

EUROPEAN STEEL REVIEW

September 2025

Government intervention key to UK market recovery

Weak demand continued to suppress steel prices in the United Kingdom as the nation's government stepped in to provide financial support to another struggling steelmaker, this month.

Ministers assumed responsibility for the costs of Liberty Steel UK's Speciality Steel division after the High Court ordered the compulsory liquidation of the steelworks, in Stocksbridge and Rotherham, South Yorkshire. The situation further highlighted challenges faced by a UK steel sector where Jingye Group-owned British Steel has been under state control since its near-closure in April.

Sheffield Forgemasters has been operated by the Ministry of Defence since it was nationalised in July 2021. Meanwhile, Tata Steel UK is currently reliant on imports to fulfil its customer requirement as it proceeds with its GBP1.25 billion transition to EAF-based production. That project, at the steelmaker's Port Talbot site, in South Wales, is being part-funded by a GBP500m government grant.

During MEPS's latest research period, speculation grew about a potential plan to either sell-off the mills now under UK government control as one entity or nationalise their operations. However, discussions at September's UK Metals Expo highlighted that changes would need to be made to government policy to ensure that the country's steelmakers are competitive.

Around 70% of the UK's steel requirements are currently met by imports. In the EU, the market share of imports is 27%. Nonetheless, Eurofer is lobbying for stricter trade defences from January 1 – six months ahead of the expiry of the existing safeguard measures.

Flat Rolled Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices - Germany

EUR/tonne		Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Hot Rolled Coil	High	650	650	620	570	570	590
	Low	630	630	600	550	550	560
Hot Rolled Plate	High	710	700	670	650	650	660
	Low	670	660	650	630	620	620
Cold Rolled Coil	High	750	750	720	670	670	690
	Low	720	720	700	650	650	660
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High	760	760	730	690	690	700
	Low	740	740	710	670	670	670
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High	780	780	750	730	730	730
	Low	760	760	730	700	700	700

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The next Express will be sent on **10 October 2025**.

UK solution must extend beyond trade defences

As in the EU, the UK government has conducted a consultation on what form the replacement for its current import safeguard measures should take, ahead of their expiry at the end of June 2026. A UK CBAM will also be introduced in 2027.

The UK's importers argue that the nation's steel-consuming end-users need access to low cost third-country material to remain competitive. Steelmakers want more import restrictions. However, those representing the sector at the UK Metals Expo agree that the UK government's forthcoming Steel Strategy will need to do more than increase trade defences.

As Tata Steel transitions towards EAF-based production, adding to the UK's existing EAF capacity at Sheffield Forgemasters and the idled operations at Speciality Steels and Liberty Steel's site in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, UK steelmakers assert that the cost of energy must be addressed.

Trade association UK Steel's September research into electricity prices shows that British industrial electricity prices remain 25% higher than those in France and Germany. Consequently, the association claims that UK steel producers are paying over £26m more than their continental counterparts each year.

Demand remains steel sector participants' core concern

Domestic steelmakers also need a stronger local market. The S&P Global UK Manufacturing PMI fell to 47.0 in August, from 48.0 in July as the HCOB Eurozone Manufacturing PMI edged towards 50, rising from 49.5 to 49.8. A score above 50 indicates growth in a sector.

Although the S&P Global UK Construction PMI rose to 45.5 in August, the previous month's 44.3 was its lowest level in five years. Furthermore, representatives from British Steel told the UK Metals Expo that emissions standards were barring material produced via the blast furnace route, in Scunthorpe, from use in domestic developments.

Despite subdued economic indicators, some large orders are sustaining UK steel demand. A GBP10 billion contract to supply Type 26 naval frigates to Norway and a USD45 million US military contract for JCB were among recent successes.

However, these deals only benefit a limited number of specialist suppliers. MEPS's latest research shows that businesses further down the supply chain are suffering the effects of the continued demand slowdown. August brought the closure of service centre C. Brown & Sons. In the near term, the sales of stock from this business could introduce more supply into a market where a shortfall in demand remains the most significant challenge.

Long Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices - Germany

EUR/tonne		Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Wire Rod (Drawing Quality)	High	665	670	660	650	640	630
	Low	635	640	630	620	610	600
Medium Sections and Beams	High	800	790	780	760	755	750
	Low	780	780	770	750	745	740
Reinforcing Bar	High	410	425	400	380	370	360
	Low	390	400	380	370	360	350
Merchant Bar	High	300	300	290	270	265	260
	Low	280	280	270	260	255	250

MEPS - Steel Price Index API Line Pipe X60/65 Composite

	Hot Rolled Plate		Hot Rolled Coil	
	Q2/25	Q3/25	Q2/25	Q3/25
Europe Av				
Non Sour	123.9	120.3	134.7	129.5
Sour	141.9	138.1	141.3	136.3

* Q4/06 = 100 - based on euro values

MEPS - Steel Purchasing Price Index - Automotive Auto Body Parts Composite Index

	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Europe Average	94.2	94.3	94.6
Year-on-year % +/-	-7.1	-6.3	-2.9

* Jan 2007 = 100 - based on transaction prices

Flat Products

Coil

EU mills face wait for CBAM-prompted price increases

EU mills have only achieved a small portion of their desired gains after recent coil price increases made in anticipation of tightening supply in the coming months.

