Trends ..... November 2016

The Indian economy grew by 7.2% during the 1st half of FY '17, with Q2 GDP growth (7.3%) outpacing Q1's growth (7.1%) marginally. Reason certainly for cheer had it not been for the IIP which painted a gloomy picture of major steel consuming sectors slipping into red again, after a momentary rise noted last month. But it was the de-monetisation policy that was under the limelight with its avowed objective of curbing black money/illegal transactions.

WORLD ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

- Markit Economics reports indicate that operating conditions in the global manufacturing sector continued to improve during November 2016 with the J.P.Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI at a 27-month high of 52.1, up marginally from October's 52.0 level.
- The reports show that while growth reached a 13-month high in the US and 34-month record in the Euro area and expansions continued in China, Japan, India and the UK, rates of increase slowed for all. Furhter, while growth was registered in Russia and Taiwan, declines were noted for South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Turkey, Malaysia, Brazil and Greece. Global manufacturing production, as per the report, increased for the sixth successive month during the month, underpinned by rising levels of incoming new business while new orders expanded for the forty-seventh month in a row, with the pace of growth accelerating to the strongest since August 2014.
- The trend in new export business remained positive in November 2016 and global trade volumes rose for the fifth straight month and to the greatest extent for almost two years as per the said report which also pointed out that cost inflation surged higher during the month, reaching a 62-month record.

Key Economic Figures			
Country	GDP Q2 2016: % yoy change*	Manufacturing PMI	
		October 2016	November 2016
India	7.1	54.4	52.3
China	6.7	51.2	50.9
Japan	0.7	51.4	51.3
USA	1.2	53.4	54.1
EU 28	1.8	53.5	53.7
Brazil	-3.8	46.3	46.2
Russia	-0.6	52.4	53.6
South Korea	3.3	48.0	48.0
Source: GDP-official estimates; PMI- Markit Economics, *provisional			

GLOBAL CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION

World Steel Association data shows that world crude steel production for November 2016 was 132.40 million tonnes (mt), up by 5 per cent over November 2015 and 1467.99 mt during January–November 2016, up by 0.4 per cent year-on-year (yoy).

World Crude Steel Production: January-November 2016*			
Rank	**Country**	**Qty (mt)**	**% change**
1	China	738.94	1.1
2	Japan	96.06	-0.5
3	India	87.29	6.8
4	United States	72.04	-1.2
5	Russia	64.62	-0.8
6	South Korea	62.78	-1.6
7	Germany	38.85	-2.1
8	Turkey	30.32	5.1
9	Brazil	28.06	-8.9
10	Ukraine	22.21	5.6
	Top 10	**1233.40**	**0.8**
	World	**1467.99**	**0.4**
Source: worldsteel, JPC; over last year;* provisional			

- China produced 66.29 mt of crude steel in November 2016, up by 5 per cent over November 2015 and 738.94 mt during January–November 2016, up by 1.1 per cent yoy and remained the largest crude steel producer in the world, fuelling world production, which, excluding China, was down by 0.4 per cent.
- China accounted for 73 per cent of Asian and 50 per cent of world crude steel production during this period.
- November 2016 Japanese crude steel production (8.6 mt) was down by 1.4 per cent and production was also down (by 0.5 per cent) in January–November 2016 (96.06 mt). The country remained the second largest crude steel producer in the world in 2016 so far.
- With a 6 per cent share in total world production and a 6.8 per cent rise in production over same period of last year, India remained the third largest crude steel producer in the world in January–November 2016.
- Crude steel production in the EU (28) countries during November 2016 was at 13.5 mt, up by 2.6 per cent yoy and at 149.14 mt in January–November 2016, it was down by 3.5 per cent yoy.
- At 91.07 mt, Asian crude steel production was up by 4.7 per cent yoy in November 2016 and grew by 1.3 per cent in January–November 2016 (1011.78 mt). Asia accounted for 69 per cent of world crude steel production during this period.

