

Indian Steel Industry: April 2025 – A Trend Report

India remains a bright spot in the global steel industry and the steel demand in the country is expected to show a healthy growth of 8.5% in 2025 compared to the global demand growth of just 1.2%, according to the latest Short Range Outlook released by the World Steel Association. India has emerged as the strongest driver of steel demand growth since 2021, and the trend is set to continue in 2025 as well with a robust growth of more than 8% in steel demand being anticipated, worldsteel said. This expansion is fuelled by growth across all steel-consuming sectors, especially by continued growth in infrastructure investments.

WORLD ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

- World manufacturing operating conditions deteriorated for the first time in four months in April 2025. The JP Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI fell to 49.8 in April 2025 from 50.3 in March 2025.
- Three out of five PMI components (new orders, employment and stocks of purchases) were at levels signalling contraction, in contrast to the trends in output and supplier delivery times which were both consistent with improved operating performance.
- India, Ireland and the Philippines saw the greatest increases in production during April. Expansions were also registered in China and the euro area (among others). The US and Japan were two of the larger nations to see contractions.
- New business fell for the first time in four months during April 2025, with new export orders suffering its steepest decrease since August 2023.

Key Economic Figures			
Country	GDP 2024: % change*	Manufacturing PMI	
		March 2025	April 2025
India	9.2**	58.1	58.2
China	5.0	51.2	50.4
Japan	0.1	48.4	48.7
USA	2.8	50.2	50.2
Eurozone	0.9	48.6	49.0
Brazil	3.4	51.8	50.3
Russia	4.1	48.2	49.3
South Korea	2.0	49.1	47.5
Germany	-0.2	48.3	48.4
Turkey	3.2	47.3	47.3
Italy	0.7	46.6	49.3
Source: GDP: official releases; PMI- Markit Economics, *provisional, ** FY 2023-24			

GLOBAL CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION

World crude steel production stood at 468.613 MnT in January-March 2025, registering a 0.4% decline over the same month of the previous year, according to provisional data released by the World Steel Association (worldsteel). In March 2025, world crude steel production stood at 166.123 MnT, up 2.9% compared with the same month of the previous year.

World Crude Steel Production (Prov)			
Rank	Top 10	Jan-Mar 2025 (MnT)	% yoy change
1	China	259.330	0.6
2	India	40.123	6.8
3	Japan	20.393	(-)4.9
4	USA	19.726	(-)0.6
5	Russia	17.740	(-)3.8
6	South Korea	15.543	(-)3.6
7	Turkey	9.257	(-)3.4
8	Germany	8.482	(-)12.6
9	Brazil	8.477	2.8
10	Iran	7.290	(-)12.8
Top 10 Total		406.361	(-)0.2
World		468.613	(-)0.4
Source: worldsteel			

Major observations:

- China remained the leader in world crude steel production with an output of 259.330 MnT in January-March 2025, registering a growth of 0.6% compared with January-March 2024. The country accounted for 55.3% of world crude steel production during the period under review.
- India was the 2nd largest producer of crude steel with an output of 40.123 MnT in January-March 2025, showing a yoy growth of 6.8% over the same period of the previous year. The country accounted for 8.6% of world crude steel production during the period.
- Japan was the 3rd largest producer of crude steel with an output of 20.393 MnT in January-March 2025, down by 4.9% compared with the previous year. Japan accounted for 4.4% of world crude steel production during the period.
- With crude steel production of 19.726 MnT (down 0.6% yoy), the USA was the 4th largest producer of crude steel in January-March 2025.
- Russia's crude steel production stood at 17.740 MnT (down 3.8% yoy) in January-March 2025 and the country was the 5th largest producer of crude steel.

- The top 10 countries' cumulative production in January-March 2025 stood at 406.361 MnT (down 0.2% yoy) and they accounted for 86.7% of world crude steel production during the period.
- Among the top 10 steel producing countries, only China, India and Brazil reported year-on-year growth in production, while others registered y-o-y decline in output during the first three months of 2025.
- Asian crude steel production stood at 347.590 MnT in January-March 2025, showing a growth of 0.5% yoy, led primarily by China and India, with their respective shares of 74.6% and 11.5% in total Asian crude steel production during the period.

GLOBAL DRI PRODUCTION

India led global DRI production in January-March 2025

World DRI production stood at 28.849 MnT in January-March 2025, showing a year-on-year growth of 2.6%, according to provisional data released by worldsteel.

