Trends ….October 2020

October 2020 edition of Short Range Outlook released by worldsteel confirms India as the 2nd largest finished steel consumer in 2019 and projects the country as the driver of global apparent steel use growth in the coming years.

WORLD ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

- Markit Economics reports indicate that global manufacturing output rose at the fastest pace in over two-and-a-half years in October 2020, with the J.P. Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI reaching 53.0 during the month.

- The reports indicate that both the US (11-month high) and Canada (26-month high) saw solid and accelerated increases in production and improvements were also noted for the Euro area, China, India and South Korea. Downturns were noted in case of Japan Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia and Russia.

- At the same time, the Markit reports show a rise in input price inflation and continuing disruption in supply-chain. Among sectors, the fastest expansion was in the investment goods sector and the weakest at consumer goods.

Key Economic Figures

Country	Q3 GDP 2020: %change*	Manufacturing PMI	
		September 2020	October 2020
India	- 23.9 (Q2)	56.8	58.9
China	4.9	53.0	53.6
Japan	- 9.9 (Q2)	47.7	48.7
USA	- 2.9	53.2	53.4
EU 28	- 4.3	53.7	54.8
Brazil	-11.4 (Q2)	64.9	66.7
Russia	- 8.0 (Q2)	48.9	46.9
South Korea	- 1.3	49.8	51.2
Germany	- 4.3	56.4	58.2
Turkey	- 9.9 (Q2)	52.8	53.9
Italy	- 4.7	53.2	53.8

Source: GDP: official releases; PMI- Markit Economics, *provisional

GLOBAL CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION

The impact of COVID-19 in leading steel making countries around the world continued to be felt in the country-wise crude steel production numbers released by World Steel Association (worldsteel). The data show that world crude steel production stood at 1347.44 million tonnes (mt) in January-September 2020, down by 3.2% year-on-year (yoy) while production stood at 156.36 mt in September 2020, up by 2.9% over September 2019.

World Crude Steel Production: January-September 2020 (prov)			
Rank	**Country**	**Qty (mt)**	**% change**
1	China	781.59	4.5
2	**India**	**70.20**	**-16.5**
3	Japan	61.21	-19.1
4	USA	53.46	-19.2
5	Russia	53.27	-1.4
6	South Korea	49.63	-7.5
7	Turkey	25.93	2.6
8	Germany	25.73	-15.7
9	Brazil	22.35	-9.7
10	Iran	20.82	9.3
Total Top 10		**1164.19**	**-1.4**
Total World		**1347.44**	**-3.2**
Source: worldsteel			

- World crude steel production was led by China in January-September 2020 (781.59 mt, up by 4.5% yoy) and the nation accounted for 78% of Asian and 58% of world crude steel production during this period.
- With a 5.2% share in total world production, India (70.2 mt) reported a yoy production decline of 16.5% during January-September 2020 and was the 2nd largest producer during this period.
- Japanese crude steel production (61.21 mt) was down by 19.1% yoy and the country was the 3rd largest crude steel producer in the world during this period.
- USA remained at the 4th largest spot, with production (53.46 mt), down by 19.2% yoy while Russia (53.27 mt, down by 1.4% yoy) was the 5th largest crude steel producer during this period.
- Crude steel production in the EU (28) countries during this period was 99.36 mt, down by 18% yoy.
- At 1001.67 mt, Asian crude steel production was up by 0.2% yoy and the region accounted for 74% of world crude steel production during this period.
- The top 10 countries accounted for 86% of total world crude steel production during this period and saw production go down by 1.4% yoy.

NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

THE AMERICAS

- The implementation of the Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs under President Donald Trump could be revised or phased out under a new administration if a change of guard happens after the US presidential election in November, but any changes to the trade program would not be immediate, according to trade experts. A steady rationalization of duties is considered more likely.
- Steel shipments from CSN increased 19% yoy in Q3 2020 to 1.27 million tonnes or mt due to the strong recovery after the peak of the pandemic, according to the company.
- Steel associations from around the world are calling for governments to reinforce their work to catalogue and help bring down global overcapacity. The associations are specifically calling for governments involved in the GFSEC to: develop stronger disciplines on industrial subsidies and other support measures that contribute to excess capacity and distort markets; uphold effective trade remedies to ensure a level playing field driven by market forces and fair trade and deepen the analysis of the drivers of steel capacity expansions to expose subsidized or non-market driven investments.

