# **AISU Steel News**

## May 2022



**Arab Iron and Steel Union** 

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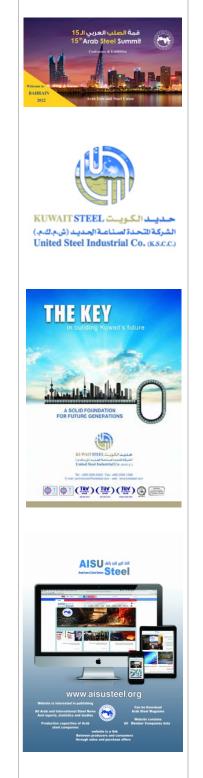
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## Arkab receives the Secretary-General of the Arab Iron and Steel Union

Minister of Energy and Mines Mohamed Arkab received, on May 11, in Algiers, the Secretary-General of the Arab Iron and Steel Union, Dr Kamel Djoudi, and discussed ways to enhance cooperation between Algerian companies and the Union, according to a ministry statement.

During this meeting, which took place at the Ministry's headquarters, in the presence of the President Director General of the Algerian Mines Complex "Manal", the most significant activities of the Union were reviewed, as well as the situation and prospects of the iron and steel industry at the Arab and international levels, according to the same source. In this context, Mr Arkab called for "the necessity of strengthening Arab cooperation in the iron and steel industry field and seeking to unify efforts for further development and growth in this field, in light of the great challenges that the Arab world is facing in this industry." The Minister also suggested that the «Manal» Group represent Algeria on the Union's board of directors.

Mr Arkab hailed the efforts of the Union to integrate the Arab iron and steel industries, highlighting that Algeria is in the process of developing major industrial projects aimed at valuing significant local and structural mining resources. Similar to the valuation of the iron mine project in Ghar Djebilet, to ensure the iron and steel industry supply and development in Algeria. It is noteworthy that the Arab Iron and Steel Union is a non-governmental Arab

The Union is headquartered permanently in Algiers Algeria.









### Hosted by Qatar Steel AISU resumes activities with Board and General Assembly meetings in Doha

Qatar Steel hosted the 124th meeting of the Board of Directors and the 55th meeting of the General Assembly of the Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU) at the Sharq Village & Spa in Doha on May 22 and 23, 2022.

The meetings took place after an almost two-year pause in the activities of AISU due to the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic; the General Assembly meeting was held with representatives of 65 iron and steel companies from different Arab countries. Coinciding with the two sessions, AISU Economic Committee resumed its fourth meeting on 22 May.

Mr Awwad Al-Khaldi, AISU Chairman, commended Qatar Steel's efforts in hosting the meetings, which came at the right time following the gradual recovery from the effects of the pandemic for AISU to resume its activities aimed at developing and enhancing the iron and steel industry in the Arab world.

Al-Khaldi, who is also Chairman and Managing Director of the United Steel Industrial Company (Kuwait Steel), pointed out that meetings of the AISU Board of Directors and General Assembly addressed the position of the steel industry at the Arab and international levels in the light of the exceptional circumstances the world is going through.

However, the AISU Economic Committee meeting studied the economic situation of the Arab countries and its impact on the volume and consumption of steel production in the Arab countries and discussed the effects of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the iron and steel market in the Arab region.

Qatar Steel Managing Director & CEO Mr Abdurrahman Ali Al-Abdulla expressed his delight with Qatar Steel hosting the meetings.

He delivered a speech, welcoming attendees and stressing the importance of continuing cooperation to achieve further evolution in the iron and steel industry in the Arab world.

"We are delighted to welcome you to these important meetings where we resume our normal proceedings", he said, "These meetings mark a new stepping stone in the development trajectory of the iron and steel industry in the Arab world. We are also proud that this new start commences in Doha after a two-year pause due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has affected the entire world. As our joined efforts have contributed to overcoming the consequences of the pandemic, we all look forward to continuing cooperation to achieve more benefits for our industry and overcome current and future challenges."