Amid low demand, modest levels of procurement in July and early August left most North European buyers with sufficient inventories and forward orders. Consequently, the region's mills and stockists returned from extended summer shutdowns to a subdued market.

Mills will have to wait before they can fully capitalise on any reduction in imports resulting from the January 1 implementation of CBAM taxes. There are few reports of supply shortages in Belgium, Germany and France. Furthermore, additional third-country material will be customs cleared at the start of the EU safeguard measures' next quota period, from October 1.

MEPS respondents report that certain Chinese and South Korean mills, along with some large European traders, have also started to include estimated CBAM taxes into offers for quarter one, 2026. Their projected CBAM costs are EUR40-70 per tonne.

European mills continue to compete hard to fill their order books, with buyers in Germany still offered mid-October delivery for hot rolled coils. Longer lead times are quoted for galvanised material, with EU mills' deliveries extending into November.

The EU safeguard measures' recently revised tariff-free quotas for Vietnamese- and Taiwanese-origin galvanised coils were quickly filled in quarter three, with the South Korea and India quotas also well utilised. Similarly, the UK government's tightening of its tariff-rate quotas disrupted galvanised coil imports in that country. Large volumes of Vietnamese and South Korean material now await customs clearance at UK ports.

Large projects and key sectors suffer setbacks

While German market participants hope that their government's spending plans will boost steel demand, those in France say that political uncertainty is stalling large projects. On September 9, the French government appointed its fifth prime minister in just two years as it prepared to develop its 2026 budget.

There are few signs of demand recovery in Northern Europe. Steel suppliers to the automotive sector say that their quarterly orders are down by 10-15% year-on-year.

Data published by ACEA shows that Germany was one of few European countries to record increased car production in the January to July period. Volumes rose by 5% year-on-year, to 2.5 million units. The UK's output declined by 11.7% to 489,238 vehicles, with France down 14.5% at 268,800. Competition from Chinese producers and the effect of United States import tariffs have affected demand.

Comparison of Low Market Domestic Basis Prices - Cold Rolled Coil

price/ tonne	Local currency		US dollars	
	Last Month	This Month	Last Month	This Month
Germany	650	660	751	772
France	650	660	751	772
Italy	635	640	734	749
UK	555	555	736	752
Belgium	650	660	751	772
Spain	640	645	740	754

Note: Exchange rates used for conversion are based on the figures given in our currency exchange rate table.

Flat Rolled Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices

		Germany EUR/t	France EUR/t	Italy EUR/t	UK GBP/t	UK EUR/t	Belgium EUR/t	Spain EUR/t
Hot Rolled Coil	High	590	580	565	500	579	590	570
	Low	560	560	545	480	556	565	550
Hot Rolled Plate	High	660	660	620	600	694	660	640
	Low	620	620	590	575	666	620	610
Cold Rolled Coil	High	690	680	660	585	677	690	665
	Low	660	660	640	555	642	660	645
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High	700	690	670	605	700	700	670
	Low	670	660	650	580	671	670	650
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High	730	730	700	650	752	730	705
	Low	700	700	685	620	718	700	685

Month on Month % Change

Hot Rolled Coil	Low	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	0.9	2.7	1.9
Hot Rolled Plate	Low	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
Cold Rolled Coil	Low	1.5	1.5	0.8	0.0	0.8	1.5	0.8
HD Galv Coil	Low	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.9	1.7	0.0	0.0
EZ Coated Coil	Low	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0

Price & Product Definitions

MEPS International's published price assessments relate to regular business, between buyers and steel mills, for newly produced, prime material, negotiated during the current month, for forward delivery. They refer to commercial grade steel for use in general industrial applications.

Quarterly, half-yearly and annual contract prices are excluded from the MEPS published assessments. These longer-term agreements are calculated using various methods and may not reflect the movements or absolute level of prices negotiated for regular monthly business.

Carbon steel basis prices exclude extras for dimensions of the product – for example thickness, width and diameter. They also exclude extras for coating, when coating is traditionally charged at an additional cost.

All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

Meanwhile, a cyber attack has stalled production at the UK's largest carmaker, Jaguar Land Rover. Its factories closed after the August 31 incident and employees have been told that they will not return to work until September 17, at the earliest.

South European buyers on hold as mills raise quotes

Coil buyers in Italy and Spain have been adopting "wait and see" attitudes since the end of the summer holiday, evaluating market trends before committing to significant purchases.

The requirements of most are already covered for the fourth quarter and many purchases made for quarter one of next year were placed back in July, when European prices bottomed. Buyers have also taken advantage of the last months of an import market free of CBAM taxes, with an influx of third-country material now expected to arrive in the last quarter of this year.

EU steelmakers have continued to increase their offer prices, but transactions have been extremely scarce in Southern Europe. Delivery lead times depend on the mill, with some still offering relatively quick delivery on the Italian market.

MEPS respondents in the distribution sector say that they will need to realise rises among their customers before they are in a position to accept mills' current prices.

Some price rises on the sheets market have been partly accepted, but not to the same extent as on the coil market. Some end-users, aware of the upward trend, are now seeking clarity on distributors' sales prices for material delivered in quarter one of next year.