World DRI Production (Prov)			
Rank	Top 5	Jan-Mar 2025 (MnT)	% yoy change
1	India	14.186	6.3
2	Iran	4.821	(-)9.2
3	Russia	2.145	2.6
4	Egypt	1.788	5.2
5	Mexico	1.615	16.9
Top 5 Total		24.555	3.0
World		28.849	2.6
Source: worldsteel			

Major observations:

- India remained the leader in world DRI production with an output of 14.186 MnT (up 6.3% y-o-y) in January-March 2025 compared with the same month of the previous year. The country accounted for 49.2% of world DRI production during the period under review.
- Iran was the 2nd largest producer of DRI with an output of 4.821 MnT in January-March 2025 (down by 9.2% y-o-y). It accounted for 16.7% of world DRI production during the period under review.
- Russia ranked third in terms of DRI production with an output of 2.145 MnT (up 2.6% y-o-y) in January-March 2025 compared with January-March 2024. The country accounted for 7.4% of world DRI production during the period.
- The top 5 countries accounted for 85.1% of total world DRI production in January-March 2025 with a cumulative output of 24.555 MnT, up by 3.0% y-o-y.

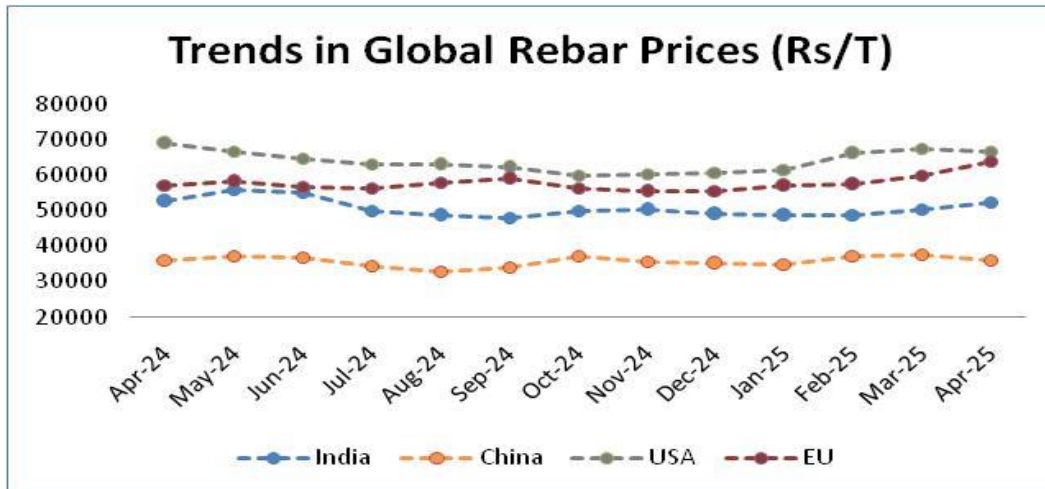
WORLD STEEL PRICE TRENDS

Global steel prices showed a mixed trend in April 2025 both on a year-on-year and month-on-month basis in major steel markets like China, India, the USA and the European Union. While some markets saw an uptick in select product prices, some markets saw a decline in prices. Going forward, the movement of global steel prices will be contingent upon a number of factors, including the factors as stated below.

- a) *Trump's tariff war*: US President Donald Trump's "America first" policy and tariff threats are poised to create an environment of uncertainty and volatility in global trade, besides triggering retaliatory tariff actions from other countries, potentially leading to a trade war.
- b) *Uncertainties in European market*: The ongoing economic uncertainty is set to continue affecting steel market growth from the demand side over the upcoming quarters. The outlook remains dominated by a worsening combination of uncertainties in energy prices, weak manufacturing sectors' conditions and inflation still being above target levels.
- c) *Russia-Ukraine war*: There are also consequences due to imposition of sanctions against Russia by the developed world and the collapse of normal trading operations due to the Russia-Ukraine war which are likely to have a significant bearing on the global steel industry.
- d) *WSA forecast*: The World Steel Association in its Short Range Outlook (SRO), released in October 2024, has forecast a 0.9% contraction in steel demand in 2024, followed by a 1.2% growth in 2025. India is considered to be a major driver for domestic steel demand growth with an expected 8% and 8.5% rise in steel demand in 2024 and 2025, respectively, while for China, the SRO predicts a 3% contraction in 2024, followed by a 1% contraction in 2025 in steel consumption.

