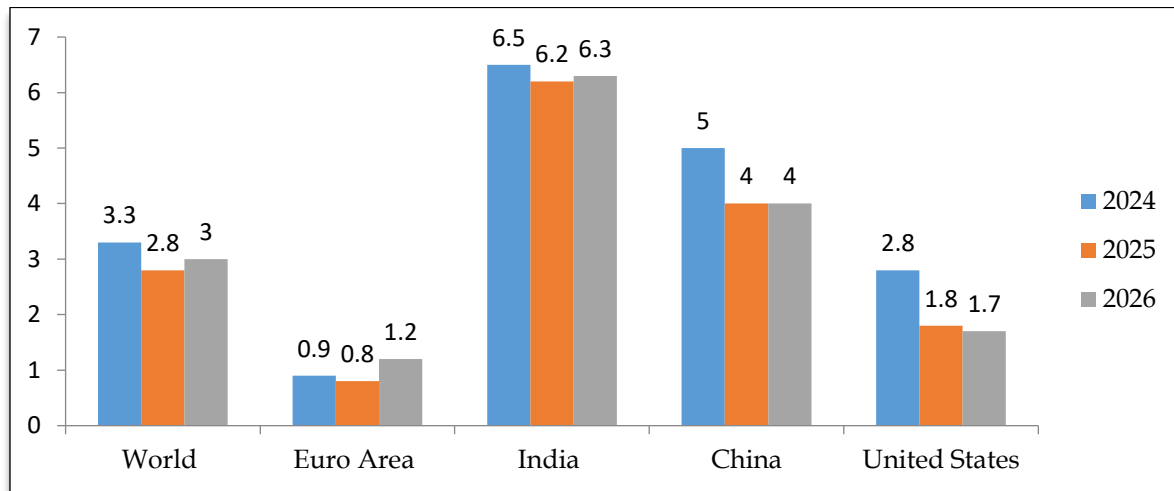


Monthly Economic Report for the month of April, 2025

Global Economic Outlook

GDP Growth: GDP growth in 2024 and growth projection for 2025 and 2026 are given in following figure.

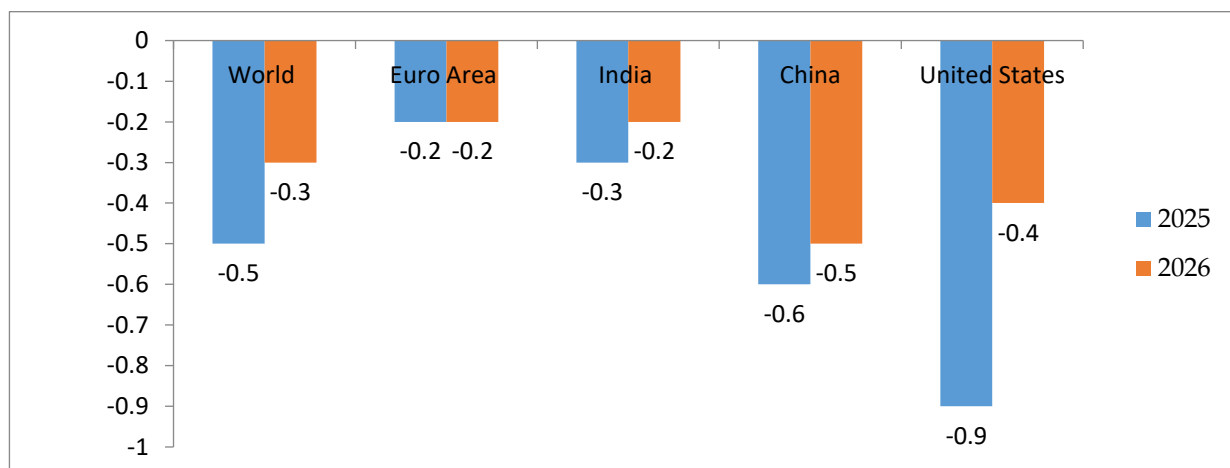


Source: International Monetary Fund, April 2025

The IMF has projected that global GDP growth is expected to decrease from 3.3 per cent in 2024 to 2.8 per cent in 2025, with a slight recovery to 3.0 per cent in 2026. This decline can be attributed to the direct consequences of newly implemented trade measures, as well as their indirect effects, which include trade linkage spillovers, increased uncertainty, and a deterioration of sentiment.

