South Korea the largest market followed by Vietnam and the Philippines. North and South American countries accounted for a further 1.1 million tonnes, 11.6% of exports in November, and African countries took one million tonnes, 10.5%. The European Union only accounted for 6% of exports in November, just 565 thousand tonnes.

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