ASIA

- Production cuts ordered for China's steelmaking hub, Tangshan city, over winter are less stringent than in previous years, therefore is unlikely to have a major impact on steel supply. The government of Tangshan, located in Hebei province, ordered most steel mills to reduce blast furnace output by 10 percentage points to 45% of capacity from the start of October 2020 to the end of March 2021. This compares with 50% output cuts at most local mills over October 2019 to March 2020.
- Liberty Steel, part of London-based GFG Alliance, has restarted production in a first phase at Indian steelmaking units Adhunik Metaliks Ltd and Zion Steel, together known as Adhunik, following its acquisition of the businesses.
- Japan's Nippon Steel plans to restart the No. 2 blast furnace at its East Japan Works in Kimitsu, Chiba prefecture, by the end of November 2020. Operations at the 4,500 cu m No. 2 blast furnace were suspended in mid-May due to reduced demand from automakers during the COVID-19 pandemic. But demand appears to be returning.
- Pakistan's Agha Steel Industries expects its rebar production capacity to reach 650,000 tpa sometime in January 2021 to March 2021, funded by an initial public offering that was oversubscribed by 1.63 times.

RUSSIA, MID-EAST, AFRICA, AUSTRALIA

- Severstal boosted sales by 18% on the quarter, in terms of volumes, as a recovery in domestic demand enabled it to ramp up domestic shipments by a third, while a 25% jump in exports over January-September 2020 partly offset a nine-month decline in steel sales, which fell 2%.
- In a move to diversify into steel products other than pipes, Russian steelmaker TMK has bought Casting-Rolling Plant in Yartsevo, near Moscow. Yartsevo has an installed capacity

of 300,000 tpa of electric arc furnace-based steel billet and rebar, and covers about 4% of Russia's rebar market.

- ArcelorMittal South Africa said that it will restart the second blast furnace at its Vanderbijlpark site in January as a result of increased steel demand.

EU AND OTHER EUROPE

- MMK Metalurji, the Turkey-based subsidiary of Russian steelmaker Magnitogorsk Iron & Steel Works, reported third quarter revenue of $137 million, up by 33% quarter on quarter, reflecting the removal of lockdown restrictions and a recovery in business activity in Turkey.
- Spanish flat steel processor Network Steel has started up a continuous pickling line at its new steel plant in Leon, Spain. This is part of a wider project to transform a former wind turbine factory into a 520,000 tpa site for processed steel, it said.
- The European Commission said it has launched an investigation into the potential dumping of stainless cold-rolled steel products originating in India and Indonesia. The move followed a complaint lodged by the Eurofer on behalf of producers representing more than 25% of EU production of stainless steel cold-rolled flat products.
- The UK will have its own steel import safeguards measures from Jan. 1, 2021, similar to those already put in place by the European Commission, according to a document released by the UK Department for International Trade. The new import quota rules mirror those of the EC insofar as they will be quarterly and on a country-by-country basis.
- ArcelorMittal Europe will start to produce its first green steel this year and by the end of 2020 will have produced 30,000 t. In a statement, the company said it would be able to scale up this offering in coming years to reach 120,000 t in 2021 and 600,000 t by 2022, delivering its 2030 and 2050 emissions targets. The company's strategy is to focus on two main technology routes: the use of hydrogen in direct reduced iron and electric arc furnaces and the expansion of its Smart Carbon technology route that involves carbon capture from blast furnace waste gases, and boosting CO_2 savings through hydrogen injection.
- ArcelorMittal Poland will permanently close the blast furnace and steel plant in Krakow this month due to reduced demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The European Commission has imposed definitive antidumping duties on imports into the EU of hot rolled stainless steel sheets and coils from Indonesia, China and Taiwan. The duties were set at 17.3% for Indonesia, 9.2%-19% for China and 4.1%-7.5% for Taiwan.
- NLMK Clabecq, part of the NLMK Group, has launched a Eur30 million ($35 million) project to upgrade its rolling mill to expand its thin and high added value steel plate range which will allow the production of thin plate in high strength ranges with better tolerances while reducing gas consumption and CO_2 output.
- One of Turkey's largest mining and logistics companies, the Atakas Group, which started steel production at its new CR mill at the end of 2016, in Payas, Hatay, southern Turkey, will raise its capacity to 1.1 mt from the current 700,000 tpa.