This represents a gamble for distributors, which are still waiting for the European Commission to make an announcement on CBAM's emissions benchmark values, while anticipating a tightening of the EU safeguard measures. They are also awaiting confirmation of final antidumping duties on hot rolled coils from Japan, India, Vietnam and Egypt, which are due in October.

Mills and traders absorb potential CBAM costs

Some traders and Asian mills have been offering to take on the risk of future CBAM costs, this month, as well as some EU safeguard duties and antidumping duties. Imports have been booked from India, South Korea and China for quarter one delivery, with potential CBAM costs included.

Importers are continuing to closely monitor the European Commission's safeguard quotas amid concerns that ports will become overwhelmed with long queues of vessels due to a lack of space to unload. Large tonnages are expected to arrive from quota-free origins such as Indonesia and Saudi Arabia after suppliers in those countries continued to make competitive offers. Suppliers in Pakistan have also entered the EU market with competitive offers.

Meanwhile, more safeguard quota allocations have been filled recently, including those for hot rolled coils from Turkey and Algeria. All countries' cold rolled coil quotas are already full, except that for India.

These added complications are deterring buyers from placing import orders. Many buyers plan to rely on supply from their regional market until they gain clarification of the additional costs that will soon be applied to third-country material. This is providing support for EU mills determined to maintain an upward price trend.

Plate

Slow spot market shifts mills' focus to growth sectors

Northern Europe's plate prices increased marginally, at the high end of the MEPS price range, as steelmakers shifted their focus to project-related orders and growth sectors, this month.

Integrated mills, rerollers and end-users returned from extended summer shutdowns to find little improvement in demand. Buying is being conducted on a "needs only" basis, with an increased focus on short delivery lead times. In this subdued spot market, MEPS respondents in Germany say that up to 80% of domestic mills' production is destined for large projects.

Plate producers are increasingly targeting opportunities in defence and the oil and gas sector. New wind turbine projects are scarce. In September, the European Commission allocated low-cost loans, from a EUR150 billion debt fund, to bolster the region's defence capabilities. Shipbuilding in the United Kingdom was also boosted by a GBP10bn deal to provide Norway with at least five new Type 26 naval frigates.

Little scope for plate price recovery

Mills in Northern Europe attempted to raise their prices in September. Many buyers remain out of the market, however, while others were able to negotiate discounts. Most producers remain under pressure to fill their order books; with November delivery still being quoted.

MEPS respondents in France say that some demand stability is being provided by the shipbuilding and defence sectors. The country was allocated EU defence loans totalling EUR16.2bn, this month. However, France's current political uncertainty – following the replacement of Prime Minister François Bayrou – has stalled some large projects.

In Italy and Spain, a recovery in plate prices is being undermined by elevated port stocks. An increase in the cost of slab will also maintain pressure on Italian rerollers' profit margins. However, the renewal of Russia's EU slab quota, on October 1, could prompt the arrival of low-cost feedstock to certain operators.

Despite this downward price pressure, Italian mills have maintained their sales prices into the distribution sector, this month, while increases have been achieved with some end-users.

New import offers cover CBAM taxes

Uncertainty around the cost of CBAM taxes, applicable from January 1, continues to undermine confidence in new import orders. This should apply upward pressure to prices as inventories decline, and buyers increasingly turn towards domestic sources. However, MEPS respondents say that Indonesian-origin plate is now being offered at prices which include the estimated cost of CBAM taxes. Furthermore, an influx of imported material will follow the October 1 opening of the EU safeguard measures' quarter four quota period.

South Korean plate remains plentiful at UK ports. Nonetheless, importers have adapted to the application of a 20% cap on individual countries' use of the safeguard measures' plate quota by turning to Indonesian-origin material. This remains tariff-free due to Indonesia's categorisation as a developing economy.

Long Products

Rebar & Wire Rod

Northern Europe's post-summer uptick fails to materialise

The prices of wire rod and rebar declined in Belgium and Germany as buying activity showed no sign of improvement in the post-summer period.

A downward trend in the United Kingdom also resulted in price declines of GBP10-30 per tonne.

MEPS respondents in Germany and Belgium say that demand is stagnant, with limited signs of any near-term improvement. Activity in the construction sector has declined sharply, especially in residential building. Smaller processing companies are increasingly experiencing pressure on their profit margins as larger, more automated firms increase their market share.

Mills' delivery lead times have shortened and availability is good. This is despite a decline in domestic wire rod production, in recent weeks, as mills operated at reduced capacity or initiated temporary shutdowns.

Despite limited spot market interest, domestic producers are securing forward orders which extend into the latter part of the fourth quarter. Uncertainty over the cost of CBAM taxes, which will be implemented from January 1, 2026, is undermining buyers' confidence in placing overseas orders.

Northern Europe's wire rod exports to the United States have reduced as a consequence of the country's 25% Section 232 tariffs. Furthermore, the automotive industry's transition to electric vehicles continues to reduce that sector's drawing quality wire rod requirements.

MEPS respondents in the UK say that wire rod and rebar demand remains weak. Buying activity is being constrained by subdued construction output.

The UK's recently revised safeguard measures, which included 15% caps on individual countries' use of tariff-free rebar quotas, are limiting imports. Ahead of the October 1 opening of the quarter four quota period, some of the EU's quarter tariff-free quota remains unused. However, the quotas for Turkey and Algeria have been exhausted.

