

MEPS EUROPEAN STEEL REVIEW

KEYNOTE

FEBRUARY 2013

EU STEEL STRIP MILL PRODUCT PRICES UP BY €35 PER TONNE SINCE NOVEMBER

For the moment, supply is still plentiful in the European flat products market as demand has not picked up since the start of the year. Moreover, some customers who placed orders before Christmas, ahead of any perceived price rises, now have sufficient material to satisfy their requirements for the immediate future. The euro/dollar exchange rate is starting to make Asian imports more interesting for traders in mainland Europe, despite the long delivery lead times involved.

German consumption is reasonable. The mills booked a lot of business in December but January was a quieter month. They continue to push for higher prices and some improvement has been noted, although the target figures have not yet

been achieved. Third country imports are not competitive, so far, but if the euro strengthens further, buyers will start to examine the possibilities. Distributors' stocks are normal.

As end-user demand continues to be weak in France, service centre activity is slow. Distributors are buying very little now. There is a general feeling of pessimism amongst market participants, who do not expect much recovery in the short-term. Steelmakers implemented increases for the first quarter as order books are almost filled. They will be looking for a further advance of €10/20 per tonne for period two but acknowledged that it might be difficult to secure, given that buyers are in waiting mode and not very receptive to higher prices. Following the

TABLE 1. FLAT ROLLED PRODUCTS - NEGOTIATED DOMESTIC BASIS PRICES - GERMANY

price/metric ton		2012				2013	
		SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
Hot-Rolled Coil	High:	540	525	500	520	530	550
	Low:	490	475	450	470	480	500
Hot-Rolled Plate	High:	600	575	550	550	560	560
	Low:	560	535	510	510	520	520
Cold-Rolled Coil	High:	610	595	580	590	600	620
	Low:	570	555	540	550	560	580
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High:	610	595	580	590	600	620
	Low:	570	555	540	550	560	580
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High:	630	615	600	610	620	620
	Low:	580	565	550	560	570	570
Stainless Steel Type 304	High:	1120	1100	1120	1130	1130	1130
	Low:	1020	1000	1020	1030	1030	1030
Stainless Steel Type 430	High:	1110	1110	1110	1110	1110	1110
	Low:	1060	1060	1060	1060	1060	1060

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strengthening of the euro, customers report that imports are becoming more attractive, although long delivery lead times remain a problem.

The Italian steel market is just as depressed as the economy. Poor demand and imports, made more interesting by the current euro/dollar exchange rate, are a cause of concern for domestic steelmakers. Nevertheless, ex-mill prices are firm this month and producers are hoping that more hikes will prove possible soon. For now, customers are happy to buy small quantities locally.

In the UK, Tata Steel announced a £30 per tonne rise in early February, citing high raw material costs. Demand remains relatively weak with no real upward momentum. However, several distributors report steady business. They believe the market is looking more promising and their resale margins are improving, albeit more slowly than ex-mill prices. Customers were encouraged to place orders in December, before basis values went up, so

purchasing activity is slow at the moment. There is little, or no, threat from imports.

Basis numbers are slowly strengthening in Belgium. Distributors report that their sales volumes are better than in January 2012. However, resale values do not reflect the increases asked by the mills because end-users are unwilling to pay the extra cost. Buyers are not, currently, interested in third country offers as they tend to entail long delivery lead times and large volume requirements.

Domestic suppliers have secured small hikes in Spain. Third country quotations are similar but the three to four month wait for arrival discourages customers from placing orders. Service centre sales are generally a little better. Resale prices, although improving, are still not keeping pace with ex-mill increases. Distributors who ordered material from Ilva last autumn are experiencing some shortages because the steel has not been shipped.

FLAT PRODUCTS

HOT ROLLED COIL

In Germany, the producers are suggesting a rise of €40/50 per tonne for the second quarter. Buyers, who are only just starting their negotiations, doubt that the full amount is achievable. They are reluctant to finalise as current stocks are sufficient. Turkish offers are creating interest and we understand that Russian suppliers are lowering their prices. Apart from some small quantities, local mills are fully booked to the end of March. The pipe makers have decent order books for the first quarter. However, their European sales are still slow and there is concern that a stronger euro could affect overseas

business. French ex-mill values have moved up by €30 per tonne. A number of buyers, particular in the south of the country, think the advance is directly attributable to the ongoing difficulties at Ilva's plant in Taranto. Some customers have cautiously resumed importing, with hot rolled coil from Russia at competitive prices and reasonable delivery lead times. The Italian market is dull. Service centres are careful about purchasing due to end-user resistance to higher prices. They are not recouping the full amount of the recent mill increases. Consequently, they are keeping stock levels to a minimum. Chinese material, booked in October 2012, has arrived and is available at below domestic levels. Russian mills are