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

WORLD STEEL PRICE TRENDS

Q4 2020 started off with global steel prices now on stable footing with steel industry, despite the constraints of COVID-19, appearing to have carved out a road of its own, operating under the conditions of a New Normal. October 2020 saw all eyes focused on the outcome of the Presidential elections in the USA for much depends on the same as industry experts are hopeful of a gradual rationalization of the Section 232 tariffs on steel, if a new administration comes to power. While industry scenario remained largely stable at most steel pockets, Chinese market sentiments got a fillip with the nation unveiling its 14th Five Year Plan that promises to boost domestic steel demand in a big way in the coming days.

Long Product

- Rebar prices in the USA were largely stable and static in October 2020 with market participants preferring to wait for the outcome of Presidential elections. Transactions, as per Metal Bulletin reports, were quoted around $595/t at month-end.
- October 2020 saw a mixed picture of rebar in the European market with domestic prices dipping in south Europe owing to lower demand amid lockdown fears while prices widened upward in the north riding high on strong offer. Transactions, as per Metal Bulletin reports, quoted around was €470-490/t ($556-562) in Northern Europe and around €445-450 ($526-532) in Southern Europe during the month.
- October 2020 rebar prices in China moved north riding high on fresh demand prospects as the nation unveiled its 14th Five Year Plan. Metal Bulletin reports quoted transactions at 3750-3780 yuan/t ($558-563) in Shanghai and around 3640-3680 yuan/t in Beijing at month-end.
- Russian rebar prices remained bullish in October 2020 with producers going in for hikes in face of stable demand from the construction sector. Metal Bulletin's assessment for rebar was quoted around 40,000-41,000 roubles/t ($526-539) including 20% VAT.

Flat Product

- After steady increase, USA HRC prices (around $680/t) held flat at end-October 2020, with (as in rebar), focus mostly on outcome of elections and wait-n-watch policy among participants.
- Supply side issues coupled with lesser imports helped the European market to keep HRC prices stable during October 2020 as well. Transactions, as per Metal Bulletin reports, were quoted around €498/t ($589) in Northern Europe and around €480-490/t in Southern Europe, at month-end.
- Same set of factors as in case of rebar kept China's October 2020 HRC prices stable amd north-bound. Transactions, as per Metal Bulletin reports were quoted around 3,940-3,960 yuan/t ($587-590) in Shanghai and around 3760-3800 yuan/t in Tangshan.
- Stable demand and overall positive sentiments kept Russian HRC prices north-bound in October 2020. Metal Bulletin's assessment for steel hot-rolled sheet, domestic, cpt Moscow, Russia was 43,000-44,000 roubles ($563-576) including 20% VAT.

[Source Credit: Metal Bulletin]

SPECIAL FOCUS

India leads global DRI production in January-September 2020

Provisional worldsteel report indicates that global DRI output was at 6.84 mt in September 2020, down by 10.4% over same month of 2019. For the period, January–September 2020, provisional worldsteel report indicates that global DRI output was at 61.99 mt, down by 10.1% over same period of last year. Global DRI production in January-September 2020 was driven by India (23.61 mt, 38% share) at the number one spot despite production showing a decline of 13% yoy while production stood at 22.19 mt for Iran (36% share), up by 5.2% over same period of 2019. The two countries together accounted for 74% of global DRI output during 2020 so far. Together, the top five countries accounted for nearly 92% of the world DRI production during 2020 so far and saw their cumulative output decline by 6% over same period of 2019.