Change in projected World GDP

The April 2025 edition of the WEO shows a downward revision in the 2025 forecast compared to the January 2025 update, reflecting the impact of heightened global trade tensions and growing uncertainty despite this slight moderation.



Source: International Monetary Fund, April 2025

China's GDP growth forecast for 2025 has been downgraded to 4.0 per cent, down from 4.6 per cent in the January 2025 edition of the World Economic Outlook. Similarly, the United States is expected to see a slowdown, with its growth revised downward by 90 basis points to 1.8 per cent. Despite these revisions, India's robust growth trajectory continues to set it apart on the global stage.

Growth remains modest and projections for global output have been revised downward from the January 2025 update. This reflects a steep rise in tariff rates, policy uncertainty, and slowing progress in international cooperation. Global inflation is expected to decline, although at a slower pace than previously anticipated, and downside risks such as trade tensions and volatile financial markets continue to weigh on the outlook.

Tariffs have been the common denominator in revision of the GDP forecast of the countries across the world. Tariffs act as a negative supply shock, as resources are reallocated toward the production of noncompetitive goods, with a resulting loss of aggregate productivity, lower activity, and higher production costs and prices. Moreover, in the medium term, by reducing competition, tariffs increase the market power of domestic producers, decrease incentives to innovate, and create multiple opportunities for rent seeking. These effects are magnified in the presence of modern complex global supply chains.

India Economic Outlook

GDP Growth:

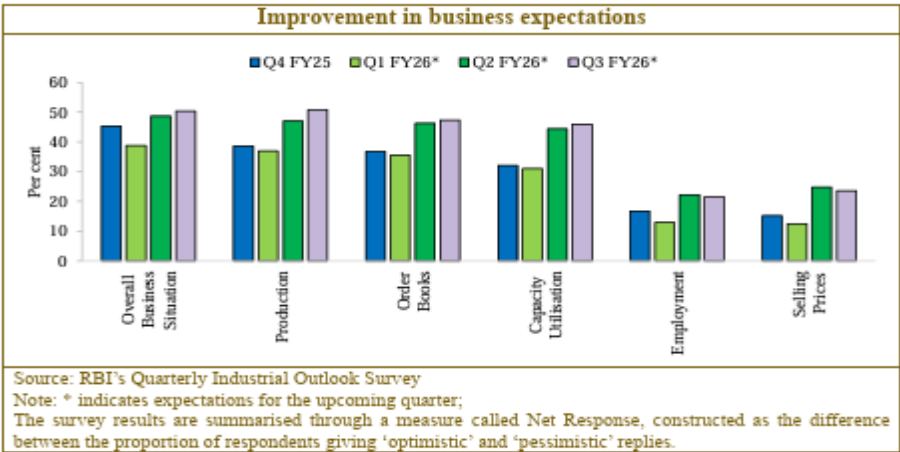
India is poised to lead the global economy once again, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projecting it to remain the **fastest growing major economy** over the next two years. According to the April 2025 edition of the IMF’s World Economic Outlook, India’s economy is expected to grow by **6.2 per cent in 2025** and **6.3 per cent in 2026**, maintaining a solid lead over global and regional peers.

Trade Balance:

India’s total exports during FY 2024-25 (April-March)* is estimated at US\$ 820.93 Billion registering a positive growth of 5.50 percent.
The cumulative value of merchandise exports during FY 2024-25 (April-March) was US\$ 437.42 Billion, registering a positive growth of 0.08%, as compared to US\$ 437.07 Billion during FY 2023-24 (April-March).

