

**WORLD STEEL REVIEW**  
**Iron & Steel Statistics Bureau, March 2016**



Total crude steel production for the 66 countries reporting to the World Steel Association in January 2016 was estimated to be nearly 128 million tonnes, which was a decrease of 7.1% on January 2015. If China is excluded, the remaining 65 countries showed a 6.4% decrease in crude steel production.

In the European Union crude steel production for the 28 countries fell in January by 7.6% compared to January 2015 to 13.4 million tonnes. In Germany steel production only fell by 2% to 3.6 million tonnes, while Italian production fell by 5.3% to 1.8 million tonnes. French steel production, however, decreased by 11.9% to 1.15 million tonnes, while Spanish steel production was down by 9.5% also to 1.15 million tonnes. In the UK, on the other hand, production dropped by 38.4% to 656 thousand tonnes which for the first time was below that of Poland, some 820 thousand tonnes. The primary reason for the large drop in UK production was the closure of SSI works.

Outside of the European Union, steel production in Turkey increased by just 0.8% to 2.6 million tonnes, while Bosnian production fell by 9.2% to 74 thousand tonnes. Norwegian steel production actually rose by 13.1% to 50 thousand tonnes.

Registrations of new cars in Europe showed an increase of 6.3% in January 2016 to a total of nearly 1.1 million cars. German registrations rose by 3.3% to 218 thousand units, while UK registrations increased by 2.9% to almost 170 thousand units. However, in Italy registrations jumped by 17.4% to 155 thousand units, while in France they rose by 3.9% to 138 thousand units. Spanish registrations were up by 12.1% to 76 thousand units. These five countries accounted for 69% of the total in Europe.

In Russia crude steel production was down by 10.6% compared to January 2015 at 5.5 million tonnes, while Ukrainian production rose by 3.6% to 1.9 million tonnes. Steel production in Kazakhstan jumped by nearly 40% to 345 thousand tonnes while in Belarus production declined by 2% to 200 thousand tonnes.

Russian exports of steel in December 2015 were 2.76 million tonnes, the highest level since March 2015. Some 56% of the total was blooms, billets or slabs and a further 19% hot rolled wide strip. Turkey was Russia's largest market taking 20% of the total in December and Taiwan was the second largest market with 10.6% of the total. Mexico was the third largest market. The same three countries were the top 3 markets for the year 2015 as a whole.

In North America January crude steel production decreased by 7.6%, with US production down by 8.8% to 6.6 million tonnes. Mexican steel production fell by 9% to 1.5 million tonnes, while Canadian production was down by 1.2% at 1.05 million tonnes.

US steel imports fell to 2.2 million tonnes in December 2015, its lowest monthly total since December 2011 and a 35% drop on the December 2014 total. However, according to the American Institute for International Steel imports in January rose by 10% over December to 2.4 million tonnes. The European Union was the largest supplier of steel to the USA in December at 436 thousand tonnes, 31% less than in December 2014, while Canada's total was 417 thousand tonnes, 9% down on December 2014. Imports from Brazil were 55% lower than the same month in 2014. Asian countries accounted for 30% of US imports in December 2015 at 660 thousand tonnes, a drop of 37% on December 2014.

South American crude steel production decreased by 14.6% in January, with Brazilian production down by 17.9% to 2.5 million tonnes. Argentinian steel production, on the other hand, fell by 9.3% to 350 thousand tonnes, while Venezuelan production decreased by 24% to 100 thousand tonnes. However, Peruvian steel production increased by 21.6% to 105 thousand tonnes and steel production in Chile increased by 2.2% to 100 thousand tonnes. Colombian production was up 8.8% to 80 thousand tonnes.

In Africa and the Middle East steel production fell by 12.6%, while Iran saw production decline by 4.8% to 1.3 million tonnes in January. South African production, however, actually rose by 2.7% to 650 thousand tonnes, while Egyptian steel production dropped by 36% to 387 thousand tonnes compared to January 2015. Saudi Arabian production actually fell by 50% to 280 thousand tonnes, while in the United Arab Emirates production was up 25% to 281 thousand tonnes.

Asian crude steel production for the seven major countries in January was down by 6.9%. China's steel production actually declined by 7.8% to 63.2 million tonnes, while Japanese production fell by 2.8% to 8.8 million tonnes. Indian steel production was down 1.2% at 7.4 million tonnes, while South Korean production fell by 4.5% to 5.7 million tonnes. Taiwanese steel production decreased by 19.5% to 1.6 million tonnes. Production in Pakistan showed a 27% increase to 255 thousand tonnes, ahead of Thailand at 250 thousand tonnes, which was a drop of 32% on January 2015.

Although Chinese steel production in January was down by 7.8%, exports only fell by 5.5% to just under 9.7 million tonnes. Some 64% of Chinese exports in January were alloy steel at an average price of USD291 per tonne; carbon steel exports accounted for 32% of the total in January at an average price of USD580 per tonne.

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