

Lebanese govt. may apply new fees on imported steel

The Lebanese government is considering to apply new fees on imported steel products to protect Lebanese industry.



Not all the goods will be in the list, market players report. Market insiders believe a new package of

fees and taxes will be introduced on steel tubes as the local tube manufacturers having total capacities of 150,000 tpy are suffering from high production cost connected with high electricity tariffs and taxes and thus are not able to compete with foreign suppliers.

“Otherwise we will close our mills,” a domestic tube manufacturer said in a news

report. Import quantities of tubes, however, totaled only 20,000 t in 2016.

In case the new fees are applied on import rebar it might give support to the only domestic rebar manufacturer Kfoury Metals (350,000 tpy), which is idled at the moment due to severe competition, to resume its operation. Nevertheless, the mill will not be able to cover the total rebar consumption of approximately 850,000 tpy in the country.

Traders will still continue importing rebar, being the only ones to bear the cost increase. Most probably stockists will not be able to pass the increased cost on end-users completely taking into consideration insufficient demand in the local market which prevented them from raising ex-warehouse prices in line with import ones during the upward trend

Iran steel mills produced 13.18 MT of steels



Iranian steel mills produced 13.18 million tonnes of slabs, blooms, billets and ingots during the 11 months, up 3.27% year on year.

As pre report Mobarakeh was at the forefront with 6.77 million tonne. Khouzestan Steel Company was next with 3.3 million tonne, followed by Esfahan Steel Company with 2.05 million tonne, Khorasan Steel Company with 600,716 tonne, Iran Alloy Steel Company with 362,357 tonne and Iran National Steel Industries Group with 90,524 tonne.

Esfahan Steel Company and Iran National Steel Industrial Group were the only producers posting negative growth.

Meanwhile, 9.17 million tonne of steel products, including hot and cold-rolled coils, rebar, beams, pipes, wide and galvanized sheets were produced over the period, down 3.49% year-on-year. Mobarakeh and its subsidiary Saba Steel Complex had the largest share of production here with 5.12 million tonne, followed by Esfahan Steel Company with 1.88 million tonne, Oxin Steel Company with 570,949 tonne, Khorasan Steel Company with 486,354 tonne, Azarbaijan Steel Company with 264,498 tonne, Iran Alloy Steel Company with 241,206 tonne, Iran National Steel Industrial Group with 226,139 tonne, Ahwaz Rolling and Pipe Mills Company with 205,228 tonne and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Automotive Sheet Company with 154,785 tonne.

Turkey's Automotive production hits record high



Turkey's automotive production surged to a record high in the first two months of the year, data from the Automotive Industry Association (OSD) showed, propelled by strong car exports. The number of vehicles produced during the two month rose to 266,490, up 22 percent from the same period last year, as factories ramped up production of export-focused car models. Car output alone jumped by 46 percent, OSD said.

Total automotive exports in January and February rose to 219,434, up more than 20 percent, while car exports leapt 60 percent, the association said in a release. Output last month climbed 15 percent to 138,369, it added.

The European Union is Turkey's main market for car sales. Major producers

include Oyak Renault, a joint venture with France's Renault, Tofas, a partnership between Turkey's Koc Holding and Fiat Chrysler, and Ford Otosan.

In January, Turkey's overall exports showed the biggest monthly jump in more than four years with a rise of 15 percent, according to data from exporters association TIM. The

rise in the first two months was 11.2 percent. The export and output surge come after Turkey's economic output declined in the third quarter of 2016 for the first time in seven years, as the once promising emerging market was hit by political uncertainty, security risks and a tumbling currency. Automotive sales to the domestic market fell in the first two months of the year - a seasonally weak period for market. Total vehicle sales in February shrank 11 percent and car sales dropped by 15 percent, OSD said.

The head of another industry association, the Automotive Distributors Association (ODD), earlier this year said Turkey's automotive sales were expected to shrink slightly more than 10 percent in 2017 to around 875,000 vehicles.