

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN STEEL SECTOR SINCE 2008-09

The economic reforms initiated by the Government since 1991 added new dimensions to industrial growth in general and the steel industry in particular. Licensing requirement for capacity creation was abolished, except for certain locational restrictions and the steel industry was removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector. Automatic approval of foreign equity investment up to 100% was granted. Price and distribution controls were removed with a view to make the steel industry efficient and competitive. Restrictions on external trade, both in import and export, were removed with drastic reductions in import duty. General policy measures like reduction in import duty on capital goods, convertibility of rupee on trade account, permission to mobilise resources from overseas financial markets among others, also benefited the Indian steel industry. Today, as the 2nd largest crude steel producer globally and with a capacity of over 100 million tonne, the Indian steel industry has come a long way. The following are some key statistics of such growth in recent times.

Production for Sale/Production

As per the reporting system followed by Joint Plant Committee (JPC), which is authorized by the Ministry of Steel to collect and disseminate data on the domestic iron and steel industry, the said system prevailing till 2013-14 had (a) reported on the concept of production for sale and (b) featured the “Main Producers” and “Majors and Other Producers” as the two leading industry classifications at that time. However, effective from 2017-18, with the approval of the Ministry of Steel and following rounds of interaction with industry experts, the JPC reporting system had changed, in sync with the changing dynamics and mode of operation of steel industry and partly also in response to changes in the policy environment. Under the new system, production for sale has been replaced by Gross Production (or simply Production) with revision in past five years data as well. Secondly, with industry classification system getting dissolved vide guidelines issued by the Ministry of Steel in May 2016, the present JPC reporting system features (a) the composite group of “SAIL, RINL, TSL, ESL, JSW, JSPL” and that of “Other Producers”. However, it may be noted, that all throughout such changes, the system of reporting by JPC continues to be for statistical use only.

The following sections containing production data incorporates and highlights the above (changing) reporting system of JPC.

a) Total Finished Steel Production/Production for Sale

As per the JPC reporting system prevailing till 2013-14, total finished steel production for sale was led by the *Majors and Other Producers* which had a dominant share compared to that of *Main Producers*.

Total Finished Steel (alloy/stainless +non-alloy): Production for sale (million tonnes)				
Year	(a) Main Producers	(b) Majors and Other Producers	Production for sale (a+b)	%share of Majors and Other Producers
2009-10	18.038	42.586	60.624	70.2
2010-11	18.407	50.214	68.621	73.2
2011-12	17.978	57.718	75.696	76.2

2012-13	19.244	62.437	81.681	76.4
2013-14	22.196	65.479	87.675	74.7
Source : JPC				

Under the current reporting system, it is seen that the share of *Other Producers* in total finished steel production has gradually diminished in the last five years ending 2017-18.

Production of Total Finished Steel (alloy/stainless + non-alloy) (million tonnes)				
Period	(a) SAIL, RINL, TSL, ESL, JSW, JSPL	(b)Other Producers	Gross Production (a+b)	% share of Other Producers
2014-15	50.717	53.861	104.578	51.5
2015-16	52.375	54.227	106.602	50.9
2016-17	61.916	58.224	120.140	48.5
2017-18	69.143	57.712	126.855	45.5
April-Feb. 2018-19*	66.667	52.779	119.446	44.2
Source : JPC; ;*prov				

(b) Pig Iron Production / Production for Sale

As per the JPC reporting system prevailing till 2013-14, total pig iron production for sale was led by the *Majors and Other Producers* which had a dominant share compared to that of *Main Producers*.

Production for Sale of Pig Iron (million tonnes)				
Year	(a) Main Producers	(b) Majors and Other Producers	Production for sale (a+b)	%share of Majors & Other Producers
2009-10	0.731	5.153	5.884	87.6
2010-11	0.579	5.104	5.683	89.8
2011-12	0.502	4.869	5.371	90.6
2012-13	0.674	6.196	6.870	90.7
2013-14	0.552	7.398	7.950	93.1
Source : JPC				

Under the current reporting system, it is seen that the share of *Other Producers* in total pig iron production has been dominant during the last five years ending 2017-18.

Production of Pig Iron (million tonnes)				
Period	(a) SAIL, RINL, TSL, ESL, JSW, JSPL	(b)Other Producers	Gross Production (a+b)	% of share of Other Producers
2014-15	1.213	9.015	10.228	88.1
2015-16	1.287	8.953	10.240	87.4
2016-17	0.905	9.437	10.342	91.2
2017-18	0.726	5.002	5.728	87.3
April-Feb. 2018-19*	0.881	4.663	5.544	84.1

Source : JPC;*prov.