"We hope that we will be able to contribute to the further development of the Arab world's steel industry and bring about considerable benefits to AISU and its members as we work to capitalise on opportunities and overcome challenges ahead of us. I would also like to express my appreciation to the teams responsible for coordinating and preparing for the AISU meetings", added Al-

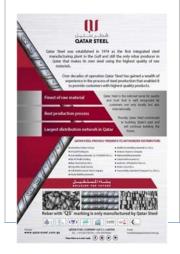
#### About Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU):

AISU was established in 1971 as the first Arab specialized organization in iron and steel and affiliated with the Council of Arab Economic Unity under the umbrella of the Arab League. AISU has 80 member companies from 16 Arab countries.









### Arab Iron and Steel Union concludes the work of the Economic Committee meeting in Doha

The Arab Iron and Steel Union concluded the work of the fourth meeting of the Economic Committee in Doha – Qatar, which was held on May 22 and hosted by Qatar Steel Company. The committee presented a study on the economic situation of the Arab countries and its impact on the volume of steel production and consumption in the Arab countries. It also discussed the factors affecting the iron and steel market in the Arab region.

Expectations of economic growth in the Arab region rose to 5.4% in 2022, compared to 4.3% in 2021, with the easing of precautionary measures due to the Corona pandemic, the gradual return of economic activity and oil prices.

## Arab Iron and Steel Union stresses the need to protect national industries in the Arab world

Qatar Steel hosted the 124th session of the Board of Directors of the Arab Iron and Steel Union and the 55th ordinary session of the General Assembly during the period from 23-24 May 2022, at the Sharq Hotel in Doha, in the presence of 65 iron and steel companies members of the Union, after two sessions of meetings from a distance. During these meetings, many reports were approved, including the General Budget for 2021, the Estimated Budget for 2022, and a study of the steel industry situation at the Arab and global levels in light of the exceptional circumstances the world is going through. Mr Awad Al-Khaldi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Iron and Steel Union and Chairman and Managing Director of the United Iron Industry Company (Kuwait Steel), accentuated the need to provide an integrated industrial and commercial environment, starting from raw materials to final products in light of the raw materials, energy and shipping high prices. In addition to the supply shrinking chains between the world countries. Mr Awad El Khaldi also discussed the need to protect iron and steel factories the Arab governments by enacting laws and legislation to protect the national industry, similar to what many countries worldwide have done in line with the World Trade Agreement. Mr Abdul Rahman Ali Al Abdullah, the Managing Director and CEO of Qatar Steel, expressed his delight at hosting the meetings by Qatar Steel and stressed the importance of continuing cooperation to achieve further development in the iron and steel industry in the Arab world. As he said, we are pleased to welcome you to these important meetings, through which we resume our usual activities that represent a new start in developing the iron and steel industry in the Arab world. We are also proud that these meetings were launched from Doha after two years of hiatus due to the conditions of the Corona pandemic that affected the entire world. Moreover, as our concerted efforts contributed to overcoming the consequences of this pandemic, we all look forward to continuing cooperation to achieve more benefits for our industry and overcome current and future challenges.

Dr Kamel Djoudi, Secretary-General of the Arab Iron and Steel Union, pointed out in his speech the insistence of the General Secretariat to hold these meetings as an opportunity for the members to meet after the absence and their unification in light of the emergence of new challenges on the international levels, which requires everyone to be vigilant to face these challenges starting from Corona pandemic to the latest Russian-Ukrainian war.

He hopes that Arab governments will continue to adopt a policy of supporting national industries to ensure their continuity, which is the foundation of the economy and national security in the Arab countries.

He stressed that the Arab steel industry could overcome these challenges with its expertise, capabilities and advanced technologies to help achieve the desired success.

Arab Iron and Steel Union is one of the organizations affiliated with the Arab Economic Unity Council of the Arab States League, founded in 1971 and permanently headquartered in Algeria with regional offices. Arab Iron and Steel Union is the first Arab organization to specialize in the iron and steel field that includes 80 multi-activity companies in iron and steel industry field from 16 Arab countries.