Across Northern Europe, competition for rebar and wire rod sales remains strong, amid elevated inventory levels and cautious purchasing strategies. MEPS respondents report that, although a modest restocking phase is possible in quarter four, the region's demand outlook remains weak.

Activity uptick fails to raise prices in France and Spain

Wire rod buyers in France and Spain report price reductions of EUR5-15 per tonne on last month, despite a slight uptick in buying activity at the start of September.

MEPS respondents say that the market was very quiet in July, ahead of the sector's summer shutdown period. Sentiment remains subdued as few anticipate that the pickup in activity experienced since the beginning of September will be sustained.

Wire rod processors continue to experience tough market conditions with profit margins significantly down on the levels achieved in the same period of last year. They are doubtful that mills will succeed in their efforts to increase prices.

On the rebar market, Spanish mills made some price concessions to book volumes in their domestic market. This led to a EUR10 decline in prices at the beginning of September.

Subsequently, mills have raised their list prices in an attempt to restore prices to their July level. MEPS respondents say that demand for rebar has been holding, underpinned by Spain's construction sector. The country's construction output remains stronger than that of many of its European neighbours following the April announcement of EUR1.5 billion to accelerate the development of new homes.

Meanwhile, rebar prices have declined in France, especially in the south of the country, influenced by low-priced material from Italy.

Italian mills push for higher prices

No price declines were recorded in Italy this month, but mills are struggling to raise their prices.

A lack of demand and pressure from imports is undermining Italian mills' price aspirations for wire rod. Buyers returned from their summer holidays at the beginning of September, but most are in no hurry to start purchasing.

On the rebar market, Italian suppliers aim to push prices up further. Nonetheless, prices are not expected to show significant gains, if any, following their EUR30-50 per tonne increase in July.

Beams & Merchant Bar

Sales remains scarce amid subdued German sentiment

MEPS respondents in Germany report that beam and merchant bar orders were limited, in September, with no signs of improvement in the near term.

This is despite the improved outlook for the country's manufacturing sector, indicated by the HCOB Germany Manufacturing PMI. In August, the key performance indicator rose to 49.8 – up from 49.1 a month earlier.

The IFO Institute, one of Germany's largest economic think tanks, also reported that the country's business sentiment improved slightly in August. However, MEPS respondents' feedback indicates continued uncertainty in the steel sector's outlook.

Beam and merchant bar prices declined in Germany, this month. Steel producers are actively seeking new orders to fill their production schedules and currently offer delivery in November. Imported long products that arrive in the EU before the implementation of CBAM taxes continue to apply downward pressure to prices.

Belgium's beam and merchant bar market remains subdued. After a quiet August, the traditional post-summer recovery has failed to materialise. Import arrivals from China, Vietnam and the UAE continue on a sporadic basis, frequently undercutting domestic quotations. Market participants cite CBAM-related confusion as a key factor behind the hesitancy to engage in new overseas transactions.

Most MEPS respondents in Belgium report that their sales volumes are down year-on-year. Their demand outlook remains stable at a low level, but they are looking ahead to the first quarter of next year for a potential uptick in restocking.

Demand for beams and merchant bar in the United Kingdom remains limited, with minimal stock replenishment and few forward orders being placed. Market sentiment is being influenced by ongoing planning delays, despite the UK government's plans to deregulate the construction sector to encourage growth. Ministers in the country have targeted the development of 1.5 million new homes by August 2029.

Long Products - Negotiated Domestic Basis Prices

		Germany EUR/t	France EUR/t	Italy EUR/t	UK GBP/t	UK EUR/t	Belgium EUR/t	Spain EUR/t
Wire Rod (Drawing Quality)	High	630	630	610	520	602	630	600
	Low	600	600	580	500	579	600	590
Medium Sections and Beams	High	750	770	780	655	758	750	740
	Low	740	760	760	630	729	740	730
Rebar	High	360	350	320	515	596	360	360
	Low	350	340	290	500	579	350	350
Merchant Bar	High	260	230	280	610	706	240	245
	Low	250	220	260	580	671	220	225

Month on Month % Change

Wire Rod	Low	-1.6	-1.6	0.0	-2.0	-1.2	-1.6	-2.5
Medium Sections	Low	-0.7	0.0	0.0	-1.6	-0.8	-0.7	-1.4
Rebar	Low	-2.8	-2.9	3.6	-2.0	-1.2	-2.8	-2.8
Merchant Bar	Low	-2.0	-2.2	0.0	-0.9	-0.1	0.0	-6.3

Price & Product Definitions

MEPS International's published price assessments relate to regular business, between buyers and steel mills, for newly produced, prime, commercial quality material, negotiated during the current month, for forward delivery.

All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

Prices for low carbon drawing quality wire rod and medium sections (I beams) refer to effective values, including size extras. Prices for rebar and merchant bar refer to basis values, excluding size extras, with the exception of those in the UK.

Disclaimer

All price and market data, in this report, is researched by MEPS International's staff and its local correspondents. The information is obtained from respondents who the company consider provide accurate intelligence on the steel market. The company makes its best endeavours to be assured that the information is correct and that its analysis is reliable. MEPS International Ltd. cannot be made liable for any loss resulting from the use of the published data, however it may arise.