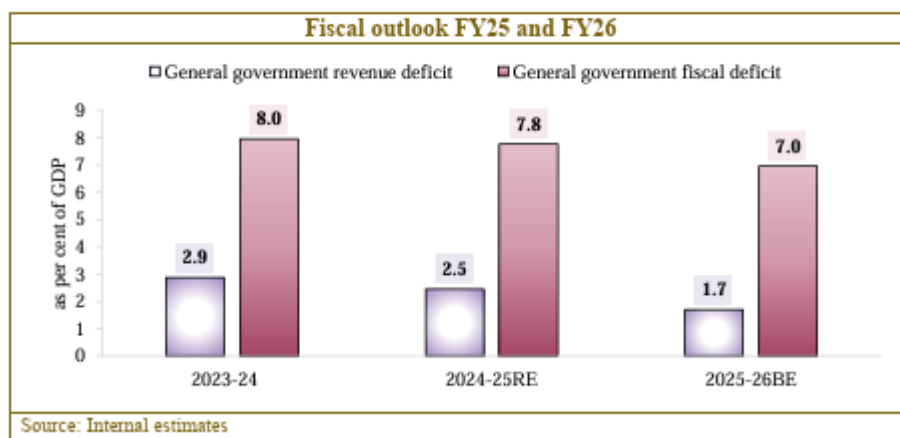
Market Outlook

According to RBI’s Industrial Outlook Survey for Q4 FY25, manufacturers reported improved demand conditions, as reflected in their assessments of production, order books, capacity utilization, and exports.
While manufacturers remain optimistic about demand conditions for Q1 FY26, the level of optimism is slightly lower than in the previous quarter, which can be attributed in part to seasonal factors. However, manufacturers anticipate a sequential improvement in production, order books, capacity utilization, and the overall business environment in Q2 and Q3 of FY26.5



Fiscal Position

- An assessment of general government finances from the FY25 and FY26 budgets of the Union and state governments by Department of Economic Affairs reflects steady progress in fiscal consolidation. Revenue and fiscal deficits relative to GDP continue to decline.



- This has increased the availability of domestic savings for financing private investment in the economy.
- Revenue deficit is projected to decline from 2.5% (RE) to 1.7% in the F.Y. 2025-26.
- Fiscal deficit is projected to decline from 7.8% (RE) to 7.0% in the F.Y. 2025-26.

Inflation

- In FY25, average inflation stood at 4.6 per cent, below the upper tolerance limit of inflation targeting. Assuming a normal monsoon, the RBI has projected retail inflation for FY26 at 4 per cent.
- The MPC, in April 2025, reduced the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 6 per cent.
- Food inflation on a month-on-month basis dropped by (-) 0.9 per cent in March 2025, indicating further prospects of a decline in the y-o-y food inflation rate.

Index of Industrial production

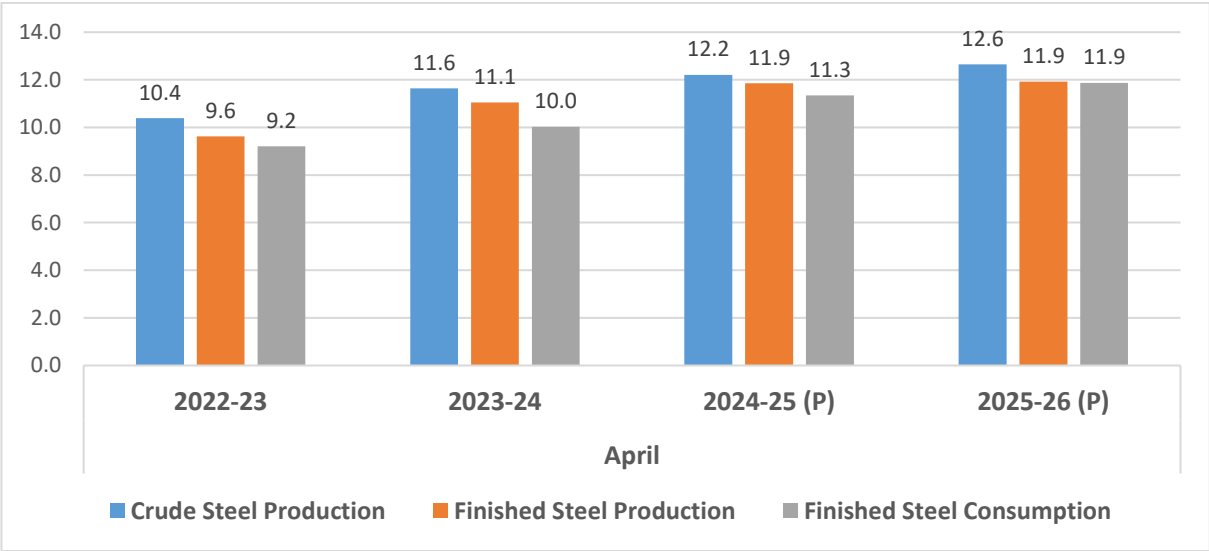
- The IIP growth rate for the month of March 2025 is 3.0 percent which was 2.9 percent (Quick Estimate) in the month of February 2025.
- The growth rates of the three sectors, Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity for the month of March 2025 are 0.4 percent, 3.0 percent and 6.3 percent respectively.