## North Africa

#### Sider El-Hadjar complex: maintenance work on hot zone units

Maintenance work for some units in the hot zone is scheduled from May 2 to 16 at the Sider El Hadjar steel complex in Annaba, General Management announced on April 28, 2022, in a press release. According to the same source, the units concerned by the maintenance operation are those relating to the raw materials and felting, blast furnace, oxygen steelworks 1 and 2 and the electric steelworks preparation. The complex will take the opportunity of the maintenance period, which requires the stoppage of productive activity to carry out other maintenance works initially planned for next August due to the availability of spare parts and accessories.

The periodic maintenance actions aim to preserve the production tool, noting that the programming during this phase takes into account the situation, which records an increase on the international market, the prices of raw materials and spare parts required for the process of production, including coke, zinc, and refractory brick, in addition to transportation costs.

A team of foreign technicians is expected at the Complex towards the end of the first week of May for the blast furnace maintenance.

The other production units of Sider El Hadjar will continue to manufacture finished products, including coils, sheets, reinforcing bars and tubes, without being affected by the maintenance operation.

#### Framework agreement signing between "ABRO" and "Tosyali Algeria"

The National Agency for the Promotion and Rationalization of Energy Use (APRO) signed a framework agreement on May 10 with "Tosyali Algeria" in the field of renewable energies and energy efficiency, according to a statement from the Ministry of Energy Transition and Renewable Energies.

This framework agreement was signed at the ministry's headquarters by the agency's director-general, Merouane Chaabane, and the shareholder in charge of the work of the "Tosyali Algeria", Alp Topcuoglu, in the presence of Sector Minister Benattou Ziane.

This agreement aims to "develop a partnership and systematic and technical cooperation in energy efficiency, renewable energies, and clean technologies fields."

This agreement's terms revolve around energy efficiency, energy auditing, energy management, renewable production of energies by self-consumption, as well as greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

The statement affirmed that through the National Agency for the Promotion and Rationalization of Energy Use, Mr Benattou Ziane expressed his ministerial department's readiness once again to accompany "Tosyali Algeria" in this massive project to produce electricity from solar and wind energy with a capacity of 55 megawatts, to become the first major project in the field of renewable energies in the industrial sector in Algeria.



# Bellara steel complex: Export of 100,000 tonnes of ferrous products in the first 4 months 2022

The Bellara steel complex (Wilaya of Jijel) of the Algerian-Qatari Steel Company (Algerian Qatari Steel) exported 100,000 tonnes of steel products in the first four months of the current year, its deputy general manager, Chaïb Setti Sofiane, on May 16, according to national radio channel I.

The same official explained that the Bellara Steel Complex reached the export threshold of 100,000 tonnes of steel products in the first four months of this year, with a financial value of 75 million dollars.

Sofiane Chaïb Setti said, "Most important steel products exported during the period were mainly "iron slabs and iron wires". The rebar export (construction) will start at the end of May", according to the same source.

Bellara Steel Complex plans to export between 250,000 and 300,000 tonnes of steel products and between \$220 and \$250 million in revenue in 2022.

### Seventh Occupational Safety and Health Forum

Tabbin Institute for Metallurgical Studies is organizing the Seventh Forum on Occupational Safety and Health on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Nevin Jameh, at the Ramses Hilton Hotel - Downtown - Cairo.

### **Rebar prices fall in Egypt**

Rebar prices in Egypt recorded a new decline, as iron prices in the local market decreased by 1000 pounds per tonne.

Ahmed El-Ziny, Head of the Building Materials Division at the Cairo Chamber of Commerce, indicated this decline is due to the drop in international prices of billet by \$150 per tonne.