Producers in the UK remain flexible on price amid strong competition for sales. Offers of Turkish-origin material continues to attract buyers' attention. Furthermore, inventory levels remain elevated, limiting any opportunity for short-term price growth. Nonetheless, MEPS's UK respondents are cautiously optimistic, their sentiment supported by expectations of improved construction activity.

Southern Europe's prices defy mills' attempted increases

ArcelorMittal announced a price rise of EUR20-30 per tonne on its long product range, this month, with other domestic mills also communicating their intention to implement rises.

This could help to stabilise prices, which have been under downward pressure over the summer. However, demand for merchant bar remains heavily subdued, with prices in France and Spain falling to their lowest levels since December 2020.

Long production stoppages at Italian mills have extended delivery lead times and reduced stock but buyers expect availability to be restored to normal levels soon.

The beam market is continuing to fare better than that of merchant bar. This is especially true in Italy, where demand is being supported by public investment in infrastructure.

The HCOB Italy Construction PMI declined to 47.7, in August, but showed a marked improvement in France, climbing to 46.7 after declining to a 10-month low in July. Both indices still remain below 50 though, indicating a sector in contraction.

French distributors report a post-holiday pickup, which may be short-lived. They say that their sales volumes have been stable at a low level over the summer, and do not expect any improvement in demand in the last quarter, in light of the country's current political crisis.

Large metallic builders in France expect to remain busy until the end of the year but have slightly lowered their predictions for 2026. Many are competing for the same projects.

In Spain, distributors have not seen mills' list price increases translate into higher buying prices. Most mills were still focused on filling their order books at the beginning of September.

Market & Industry Scene

Thyssenkrupp

Thyssenkrupp has received a non-binding bid to acquire its European steel operations from Indian steelmaker Jindal Steel International.

Thyssenkrupp said that its board would examine the offer for Thyssenkrupp Steel Europe closely in a statement issued following Jindal's bid on September 16.

In a separate statement, Jindal said that it would invest EUR2 billion to realise the development of the DRI facility at Thyssenkrupp's Duisburg site and create additional EAF capacity. The steelmaker said that it has "a clear vision for decarbonisation as well as competitive steel production in Germany".

Jindal's offer comes just two months after Thyssenkrupp reached a cost-cutting agreement with German trade union IG Metall. The plan includes a reduction in working hours, lower bonuses, potential for job cuts, and plant closures which would reduce crude steel capacity from 11.7 to 8.7-9m tonnes.

EU CBAM

The European Commission has confirmed that the start date for the CBAM definitive period will remain unchanged, at January 1, 2026.

This follows lobbying from steel industry trade bodies which suggested that importers would require more time to comply with the new rules.

In a separate note, the Commission has also launched three consultations to gather feedback on a range of potential CBAM alterations.

The Commission's consultation document says that industry stakeholders have until September 25 to share their views on: rules on the alignment of the EU's CBAM and ETS schemes; third-country carbon pricing; and the methodology for determining embedded emissions and default values during the definitive period.

Marcegaglia

Marcegaglia has awarded equipment manufacturer Danieli a contract to supply equipment for its EUR800 million flat steel minimill project in Fos-sur-Mer, southern France.

The facility will have capacity to produce 2.1m tonnes per year of stainless and carbon steel hot rolled coil, providing around 30% of Marcegaglia's hot rolled coil production requirements.

Included in the new development will be an EAF with continuous scrap charging, twin-ladle refining, vacuum degassing and a combined Steckel and five-stand hot strip mill. This will enable both flexible production and reduced emissions, Marcegaglia says.

The steelmaker plans to break ground on the project in 2026, following its acquisition of the Fos-sur-Mer site from Ascometal last year. Commissioning is planned for 2028.

AFV Beltrame

AFV Beltrame Stahl Gerlafingen has completed the upgrade of its wire rod mill in Gerlafingen, northwestern Switzerland.

The revamped mill is designed to produce 600,000 tonnes per year of rebar in diameters ranging from 6mm to 20mm and wire rod in sizes between 5.5mm and 20mm.

The upgrades are designed to eliminate vibration-related shutdowns, improve coil formation and enable higher production speeds. It also integrates real-time tension monitoring, enhancing process stability, yield and overall product quality.

Medium Term Price Forecasts

Quiet post-summer period subdues steel price outlook

MEPS International forecasts that weak demand will continue to restrict the price increases achieved by steel mills, despite a reduction in new import orders due to uncertainty around CBAM and Europe's safeguard measures.

Nonetheless, prices are predicted to follow a gradual upward trend in the final quarter of 2025, continuing through the first half of 2026. Hot rolled coil values are forecast to rise by around EUR30 per tonne by the end of this year and by a further EUR70 per tonne by the end of the second quarter of 2026. This represents a downward revision of MEPS's previous forecast. Post-summer purchasing activity has been weaker than expected, reflecting subdued consumer sentiment and uncertainty surrounding both imports and exports.

Plate prices are also forecast to follow an upward trajectory. Price increases for this product will remain modest as buyers continue to delay purchases amid pessimism about Europe's construction sector. Germany is expected to see some improvement in the coming year, while any uptick in France's construction sector is likely to be undermined by ongoing political instability. The outlook for Italy and Spain is more positive. Dutch-headquartered bank ING recently revised its EU construction sector growth forecast for 2025 down to zero, a downgrade from its earlier estimate of 0.5% growth.