TABLE 2. LONG PRODUCTS - NEGOTIATED DOMESTIC BASIS PRICES - GERMANY

price/metric ton		2012				2013	
		SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
Wire Rod	High:	560	540	530	540	550	550
	Low:	540	520	510	520	530	530
Medium Sections and Beams	High:	630	620	600	620	640	640
	Low:	590	580	560	580	600	600
Rebars	High:	300	300	295	295	310	300
	Low:	280	280	275	275	290	280
Merchant Bars	High:	250	225	200	210	240	230
	Low:	210	185	160	170	200	190

**MEPS - API LINEPIPE STEEL PRICE INDEX
X60/65 COMPOSITE**

	Hot Rolled Plate		Hot Rolled Coil	
	Q4/12	Q1/13e	Q4/12	Q1/13e
EU Average				
Non Sour	115.0	118.7	129.8	135.9
Sour	123.4	126.9	128.3	133.0

* Q4/06 = 100 - based on Euro values

** p = Provisional e = Estimate

**MEPS - STEELPPI - AUTOMOTIVE
Auto Body Parts Composite Index**

	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13
EU Average	79.9	80.6	82.0
Year-on-year % +/-	0.5	-0.4	-4.1

* Jan 07 = 100 - based on transaction prices

** STEELPPI - Steel Purchasing Price Index

active and selling some tonnages of hot rolled coil. Indian suppliers are quoting €490 per tonne.

In the UK, steelmakers have lifted basis figures by around £10 per tonne. There is trader stock on offer, which is keeping the lid on prices to some extent. Delivery lead times from the domestic producer are short, which makes it difficult for overseas suppliers to compete for forward orders. Russian and Ukrainian availability for the first quarter has been exhausted. We have heard of instances where resale values are below replacement costs. Belgian buyers have accepted slightly higher basis figures this month, although the steelmakers are willing to be more flexible where very large tonnages are concerned. Spanish demand remains muted.

HOT ROLLED PLATE

The recently applied price improvements for commodity plate have not been maintained in several countries as demand is subdued. Producers continue to try to impose increases but their official target levels have not been reached. Stockists and end-users are cautious - only ordering when necessary. Significant restocking is not required because material can be delivered very quickly. Imports have been available at Antwerp for €470/510 per tonne but, now, both Chinese and Indian suppliers are trying to lift their quotations.

In Germany, further restocking is anticipated in the second quarter. The mills have good order books for heavy machinery applications. The offshore industry is also providing some demand, although volumes are not huge. Line-pipe projects are still on hold but there are realistic hopes that business will improve in the second half of 2013. In France, recent basis gains have not been fully maintained. Long-term contracts from the energy and public sectors are still lacking. Italian producers have resumed selling very cheaply across the border, with some material quoted around €490/500 per tonne in the southeast of France. In Italy, the rerollers tried to push domestic prices up by €40 per tonne but efforts have failed. Their export markets in the Maghreb region are lacklustre at present so they are struggling for tonnage

at home and abroad.

The commodity grade plate market in the UK remains very depressed in terms of price and throughput. However, there is less import pressure because the exchange rate is favourable for the domestic producer. Resale margins are being squeezed. The situation for the higher specifications is more encouraging. The energy, offshore, boiler and pressure vessel sectors are all performing well. We have noted a negative price development in Belgium. The Spanish market is dull. Sales are slow and prices have fallen. Chinese mills are offering at €575 per tonne CFR, Spanish port.

COLD ROLLED COIL

German basis values have gained another €20 per tonne over the last four weeks as customers start to accept the mills' price hike plans, which are deemed necessary to cover their manufacturing costs. In France, producers have failed to secure further rises during recent negotiations. The Italian market is quiet and sentiment has turned down over the last two to three weeks. There

**TABLE 3. COMPARISON OF LOW MARKET
DOMESTIC BASIS PRICES - COLD ROLLED COIL**

	Local Currency		US\$/metric ton	
	last month	this month	last month	this month
Germany	560	580	739	795
France	570	570	752	781
Italy	550	560	726	767
UK	445	470	724	740
Belgium	565	575	745	788
Spain	550	560	726	767