Steel Sector

- 1. The production of Crude Steel during April 2025 is 12.64 million tonnes (MT) (3.6% increase from corresponding period of last year.)
- 2. The production of Finished Steel during April 2025 is 11.93 tonnes (MT) (0.6% increase from corresponding period of last year.)
- 3. The consumption of finished Steel during April 2025 is 11.87 million tonnes (MT) (4.6% increase from corresponding period of last year).

Details of Production and Consumption of Crude Steel and Finished Still is at **Annexure-I**.

Production and Consumption (April)
(in Million Tonne)



- 4. According to WSA (World Steel Association) estimates on overall global production, the global steel industry witnessed diverse trends across key producing countries in March '25. India's crude steel production saw a significant increase in March 2025, rising by 7.0% compared to March 2024 and by 9.2% compared to February 2025. For the year 2024, India's production reached 149.4 million tons, marking a 6.2% growth over 2023. This growth highlights India's resilience and continued strength in steel production despite global fluctuations. The details of production of crude steel in March'25 by top 6 countries in world are at **Annexure-II**.
- 5. Performance of Steel CPSEs for the month of April are at **Annexure-III**.

Export-Import Scenario

6. In April '25, India's steel exports declined to 3.75 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), compared to 4.53 LMT in Mar'25. India's imports of finished steel also went down to 4.63 LMT from 5.75 LMT in the previous month. India has been a net importer of steel since April 2024, and the net imports of 6.2 LMT in September 2024 was the highest since April 2024. During FY '25, India was a net importer of steel with imports exceeding exports by 46.93 lakh tonnes. Similarly, India was a net importer of steel with imports exceeding exports by 0.9 lakh tonnes during April FY '26.

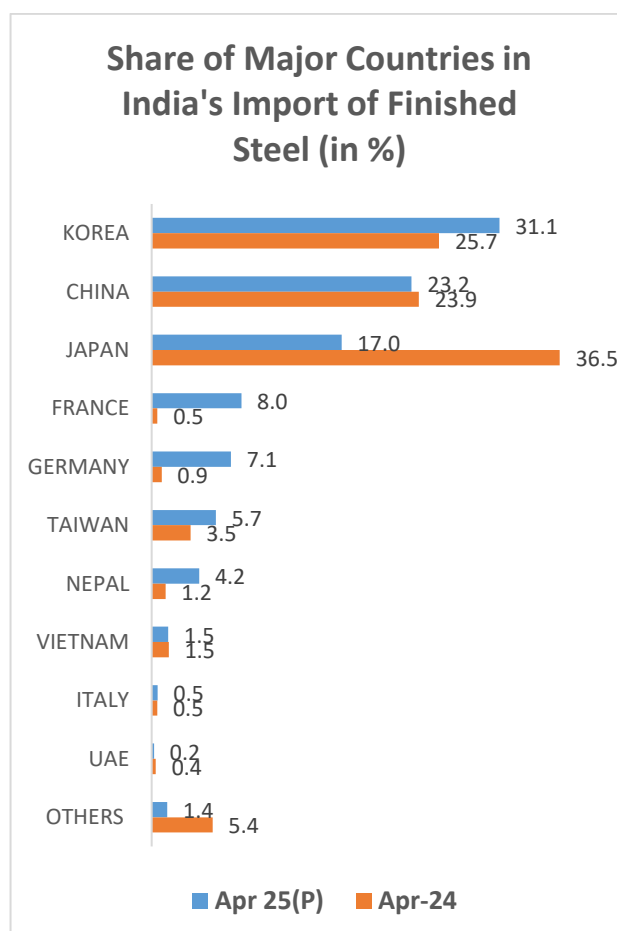
Table 3: Export and Import of Steel- April 2025