THE STEEL WORLD LAST MONTH

THE AMERICAS

- AK Steel has completed upgrades to the HDG line at its Dearborn Works in Michigan, part of the company's plan to orient its business toward higher-margin advanced high-strength steel for automotive applications.
- The US DoC has issued affirmative final dumping margins in the anti-dumping (AD) case against circular welded carbon quality pipe from Oman (7.24%), UAE (5.58-6.43%), Vietnam (0-6.7%) and Pakistan (11.8%), with a subsidy rate of 64.81% for Pakistan.
- CMC's wholly owned subsidiary, CMC Steel Fabricators Inc., has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the steel fabrication business of Associated Steel Workers.
- US Customs and Border Protection has decided not to initiate a duty evasion investigation on circular welded pipe by China under the Enforce and Protect Act (EAPA) on behalf of Wheatland Tube is final, unless the company files another allegation with more evidence.
- The Canada Border Services Agency has postponed the preliminary determination in its AD investigation of rebar from Belarus, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Portugal and Spain because of the complexity of the case. The agency initiated a Section 20 inquiry on rebar imported from Belarus to determine the government's involvement in pricing.
- Brazil has filed a complaint against the US regarding its imposition of CVD on CRC, HRC at the World Trade Organization, according to a WTO notice.

ASIA

- The Chinese steel industry has achieved its goal of eliminating 45 mtpa of crude steel capacity this year, according to NDRC.
- China's ferrous futures surged during the morning session on November 22, 2016 on news of production restrictions in Tangshan and that the country's coal and steel industries had met 2016 production capacity cut targets. It rose again at month-end as the State Council announced a probe on illegal ramping up of capacity at a number of mills in the provinces of Hebei and Jiangsu.
- Hebei province has cut its annual ironmaking capacity by 15.79 million tonnes and crude steelmaking capacity by 14.62 million tonnes during the first ten months of 2016.
- China's Baosteel Group and Wuhan Iron & Steel Group have both achieved their capacity elimination targets for 2016, according to a State-owned Assets Supervision & Administration Commission (SASAC).
- China's Shandong Iron & Steel Group plans to invest €700 million in the Tonkolili iron ore project in Sierra Leone, according to the China Iron & Steel Association (Cisa).
- Fitch Ratings expects China's apparent steel consumption to remain stable in 2017, at 706 mt, while steel exports will stay at about 110 mt. Chinese crude steel production will also be stable in 2017 at an estimated 802 million tonnes, as per the agency.
- Nucor has closed on its $435 million acquisition of Independence Tube.
- Reduced debt and improved financials helped JSW Group come out of Credit Suisse's infamous 'House of Debt' list, the only company to do so.

- India imposed 10% safeguard duty on HR flat sheets and plates (excluding HR flat products in coil form) of alloy or non alloy steel having nominal thickness less than or equal to 150 mm and nominal width of greater than or equal to 600mm.
- South Korea's Daesung Steel is ramping up throughput on a new sections mill at its Gwangyang works to increase its production capacity from 0.1mtpa to around 0.16 - 0.17 mtpa by next year and to 0.3 mtpa in 3-4 years.
- Pakistan's National Tariff Commission has launched an AD investigation into rebar imported from China.

RUSSIA, MID-EAST, AFRICA, AUSTRALIA

- Evraz has contracted Paul Wurth to supply major technological equipment and Primetals Technologies for electrical and automation equipment for a new BF at its NTMK works.
- Ukraine's Metinvest has started construction of a new, 2.5 mtpa continuous slab caster at its Ilyich Iron & Steel Works, at an investment worth $150 million.
- Mobarakeh Steel Company is to increase its 12 mtpa capacity by a further 1 mtpa, after inaugurating another DRI module at Sefid Dasht, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province.
- Iron ore produced by private miners is to be traded on the Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), according to Keyvan Jafari Tehrani, member of the Board of Iranian Iron Ore Producers and Exporters Association (IROPEX).
- Moon Iron & Steel Co has contracted SMS Group to build a new mini-mill employing continuous casting/rolling technology, the first of its kind in the Middle East. The mill is to be built at the Sohar Industrial Estate in Oman and is expected to startup in 2018.
- Australia's Anti-Dumping Commission has opened a review of AD duties on imports of hollow structural sections from Malaysian company Alpine Pipe Manufacturing.