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

TABLE 4. FLAT ROLLED PRODUCTS - NEGOTIATED DOMESTIC BASIS PRICES

price/metric ton		Germany (€)	France (€)	Italy (€)	UK (£)	UK (€)	Belgium (€)	Spain (€)
Hot Rolled Coil	High:	550	550	530	425	489	530	510
	Low:	500	510	490	400	460	490	490
Hot Rolled Plates	High:	560	570	540	500	575	560	550
	Low:	520	520	500	470	540	520	500
Cold Rolled Coil	High:	620	620	610	505	580	625	600
	Low:	580	570	560	470	540	575	560
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High:	620	610	590	510	586	615	590
	Low:	580	560	540	470	540	565	550
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High:	620	630	630	520	598	640	610
	Low:	570	590	590	480	552	590	570
Stainless Cold (a) Rolled Type 304	High:	1130	1090	1000	985	1132	1070	1000
	Low:	1030	1040	950	915	1052	1020	950
Stainless Cold (a) Rolled Type 430	High:	1110	1090	950	1015	1167	—	1027
	Low:	1060	1040	900	990	1138	—	997

MONTH on MONTH % CHANGE

Hot Rolled Coil	Low:	4.2	6.3	4.3	2.6	-4.2	2.1	2.1
Hot Rolled Plates	Low:	0.0	-3.7	0.0	0.0	-6.7	-3.7	-3.8
Cold Rolled Coil	Low:	3.6	0.0	1.8	5.6	-1.5	1.8	1.8
H.D. Galv Coil	Low:	3.6	1.8	1.9	6.8	-0.4	1.8	1.9
E.Z. Coated Coil	Low:	0.0	1.7	1.7	1.1	-5.6	1.7	1.8
S/S CR Type 304	Low:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-6.7	0.0	0.0
S/S CR Type 430	Low:	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	-6.6	—	0.0

BASIS PRICE AND PRODUCT DEFINITIONS

Negotiated basis price ranges pertain to new purchases for mainstream business agreed with regional mills during the current month for delivery in the future. They relate to prime material ex basing point net of all rebates and discounts for the lowest quality product in the producers' price lists unless otherwise stated.

Extras for size cutting, testing, transport etc. are excluded except where specified.

Notes: (a) Basis - 1.5mm thick.

Prices in this table may relate to deliveries in different time periods. It is important that this table is read in conjunction with the text in the newsletter.

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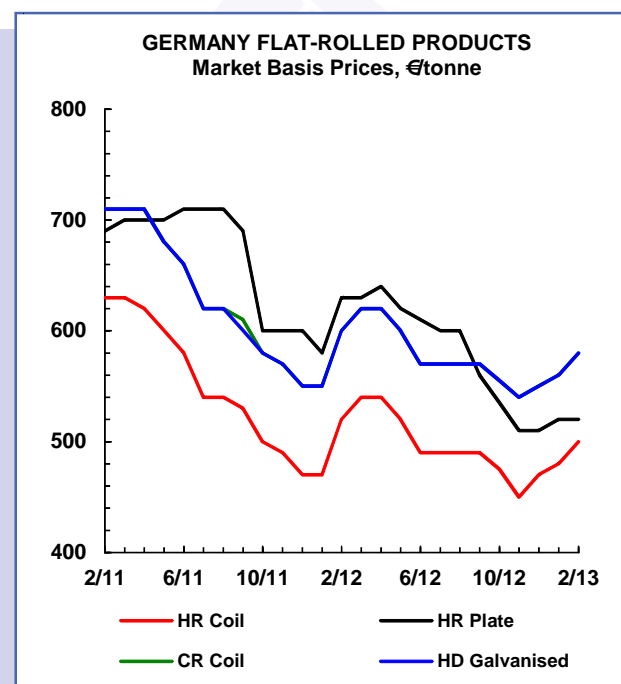
are few imports available. European steelmakers are dominating the market. Final demand is very weak, causing anxiety amongst distributors.

The UK cold rolled coil market is stronger than that for the hot rolled product. Domestic suppliers have realised a £25 per tonne advance. However, any improvement in real consumption is only marginal. Belgian buyers have been forced to accept another small increase during the latest round of settlements. There is less material available in the Spanish marketplace so customers are looking to third country imports. Domestic suppliers have secured part of their proposed price hike.

COATED COIL

The outlook for 2013 car production is looking less healthy in Germany. Sales of hot dipped galvanised coil to the construction sector are ticking over at a subdued level. Basis prices in the general market have moved up by around €20 per tonne. Coated coil selling values have not increased as much as those for the hot rolled product in France, due to the continuing low activity level in the automotive sector. Italian demand is lacklustre. Although attractively priced imports are available at €480 per tonne, buyers prefer, for the moment, to source their supplies locally. In the UK, automotive schedules are down for the early part of this year compared with the final quarter 2012. The domestic appliance market is also under pressure. Nevertheless, steel buyers have agreed a £30 per tonne rise. The arrival of a delayed shipment of Chinese material, booked around six months ago, is likely to impact adversely on any proposed further increases. No new third country contracts have been concluded, so far. Ex-mill basis figures have gained €10 per tonne in Belgium, where stockholders' margins are very depressed. In Spain, competitively priced thin gauge imports can be sourced from China. Local basis numbers are slightly higher than in January.

