

## **WORLD STEEL REVIEW**

**Iron & Steel Statistics Bureau, January 2017**



Crude steel production in the 66 countries reporting to the World Steel Association totalled 132 million tonnes in November 2016, 5% more than in November 2015. The eleven months total was 1,468 million tonnes, which was just 0.4% higher than the same period last year. However, excluding China, the monthly total also rose by 5%, whereas the year to date total decreased by 0.4%.

Steel production in the 28 member countries of the European Union increased by 2.6% in November 2016 compared to the previous November to 13.5 million tonnes, although the eleven months total was 3.5% down at 149 million tonnes. German production fell by 4.2% in November, bringing the eleven months total down to 38.9 million tonnes. Production in Italy, however, rose by 11.2% in November, and by 4.9% in the year to date to 21.5 million tonnes. French steel production increased by 11.8% in the month, while the year to date total decreased by 5.3% to 13.3 million tonnes. Spanish November production was down by 8.2%, while the eleven months total fell by 8.3% to 12.75 million tonnes. UK monthly steel production dropped by 9.8%, bringing the year to date total down by 30% to 7.1 million tonnes. The Polish eleven months total fell by 4.9% to 8.1 million tonnes.

Turning to the rest of Europe Turkish steel production increased by 10.4% in November, and by 5.1% in the year to date to 30.3 million tonnes. The Serbian eleven months total rose by 16.9% to one million tonnes, while in Bosnia-Herzegovina the year to date total decreased by 1.5% to 736 thousand tonnes. In Norway production increased by 7.1% to 566 thousand tonnes.

According to ACEA, the European car manufacturers' association, European car registrations rose by 5.6% in November, and by 6.9% in the eleven months to 13.9 million cars. Registrations in Germany increased by just 1.5% in November, and by 4.6% in the year to date to 3.1 million cars. UK registrations were up by 2.9% in November and by 2.5% in the eleven months to 2.5 million cars. In France, on the other hand, registrations showed an 8.5% increase in November, while the year to date total was 5% higher at 1.8 million cars. In Italy monthly registrations were up 8.2% with the year 16.5% up at 1.7 million cars. The fifth largest market, Spain, showed an increase of 13.5% in the month and 11.1% in the year to date to 1.05 million cars. These five countries accounted for 73% of registrations in Europe.

In the CIS countries crude steel production in Russia increased by 5% in November bringing the year to date total down by just 0.8% to 64.6 million tonnes. However, Ukrainian November production increased by 3.1%, bringing the eleven months total to 22.2 million tonnes, an increase of 5.6%. Steel production in Kazakhstan rose by 10% in the year to date to 3.9 million tonnes, while in Belarus production fell by 14% to 2 million tonnes.

Russian exports of steel in the first ten months of 2016 reached 25 million tonnes, 4.5% more than in 2015. By far the largest export is semi finished steel at 12.8 million tonnes, 50% of total exports. Hot rolled wide strip exports were 4.9 million tonnes, 17.8% up on 2015, and CR exports were just below 1.2 million tonnes, 8.8% down on the same period in 2015.

Russia's largest market in 2016 was Turkey which took 4.6 million tonnes of steel, slightly less than the previous year. The next largest market was Taiwan at 2.5 million tonnes, 16.2% higher than in 2015. The European Union accounted for nearly 6.6 million tonnes in 2016, 7.7% more than in 2015.

Steel production in the USA rose by 6.8% in November, but was down 1.2% in the year to date to 72 million tonnes. Canadian production fell by 3.4% in November, but rose by 1.5% in the eleven months to 11.6 million tonnes. Mexican steel production was 19.9% up in the month, while the year to date total increased by 2.6% to 17.3 million tonnes.

US imports of steel have been falling since July 2016 so the first ten months of the year at 25.8 million tonnes were 19.4% below the same period in 2015. The largest product group imported was semi finished steel at 4.9 million tonnes, followed by coated sheet and strip at 4 million tonnes and hot rolled wide strip at 3.2 million tonnes.

In South America, Brazilian crude steel production fell by 4.8% in November, making the year to date total 8.9% lower at 28.1 million tonnes compared to last year. However, Argentinian production in November fell by 9.8%, bringing the eleven months total down 18% to 3.8 million tonnes. Colombian crude steel production in the year to date, on the other hand, rose by 5.3%, while Peruvian year to date production increased by 8.2% to 1.1 million tonnes. Chilean steel production in the 11 months rose by 4.3% to 1.1 million tonnes.

Crude steel production in the MENA region was mixed with Iranian production jumping up 26.3% in November and by 11% in the year to date to 16.4 million tonnes. The Egyptian total, on the other hand, rose by 6.2% in the month, but was down 11.1% in the year to date to 4.5 million tonnes. Saudi Arabian steel production increased by 1.3% in the eleven months to 5 million tonnes. However, South African steel production rose 3.1% in the month, while the eleven months total was down 4.5% at 5.7 million tonnes. The UAE year to date total rose by 2.9% to 2.8 million tonnes, while in Qatar the total fell by 3.8% to 2.3 million tonnes.

In Asia Chinese steel production increased by 5% in November, while the eleven months total was up by 1.1% to 739 million tonnes, 50% of the world total. Indian steel production increased by 10.7% in the month, and by 7.1% in the year to date to 87.5 million tonnes making it the third largest steel producing nation in the world, ahead of the USA. Japanese production fell by 1.4% in November, and the year to date total was down by 0.5% to 96.1 million tonnes. South Korean steel production decreased by 1.3% in the month, and by 1.6% in the year to date to 62.8 million tonnes. Taiwanese steel production, however, rose by 16.5% in November, but was flat in the January to November period at 19.7 million tonnes.

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