EU AND OTHER EUROPE

- Voestalpine has announced that it is to construct a pilot plant to produce hydrogen at its integrated steel works in Linz, Austria.
- Thyssenkrupp has started the construction of a technical center at its steelworks in Duisburg, Germany, to convert steel mill off-gases into base chemicals for commercial use.
- Wuppermann has confirmed that it has started operation of a 0.5 mtpa pickled hot rolled strip line at its new flat products plant in Győr-Gönyu. Galvanised strip production is planned to start at the beginning of November, while production of film-coated hot-rolled strip is scheduled for early 2017.
- The Turkish Ministry of Economy has terminated its AD investigation into imports of SS CRC from China and Taiwan without any action, as the petitioner – Posco Assan TST – withdrew its complaint within the investigation period. Similarly, it has ended its subsidy investigation into some seamless pipe qualities from China without any precaution, as petitioner - Sardogan - withdrew its appeal within the investigation period.
- The European Commission (EC) has proposed tougher regulations to combat under-priced steel imports from state-backed or state-owned organisations.

[Source Credit: Metal Bulletin, Platts, leading news papers (India news)]

WORLD STEEL PRICE TRENDS

November 2016 saw China's State Council announcing investigation into steel mills and coke producers illegally ramping up capacity. The result: market sentiment got a boost and prices jumped amidst expectations of tighter supply resulting from the probe. However, all these had little to do with any perceptible growth in steel demand - as was seen in other key pockets of the globe, which saw prices move north, driven more by raw material price hikes and/or trade related issues than any robust growth in steel demand.

Long product

- US rebar prices moved north in November 2016, following price hikes announced by Gerdau Long Steel North America, though analysts were wary of its sustenance in view of weak demand. Transactions as per Metal Bulletin reports were quoted at around 480-530$/t at end-November 2016.
- Following a price rise of €50/t ($53) in early November, ArcelorMittal again hiked prices for January-production for its entire range of long steel products in the EU by €30/t ($32) during closing days of the month. Transactions as per Metal Bulletin reports were quoted at around €390-400/t ($414-425) in Southern Europe and at around €450-460/t ($478-488) in Northern Europe.
- Concerns over tightening supply and a fluctuating futures market affected movement in Chinese rebar prices in November 2016, with prices moving north. Transactions for grade III rebar were quoted at around 2950-2980 yuan/t in Shanghai and at around 2850-2890 yuan/t in Beijing as per Metal Bulletin reports. All prices are ex-w and includes VAT.
- Driven more by rise in export prices than robust demand, Russian rebar prices moved north in November 2016, with Metal Bulletin's assessment for 12mm A500C rebar at around 34,500-34,550 roubles/t ($541-542) cpt Moscow, including VAT.

Flat products

- US flat steel prices moved north in November 2016 as domestic producers hiked prices four times, totalling nearly $140/t over a month, as per Metal Bulletin reports which indicate that HRC transactions at month-end were at around 480-545$/t
- November 2016 European flat steel prices increased, prompted more by rising raw material prices and imposition of trade cases than by robust demand. Transactions as per Metal Bulletin reports were quoted at around €555-600/t ($588-636) ex-works in Northern Europe and at around €465-480/t ($493-509) ex-works in Southern Europe.
- China's spot HRC prices jumped at month-end in view of State Council's probe and expectations of tighter supply. Transactions as per Metal Bulletin were quoted at around 3350-3420 yuan/t in Shanghai and at around 3300-3350 yuan/t in Tianjin at month-end. All prices are ex-w and includes VAT.
- Russian HRC prices moved north at end-November 2016, supported by strong export prices, as in the case of long products. Transactions for 4mm HR sheet as per Metal Bulletin were quoted at around 37,100-39,200 roubles/t ($571-604) cpt Moscow, including VAT.

[Source Credit: Metal Bulletin]

SPECIAL FOCUS

Developments on Chinese front

November 2016 saw quite a few headline news affecting prospects/developments in the Chinese steel market. Some highlights:

- ***Hebei province completes assigned capacity cuts ahead of schedule:*** Hebei province has cut its annual ironmaking capacity by 15.79 million tonnes and crude steelmaking capacity by 14.62 million tonnes during the first ten months of 2016 as per reports by state-owned news agency Xinhua, published in Metal Bulletin and in doing so, has exceeded the target of 10.39 million tonnes and 8.2 million tonnes respectively as set by the central Chinese government for this year. While this propped up market sentiments to a great extent - spot prices for rebar shot up by 10-40 yuan ($1.50-6) and 20-40 yuan ($3-6) per tonne in the eastern and northern region respectively - what bolstered the move was the official pledge by the Chinese President Xi Jinping on China remaining firm to cut 100-150 million tpy of crude steel production capacity by 2020 and reduce that for coal by 500 million tpy during the 2018-2020 period. Meanwhile, Henan, another major steel-producing province in central China plans to cut 2.4 mtpa in crude steel capacity, 1 million tonnes of iron capacity and 62.54 million tonnes of coal production capacity over the 2016-2018 period. Analysts estimate an effective output reduction of 70-80% arising out of these targets.