Rebar prices May 23, 2022, were as follows:

Company	EGY/TON
EZZ Steel	18170
Suez Steel	18070
Beshay Steel	18075
Elatal Steel	18050
Elmarakby Steel	17850
Egyption Steel	18000
Alashry Steel	18000



### **Gulf Area**

### Average prices of steel and cement in Saudi Arabia in April 2022

According to the General Authority of Statistics, rebar's average price in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia increased to 4292.81 riyals in April 2022, up by 14.5% compared to March 2022 price, which amounted to 3747.95 riyals, and up by 27% compared to April 2021, which amounted to 3377.8 riyals.

The average price of cement reached 13.72 riyals for a bag of 50 kg in April 2022, compared to 13.70 riyals for a bag in March 2022 and 13.90 riyals for a bag in April 2021.

Description	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021
Average rebar prices	4292.81 riyals	3747.95 riyals	3377.8 riyals
Average cement prices	13.72 riyals	13.7 riyals	13.90 riyals

#### Saudi Arabia announces \$6 billion investments in steel complex

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources said it had provided \$6 billion for a steel plate complex and an electric car battery metal factory as part of plans to attract \$32 billion in investment in the mining sector.

The Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, Bandar Alkhorayef, said that the Ministry's goal is to finance nine projects for minerals and metals.

The kingdom is seeking to diversify its economy away from oil by pumping billions of dollars in Vision 2030, and mining is among the sectors that Riyadh aims to expand.

The nine projects include a \$4 billion steel plate complex for shipbuilding, projects in the oil and gas, construction and defence sectors, and a "green" steel complex, which will provide automobiles, food packaging, machinery and equipment, and other industrial sectors. Both projects are already underway, as is the \$2 billion Electric Battery Metal Factory.

Last month, the Saudi government signed an agreement to buy between 50,000 and 100,000 electric cars over ten years from the Lucid Group, in which the Public Investment Fund, the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, has a majority stake.

Alkhorayef said that the projects would provide more than 14,000 job opportunities, adding that the ministry is studying 145 exploration license applications from foreign companies.

He counted that the investments would continue to make the Kingdom a hub for production, mining and logistics in the region stretching from Africa to Asia and support the transformation of the Saudi mining sector to realize its full potential.





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### **Emirates Steel Arkan Announces Q1 2022 Profit**

 $\bullet$  Group achieves Q1 net profit of AED 72.6 million on revenue of AED 2.04 billion.

• Arkan Group adopts interim brand "Emirates Steel Arkan (ADX: EMSTEEL)" Emirates Steel Arkan (ADX: EMSTEEL) (the "Group"), the largest publicly traded building materials company in the UAE, announced its first quarter results.

The Group reported revenues of AED 2.04 billion for the first quarter of 2022, compared to AED 233.5 million in 2021. The robust earnings reflect the positive impact of the merger in Q4 2021 of Arkan and Emirates Steel, the largest integrated steel manufacturer in the Middle East. Net profit was AED 72.6 million compared to AED 1.2 million for the same period in 2021, boosted by enhanced operational performance and higher sales volumes. The Group expects 90% of full-year revenues in 2022 to derive from Emirates Steel and 10% from the Arkan operations.

Commenting on the results, Hamad Abdulla Mohamed AlShorafa Alhammadi, Chairman of Emirates Steel Arkan, said: "The foresight of the merger of Emirates Steel and Arkan and the impact of the management changes that we have made is evident in the strong financial metrics that the merged entity has delivered in the first quarter. The Group's management has made great strides in enhancing efficiency and unlocking the full potential of the combined entity. As the largest building materials company in the UAE, Emirates Steel Arkan will play a key role in accelerating the nation's industrial development, strengthening the 'Made in the UAE' brand and supporting the country's increasingly diversified economy."

On a stand-alone basis, Emirates Steel reported a net profit of AED 61.1 million during the first quarter, a 265% increase in Q1 2022, bolstered by higher exports of rebar, sections and sheet piles to regions including Asia and North America. Rebar sales rose 8% to 462,000 metric tonnes in the first quarter due to increased demand in Asian markets. At the same time, sheet pile sales grew by 410% in the quarter due to enhanced export sales to North American markets. Meanwhile, each of Arkan's business units was profitable in Q1. Arkan delivered a net profit of AED 11.5 million, an increase of 942% year on year.

