

## WORLD STEEL REVIEW

Iron & Steel Statistics Bureau, December 2016



Crude steel production in the 65 countries reporting to the World Steel Association totalled 136 million tonnes in October, 3.3% more than the October 2015 total. The ten months total was 1333 million tonnes, just 0.1% lower than the same period last year. However, excluding China, the monthly total rose by 2.7%, while the year to date total was down 0.9%.

Steel production in the 28 member countries of the European Union increased by 0.3% in October to 14.1 million tonnes; this brought the ten months total down by 4.2% to 135 million tonnes. German production actually fell by 3.7% in October, bringing the ten months total to 35.5 million tonnes, a decrease of 1.9%. Production in Italy, on the other hand, increased by 11.4% in October, and by 4.2% in the year to date to 19.5 million tonnes. French production rose by 12.8% in October, although the ten months total was down by 6.9% to 11.9 million tonnes. Spanish steel production declined by 10.5% in the month, and by 8.3% in the year to date to 11.6 million tonnes. UK monthly steel production was 22.3% lower, while the year to date total was 32.4% down at 6.5 million tonnes. The ten months total for Poland fell by 7.6% to 7.3 million tonnes.

European car registrations published by ACEA showed a decrease of 0.3% in October, while the ten months total was up by 6.9% to 12.7 million cars. The largest market, Germany, showed a drop in registrations in the month of 5.6%, while the year to date total was up by 4.9% to 2.8 million cars. In the United Kingdom, October's total was actually 1.4% up, bringing the year to date total up by 2.5% to 2.3 million cars. In France registrations fell by 4% in October, while the year to date was up 4.7% to 1.66 million cars. Italy's monthly registrations rose by 9.7%, bringing the year to date total up by 16.7% to 1.55 million cars. In Spain registrations were up by 4% in the month, and by 10.8% in the ten months to 957 thousand cars. These five countries accounted for 73% of total registrations in Europe in the first ten months of 2016.

In the rest of Europe Turkish steel production rose by 8.6% in October, and by 4.6% in the year to date to 27.4 million tonnes. Bosnia's year to date total fell by 0.7% to 669 thousand tonnes while the Norwegian total rose by 6.4% to 509 thousand tonnes. The Serbian year to date total, however, increased by 11.7% to 915 thousand tonnes.

Among the CIS countries crude steel production in Russia rose by 2% in October to 5.9 million tonnes, making the year to date total 58.6 million tonnes, just 1.4% down on the 2015 total. In the Ukraine, however, October steel production decreased by 6.1%, although the ten months total rose by 5.4% to 20.2 million tonnes. Kazakhstan's year to date total increased by 10.9% to 3.5 million tonnes, while the Belarus total fell by 17.6% to 1.8 million tonnes.

Steel production in the USA fell by 2.5% in October and also by 1.6% in the year to date to 66 million tonnes. Canadian production, on the other hand, rose by 10.5% in October, and by 2.7% in the ten months to 10.7 million tonnes. Mexican steel production increased by 21.7% in the month, while the year to date total was up by just 0.8% to 15.6 million tonnes.

In South America, Brazilian crude steel production decreased by 8.8% in October, bringing the year to date total down by 9.2% to 25.6 million tonnes compared to last year. Argentinian production in October fell 19.6%, while the ten months total was down 18.7% to 3.5 million tonnes. The Colombian year to date crude steel total rose by 3.3% to 1.1 million tonnes. Peruvian year to date production showed an increase of 9.9% to 981 thousand tonnes while Chilean production rose by 5.4% to 964 thousand tonnes. In Venezuela the ten months total dropped by 69% to 347 thousand tonnes.

Among Middle Eastern and African countries Iranian steel production increased by 23.9% in the month, and rose by 9.6% in the ten months to 14.9 million tonnes. In Saudi Arabia, however, production rose by 9.5% in October, but was 7.1% down in the year to date to 4.5 million tonnes. South African steel production increased by 13.8% in the month, but fell by 5.1% in the ten months to 5.2 million tonnes. Egyptian steel production rose by 17.4% in October, while the year to date total fell by 16.3% to 3.9 million tonnes.

Iranian exports in the first nine months of 2016 rose by 41% to 4.3 million tonnes compared to 2015. 1.7 million tonnes went to other Middle Eastern countries, an increase of 21.8%, with 1.1 million tonnes going to the Far East, a rise of 67%. Ingots and semis accounted for 2.4 million tonnes of exports in 2016, 56% of total exports, and hot rolled wide strip accounted for a further 27% at nearly 1.2 million tonnes.

Iranian imports increased by 21% to 3.5 million tonnes in the first nine months of 2016 of which 1.3 million tonnes was hot rolled wide strip and a further 555 thousand tonnes was cold rolled sheet and plate, up 40%. Hot rolled plate imports rose by 96% to 481 thousand tonnes.

In Asia Chinese monthly steel production was up 4% in October, bringing the ten months total up by 0.7% to 673 million tonnes, 50.5% of world production. Japanese monthly steel production increased by 0.6% while the year to date total fell by 0.4% to 87.5 million tonnes. Indian production, however, increased by 12.3% in the month, bringing the year to date total up by 6.8% to 79.5 million tonnes. South Korean steel production fell by 2.1% in October, bringing the ten months total to 57 million tonnes, a decrease of 1.6%. Taiwanese steel production actually increased by 9.9% in October, but was 0.7% lower in the year to date at 18.1 million tonnes. Pakistan's year to date total jumped by 20.8% to 2.9 million tonnes.

Chinese exports of steel in October dropped by 1.1 million tonnes compared to September to 7.6 million tonnes, its lowest level since June 2014. The decline was spread across most products. Exports to other Asian countries fell by 11.6% to 5 million tonnes; there was a 29% drop in exports to the Middle East and a 28% drop in exports to the Americas.

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