	Apr'24	Mar'25	Apr'25	Change over Apr'24 (%)	Change over Mar'25(%)
Exports (LMT)	5.05	4.53	3.75	-25.7	-17.1
Imports (LMT)	5.85	5.75	4.63	-20.9	-19.5
Net Export	-0.80	-1.22	-0.88		

Source: JPC,

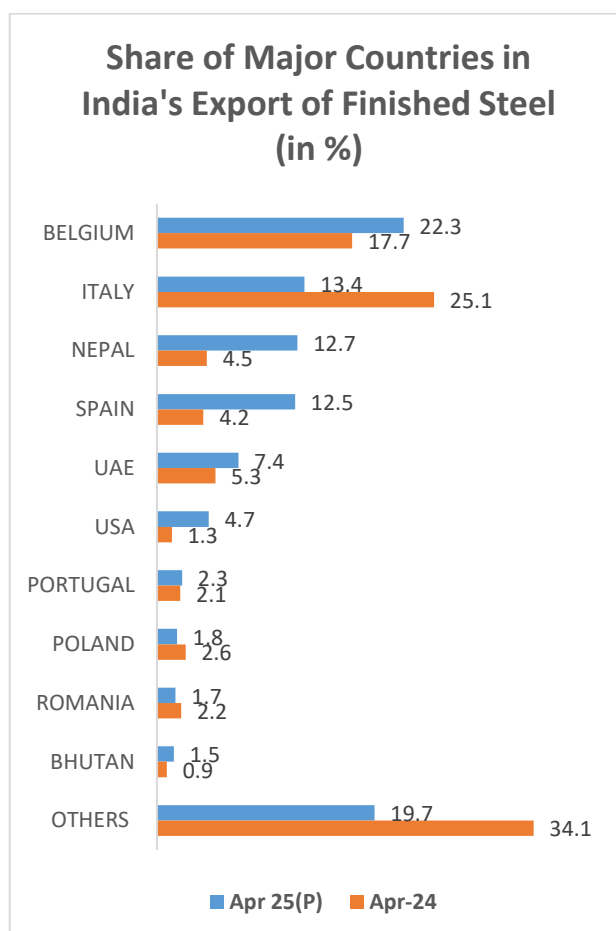
7. Share of major countries like China, Japan fell in total steel import of India in April '25 as compared to April '24, while it increased in case of Korea, Germany and Taiwan as may be seen from the following graphs:

Share of Major Countries in India's Import of Finished Steel (in %)



8. Share of Belgium, Nepal, Spain, UAE, and the USA increased in total steel export from India in April' 25 as compared to April' 24 while share of Italy, Poland and Romania declined over this period as may be seen from the following graphs:

Share of Major Countries in India's Export of Finished Steel (in %)



9. Top five products (Export & Import)

Top 5 Imported Products (in LMT)