In the first quarter, a programme was implemented to enhance the organisational structure of the Group to accelerate the integration, find new synergies and bring about greater efficiencies. The Group also appointed the global sustainability advisory firm, ENGIE Impact, to assess Emirates Steel Arkan's footprint and create a detailed road map to accelerate the Group's Carbon Net Zero programme. In the coming quarters, Emirates Steel will also begin marketing ES600, its new lightweight ultra-high-strength rebar, designed to allow its construction customers to build more with fewer raw materials, thereby reducing the carbon footprint of construction projects.

Eng. Saeed Ghumran Alremeithi, Group Chief Executive Officer, Emirates Steel Arkan, said: "The group's strong results underscore rapid achievements acknowledged by following the strategic combination and the organizational rolled the first changes out in quarter. Our enhanced operational efficiencies and proactive approach to sales were supported by improved demand levels and higher prices. In the coming quarters, we will work to meet the needs of our increasingly broad customer base in the construction and manufacturing sectors by diversifying our innovative product range and further enhancing our marketing and sales capabilities. Despite an increase in geopolitical tensions, the outlook for the second quarter is favourable, and the efforts we have made to improve the performance of our business units will continue to provide opportunities for further growth."









## UAE: Rebar absorbs the repercussions of the Ukrainian crisis and is down by 8%

Rebar prices in the local market in the UAE witnessed a decline of 8% during May, from an average of about 3,200 dirhams per tonne last March to about 2,950 dirhams per tonne, according to sources working in the building materials trade. The sources pointed out that the decline came after a sudden jump of 16% from 2,750 dirhams per tonne to 3,300 dirhams per tonne, against the geopolitical crisis background between Russia and Ukraine. Which began three months ago in the last week of February, and its repercussions on iron, raw materials and steel squares "Billet" imports and shipping lines from Eastern Europe.

It added that the markets, in general, had absorbed the shock of the launch of the Russian special military operation in Ukraine and the fears that its unfavourable effects would expand beyond what is expected of the building and construction industry and related materials. Such as rebar and raw elements associated with its industry with the disruption of the supply movement and the costs of air and sea freight, whose prices have doubled dramatically since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in late 2019.

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## Completing 90% of the iron and steel plant in Basra, with a production capacity of 500,000 tonnes

The General Iron and Steel Company revealed the stages of completion in the new factory, stressing that the completion rate has reached 90%, and the company explained that the remaining percentage is related only to data entry while indicating that the specified production capacity of the plant as a final product is in the range of 500,000 tonnes annually.

Majid Shendi Mahoud, in charge of the duties of the Director-General of the General Iron and Steel Company, told the Iraqi News Agency: "The rehabilitation project for the General Iron and Steel Company is divided into two parts, the first includes the contract for the rehabilitation of the rolling mill, and the other, is the steel plant contract rehabilitation".

He added, "The first part is the contract to rehabilitate the rolling mill, where the completion rate had reached 90%, which is a fast completion rate compared to the previous completion rates that before we carried responsibility."

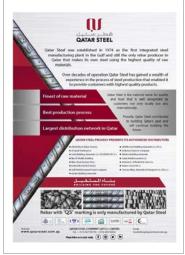
He continued, "A part of the rehabilitation works of the factory was 0%, and now it is at 100%. Some of them were 70% completed, and today they have reached 100%. Others had a 10% completion rate and have reached 50%."

He stressed, "During the past four months, the completion rates increased at an accelerating pace, and the difference in the total percentages of the project reached 90%, and the remaining 10%, which include the process of entering data through the SCADA system, and this is the automation system that controls all operations in the entire production line." Noting, "The human intervention within is very little. This latter requires programs introduction related to the subject of control, introduced by Turkish supervisors and experts."