(c) DRI – Production/Production for sale

The production of DRI or Sponge Iron stood at 30.51 million tonnes in 2017-18. India was the largest producer of DRI in the world during the period since 2003, based on data / rankings released by the World Steel Association.

Production for Sale of Sponge Iron		
Year	Qty (million tonnes)	% change over last year
2009-10	24.326	15.3%
2010-11	25.081	4.2%
2011-12	19.633	(-) 21.7%
2012-13	14.329	(-) 27%
2013-14	18.204	27%

Source : JPC

Under the new system, production for sale has been replaced by gross production or simply production – a concept applicable across the spectrum, from iron-making to finished steel.

Production of Sponge Iron		
Year	Qty(million tonnes)	% change over last year
2014-15	24.24	5.9

2015-16	22.43	-7.5
2016-17	28.76	28.2
2017-18	30.51	6.1
April-Feb. 2018-19*	30.20	9.2
Source: JPC; *prov.		

Import and Export of Iron & Steel

Import of Iron and Steel			
Year	Pig Iron	Total Finished Steel (Non-Alloy + Alloy/Stainless)	Total Value (Pig Iron + Steel)
	('000 tonnes)	('000 tonnes)	(Rs. In Crores)
2009-10	11	7382	25983
2010-11	9	6664	26996
2011-12	8	6863	27017
2012-13	21	7925	39347
2013-14	34	5450	30525
2009-10	23	9320	44994
2015-16	22	11711	45066
2016-17	34	7224	34277
2017-18	16	7483	39544
April-Feb.2018-19*	66	7132	45173
Source : JPC, * prov.			

Although India started exporting steel way back in 1964, exports were not regulated and depended largely on domestic surpluses. However, in the years following economic liberalisation, export of steel recorded a quantum jump. Subsequently, the rapid growth of domestic steel demand has led to a decline in the rate of growth of steel exports from India to ensure that domestic requirements are adequately met. India is currently a net importer of total finished steel.

Export of Iron and Steel					
Year	Pig Iron	Semis	Total Finished Steel	Total Steel**	Total Steel Value
	('000 tonnes)				(Rs. Crores)
2009-10	362	625	3251	3876	15206
2010-11	358	350	3637	3987	18433
2011-12	491	198	4588	4789	21946
2012-13	414	144	5368	5512	26912
2013-14	943	486	5985	6471	31315
2009-10	540	640	5595	6235	31283
2015-16	297	639	4079	4718	24083
2016-17	387	1192	8242	9434	38182
2017-18	518	1994	9620	11614	52812
April-Feb.2018-19*	254	2003	5769	7772	37581
Source : JPC; **Total Steel = Semis+ Total Finished Steel; *prov.					

Real Consumption of Total Finished Steel

Real consumption is obtained from the combined supply i.e. (gross production + imports) after adjusting for exports and materials consumed for downstream processing and variation in stocks of total finished steel. The trend in real consumption of total finished steel is shown below, year-wise.

Year	Real Consumption of Total Finished Steel (million tonnes)
2009-10	59.339 (13.3%)
2010-11	66.423 (11.9%)
2011-12	71.021 (6.9%)
2012-13	73.482 (3.5%)
2013-14	74.095 (0.83%)
2009-10	76.994 (3.9%)
2015-16	81.525 (5.9%)
2016-17	84.042 (3.1%)
2017-18	90.708 (7.9%)
April-Feb. 2018-19*	88.05 (7.4%)
Source : JPC; figures in brackets indicate the % increase over last year; *prov.	

Additional Capacity Creation in Private Sector Since 1991

Over time, with further opening up of the Indian economy, a focused reform process in place and a rapid but stable growth of the Indian economy, investments have flown significantly into the steel industry of the country with major investment plans announced in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. The government has also unveiled plans of developing four mega greenfield steel plants each of 6 mtpa, through the SPV route, at an estimated combined investment of \$24 billion in the states of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Karnataka. Rapid strides have also been made towards further progress and commissioning of new capacities like those in case of SAIL-RSP, SAIL-ISP, RINL, NMDC, Tata Steel, JSPL, JSW Steel, Essar Steel among others. Crude steel capacity in the country stood at 138 million tonnes in 2017-18 as per data released by the JPC while the National Steel Policy 2017 envisions domestic crude steel capacity reaching 300 million tonnes per annum by 2030-31.