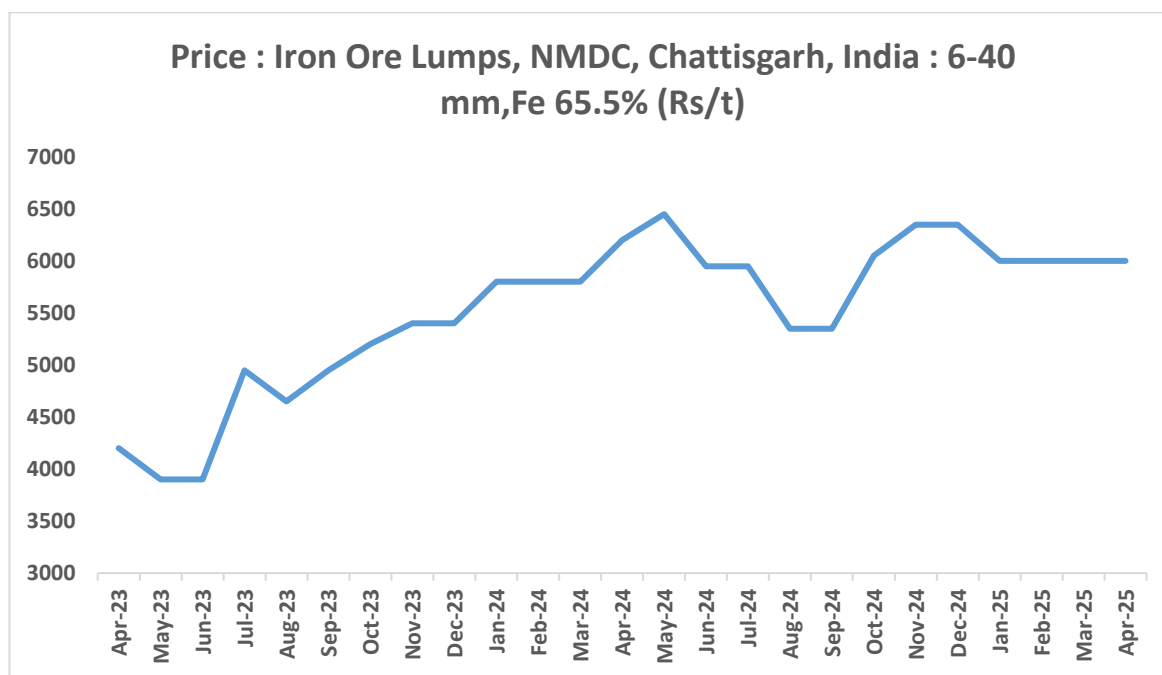
Product	Apr 25 (P)	Apr 24 (P)	Change
HR COIL/STRIP	1.62	2.94	-44.8
CR COIL/SHEETS	0.90	1.08	-16.2
PLATES	0.77	0.56	38.2
GP/GC SHEETS/COIL	0.57	0.47	20.8
ELECT. SHEETS	0.30	0.33	-8.9
OTHERS	0.46	0.48	-2.7
TOTAL	4.63	5.85	-20.9

Top 5 Exported Products (in LMT)

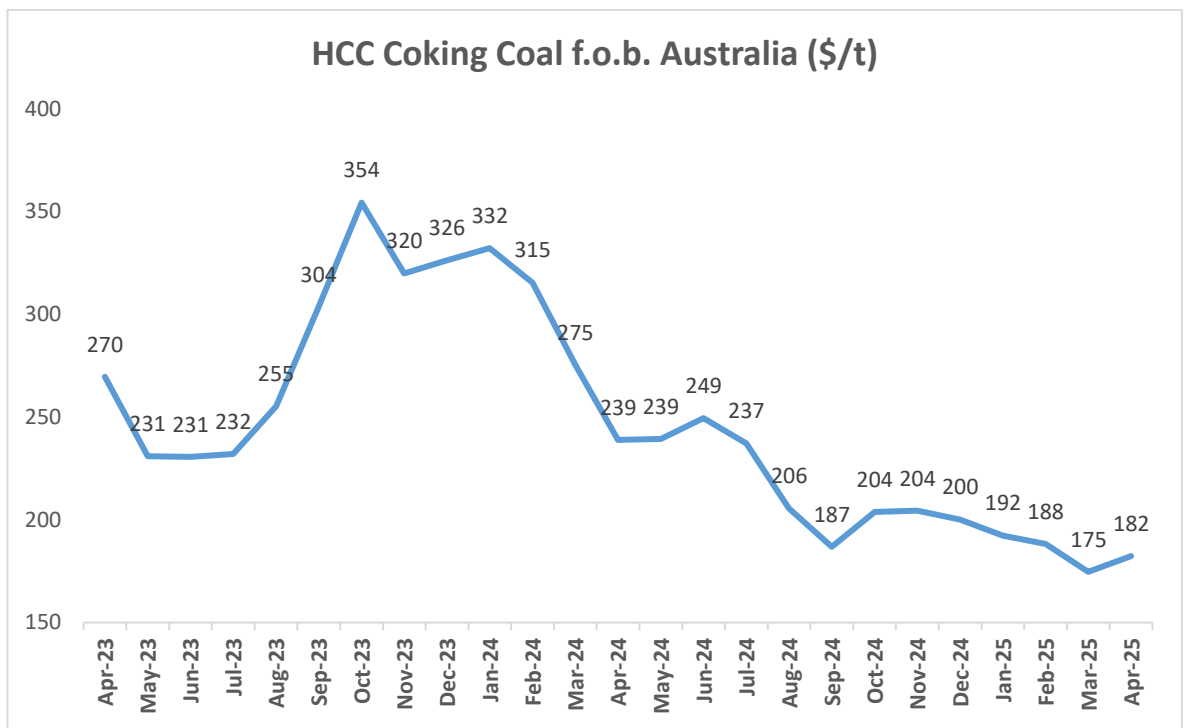
Product	Apr 25 (P)	Apr 24 (P)	Change
HR COIL/STRIP	0.87	1.63	-46.7
GP/GC SHEETS/COIL	0.83	1.41	-41.2
BARS & RODS	0.60	0.48	24.1
CR COIL/SHEETS	0.48	0.49	-0.7
PLATES	0.48	0.64	-26.2
OTHERS	0.50	0.40	25.5
TOTAL	3.75	5.05	-25.7