### World

### **Steel prices in the fourth week of May 2022**

According to the prices of the global steel markets, the scrap price reached 456<sup>\$/</sup> tonne, iron ore price was 135 \$/tonne while the prices of billets ranged between 615 and 665\$/tonne, and the prices of rebar varied between 750 and 800\$ / tonne, Wire Rod between 840 and 900\$ / tonne.

Prices for iron and steel products in Russia and Ukraine were not obtained due to the war between them.

The following prices of iron and steel in the global markets on 27/05/2022

Product	Place	Min	Мах	Date	w-o-w
Scrap HMS 1&2 (80:20)	CFR Turkey	456	456	27/05/2022	Ŷ
Iron ore Fe 62%	CFR- China	135	135	27/05/2022	4
	CFR Turkey	660	665	27/05/2022	*
	FOB Russia	615	620	27/05/2022	1
	FOB Ukraine	-	-	27/05/2022	-
Rebar	FOB Turkey	750	800	27/05/2022	0
	FOB Ukraine	-	-	27/05/2022	-
Wire Rode	FOB Turkey	840	900	27/05/2022	1
HR coil	FOB Russia	765	765	27/05/2022	4
CR coil 1mm	FOB China	810	830	27/05/2022	\$

### US steel exports up 15.9% in March

According to the export data from the US Department of Commerce, in March 2022, the monthly steel exports increased by 15.9% from February with 764,882 mt, a year-on-year comparison showing a 6.7% increase.

In terms of value, in March 2022, US steel exports totalled \$1.43 billion, compared to \$1.19 billion in February and \$1.04 billion in March 2021. In March 2022, steel exports to Canada increased by 28.2% to 379,679 mt and increased by 13.9% from March 2021.

Exports to Mexico increased 7.9% month-on-month to 337,720 mt, up by 1.1% from the same month a year ago. Other top destinations for US steel exports in March 2022 include Australia, with 2,647 mt; China, with 2,615 mt; Pakistan, with 2,520 mt; Colombia, with 2,345 mt.





### World crude steel production decreased by 5.1% in April

World crude steel production for the 64 countries reporting to the World Steel Association (world steel) was 162.7 million tonnes (Mt) in April 2022, a 5.1% decrease compared to April 2021.

Asia and Oceania produced 121.4 Mt, down 4.0%, EU (27) produced 12.3 Mt, down 5.4%. Europe, Other produced 4.2 Mt, up by 0.5%. North America produced 9.4 Mt, down 5.1%. Russia & other CIS + Ukraine produced 7.3 Mt, down 18.4%. South America produced 3.6 Mt, down 4.8%. Crude steel production in the world.

Countries	April. 2022 (Mt)	% change june- April 22/21	Jan- April2022(Mt)	% change 22/21
China	92.8	-5.2	336.2	-10.3
India	10.1	6.2	42.3	6.5
Japan	7.5	-4.4	30.5	-3.3
United States	6.9	-3.9	27.1	-1.7
Russia	6.4 e	0.6	25.1	-0.7
South Korea	5.5	-4.1	22.4	-4.0
Turkey	3.4	1.6	12.8	-3.2
Germany	3.3	-1.1	13.1	-3.0
Brazil	2.9	-4.0	11.6	-1.7
Iran	2.2 e	-20.7	9.1	-8.9

### Top 10 crude steel producing countries in the world

In the Arab countries, Saudi Arabia with 765,000 tonnes, up to 0.5%,

followed by Egypt came first with 742,000 tonnes, down 10.4%, and UAE

came in the third Rank with 265,000 tonnes.

### Crude steel production in the Arab countries

Countries	March 2022 (Thousand)	% changeMarch- March 22/21	% change 22/21
Egypt	742	819	-10.4
Saudi Arabia	765	761	0.5
United Arab Emirates	265	259	-8.6
Qatar	89	85	4.7
Lybia	75	65	15.4









### Average metal prices in Turkey increased by 118.2% in 12 months

According to statistics from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK), in April of this year, the domestic Producer Price Index (PPI) of the Turkish industry in general increased by 7.67% month on month and by 121.82% year on year, while the average increase was 72.03% for the last 12 months.

