

## Iran's crude steel output forecast to reach 18.5 Mt



Annual crude steel production in Iran is forecast to reach 18.5 mln tons by the end of current Iranian calendar year, Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Jafar Sarqini told IRNA.

Iran's crude steel output stood at 16.708 mln tons in the past calendar year and at 16.805 mln tons in its preceding year.

The country aims to increase total output to 55 mln tons and export between 20 and 25 mln tons of steel annually by the end of its 1404 (March 2025-March 2026) Outlook Plan.

According to the Head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Mehdi Karbasian, domestic steel industry has reached 50 percent of the planned goals that it has been expected to reach based on the mentioned outlook plan.

As a major steel producer in the region, Iran boosted its steel mills across the country in recent years, as central Isfahan and southwestern Khuzestan provinces remain the major steel producers.

According to the World Steel Association, Iran produced 17.89 mln tons of crude steel in 2016, registering an 11-percent growth compared to the figure in 2015.

## Kardemir increases rebar prices for second time

Kardemir has increased its rebar prices by TRY 40 per ton, according to the new price list published on March 15, 2017. This is the second rebar price increment from Kardemir this month.

New rebar price is TRY 1693 (USD 452) per ton as compared to last published (on March 8, 2017) rebar price of TRY 1653 per ton. In USD terms, price increased by USD 6 per ton.

Karabuk Demir Celik (Kardemir) was established in 1938 as a state owned company and Turkey's first integrated steel producer. In 1995, the company was privatized. It offers steel products, such as blooms, billets, rebars, profiles along with other steel products.



## Saudi Arabia Billet imports drop

According to the General Authority for Statistics, square billet imports in Saudi Arabia have declined by 16 pct to 1.058 mln tons in 2016 as compared to 1.26 mln tons in 2015.

Slowdown in construction sector is the major factor behind the drop in billet imports in 2016. Several major construction projects were stalled by authorities, due to low oil revenue and major shift in Saudi Arabian policy towards budget allocation. Delay in contractors' payments have also cause liquidity crisis in long steel products market and subsequently billet demands have decreased.

Chinese billet imports rose to 292,168 tons in H1 2016 as compared to 101,172 tons in the similar period last year, a whopping 189 pct increase. But in H2 2016, Chinese billet imports slumped to 182,592 tons, down by 31 pct YoY. Over all, Chinese billet imports increased by almost 30 pct to 474,760 tons in 2016 YoY.

CIS origin billet imports declined by 36 pct to 363,876 tons in 2016 YoY, mainly due to the drop in billet imports in H1 2016, about 66 pct YoY, to 109,623 tons. In H2 2016, billet imports amounted to 254,253 tons, up by 3.5 pct.

Billets imports from GCC region were from Bahrain, Oman and UAE. Billets



imports from Bahrain totaled 77,875 tons in 2016. Interestingly, there were no imports from Bahrain in 2015.

Billet imports from Oman increased by 54 pct to 31,117 tons in 2016 YoY, mainly imports were observed in H1 2016. UAE origin billets were about 221 tons as compared to none in 2015.

Brazilian billet imports were 96,270, up significantly by 94.4 pct YoY. Billet imports from Malaysia were 11,567 tons in 2016. No imports of Malaysian origin billets were recorded in 2015.

Billet imports from Turkey declined to 3,158 tons in 2016 as compared to 4,968 tons in 2015.

There were no billet imports recorded from Qatar, South Africa and Iran in 2016 with Egyptian origin billet imports recording merely 9 tons in 2016 as compared to 43,983 tons in 2015.