10. Price

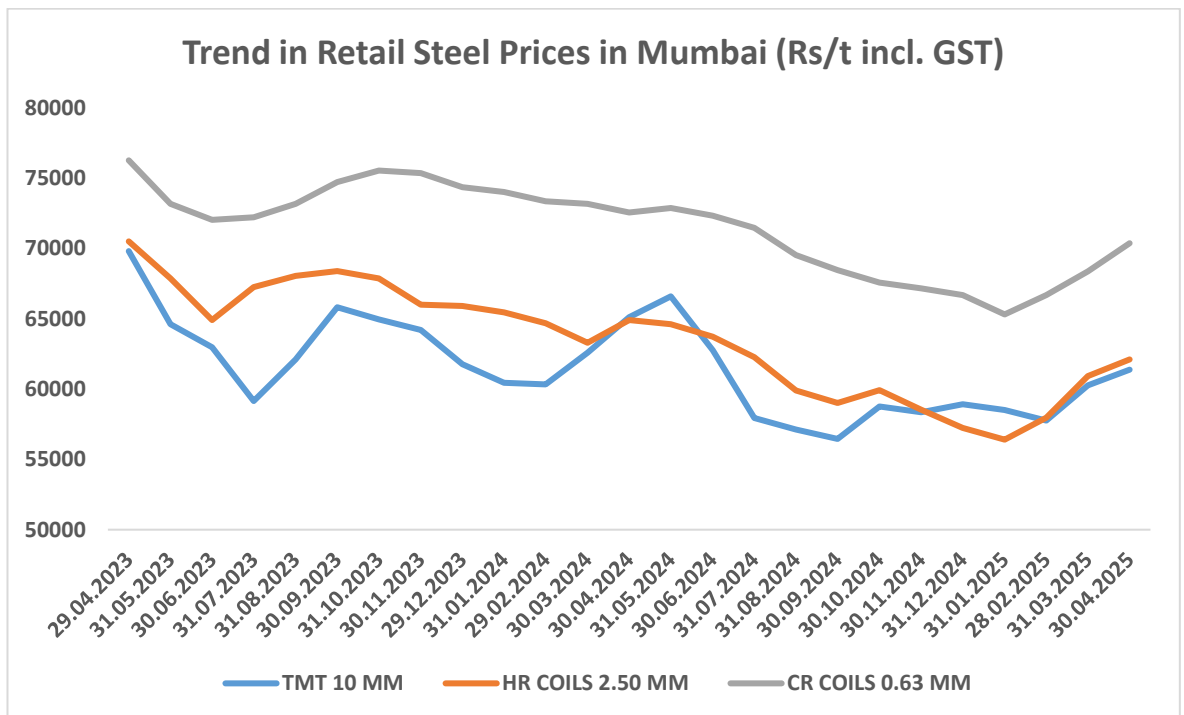
- (i) Movement of prices of Iron Ore since April '23 may be seen in the following Graph. During the month of April '25, prices of iron ore lumps remained unchanged at Rs. 6,000/ tonne compared with the previous month.



