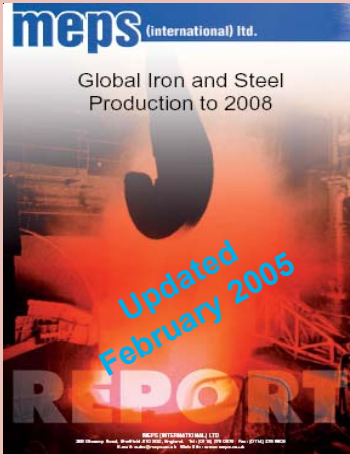


# GLOBAL IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION TO 2008

Updated  
February 2005

An annual report by MEPS (International) Ltd.

*"World steel production should reach 1.16 billion tonnes by 2008"*



## REPORT SUMMARY

- Introduction
- Executive Summary
- Economic Overview
- Steel Demand - 12 regions
  - Apparent Consumption of crude steel
- Production forecasts - 50 countries and 12 regions:
  - Crude Steel
  - Blast Furnace Iron
  - DRI
- Future steelmaking by process - 50 countries:
  - Oxygen
  - Electric
  - Others
- Supply-Demand Balance
- Risks
- Appendices
  - charts showing historical and future trends.

## INTRODUCTION

MEPS (International) Ltd has upgraded its forecast for global crude steel production in 2008 to 1.16 billion tonnes. Finished steel consumption is expected to be well over 1 billion tonnes. The oxygen process is predicted to provide almost 65 percent of all steelmaking in 2008 - more than double the amount from electric melting.

The desire for self sufficiency in steelmaking is driving producers in many parts of the world to invest in new plant and equipment. By 2008, MEPS estimates that China's total steel output will equate to 95 percent of demand - up from around 86 percent five years earlier.

The questions we will answer in this report are:

- *Can the steel boom continue?*
- *How will the above factors affect global consumption?*
- *Where will the steel be produced in future?*
- *How will China's new capacity impact on global output?*
- *Which steel manufacturing processes will be dominant?*

## METHODOLGY

We commence our economic roundup with an examination of forecasts from OECD, IMF, World Bank and other official sources. We then apply our considerations for the short and medium term prospects based on discussions with steel consumers in all regions.

Our experience of inventory cycles are then inputted. Finally, we draw together these elements to produce predictions for apparent consumption of steel in each region.

Iron and steel production forecasts are then made for selected countries, based on the following key elements:-

- *future domestic and regional demand*
- *changing patterns of trade*
- *existing and planned capacity changes*

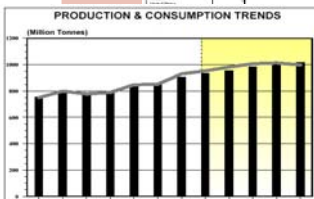
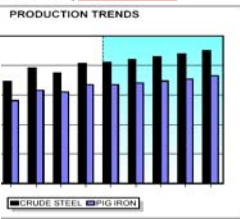
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The report is essential reading for:-

- *Suppliers to the steel industry*
- *Strategic planning executives*
- *Steel manufacturers*
- *Steel industry analysts*
- *Government agencies*



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