In Germany, the steelmakers have won another small



advance during recent negotiations for sales of electro-zinc coated coil. French figures are the same as those quoted in our previous issue. Basis values have continued to trend upwards in Italy, albeit by only a small amount. In the UK, selling figures from mainland European suppliers are slightly higher than in January. Belgian and Spanish customers have conceded a €10 per tonne increase.

COLD ROLLED STAINLESS STEEL

In January, ex-mill basis figures for cold rolled austenitic stainless steel were generally unaltered from the previous month. Producers had begun to seek advances but purchasing activity was subdued as the expected seasonal upturn had not yet occurred. Basis prices for grade 430 coil recorded a small rise in France, as the fire at Aperam's Gueugnon mill led to fears of short supply.

LONG PRODUCTS

WIRE ROD

Low carbon wire rod producers in Germany have maintained the small increase gained last month. Recoil consumption remains at a low ebb. Customers have clawed back the rise they accepted in February. In France, prices for both drawing rod and mesh quality material have stabilised, following improvements in the previous month. The market for low carbon wire rod in Italy is dull due to the poor state of the overall economy.

Buyers have agreed a rollover of the January figures. Recoil sales are soft and the mills have been forced to offer a small discount.

UK activity for the basic drawing qualities is subdued but price movements have turned upwards. However, the speciality grades have been hit by the falloff in auto demand. The market for finished mesh is difficult as there is import competition. Nevertheless, producers have held on to recoil selling values. Drawing grade prices are

unchanged in Belgium and Spain compared with those monitored in January. In the latter country, the mesh quality market is weak, with values generally static. Only small tonnages are being ordered. Credit availability is posing problems.

MEDIUM SECTIONS AND BEAMS

Although most European structural sections producers announced increases, these have not been implemented because of oversupply and a lack of demand. The situation is unlikely to improve in the short term, especially as wintry weather conditions have returned, stifling construction activity.

In Germany, producers have failed to achieve their proposed rises in quiet market conditions, although the small advance secured last month has been rolled over to February. Demand remains fragile due to a combination of the weak economic situation and the winter season. Consequently, stock levels are sufficient for now. January was not a good month for French distributors' sales and February is uncertain. Beam makers are struggling to hold on to the large increases they instigated last month. Real consumption has not improved. A lack of investment in the Italian construction sector continues to adversely affect both demand and prices. Effective values have lost €20 per tonne in recent weeks.

TABLE 5. LONG PRODUCTS - NEGOTIATED DOMESTIC BASIS PRICES

price/metric ton		Germany	France	Italy	UK+	UK+	Belgium	Spain
		(€)	(€)	(€)	(£)	(€)	(€)	(€)
Wire Rod (b)	High:	550	550	550	475	546	560	550
	Low:	530	520	530	435	500	530	530
Medium Sections & Beams (c)	High:	640	650	565	530	609	650	610
	Low:	600	620	545	500	575	600	560
Rebar (d)	High:	300	300	255	460	529	310	300
	Low:	280	270	245	430	494	280	280
Merchant Bar (e)	High:	230	210	175	505	580	200	205
	Low:	190	190	155	486	559	180	155
MONTH on MONTH % CHANGE								
Wire Rod	Low:	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	-5.7	0.0	0.0
M.Sect. & Beams	Low:	0.0	0.0	-3.5	4.2	-2.7	0.0	-1.8
Rebar	Low:	-3.4	-3.6	-5.8	0.0	-6.8	0.0	1.8
Merchant Bar	Low:	-5.0	-5.0	-8.8	3.4	-3.5	-14.3	-8.8

