

PRESS RELEASE

BIR World Recycling Convention (Round-Table Sessions) in Prague (25 - 27 October 2015)

Ferrous Division – Tuesday, 27 Oct. 2015, 09.00:

WORLD STEEL RECYCLING IN FIGURES (JANUARY-JUNE 2015 UPDATE)

Prague, 27 October 2015 – For immediate release

Rolf Willeke, Statistics Advisor of the BIR Ferrous Division, summarises below the main findings in his January-June 2015 update presentation:

Mainly negative developments in steel scrap consumption:

- In the first six months of 2015, there was a steep fall in steel scrap usage in China (-9.3% to 43.1m tonnes), Japan (-10.3% to 17.03m tonnes), the Republic of Korea (-10.1% to 15.17m tonnes) and Turkey (-10.3% to 13.21m tonnes). In all these individual cases, the drop in scrap usage was sharper than the decline in crude steel production.
- Among the major players, only the USA recorded a dip in scrap consumption (-7.7% to 24m tonnes) that was smaller than the decline in its crude steel production (-8.6%).
- Over the same period, the increase in steel scrap usage for crude steel production in the EU-28 (+0.5% to 48.4m tonnes) was the same in percentage terms as the upturn in its crude steel production (+0.5% to 88.12m tonnes).
- The biggest steel scrap users in the EU-28 were Italy (-5.4% to 10.35m tonnes), Germany (-5.5% to 9.51m tonnes), Spain (+5.2% to 6.37m tonnes) and France (+3.7% to 4.23m tonnes).

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- Steel scrap consumption in Russia was virtually unchanged (-0.1% to 8.26m tonnes) whereas its crude steel production was 0.8% higher.

Mixed results for main steel scrap importers:

- Statistics for the first six months of 2015 also show that Turkey - the world's leading steel scrap importer - reduced its overseas purchases by 12.9% to 8.472m tonnes.
- Year-on-year cuts in steel scrap imports were also made by the Republic of Korea (-35.5% to 2.778m tonnes), the USA (-12% to 1.856m tonnes), the EU-28 (-11.9% to 1.414m tonnes), China (-2.4% to 1.274m tonnes) and Indonesia (-53.6% to 0.523m tonnes).
- Conversely, the January-June 2015 figures show an increase in overseas steel scrap purchases by India (+29.9% to 3.168m tonnes), Taiwan (+4.8% to 2.301m tonnes), Belarus (+53.8% to 0.646m tonnes) and Mexico (+32.8% to 0.608m tonnes).
- India was the world's second-largest steel scrap importer in the first half of 2015 behind Turkey.

Steel scrap exports mainly in decline (highlighted by eight flow charts):

- Despite a steep reduction in EU-28 steel scrap exports in the first half of 2015 (-12.1% to 7.455m tonnes), it remained the world leader in terms of volumes shipped abroad.
- The major buyer of EU-28 steel scrap, Turkey, reduced its purchases by 13.1% to 4.39m tonnes. It is worth noting the strong increase in orders from Pakistan (+81.3%) and Morocco (+99.2%).
- In the first six months of 2015, the EU-28's internal steel scrap exports totalled 14.767m tonnes (-5.9%).
- US overseas shipments of steel scrap declined by 9.1% to 6.902m tonnes in January-June 2015, mainly as a result of the reduction in volumes dispatched to Taiwan (-19.1%), the Republic of Korea (-42.9%) and Canada (-23%).
- The main buyer of US steel scrap, Turkey, upped its order by 10.2% to 1.963m tonnes. It is also interesting to note the strong increase in purchases by India (+85.1%) and Thailand (+137%).

- A further upturn was apparent in Japan's overseas shipments of steel scrap in this year's first half (+10.8% to 4.137m tonnes).
- Although there was a sharp decline in Japan's deliveries to the Republic of Korea (-22.2% to 1.602m tonnes), its exports soared to both Vietnam (+91.3%) and Taiwan (+200.9%).
- Steel scrap export increases were also recorded by Russia (+0.8% to 2.757m tonnes) and Ukraine (+59.3% to 0.739m tonnes) in the first half of 2015.
- Turkey emerged as the biggest buyer for Russia (-3.9% to 1.196m tonnes) and also for Ukraine (+61.3% to 0.626m tonnes).
- Meanwhile, lower overseas shipments of steel scrap were posted in the first half of 2015 by Canada (-25.1% to 1.641m tonnes), Australia (-14.6% to 1.03m tonnes) and South Africa (-9.4% to 0.658m tonnes).
- The main buyer of Canadian steel scrap was the USA (-12.4% to 1.45m tonnes). India was the main steel scrap purchaser for exporters in Australia (+41.3% to 0.226m tonnes) and South Africa (-26.2% to 0.287m tonnes).
- The steel scrap export price curves for the EU and the USA reflect the difficult market trend.

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