- ***Tangshan tightens rules on steel, coke to lower emissions:*** Metal Bulletin has reported that Tangshan in north China has imposed restrictions - to be in place for four months - on the production of coke, iron and steel in a bid to improve air quality in the region. Though opinions remain divided on the full impact of the measures annouced, yet the fact remained that futures market got a boost at the time of such announcements. As per the report:

- sintering equipment that has yet to meet stipulated environmental standards are to cut production by 50% and these are to be suspended totally, from January 1 2016.
- similarly, coking plants that do not meet the minimum environmental standards are to cut production by one-third from now till December 31. From January 1 onwards, they are to halve their production.
- gas-fuelled re-rolling mills are allowed to maintain normal production levels, provided they control their emissions.
- but, re-rollers using other types of fuel are to ensure that their operations do not emit any pollutants.
- trucking capacity will also be lowered by one-fifth from November 23 till March 15, 2017.

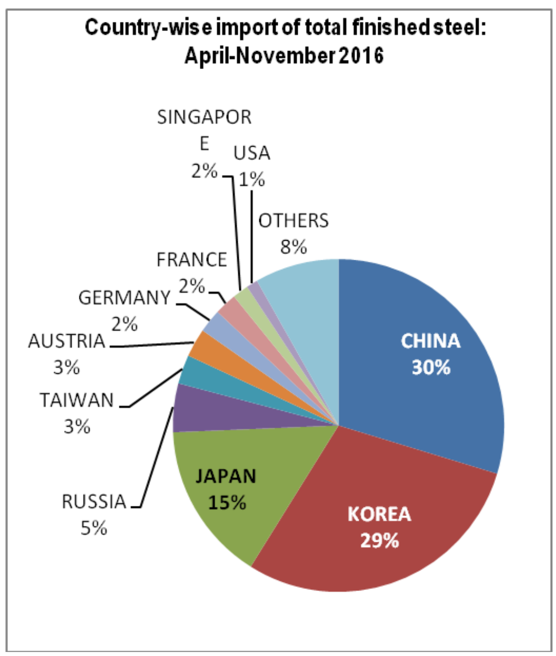
- ***NDRC reported that China's coal and steel industries had met 2016 production capacity cut targets:*** An announcement was made from China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) that the country's coal and steel industries had met 2016 production capacity cut targets. Expectedly, market sentiments received a significant boost prompting China's ferrous futures to surge markedly. As per the announcement, China's coal and steel industries had met 2016 targets of cutting coal capacity by 250 million tonnes and steel capacity by 45 million tonnes at the end of October 2016, thereby reaching a milestone development.

- ***Chinese ferrous futures head north as State Council announces probe:*** China's ferrous futures rose during morning trading on November 28, 2016 as the State Council annouced a probe on the illegal ramping up of capacity at a number of mills in the provinces of Hebei and Jiangsu. Metal Bulletin reports indicate that a mill in Hebei and nine others in Jiangsu have been inspected as the State Council came down heavily on non-sanctioned capacity, quoting reports of the state-owned Xinhua news agency and several mills have either been shut down or ceased production and sales for increasing capacity without Beijing's approval.

INDIAN STEEL MARKET ROUND-UP

Trends in finished steel imports

- Imports of total finished steel continued to decline during 2016-17 so far, dropping by 39.2 per cent during April-November 2016-17 to 4.73 million tonnes (mt) as compared to same period of last year.
- Moreover, imports in November 2016 (0.602 mt) were down by 30 per cent over November 2015 but rose by 12.5 per cent over October 2016, the latter being driven largely by a declining supply side as domestic production for sale dropped by 10.3 per cent in November 2016 over October 2016.
- Interestingly, though India remained a net importer of total finished steel in April-November 2016 yet on a monthly level, it turned into a net exporter as exports at 0.662 mt outpaced imports (0.602 mt) in November 2016.



- During April-November 2016-17, imports accounted for only 9 per cent of total domestic consumption of steel, much lower compared to the 15 per cent recorded for the same period of last year.