BASIS PRICE AND PRODUCT DEFINITIONS

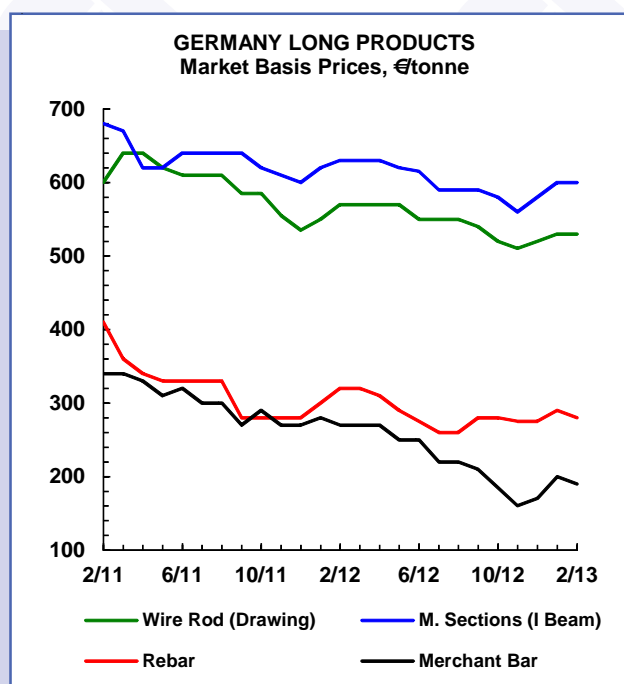
* Due to the suspension of scrap surcharges by all major European producers from June 2010, MEPS basis prices for Medium Sections & Beams are now equivalent to transaction prices for category C1 beams.

Negotiated basis price ranges pertain to new purchases for mainstream business negotiated with regional mills during the current month for delivery in the future. They relate to prime material ex basing point net of all rebates and discounts for the lowest quality product in the producers' price lists unless otherwise stated.

Extras for size cutting, testing, transport etc. are excluded except where specified.

- Notes:
- + All UK prices include size extra
 - (b) Drawing quality. This product incorporates a quality extra.
 - (c) Category C1. Includes size extras.
 - (d) High Yield - deformed.
 - (e) Round Bar.

Prices in this table may relate to deliveries in different time periods. It is important that this table is read in conjunction with the text in the newsletter.



UK prices are firm at a higher level than a month ago and the mills are pushing for more. Service centres report that sales so far this year have been steady but no-one is expecting volumes to exceed the low levels of 2012. Overcapacity throughout the supply chain is preventing distributors from applying the mill increases in full. The current exchange rate means importers are battling to make their deals attractive but there have been some reasonably priced offers from the USA in the larger size ranges. In Belgium, only a small amount of business has been transacted. The higher values established in January have been maintained. Spanish sales remain muted. We have noted a small price decline.

REINFORCING BAR

European sales are slow, with very few deals being concluded as customers have sufficient stocks. Domestic prices are facing pressure from falling scrap costs and cheaper overseas material. The strength of the euro versus the US dollar is making some imports more attractive. Because of exchange rates, the mills are also facing stronger competition in export markets from their Turkish rivals. Consequently, Spanish and Italian producers have reduced their offers to €480 per tonne FOB, or even lower. Moreover, demand from Algeria has waned.

In Germany, poor weather conditions caused building activity to slow in late January but now work has restarted. Local mills' ambitions to charge €535/540 per tonne, effective, have met with resistance. We have noted a small fall in the French market, largely caused by a lack of activity. Distributors, who are already having to cope

with reduced margins, are unwilling to pay more. Italian prices have weakened due to poor demand at home and abroad. The construction sector continues to struggle and is forecast to deteriorate further in 2013.

Sales volumes in the UK are described as "moderate", with demand flat at a relatively low level. Local prices are the same as in the previous two months. There is Turkish material being offered, ex-dock, which is provoking some uncertainty. Steelmakers are fighting to hang on to current basis numbers in Belgium, where demand is soft. In Spain, supplying mills are carrying large inventories. There are very few deals being concluded.

MERCHANT BAR

After successfully imposing some small increases in early January, the merchant bar producers experienced a slowdown in order intake as buyers waited to see how the market would develop once scrap movements became negative. Moreover, seasonally poor weather conditions in northern Europe have hit construction sites. The uptrend in continental European prices has run out of steam. Values in many countries are under pressure.

In Germany, January's positive price tendency has reversed. Ex-mill basis numbers have lost €10 per tonne. Having gained €30 per tonne last month, suppliers to the French market have now been forced to concede a small discount. There is a lot of competition in the distribution sector, so it has proved extremely difficult to pass on the rises to final customers. Italian values continue on a downward path. The building industry is lacklustre and the level of mill order intake is dire.

UK merchant bar effective values are benefiting from the weakness of sterling against both the euro and the US dollar. The mills have realised another £15 per

MEPS INDUSTRIAL SECTOR STEEL PURCHASING PRICE INDICES - EU AVERAGE

January 2007=100	Jan-2013	Feb-2013
Construction Industry	105.1	106.9
Household Appliances	86.9	89.8
Machinery Sector	94.6	97.0
Shipbuilding Industry	81.2	83.0
Shipping Containers	96.4	101.3
Yellow Goods	98.9	104.5

tonne rise, announced in mid-January and now implemented. Service centres are not yet recouping the full amount on sales to their customers, as they fight for market share. In Belgium, market fundamentals will not support the steelmakers proposed advances. In fact,

basis figures have moved down significantly since our January report. Spanish demand from end-users is tepid. Service centres are keeping inventories as low as possible. The mills have cut their offers by €15 per tonne.

