



## World Crude Steel Production Down by 2.7%



World crude steel production for March 2015 was 138Mt, a 2.7% decline when compared with the same period last year, according to figures released by the World Steel Association (worldsteel) and based on figures submitted by the 65 countries that report to the World Steel Association. During the first three months of 2015, Asia produced 272Mt, down 1.1% when compared with Q1 2014.

The European Union produced 43.7Mt down, down 0.6%, and the North American steel industry produced 28.1Mt, a decrease of 6.4%. Crude steel production in the CIS for the first quarter of 2015 was 24.8Mt, down 5.9% on last year's figure while in China

there was a 1.2% decrease to 69.5Mt. Japan's figure stood at 9.3Mt, down 4.5%. In March 2015 Germany produced 3.9Mt of crude steel, down 4.4%. Italy produced 2.1 Mt, down 9.8% while French crude steel production for March 2015 was 2.8 Mt, down by -4.1% on March 2014. The USA produced 6.6Mt of crude steel in March 2015, a decrease of 12.7%, while in Brazil the figure stood at 2.8Mt, a decline of 7.4%. The crude steel capacity utilisation ratio for the 65 countries in March 2015 was 71.6%, which is four percentage points down when compared to March 2014. When compared to February 2015, the figure was 1.8 percentage points lower.

## Anhui Province Steel Exports Up By 61.4% in Q1 2015



According to statistics from Hebei Customs, Anhui province exported 389,000 tonnes of steel products in the Q1 this year at the price of CNY 1.47 billion up 61.4% YoY. All in all, the cancelling of tax rebate for boron added steel, the exports of steel exports in Q1 didn't witness a substantial decline. The demand for steel products still remained stronger than last year. Other alloy steel did support steel exports to some extent. We can find that flats, angle and bars are the major exported steel products in Anhui. Specifically, it exported 186,000 tonnes of flats, up 180%; 79,000 tonnes of section steel, down 0.1%; 36,000 tonnes of bars, up 48.5%. The total volume of these products accounted for 77.4% of the overall export volume of the province. It exported 250,000 tonnes of steel products to Asia and 69,000 tonnes to Africa, up 35.4% and 210%, separately.

## Russian Steelmaker Invests Heavily in the Environment



Leading global steelmaker OJSC Magnitogorsk Iron and Steel Works (MMK) is planning to implement 72 environmental initiatives based on its 2015 Environmental Programme. The budget for such an exercise will cost the company an

estimated 3.3 billion roubles (US\$64 million) and will cover all the mill's production plants and MMK Group entities. The major projects are aimed at decreasing pollutant emissions and include renovation work on sulphur collecting units at the sintering plant, renovating the coke gas chilling cycle at block No 1 of the coke-chemical production facility, and initiatives focusing on electrical supervisor departments. Expenditure on air protection measures will amount to over 2.9 billion roubles (US\$56 million) while the expected decrease in pollutant emissions will be over 13,000 tonnes in 2015.

Over 400 mln roubles (US\$7.7 million) will be contribute towards decreasing water consumption, decreasing pollution discharge into water facilities and maintaining efficient operation of water circulation systems and water-treatment facilities, industrial waste utilisation and the re-cultivation of affected land.

MMK claims that it is 'acutely aware of its responsibility to limit environmental impact within its area of influence' and has placed 'reducing negative environmental impact' among its key strategic goals within its long-term sustainable development plan. "This is affirmed by its Environmental Policy adopted by management, and by the certification of an environmental management system in accordance with ISO 14001, issued by independent international certification organisation TUV NORD (Germany)," claims MMK.