World DRI Production: January-September 2020 (prov.)				
Rank	Country	Qty (mt)	% change	%Share
1	**India**	23.61	-13.0	38.1
2	Iran	22.19	5.2	**35.8**
3	Saudi Arabia	3.91	-13.4	6.3
4	Egypt	3.78	1.5	6.1
5	Mexico	3.74	-16.8	6.0
Top 5		**57.22**	**-6.1**	**92.3**
World		**61.99**	**-10.1**	**100.0**
Source: worldsteel				

October SRO projects an optimistic steel demand scenario

In the October 2020 update of their Short Range Outlook (SRO) for 2020 and 2021, the World Steel Association (worldsteel) has presented a much more optimistic outlook than the previous (June 2020) SRO. While global steel demand continued to be projected to move south in 2020, the said decline is much smaller decline than previously expected. Some salient highlights:

- In 2020 worldsteel forecasts that steel demand will contract by 2.4%, dropping to 1,725.1 million tonnes or mt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021 steel demand is expected to recover to 1,795.1 mt, an increase of 4.1 % over 2020.
- A strong recovery in China will mitigate the reduction in global steel demand this year. The post lockdown recovery in steel demand in the rest of the world has been stronger than was earlier expected, but it still marks a deep contraction in 2020, both from developed and emerging economies, with only a partial recovery expected in 2021.
- The SRO recognizes that the global steel industry has passed the lowest demand point for this year in April 2020 and has been recovering since mid-May. However, the recovery is uneven across countries depending on their success in containing the virus, the national

industry structure, and finally economic support measures. While China has shown a surprisingly resilient rebound contributing to a major upward revision of the global growth forecast for 2020, the rest of the world will see a sharp contraction of steel demand, both in developed and developing economies.

- China's strong recovery since late February, which continues at a steady pace, suggests positive GDP growth in 2020 despite a 6.8% contraction in the first quarter. During January-August 2020, Chinese investment in real estate was up 4.6% yoy, and infrastructure investment recovered to the level of last year. In August, the mechanical machinery and automotive sectors showed a y-o-y growth of 10.9% and 7.6% respectively. As a result the mechanical machinery sector's output during January-August surpassed that of 2019 (+1.2%), while automotive production is still 9% below the 2019 level. With retail sales also catching up in August, the Chinese economy is rapidly approaching full normality.
- China's steel demand is expected to increase by 8% in 2020, aided by government infrastructure stimulus and a strong property market. In 2021, steel demand is expected to stay flat as a result of the following two forces. First, the infrastructure and housing projects initiated in 2020 will continue to support steel demand in 2021. On the other hand if the economy shows a full recovery the government is likely to reverse its stimulus policy to cool down the construction sector. Given the outlook for a weak global economy in 2021, the manufacturing sector's rebound will be limited.
- The SRO points out that manufacturing in the developed economies, which was only just beginning to recover from the slowdown in late 2019, was pushed back again by the pandemic. Even with a strong bounce back after the economies reopened, which has closed the gap with pre-pandemic levels, double-digit contraction over the whole year still seems unavoidable.
- In the US, recovery from the lockdown has been strong, aided by substantial government support measures. The manufacturing downturn was shorter and less acute than expected. However, the US is still struggling to control the virus's spread, and the recovery momentum might taper off in the coming months. The outlook for 2021 is less optimistic, with a subdued outlook for construction and auto production.
- In Europe, the negative economic impact of COVID-19 was softened by strong social security schemes and fiscal stimulus. The post lockdown recovery in the EU is turning out to be stronger than expected, but the deep contraction of major steel using sectors, especially automotive, will contribute to a double-digit contraction in 2020 The contraction was particularly pronounced in Italy and Spain.
- In Japan and South Korea, despite relatively successful management of the virus with less severe containment measures, steel demand will see a substantial contraction in 2020 with limited recovery next year due to falling exports and weak confidence.
- Overall steel demand in the developed economies is expected to fall by 14.9% in 2020 and increase by 7.9% in 2021.
- The COVID-19 pandemic will exert a less severe impact on steel demand in the developed economies than the global financial crisis, bearing in mind that at the beginning of the pandemic, steel demand had not yet fully recovered from the 2008/9 crisis.
- Generally the emerging economies have been less well equipped to absorb the pandemic shock, and the impact has been uneven, depending on the economic structure and the severity of the containment measures required. The impact has included rapidly falling

domestic demand, the collapse of exports and commodity prices, and a free fall in tourism with no immediate recovery being seen. A double-digit fall in steel demand is expected in 2020 for the major emerging economies.