MARKET/INDUSTRY SCENE

PRODUCTION

ArcelorMittal Flat Carbon Europe produced 27.418 million tonnes of crude steel in 2012. This equates to a 7 percent decrease compared with the previous year. Shipments were 26.026 million tonnes in the twelve month period - a decline of 4 percent, year-on-year.

CAPACITY/INVESTMENT

Germany's Saarlund has put into operation a new secondary metallurgy unit at its Völklingen steelworks. It cost €150 million and has been under construction for two and a half years.

Tata Steel has completed a €2.3 million investment to

open a new facility to develop high strength automotive steels. It is located at the IJmuiden site in the Netherlands.

SERVICE CENTRE

Belgium's Limburgs Staalservice Center has upgraded its decoiling unit to enable it to process material with a maximum thickness of 25mm and width of 2100mm.

RESTRUCTURING

ThyssenKrupp has announced plans to optimise operations at its Steel Europe business. The company aims to save €500 million by the 2014/2015 fiscal year. The programme involves the reduction of its workforce by more than 2000 employees.

MEDIUM TERM PRICE FORECASTS

FLAT PRODUCTS

The MEPS - EU Average Hot Rolled Coil price increased by €14 per tonne in February. Cold rolled coil selling figures moved up by a slightly smaller amount. Mills were able to negotiate part of their proposed rises despite low order intake.

Steelmakers are expected to table further list price hikes for their second quarter rolling schedules. This is the result of high raw material costs and an anticipated uptick in end-user consumption. Furthermore, inventory levels are low and some buying activity is foreseen. Consequently, we envisage rises in market values during the coming months. However, these increases are predicted to be only modest because customers are likely to continue to be reluctant to commit to purchasing large quantities of material.

Selling figures are projected to move downwards in the summer as demand wanes. A continuation of this negative trend is anticipated in the second half of the year due to lower input expenditure and oversupply. Steel prices are forecast to increase, early in 2014, as restocking programmes commence. More equilibrium between

supply and demand, following mill output cuts during the Christmas break, should help to support gains during this period.

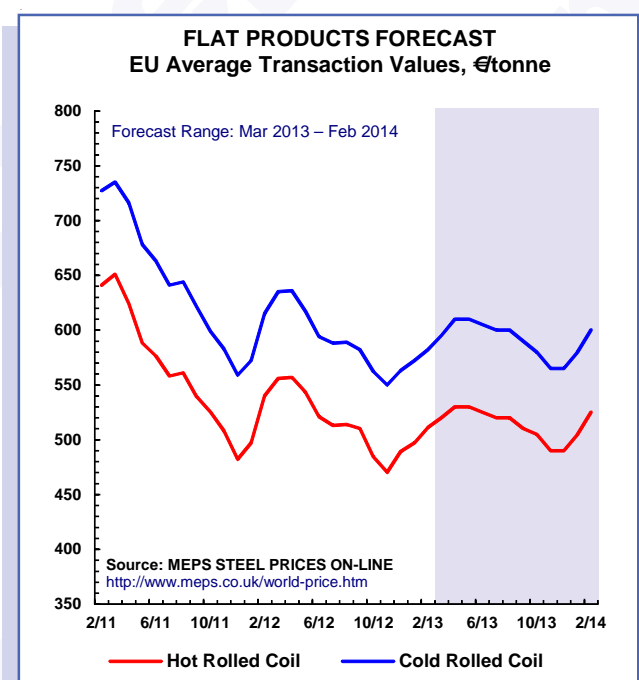


TABLE 6. EU AVERAGE DOMESTIC TRANSACTION PRICE FORECASTS

Euro/metric ton	Actual	Forecast					
	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13
Hot Rolled Coil	511	520	530	530	525	520	520
Hot Rolled Plate	531	540	550	560	560	555	555
Cold Rolled Coil	582	595	610	610	605	600	600
H.D. Galv Coil	631	645	660	660	655	650	650
E.Z. Coated Coil	633	650	665	665	660	655	655
Wire Rod	497	495	510	520	520	515	515
M. Sect. & Beams	638	635	645	655	660	655	655
Rebars	502	500	515	525	525	515	515
Merchant Bar	556	555	565	575	580	575	575