- The country-wise import picture indicates that the Chinese share in total finished steel stood at 30 per cent and China, with a total import of 1.4 mt, remained the largest import market for India during this period. Also, China, Korea and Japan continued to be the top three markets, accounting for 74 per cent of the country's imports of total finished steel during this period.
- Volume-wise, Mumbai was the leading port (36 per cent share of total) followed by Chennai (14 per cent) and Mundra (13 per cent) during this period.
- In the non-alloy segment, major contributor to import was bars & rods (0.28 mt, down by 38 per cent) for non-flat while for the flat segment, import was led by HRC (1.25 mt; down by 48 per cent).

Indian Steel Industry Performance: April-November 2016-17

The following is a report on the performance of Indian steel industry in terms of total finished steel during April-November 2016-17 based on provisional data released by JPC. All growth comparisons are with regard to same period of last year.

Total Finished Steel (alloy + non-alloy)	Performance Highlights		
	April-November 2016-17*(mt)	April-November 2015-16 (mt)	%yoy change
Production for sale	65.355	59.270	10.3
Import	4.734	7.782	-39.2
Export	4.229	2.764	53.0
Consumption	54.292	52.673	3.1
Source: JPC ;* provisional			

Production for sale

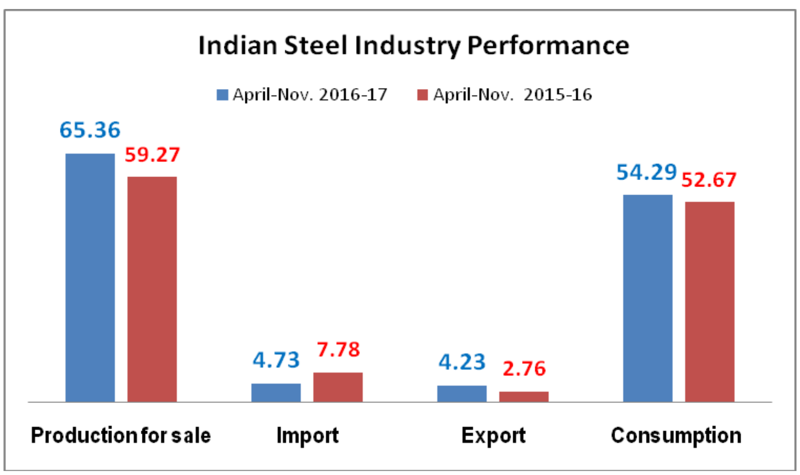
- During April-November 2016-17, production for sale stood at 65.355 mt, a growth of 10.3 per cent compared to same period of last year, in which contribution of the non-alloy steel segment stood at 59.174 mt (up by 10.3 per cent), while the rest was the contribution of the alloy steel segment (including stainless steel), where production for sale was up by 9.5 per cent.
- Analyzing by broad divisions, in the total production for sale of finished non-alloy steel, contribution of the non-flat segment stood at 28.613 mt (up by 5 per cent) while that of the flat segment stood at 30.561 mt (up by 16 per cent).
- Analyzing by segments, one finds that in the non-flat, non-alloy segment, production for sale of bars & rods, structurals and railway materials stood respectively at 23 mt (up by 5.1 per cent), 5.2 mt (up by 2.4 per cent) and 0.6 mt (up by 16 per cent) as compared to same period of last year.
- On the other hand, for the flat segment, with the exception of HR sheets (down by 29 per cent), production for sale was up for all other items like Plates (2.8 mt, up by 5.2 per cent), HRC (15.1 mt, up by 22 per cent), CRC (5.3 mt, up by 40 per cent) and GP/GC Sheets (4.8 mt; up by 3.8 per cent)

Export

- During April-November 2016-17, export of total finished steel was 4.229 mt, up by 53 per cent compared to same period of last year.
- Contribution of the non-alloy steel segment stood at 3.869 mt (up by 61.4 per cent) while the rest was that of alloy steel (including stainless steel) segment, where exports were down by 2 per cent over last year.
- In the total export of finished non-alloy steel, export of non-flat was at 0.49 mt (up by 73 per cent) and that of flat steel was at 3.373 mt (up by 60 per cent).
- In the non-alloy, non-flat segment, in volume terms, major contributor to export was bars & rods (0.41 mt, up by 74 per cent) while growth in exports in the non-alloy, flat segment was led by GP/GC sheets (1.12 mt, up by 18 per cent).