Limited support for long product prices

MEPS analysts expect long product prices to decline further, with a slight decrease in October. Prices will start to recover towards the end of 2025, with this upward trend continuing into mid-2026. Despite domestic mills' production cuts, and reduced imports, high inventories are likely to limit price increases for rebar and wire rod in the near term.

Merchant bar and beam prices are expected to face similar pressures. The positive effects of monetary easing on real demand from the construction will be felt from next year. This will support long product prices as inventories decline and buying activity resumes. Gains in long products are expected to reach EUR70-75 per tonne, by June next year, lower than the forecast rise for flat products.

Long product prices are unlikely to be supported by ferrous scrap prices in the coming months as Europe's scrap prices are likely to remain under downward pressure. Prices of iron ore and coking coal have recently increased, supported by seasonal demand from China and India. However, further increases are not expected, applying limited input cost pressure to European steel prices.

Eurofer has said that it does not expect apparent steel consumption to improve significantly before the first quarter of 2026. Demand is expected to remain well below pre-pandemic levels.

Europe's automotive sector also faces significant challenges, with reduced production and the shift to electric vehicles contributing to a reduction in manufacturers' steel requirements. Carmakers are battling the effects of strong competition from new market entrants from China, international trade tensions and low consumer confidence. The sector's output is projected to decline by 4.2% in 2025, steeper than the earlier estimates of a 2.6% decline. A modest recovery of 1.3% is expected in 2026, although volumes will remain well below pre-Covid levels.

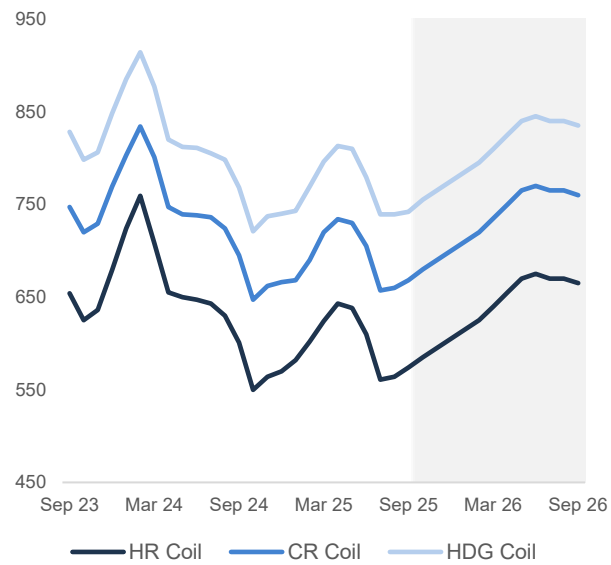
The latest HCOB Eurozone Manufacturing PMI indicates a degree of cautious optimism about the year ahead. Growth expectations remained slightly above the long-term average in August. Meanwhile, the European Commission's Economic Sentiment Indicator declined marginally in August 2025, with small decreases across industry, services, construction, and consumer confidence.

Europe Average Domestic Transaction Price Forecasts

EUR/tonne	Actual	Forecast					
	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26
Hot Rolled Coil	574	585	595	605	615	625	640
Hot Rolled Plate	634	640	650	660	670	680	695
Cold Rolled Coil	668	680	690	700	710	720	735
HD Galv Coil	742	755	765	775	785	795	810
EZ Coated Coil	790	800	810	820	830	840	855
Wire Rod (Drawing)	591	590	595	610	630	635	650
Wire Rod (Mesh)	576	575	580	595	615	620	635
Sections (I Beam)	743	740	740	745	760	760	775
Sections (H Beam)	763	760	760	765	780	780	795
Reinforcing Bar	580	575	580	590	605	605	620
Merc Bar (Round)	669	665	670	680	695	695	710
Merc Bar (Eq Angle)	665	660	665	675	690	690	705
Price Definitions							
MEPS regional average steel prices for Europe are computed from a weighted average of prices in Germany, France, Italy, Spain and the UK. The weighting is based on steel consumption in individual countries. Prices are collected in the appropriate local currency and converted into euros to provide a basis for comparison.							