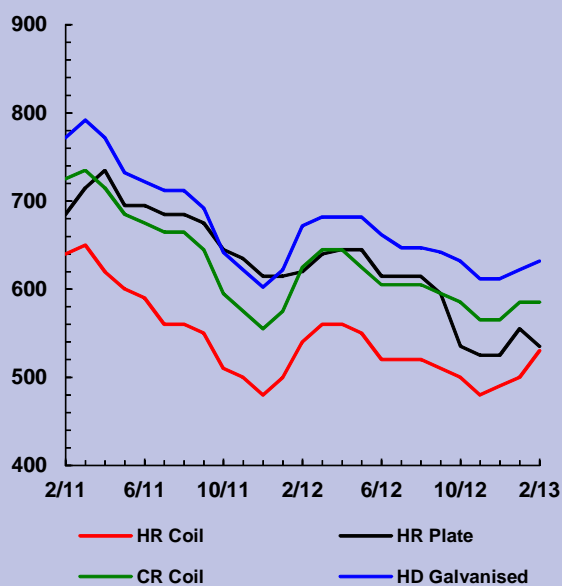
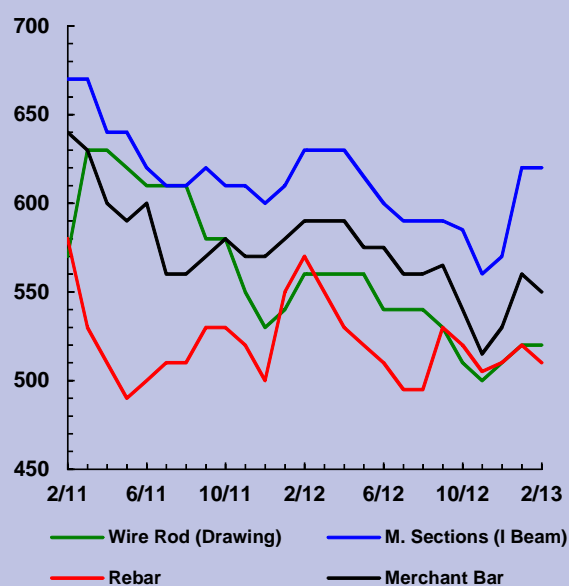
PRICE AND PRODUCT DEFINITIONS

Wire Rod - Mesh Quality

Medium Sections and Beams - H Beam

Merchant Bar - Equal Angle

Steel prices are computed from a weighted average (based on consumption) of the low values identified in the top five consuming countries for each product in the relevant period - collected in national currencies and converted into Euros using currency exchange rates effective at the start of each month to provide a basis for comparisons.

FRANCE FLAT-ROLLED PRODUCTS
Transaction Prices, €/tonneFRANCE LONG PRODUCTS
Transaction Prices, €/tonne

Transaction Price Data Sheet

TABLE 7. NEGOTIATED DOMESTIC TRANSACTION PRICES

FLATPRODUCTS price/metric ton		EUAVG. (€)	Germany (€)	France (€)	Italy (€)	UK (£)	UK (€)	Spain (€)
Hot Rolled Coil	High:	550	570	570	550	441	507	530
	Low:	511	520	530	510	416	478	510
Hot Rolled Plates	High:	573	575	585	550	514	591	564
	Low:	531	535	535	510	484	556	514
Cold Rolled Coil	High:	626	635	635	625	518	595	615
	Low:	582	595	585	575	483	555	575
Hot Dipped Galvanised Coil	High:	676	692	682	662	563	647	662
	Low:	631	652	632	612	523	601	622
Electro-Zinc Coated Coil	High:	678	679	689	689	563	647	669
	Low:	633	629	649	649	523	601	629
Stainless Cold (a) Rolled Type 304	High:	1089	1130	1090	1000	985	1132	1000
	Low:	1015	1030	1040	950	915	1052	950
Stainless Cold (a) Rolled Type 430	High:	1080	1110	1090	950	1015	1167	1027
	Low:	1034	1060	1040	900	990	1138	997
LONGPRODUCTS price/metric ton		EUAVG. (€)	Germany (€)	France (€)	Italy (€)	UK (£)	UK (€)	Spain (€)
Wire Rod (Drawing quality)*	High:	558	568	550	550	487	560	550
	Low:	534	548	520	530	447	514	530
Wire Rod (Mesh quality)	High:	521	520	530	510	455	523	540
	Low:	497	500	500	490	425	489	510
Medium Sections and Beams (I beam)	High:	620	640	650	565	530	609	610
	Low:	584	600	620	545	500	575	560
Medium Sections and Beams (H beam)	High:	681	710	700	650	575	661	650
	Low:	638	660	660	615	535	615	610
Reinforcing Bars	High:	519	540	540	495	460	529	540
	Low:	502	520	510	485	430	494	520
Merchant Bars (50mm diameter)	High:	569	590	570	535	505	580	565
	Low:	539	550	550	515	486	559	515
Merchant Bars (Equal Angle)	High:	586	610	590	555	505	580	585
	Low:	556	570	570	535	486	559	535

* Includes supplementary surcharge in the UK.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

February 1 - 2013

		Units/ US\$	Units/ Euro
Eurozone	(€)	0.730	1
UK	(£)	0.635	0.870

NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

The March issue of the European Steel Review will be dispatched by post & PDF on 18 March, 2013.