- India, where one of the most severe lockdowns in the world was implemented, is expected to see the deepest decline in steel demand in decades. However, a relatively fast recovery should take place in 2021, supported by rural consumption and government investment in infrastructure.
- In Latin America the impact has been high across the continent due to its structural problems and poor crisis management. The resulting interruption in reforms and deterioration of the region's social stability suggest a slow recovery in 2021.
- In ASEAN, while some countries fared well and needed less stringent lockdowns, Malaysia and the Philippines were severely affected. Vietnam will see positive growth in steel demand due to the successful containment of the virus.
- The MENA region was also severely hit by the dual shock of the pandemic and falling oil prices.

worldsteel Short Range Outlook, October 2020

Region	ASU (mt)			Growth Rate (%)		
	2019	2020 (f)	2021 (f)	2019	2020 (f)	2021 (f)
EU28	158.3	134.3	149.0	-5.5	-15.2	11.0
Other Europe	33.8	35.2	39.3	-10.0	4.0	11.9
CIS	58.9	53.6	56.5	5.9	-9.0	5.5
USMCA	135.3	114.6	122.2	-4.0	-15.3	6.7
Central/South America	41.6	37.4	40.5	-3.0	-10.1	8.2
Africa	36.4	30.6	33.4	0.4	-16.0	9.3
Middle East	47.9	38.5	40.9	-3.5	-19.5	6.2
Asia and Oceania	1254.5	1280.9	1313.1	6.6	2.1	2.5
World	**1766.7**	**1725.1**	**1795.1**	**3.5**	**-2.4**	**4.1**
World excl. China	859.2	745.0	815.0	-1.4	-13.3	9.4
Developed Economies	393.4	336.7	363.5	-3.8	-14.4	7.9
China	907.5	980.1	980.1	8.5	8.0	0.0
India	102.6	81.9	100.4	6.1	-20.2	22.7
Emerging and Developing Economies excl. China	465.8	408.3	451.6	0.8	-12.3	10.6
Source: worldsteel						

The following is a status report on the performance of Indian steel industry during April-September 2020-21, based on provisional data released by Joint Plant Committee (JPC) in its MIS Report for April-September 2020-21. It is to be noted that total finished steel includes both non-alloy and alloy (including stainless steel) and all comparisons are made with regard to same period of last year.

Item	Performance of Indian steel industry		
	April-September 2020-21* (mt)	April-September 2019-20(mt)	% change*
Crude Steel Production	43.363	55.000	-21.2
Hot Metal Production	30.178	36.602	-17.6
Pig Iron Production	2.020	2.960	-31.8
Sponge Iron Production	14.537	18.351	-20.8
Total Finished Steel (alloy/stainless + non-alloy)			
Production	38.586	51.621	-25.3
Import	1.985	4.018	-50.6
Export	6.544	3.935	66.3
Consumption	35.864	50.989	-29.7
Source: JPC; *provisional; mt=million tonnes			

Overall Production

- **Crude Steel:** Production at 43.363 million tonnes (mt), down by 21.2%.
- **Hot Metal:** Production at 30.178 mt, down by 17.6%.
- **Pig Iron:** Production at 2.02 mt, down by 31.8%.
- **Sponge Iron:** Production at 14.537 mt, down by 20.8%,led by coal-based route (81% share).
- **Total Finished Steel**: Production at 38.586 mt, down by 25.3%.