In April, the domestic Producer Price Index of the base metals industry in Turkey increased by 6.64% month on month and increased 141.72% compared to the same month in the previous year. Meanwhile, the average increase in the domestic Producer Price Index for the last 12 months was 118.2%.

On the other hand, in the given month, the Domestic Producer Price Index for metal products, excluding machinery, increased by 4.09% compared to March and rose by 109.29% year on year.

Meanwhile, an average increase of 70.41% was recorded in the PPI for the last 12 months in the respective sector.

### China's steel consumption falls in Q1

China's steel consumption fell 5 per cent year-on-year during the first quarter of the year, partly due to waning demand as the resurgence of domestic COVID-19 cases slowed down the construction of many projects.

From January to March, steel consumption of the building industry dropped 7 per cent from a year ago, while that of the manufacturing sector dipped 2 per cent, said Qu Xiuli, vice chairperson of the China Iron and Steel Association.

The global uncertainties also caused a decline in steel exports and imports, she said.

However, China's whole-year steel consumption will likely remain flat from that of last year with the implementation of measures to stabilize growth, said Shi Hongwei, deputy secretary-general of the association.

"The previously pent-up steel consumption will not disappear. It will only be delayed," Shi said.

### EU starts expiry review of AD duties on ex-China seamless pipes

The European Commission has announced an expiry review of the antidumping measures against imports of specific seamless pipes and tubes from China.

The review was initiated based on the application submitted on February 10, 2022, by the European Steel Tube Association.

The product in question consists of seamless tubes, seamless pipes and tubes of iron (other than cast iron) or steel (other than stainless steel), circular cross-section, an external diameter exceeding 406,4 mm, currently falling under CN codes 7304 19 90, 7304 29 90, 7304 39 98 and 7304 59 99.

The current measures consist of a definitive anti-dumping duty imposed in 2017, with rates ranging from 29.2% to 54.9%.

The investigation into the persistence or recurrence of dumping will cover the period from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021.

It will be completed within 12 months, and in any case, no later than 15 months.











### US steel imports down 11.7% in April

According to preliminary census data from the US Department of Commerce, US monthly steel imports in April 2022 decreased 11.7 per cent from March to a total of 2,477,347 mt. A year-on-year comparison shows a 3.4% increase.

In terms of value, US steel imports in April totalled \$3.68 billion, compared to \$3.93 billion in March and \$2.40 billion in April 2021.

Top sources for US steel imports in April include Canada, with 556,390 mt; Mexico, with 358,663 mt; South Korea, with 226,960 mt; Brazil, with 218,663 mt; and Vietnam, with 109,609 mt.

By product group, semi-finished imports totalled 406,199 mt in April, down from 522,643 mt; flat product imports totalled 1,002,316 mt; long product imports totalled 508,377 mt; pipe and tube imports totalled 442,354 mt. According to the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), the US steel import market share in April 2022 was estimated at 27%, compared to 26% in March and 25% year-to-date.

## Oil rises to the highest level in two months, and Brent crude breaks the barrier of \$119 a barrel

Oil prices continued to rise to their highest level in two months, with gains supported by expectations of reduced supplies due to increased gasoline consumption in the United States during the summer and the possibility of the European Union ban on Russian oil imports.

By 22:28 on May 27, Abu Dhabi time, Brent crude rose by \$1.89, or 1.70%, to \$119.17 a barrel, heading for gains of about 4%.

West Texas Intermediate crude rose by \$0.91, or 0.75%, to \$115 a barrel, heading towards recording a weekly increase of about 0.5%.

Moreover, data from the US Energy Information Administration revealed on May 25 that US gasoline stocks fell 482,000 barrels last week to 219.7 million. Consumption in the United States usually increases at the beginning of the summer travel season.

The two leaders received support from the European Commission's continued quest to obtain the approval of all EU member states on new sanctions suggestions against Russia, which Hungary still represents an obstacle to theirs.