Import

- Import of total finished steel during April-November 2016-17 was at 4.734 mt, down by 39.2 per cent compared to same period of last year.
- However, it remained well above exports, with the result that India remained a net importer of total finished steel during April-November 2016-17.
- In total finished steel import, contribution of the non-alloy steel segment was 3.557 mt (39 per cent decline) while the rest was the contribution of alloy steel (including stainless steel) segment, which was down by 40 per cent over same period of last year.
- In the import of total finished non-alloy steel, non-flat imports were at 0.34 mt (down by 29 per cent) and flat imports were at 3.22 mt (down by 40 per cent).
- In the non-alloy, non-flat segment, major contributor to import was bars & rods (0.28 mt, down by 38 per cent) while for the flat segment, import was led by HRC (1.25 mt; down by 48 per cent).



Consumption

- During April-November 2016-17, real consumption (or simply consumption) of total finished steel stood at 54.292 mt, a growth of 3.1 per cent compared to same period of last year.
- For non-alloy steel, contribution of the non-flat segment stood at 28.002 mt, up by 6 per cent over same period of last year and that of the flat segment (after accounting for

double counting) stood at 21.448 mt, up by 3 per cent over same period of last year, taking total non-alloy consumption (after double counting) to 49.45 mt, up by 4.5 per cent. The remainder was the contribution of the alloy/stainless segment, which reported a decline of 9.8 per cent during this period.

- In the non-alloy, non-flat segment, the major contributor to consumption was bars & rods (22.3 mt; up by 6.5 per cent) whereas for the flat segment, consumption was led by HRC (15.31 mt, up by 5.7 per cent).

JPC Market Prices (Retail)

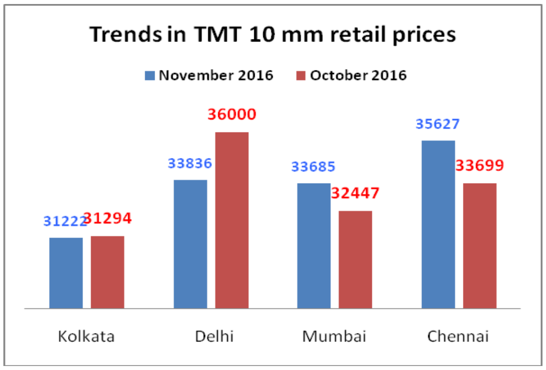
Delhi market prices: Compared to November 2015, average (retail) market prices in Delhi market in November 2016 increased for both long products (represented by TMT 10 mm) and flat products (represented by HRC 2 mm), largely in response to domestic demand-supply conditions and global influences. When compared to October 2016, prices moved north for HRC but declined for TMT. The situation in November 2016 with regard to November 2015 is shown in the table below for TMT 10 mm and HRC 2.0 mm.

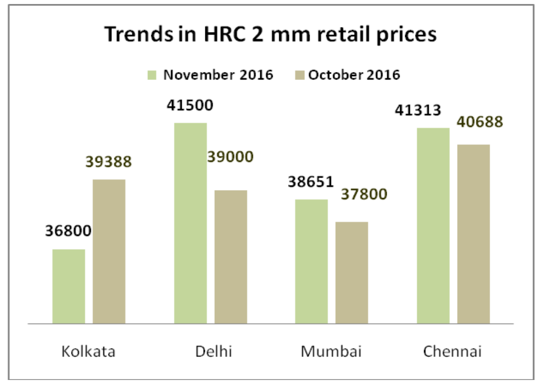
Trends in JPC market price (retail) in Delhi market in November 2016		
Item	**Delhi market prices (Rs/t)**	**% change over November 2015**
TMT, 10 mm	33836	0.4
HRC, 2.0 mm	41500	19.9
Source: JPC		

All markets: Compared to November 2015, average (retail) market prices in November 2016, increased for long products (represented by TMT 10 mm) in all metro cities except Kolkata while for flat products (represented by HRC 2 mm), prices increased in all the four metro cities, largely in response to domestic demand-supply conditions. When compared to October 2016, the November 2016 trend was mixed: while TMT prices increased for Mumbai and Chennai, it declined for the other two metro cities, whereas HRC prices increased in all except Kolkata market.The situation in November 2016 with regard to November 2015 is shown in the table below for TMT 10 mm and HRC 2.0 mm for all the four markets.