Contribution of Other Producers

- **Crude Steel:** SAIL, RINL, TSL Group, AM/NS, JSWL & JSPL together produced 28.391 mt (65% share) during this period, down by 16.2%. The rest (14.972 mt) came from the Other Producers, down by 29.0%.
- **Hot Metal:** SAIL, RINL, TSL Group, AM/NS, JSWL & JSPL together produced 27.388 mt (91% share) down by 16.4%. The rest (2.791 mt) came from the Other Producers, down by 27.0%.
- **Pig Iron:** SAIL, RINL, TSL Group, AM/NS, JSWL & JSPL together produced 0.639 mt (32% share) down by 3.6%. The rest (1.381 mt) came from the Other Producers, down by 39.9%.
- **Total Finished Steel:** SAIL, RINL, TSL Group, AM/NS, JSWL & JSPL together produced 23.028 mt (60% share) down by 23.6%. The rest (15.558 mt) came from

the Other Producers, down by 25.3%.

Contribution of Public Sector Units (PSU)

- **Crude Steel:** With 82% share, the Private Sector (35.648 mt, down by 20.2%) led crude steel production compared to the 18% contribution of the PSUs.
- **Hot Metal:** With 72% share, the Private Sector (21.801 mt, down by 14.1%) led hot metal production, compared to the 28% contribution of the PSUs.
- **Pig Iron:** With 89% share, the Private Sector (1.802 mt, down by 30.9%) led pig iron production, compared to the 11% contribution of the PSUs.
- **Total Finished Steel:** With 87% share, the Private Sector (33.485 mt, down by 23.5%) led production of total finished steel, compared to the 13% contribution of the PSUs.

Contribution of Flat /Non-Flat in Finished Steel

- **Production:** Led by Flat steel (52% share; down by 17%) while the rest 48% was the share of Non-Flat steel (down by 33%).
- **Import:** Flat products accounted for 89% share (down by 51%), the rest 11% was the share of non-flats (down by 51%).
- **Export:** Flat products accounted for 89% share (upby 69%), the rest 11% was the share of non-flats (up by 47%).
- **Consumption:** Led by non-flats steel (53% share; down by 28%) while the rest 47% was the share of flat steel (down by 31%).

Finished Steel Production Trends

- At 38.586 mt, production of total finished steel declined by 25.3% in April-September 2020-21.
- Contribution of the non-alloy steel segment stood at 36.812 mt (down by 24.8%), while the rest was the contribution of the alloy steel segment (including stainless steel).
- In the non-alloy, non-flat segment, in volume terms, major contributor to production of total finished steel was Bars & Rods (13.987 mt, down by 33.2%) while growth in the non-alloy, flat segment was led by HRC (17.82 mt, down by 15.3%) during this period.

Finished Steel Export Trends

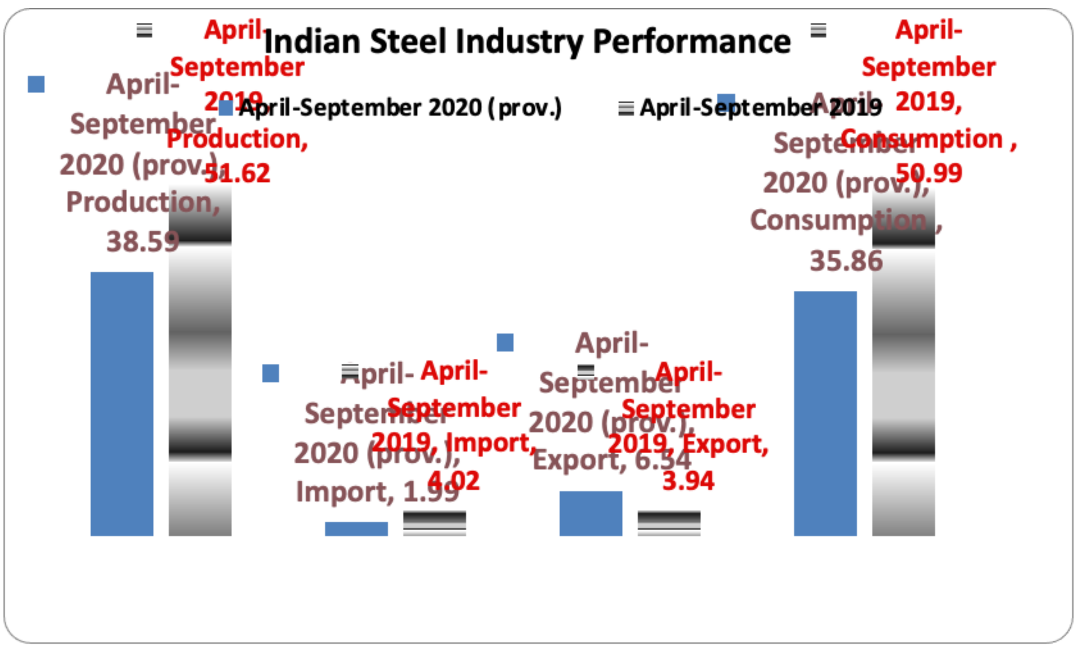
- Overall exports of total finished steel (6.544 mt) were up by 66.3%and India was a net exporter for this period.
- Contribution of the non-alloy steel segment stood at 6.14 mt (up by 71.5%), while the rest was the contribution of the alloy steel segment (including stainless steel).
- Volume-wise, non-alloy HRC (4.49 mt, up by 96.8%) was the most exported item (73% share in total non-alloy).
- China (29% share) was the largest export market (1.901 mt) for India.