Six sources in OPEC+ informed Reuters that the Group is expected to accept the oil production agreement approved last year during its meeting on June 2, with a production target increased in July by 432,000 barrels per day, which represents a rejection of Western calls for faster increases in production to curb high prices.









# US exempts Ukrainian steel imports from additional tariffs for a year

President Joe Biden announced the exemption of the Ukrainian iron and steel products from additional tariffs for a year.

He noted that Ukraine accounted for less than 1% of US steel imports in 2021 and predicted that production and supplies would be even lower due to the conflict with Russia.

"The steel industry is historically important to Ukraine. The United States and Ukraine are interested in preserving it as one of the economic pillars of the country's recovery," Biden said.

This measure is being applied to imports from Ukraine and many other countries under an executive order signed by then-US President Donald Trump in 2018.

### Japan's steel exports down 2.1% in Jan-Apr 2022

In April this year, Japan's iron and steel product exports amounted to 2.73 million metric tons, dropping by 13.2% month on month and by 0.3 per cent year on year, according to the customs statistics released by the Japan Iron and Steel Federation (JISF). In January-April this year, Japanese iron and steel product exports amounted to 10.84 million mt, falling by 2.1 % compared to the same period of the previous year.

Regarding Japan's major iron and steel product export markets, in the first four months of this year, the country's iron and steel exports to South Korea totalled 1.87 million metric tons, up 35.7 %, while exports to China decreased by 13.9 % to 1.47 million metric tons, the export volume to Taiwan amounted to 637,672 metric tons, down by 17.1 %, exports to Thailand totalled 1.60 million metric tons, falling by 19.6 per cent, while exports to the US totalled 389,772 metric tons, increasing by 14.9 %.

### Turkey's steel imports and exports rise in January-April 2022

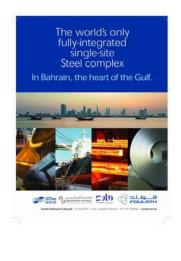
According to the provisional foreign trade statistics, Turkey's iron and steel exports rose, ranking third in April, with a value of \$1.50 billion, an increase of 18.2% year on year, and imports increased by 13.9% compared to imports in April 2021 to reach \$2.89 billion.

In the January-April period, Turkey's iron and steel exports value increased by 39.6% compared to the same period last year, reaching \$5.63 billion, and the imports value rose by 31.0%, reaching \$10.83 billion.









## Technology

## SMS Group to supply a peirce-smith converter for converting nickel matte for the production of batteries to snnc in South Korea

Electro mobility and the transition to green energy are only possible with the development and application of highly efficient battery technologies. The nickel content of these high-performance batteries is steadily growing. Most of this nickel and nickel sulfate is produced by refining ferronickel, which is commonly produced in submerged arc furnaces.

SMS group has received an order from SNNC-a joint venture between SMSP and POSCO – in South Korea to supply a Peirce-Smith Converter (PSC), in which the ferronickel from the Gwangyang plant will be converted to nickel matte (a nickel-sulfite phase) to lower the iron content.

The nickel matte is then hydrometallurgical processed into nickel and nickel sulphate in POSCO's neighboring battery plant. The Peirce-Smith converter to be supplied by SMS is one of the key units in this overall process chain and converts the ferronickel efficiently into high-quality nickel matte using special underbath nozzles and a liquid sulfur injection system.

In 2011, SMS delivered the world's largest submerged arc furnace for the production of ferronickel to SNNC in Gwangyang, South Korea, a global player in steel market.

In addition to the PSC, SMS will supply the liquid sulfur injection system, the design and engineering of the off-gas hoods, as well as the metallurgical process.

This pioneering technology will set new standards in nickel production for the rapidly growing battery market. SMS is proud that we can make an important contribution to the efficient production of nickel-based batteries.

The plant will go on stream in 2023, and SNNC plans to produce 21,000 tons of nickel per year by this project.



## **Arab Iron and Steel Union**



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