- (ii) International prices of coking coal have been volatile in last one year and have decreased from US\$ 239/tonne in April '24, to US\$ 182/tonne in April '25. The prices of coking coal have been in the range of US\$ 182/tonne – US\$ 354/ tonne in last two years. The trend in price of HCC Coking Coal f.o.b. Australia is shown in following graph.



- (iii) During April '25, prices of TMT, HRC and CRC increased over March' 25 as may be seen from the following graph. The retail prices of TMT (10 mm), HRC (2.50 mm) and CRC (0.63 mm) in Mumbai market stood at Rs. 61,370/tonne, Rs. 62,110/tonne and Rs. 70,350/tonne as on 30th April '25, recording a change of 1.9%, 2.0% and 2.9%, respectively, over their prices on 31st March'25.



Production and Consumption of Crude Steel and Finished Still (in Million Tonne)

Sl. No.		Apr-22	Apr-23	Apr-24	Apr-25
1	Crude Steel Production	10.387	11.641	12.208	12.644
2	Finished Steel Production	9.627	11.053	11.853	11.928
3	Finished Steel Import	0.333	0.460	0.585	0.463
4	Finished Steel Export	0.761	0.855	0.505	0.375
5	Availability (2+3-4)	9.199	10.658	11.933	12.015
6	Variation in Stock	-0.011	0.634	0.585	0.149
7	Finished Steel Consumption (5-6)	9.210	10.024	11.348	11.867

Source: JPC, P: Provisional

Production of Crude Steel (Production in MT)

	Mar 24	Feb 25 (P)	Mar 25 (P)	Change in Mar '25 over Mar '24 (%)	Change in Mar '25 over Feb '25 (%)	2023	2024	Change in 2024 over 2023 (%)
China	88.8	78.9	92.8	4.6	17.6	1028.9	1005.1	-2.3
India	12.9	12.6	13.8	7.0	9.2	140.8	149.4	6.2
Japan	7.2	6.4	7.2	0.2	12.6	87	84	-3.4
United States	6.8	6.2	6.7	-1.5	8.5	81.4	79.5	-2.4
Russia	6.4	5.6	6.2	-3.2	10.7	76	71	-6.6
South Korea	5.3	5.2	5.0	-5.3	-2.8	66.7	63.6	-4.6
World	161.5	144.9	166.1	2.9	14.7	1904.1	1884.6	-1.0

Source: World Steel Association; P: Provisional

Annexure-III**Performance of Steel CPSE's (In LMT)**

CPSE	Item	Apr-24	Mar-25	Apr-25	(YoY) Change over April '24(%)	(MoM) Change over March '25(%)
SAIL	Hot Metal	16.86	18.72	16.11	-4.45	-13.94
	Crude Steel	15.67	17.79	15.31	-2.3	-13.94
	Saleable Steel	12.76	16.78	15.43	20.92	-8.04
	Iron Ore	27.6	31.8	30	8.69	-5.66
	Sales of Saleable Steel	14.33	20.87	14.9	3.98	-28.6
NMDC	Iron Ore Production	34.77	35.47	39.95	14.9	12.63
	Iron Ore Sales	35.34	42.1	36.32	2.77	-13.73
KIOCL	Pallets Production	0	1.34	0	0	-100
	Pallets Sales	0.11	0.04	0.02	-81.82	-50
MOIL	Manganese Ore	1.6	1.59	1.63	1.87	2.51
	Manganese Ore Sales	1.15	1.56	0.76	-33.91	-51.28
RINL	Liquid Steel	2.82	4.13	4.03	42.91	-2.42
	Hot Metal	2.9	4.35	4.2	44.83	-3.45
	Crude Steel	2.71	3.93	3.86	42.43	-1.78
	Saleable Steel	2.69	3.72	3.68	36.8	-1.07
NSL	Hot Metal	1.45	2.12	2.3	58.62	8.49
	Liquid Steel	1.11	1.79	1.92	72.97	7.26
	Crude Steel	1.09	1.76	1.89	73.39	7.39
	Hot Rolled Coil	1.06	1.73	1.85	74.53	6.94

* Pellets Production data including both KIOCL and NMDC work contract.

** Pellet Sales data with respect to KIOCL only.