Express Price Tables will be dispatched by e-mail in excel format on 11 March 2013.

Copies of our main basis price tables can be supplied by email direct to your desktop. These are available within hours of completing our research. They will reach you approximately one week before the publication dispatch date.

**TRANSACTION PRICE INDEX - E.U. AVERAGE
JANUARY 1997 = 100**

<i>Based on Euro values</i>	<i>Jan-2013</i>	<i>Feb-2013</i>
Hot Rolled Coil	190.4	195.8
Hot Rolled Plate	188.2	185.0
Cold Rolled Coil	157.1	159.9
H.D. Galvanised Coil	134.5	136.9
Electro Zinc Coated Coil	150.4	150.4
Stainless Steel Type 304	83.6	82.7
Stainless Steel Type 430	92.3	91.8
Wire Rod	202.6	201.5
M. Sections & Beams	192.8	190.2
Reinforcing Bar	226.0	221.1
Merchant Bar	207.5	202.6

Note:-

Wire Rod (Drawing Quality) - 5.5mm diameter.

Medium Sections and Beams - Category C1. I Beam.

Merchant Bar - 50mm diameter.

Stainless Steel - Excluding alloy surcharge.

TRANSACTION PRICE AND PRODUCT DEFINITIONS

Transactions prices are the realised values obtained by the mills for the cheapest grade of steel in the size range specified for each product. These are determined by adding the relevant size extras to the negotiated ex-mill basis price for the selected product.

Transaction values relate to those paid by consumers and stockholders for prime material. The prices are for regular business between customers and their domestic steel mills, negotiated during the current month for delivery in the future. Delivery charges and local taxes are not included in the quoted prices. Contract deals arranged in the domestic market, or deals for lots of imported steel, are specifically excluded from our price evaluation.

Hot-Rolled Wide Coil - 2-3mm thickness, width over 1.1 metres.

Hot-Rolled Plates - 15-40mm thickness, width over 2.0 metres.

Cold-Rolled Coils - 1mm thickness, width over 1.3 metres.

Hot Dipped Galvanised Coils - 1mm thickness, width over 1.1 metres, coating thickness 275gm/m²

Electro-Zinc Coated Coils - 1mm thickness, width over 1.1 metres, standard coating.

Stainless Type 304 and 430 - 1.5mm thickness, width over 1.25 metres. - (excluding alloy surcharges).

Wire Rod (Drawing Quality) - 5.5mm diameter.

Wire Rod (Mesh Quality) - 8-12mm diameter.

Medium Sections and Beams - Category C1. I Beam.

Medium Sections and Beams - 240 x 240mm H Beam.

Reinforcing Bar (Deformed) - 16-20mm diameter - high yield.

Merchant Bar - 50mm diameter.

Merchant Bar - 50 x 50mm x 6mm equal angle.

MEPS REGULAR PUBLICATIONS

EUROPEAN STEEL REVIEW SUPPLEMENT (monthly)

A sister publication to the European Steel Review. The range of data is extended in this report. Price and market information is supplied for a further six nations, including - Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Holland, Austria and Norway. Euro comparisons are also included. Details of Nordic Average Steel Transaction Prices are incorporated together with regular forecasts.

INTERNATIONAL STEEL REVIEW (monthly)

Each edition carries domestic steel pricing data in eleven countries across the globe, including - United States, Canada, China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Poland, Czech/Slovak Republics and the main five EU member states - covering 70 percent of world consumption. Details of World and Regional Average Steel Prices are incorporated together with regular forecasts.

STAINLESS STEEL REVIEW (monthly)

This publication provides stainless steel price and market information for hot rolled plate, hot and cold rolled strip, plus two bar products. Two austenitic and ferritic grades are assessed in thirteen countries around the world covering 65% of global consumption. Details of basis price negotiations and alloy surcharge values, where applicable, are incorporated. Transaction price forecasts are included. Estimates of alloy surcharges three months ahead are also included in each issue.

DEVELOPING MARKETS' STEEL REVIEW (monthly)

This is a new report from MEPS outlining steel market trends in the increasingly important emerging markets around the world. Each edition carries steel prices in eight countries - India, UAE, Turkey, South Africa, Russia, Ukraine, Mexico and Brazil. Details of eight steel prices in the flat and long products sectors are available. Comprehensive commentaries are included.

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