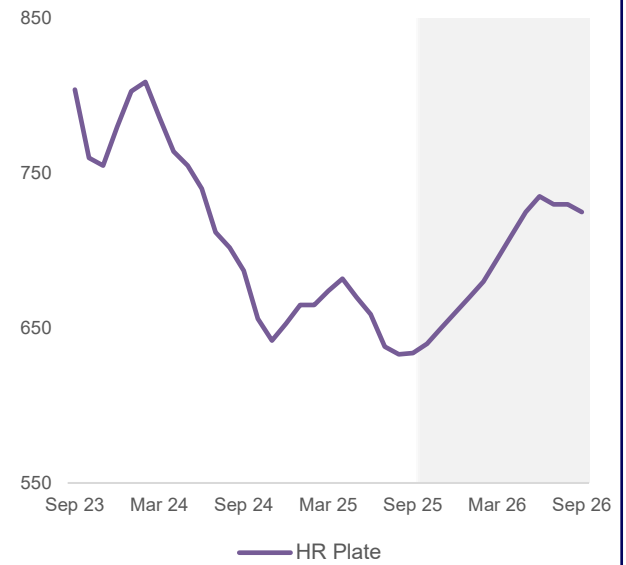
Europe Average Forecast

Transaction Prices, EUR/t



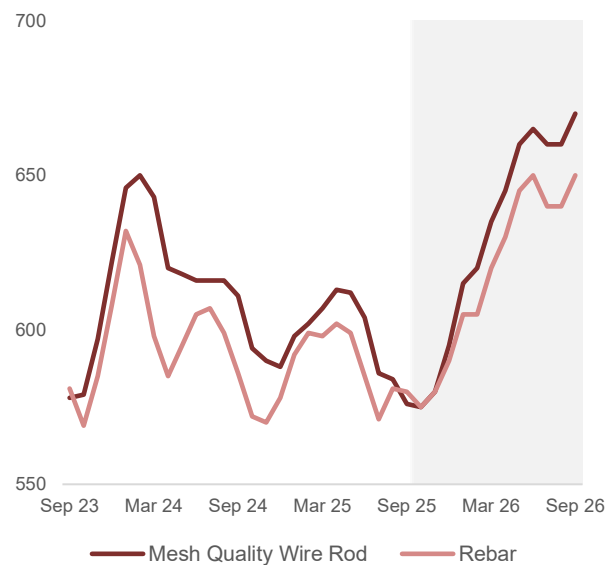
Europe Average Forecast

Transaction Prices, EUR/t



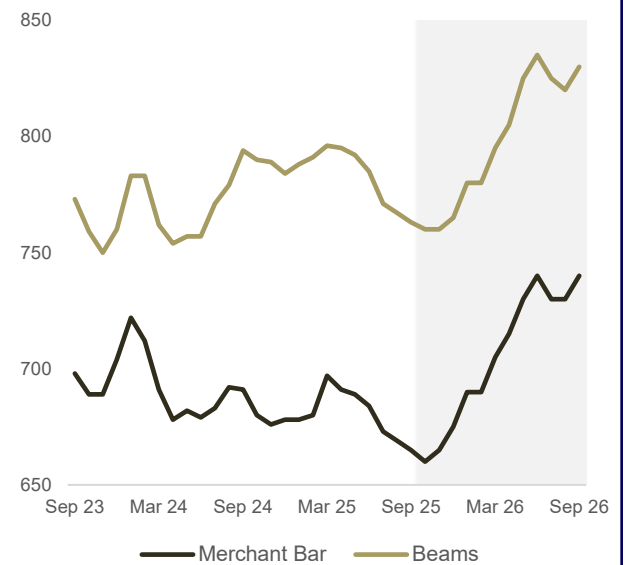
Europe Average Forecast

Transaction Prices, EUR/t



Europe Average Forecast

Transaction Prices, EUR/t



Transaction Price Data Sheet

Negotiated Domestic Transaction Prices

Flat Products		Europe Average	Germany	France	Italy	UK	UK	Spain
		EUR/t	EUR/t	EUR/t	EUR/t	GBP/t	EUR/t	EUR/t
Hot Rolled Coil	High	597	611	601	583	520	602	591
	Low	574	581	581	563	500	579	571
Hot Rolled Plate	High	670	675	675	635	614	711	655
	Low	634	635	635	605	589	682	625
Cold Rolled Coil	High	693	706	696	675	599	693	681
	Low	668	676	676	655	569	659	661
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High	769	775	765	745	695	804	745
	Low	742	745	735	725	670	775	725
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High	817	823	823	793	720	833	798
	Low	790	793	793	778	690	799	778

Long Products		Europe Average	Germany	France	Italy	UK	UK	Spain
		EUR/t	EUR/t	EUR/t	EUR/t	GBP/t	EUR/t	EUR/t
Wire Rod (Drawing Quality)	High	618	630	630	610	520	602	600
	Low	591	600	600	580	500	579	590
Wire Rod (Mesh Quality)	High	596	600	605	590	510	590	590
	Low	576	580	585	570	490	567	580
Medium Sections (I Beam)	High	758	750	770	780	655	758	740
	Low	743	740	760	760	630	729	730
Medium Sections (H Beam)	High	777	770	790	800	670	775	760
	Low	763	760	780	780	645	747	750
Reinforcing Bar	High	600	620	610	580	515	596	620
	Low	580	610	600	550	500	579	610
Merchant Bar (Round)	High	686	685	655	705	610	706	670
	Low	669	675	645	685	580	671	650
Merchant Bar (Equal Angle)	High	682	680	650	700	610	706	665
	Low	665	670	640	680	580	671	645

All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

Currency Exchange Rates

	US dollars USD		Euros EUR	
	1-Aug	1-Sep	1-Aug	1-Sep
Eurozone EUR	0.865	0.855	-	-
UK GBP	0.754	0.738	0.871	0.864

MEPS Industrial Sector Steel Purchasing Price Index - Europe Average

Jan 2007 = 100	Aug-25	Sep-25	% change
Construction Industry	106.5	107.7	1.1
Household Appliances	86.3	87.1	0.9
Machinery Sector	96.8	98.0	1.2
Shipbuilding Industry	83.5	84.7	1.4
Shipping Containers	97.6	98.9	1.3
Yellow Goods	100.0	101.3	1.3

Transaction Price Index - Europe Average

January 1997 = 100

	Aug-25	Sep-25	% change
Hot Rolled Coil	216.1	219.9	1.8
Hot Rolled Plate	220.6	220.9	0.1
Cold Rolled Coil	181.3	183.5	1.2
HD Galv Coil	160.3	161.0	0.4
EZ Coated Coil	187.4	187.6	0.1
Wire Rod (Drawing)	225.7	223.0	-1.2
Wire Rod (Mesh)	246.4	243.0	-1.4
Sections (I Beam)	243.3	242.0	-0.5
Sections (H Beam)	219.8	218.6	-0.5
Reinforcing Bar	255.9	255.5	-0.2
Merc Bar (Round)	253.0	251.5	-0.6
Merc Bar (Eq Angle)	259.3	257.8	-0.6

Note: Based on low transaction values.