Finished Steel Import Trends

- Overall imports of total finished steel (1.985 mt) were down by 50.6%.
- Contribution of the non-alloy steel segment stood at 1.33 mt (down by 54%), while the rest was the contribution of the alloy steel segment (including stainless steel).
- Volume-wise, non-alloy HRC (0.33 mt, down by 69.3%) was the item most imported (25% share in total non-alloy).
- Korea (0.777 mt) was the largest import market for India (39% share in total).

Finished Steel Consumption Trends

- At 35.864 mt, consumption of total finished steel declined by 29.7% in April-September 2020-21.
- Contribution of the non-alloy steel segment stood at 33.858 mt (down by 28.5%), while the rest was the contribution of the alloy steel segment (including stainless steel).
- In the non-alloy, non-flat segment, in volume terms, major contributor to consumption of total finished steel was Bars & Rods (14.586 mt, down by 28.4%) while growth in the non-alloy, flat segment was led by HRC (14.160 mt, down by 30.6%) during this period.



INDIAN ECONOMY – HIGHLIGHTS OF PERFORMANCE

GDP: The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Q1 2020-21, both at constant (2011-12) and current prices. As per the Report, GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices during Q1 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 26.90 lakh crore, showing a contraction of 23.9 per cent in Q1 2019-20. Quarterly GVA at Basic Price at Constant (2011-12) Prices for Q1 of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs

25.53 lakh crore, a contraction of 22.8 per cent. Excepting *'Agriculture, forestry & fishing',* no other sector could record a positive rate of growth during this period, as over same period of last year.

Industrial Production: Provisional CSO data show that the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) declined by 25 per cent during April-August 2020-21 (prov.), dampened by declines in the indices of all the lead sectors during this period as compared to same period of last year.

Infrastructure Growth: Provisional data released by the DPIIT indicate that the Eight Core Infrastructure Industries saw a decline of 14.9 per cent during April-September 2020-21 (prov.), dampened by significant declines in all lead sectors except Fertilisers.

Inflation: In September 2020 (prov.), the annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, stood at 1.32 per cent while the all India CPI inflation rate (combined) stood at 7.32 per cent and compared to the previous month, both the parameters registered a rise.

Trade: Provisional figures from DGCI&S show that during April-September 2020-21, in dollar terms, overall exports were down by 21.31 per cent while overall imports were down by 40.06 per cent, both on yoy basis. During the same period, oil imports were valued at USD 31.86 billion, 51.14 per cent lower yoy while non-oil imports were valued at USD 116.83 billion, 36.12 per cent lower yoy. Overall trade surplus for April-September 2020-21 is estimated at USD 17.74 billion as compared to the deficit of USD 49.91 billion in April-September 2019-20.

Prepared by: Joint Plant Committee