Trends in JPC (retail) market price: %change in November 2016 over November 2015				
Item	**Kolkata**	**Delhi**	**Mumbai**	**Chennai**
TMT 10mm	-3.5	0.4	6.4	6.6
HR Coils 2.00mm	2.8	19.9	19.7	15.7
Source: JPC				

TMT prices were highest in the Chennai market (Rs 35,627/t) and lowest in the Kolkata market (Rs 31,222/t) while HRC prices were highest in the Delhi market (Rs 41,500/t) and lowest in the Kolkata market (Rs 36,800/t) during November 2016.





INDIAN ECONOMY – HIGHLIGHTS OF PERFORMANCE

GDP: The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the provisional estimates of national income for the second quarter (Q2) of the current financial year 2016-17, both at constant (2011-12) and current prices. As per their report, GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q2 of 2016-17 is estimated at Rs 29.63 lakh crore, as against Rs 27.62 lakh crore in Q2 of 2015-16, showing a growth rate of 7.3 per cent. Quarterly GVA at Basic Price at constant (2011-12) prices for Q2 of 2016-17 is estimated at Rs 27.33 lakh crore, as against Rs 25.52 lakh crore in Q2 of 2015-16, showing a growth rate of 7.1 per cent over the corresponding quarter of previous year. The economic activities which registered growth of over 7 per cent in Q2 of 2016-17 over Q2 of 2015-16 are 'Public administration, defence & other services', 'financial,insurance, real estate and professional services', 'manufacturing' and 'trade, hotels and transport & communication and services related to broadcasting'. The growth in the 'agriculture, forestry and fishing', 'mining and quarrying', 'electricity, gas, water supply & other utility services, and 'construction' is estimated to be 3.3 per cent, (-)1.5 per cent, 3.5 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively, during this period.

Industrial Production: Provisional CSO data show that the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was down by 1.9 per cent in October 2016 and down by 0.3 per cent in April-October 2016-17, depressed by declining growth in sectors like Mining & Quarrying, Manufacturing, Capital Goods among others.

Inflation: The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, stood at 3.15 per cent (provisional) for the month of November 2016 (over November 2015) as compared to 3.39 per cent (provisional) for the previous month. Build up inflation rate in the financial year so far was 4.45 per cent compared to a build up rate of 0.8 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year. The all India CPI inflation rate (combined) for November 2016 stood at 3.63 per cent as compared to 4.20 per cent of previous month.

Infrastructure Growth: The yoy growth rate of the eight core infrastructure industries was up by 6.6 per cent in October 2016 and by 4.9 per cent in April-October 2016-17, led by the growth rates in all sectors except crude oil and natural gas.

Trade: Provisional figures from DGCI&S show that during April-November 2016 in dollar terms, overall exports were up by 0.1 per cent while imports were down by 8.44 per cent, both on yoy basis. During the same period, oil imports were valued at US$ 53276.41 million, 13.51 per cent lower yoy while non-oil imports were valued at US$ 187825.19 million, 6.89 per cent lower yoy. The trade deficit for April-November 2016-17 was estimated at US$ 66178.82 million which was 25.28% lower than the deficit of US$ 88574.09 million during April-November 2015-16.

Policy:

- Draft rules for bankruptcy code finalized in boost to ease of doing business in India. Under the rules, a company must have a minimum net worth of Rs 10 crore and paid-up share capital of Rs 5 crore to qualify for registration as an insolvency professional agency.
- Government plans phased development of coastal economic zones, depending on where the ecosystem is right, where there's availability of large contiguous land parcels.
- The Government has approved Rs 6,068 crore highway projects in 8 states - Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.
- The Finance Ministry has imposed provisional anti-dumping duty on import of hot rolled steel products (bars and rods) from China which will be valid for six months.
- The Government has demonetized Rs 500 and 1000 currency notes to check black money on November 8, 2016 with new notes in denominations of Rs 500 and Rs 2000 to be issued from November 10, 2016.
- The Central Government has issued a clarification regarding "End Use" for the purpose of allocation of Iron Ore Mines.
- A list of stainless steel grades exempted from the purview of the Stainless Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2016 was issued during the month.

Prepared by Joint Plant Committee