Negotiated Domestic Transaction Prices - Month on Month % Change

		Europe Average	Germany	France	Italy	UK	UK	Spain
		EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	GBP	EUR	EUR
Hot Rolled Coil	Low	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.9	1.8
Hot Rolled Plate	Low	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0
Cold Rolled Coil	Low	1.2	1.5	1.5	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.8
HD Galv Coil	Low	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.8	1.6	0.0
EZ Coated Coil	Low	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0
Wire Rod (Drawing)	Low	-1.2	-1.6	-1.6	0.0	-2.0	-1.2	-2.5
Wire Rod (Mesh)	Low	-1.4	-1.7	-0.8	0.0	-3.9	-3.2	-1.7
Sections (I Beam)	Low	-0.5	-0.7	0.0	0.0	-1.6	-0.8	-1.4
Sections (H Beam)	Low	-0.5	-0.7	0.0	0.0	-1.5	-0.7	-1.3
Reinforcing Bar	Low	-0.2	-1.6	-1.6	1.9	-2.0	-1.2	-1.6
Merc Bar (Round)	Low	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	0.0	-0.9	-0.1	-2.3
Merc Bar (Eq Angle)	Low	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	0.0	-0.9	-0.1	-2.3

MEPS European Steel Review - Price & Product Specifications

MEPS International's published price assessments relate to regular business, between buyers and steel mills, for newly produced, prime, commercial quality material, negotiated during the current month, for forward delivery. Transactions which involve abnormally large or small volumes, non-repeatable deals or sale of ex-stock material are omitted from consideration in the formulation of the published prices. Long-term contract prices are also excluded from the MEPS monthly assessments. Unless included as standard, at no additional cost to the buyer, all extras charged for processing, packaging, testing and certification are excluded from the published prices. The majority of MEPS International's price assessments refer to material sold ex-works, excluding local taxes. When delivery charges or local taxes are incorporated in a published figure, this is stated in the relevant specification.

Basis prices exclude extras for dimensions of the product – for example thickness, width and diameter. They also exclude extras for coating, when coating is traditionally charged at an additional cost. Transaction prices include applicable extra charges, such as those for thickness, width, diameter and coating. All prices exclude carbon and energy surcharges.

Hot Rolled Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, Belgium, Spain

Ex works. Grade S235JR.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 2-3mm, Width 1100-1549mm.

UK

Ex works. Grade S275JR.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 2-3mm, Width 1100-1549mm.

Hot Rolled Plate

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, Belgium, Spain

Ex works. Grade S235JR.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 15-40mm, Width 2000-2500mm.

UK

Ex works. Grade S275JR.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 15-40mm, Width 2000-2500mm.

Cold Rolled Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain

Ex works. Grade DC01.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 1.00-1.24mm, Width 1100-1549mm.

Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain

Ex works. Grade DX51D+Z.

Basis - excludes size extras, Coating Z100.

Transaction - Thickness 1.00-1.24mm, Width 1100-1299mm, Coating Z275.

Electro Zinc Coated Coil

Germany (Ruhr), France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain

Ex works. Grade DC01+ZE.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Thickness 1.00-1.24mm, Width 1100-1299mm, Coating 2.5µm.

Wire Rod (low carbon drawing quality)

Germany, France, Italy, UK, Belgium, Spain

Delivered. Grade C4D, SAE1006.

Transaction - Diameter 5.5mm.

Wire Rod (low carbon mesh quality)

Germany, France, Italy, UK, Spain

Delivered. Grade SAE1008.

Transaction - Diameter 6-12mm.

Sections (I beam)

Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Spain

Delivered. Grade S235JR, S275JR.

Transaction - Category 1, Designation IPE 180-220.

UK

Delivered. Grade S275JR.

Transaction - Designation UB 203, UB 254.

Sections (H beam)

Germany, France, Italy, Spain

Delivered. Grade S235JR, S275JR.

Transaction - Category 3, Designation HEB 240.

UK

Delivered. Grade S275JR.

Transaction - Designation UC 254.

Rebar (deformed)

Germany, France, Belgium

Delivered. Grade B500B.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

Italy

Delivered. Grade B450C.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

UK

Delivered. Grade B500C.

Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

Spain

Delivered. Grade B500SD.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction - Diameter 16-20mm.

Merchant Bar

Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Spain

Delivered. Grade S235JR, S275JR.

Basis - excludes size extras.

Transaction (round bar) - Diameter 16-50mm.

Transaction (equal angle) - Dimensions 50x50x5mm.

UK

Delivered. Grade S275JR.

Transaction (round bar) - Diameter 16-50mm.

Transaction (equal angle) - Dimensions 50x50x6mm.