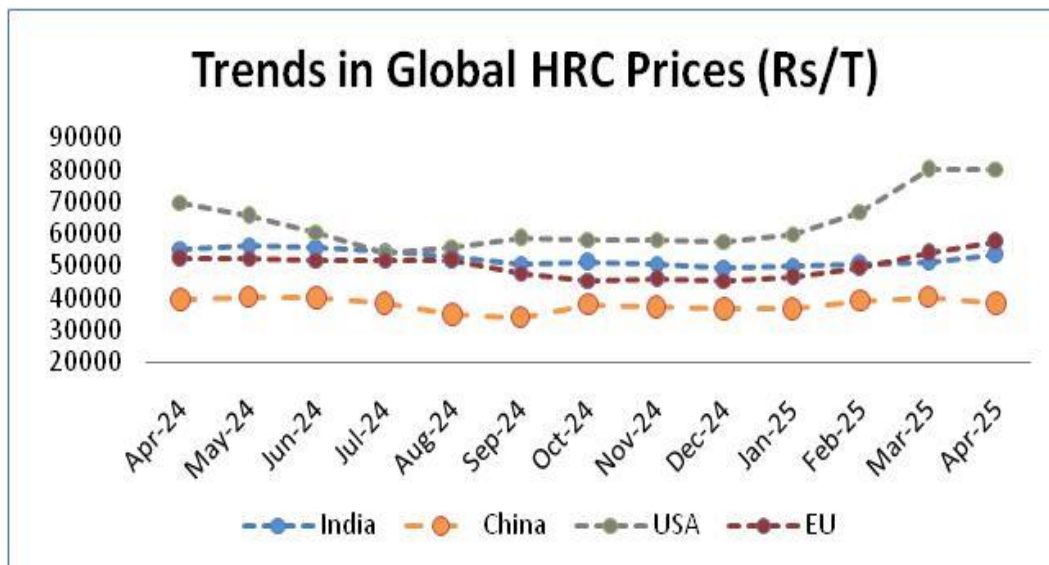
Long Products

- In April 2025, rebar prices came down on a year-on-year basis in the USA and also marginally in India and China, but went up in the European Union. As regards month-on-month comparison, prices went up in India and the EU but fell in China and the USA.
- In India, domestic rebar prices moved higher day over day as both bids and offers strengthened amid improving market sentiment. In the USA, rebar prices were steady as buyers said mills were firm on offers as they didn't increase with the uptick in March scrap prices.
- Rebar demand in China has largely followed seasonal patterns, with no significant deviations to support prices. The price decline is also attributed to the lack of new stimulus policies following the conclusion of the country's two sessions, leaving the market without fresh momentum for growth.



Flat Products

- In April 2025, HRC prices went up on a month-on-month basis in India, the European Union and also marginally in the USA, but fell in China. As regards year-on-year comparison, prices came down in Indian and the Chinese markets in April 2025 but went up significantly in the US and European markets.
- Indian domestic HRC prices edged higher amid a wave of bullish sentiment triggered by the government's recent imposition of a safeguard duty on flat steel products. Meanwhile, domestic HRC prices in the USA were steady amid subdued spot trading with market participants sifting through the potential impacts of recent tariff announcements on demand.
- European domestic HRC prices moved up even as mills, which are trying to protect margins amid low demand, test the market with price increases. Market participants said that the increases are more a signal of future expectations than a sustainable or acceptable move.



RAW MATERIAL SCENARIO

Prices of major raw materials for steel making have come down year-on-year in April 2025. As regards month-on-month comparison, barring Premium Low Vol HCC FOB Australia, all the other raw materials prices ~ Platts IODEX 62% Fe CFR North China, Iron Ore 65% Fe Blast Furnace Pellet and Platts TSI HMS I/II (80:20) have come down in April 2025 compared with the previous month. (Data source: Platts)



[Source Credit: Fastmarkets Metal Bulletin, Platts, JPC (India news)]

NEWS AROUND THE GLOBE

- The US government exempted a slew of metals and minerals from its sweeping new tariffs in a move that some experts said was an attempt to bolster domestic manufacturing. Exemptions to the new duties include base metals like copper and zinc, rare earths, germanium, antimony, uranium ores and other types of the nuclear fuel, lithium, cobalt, tungsten, platinum group metals, and some forms of ferromanganese.
- The UK government is considering all available options to keep British Steel operational. British Steel is also working with the government to explore a joint investment in electric arc furnace steelmaking so that it can continue to meet the UK's infrastructure needs.
- AM/NS India commissioned its first 120,000 mt/year scrap processing centre at Khopoli, Maharashtra. The plant is the first of four scrap plants being developed by AM/NS India as part of a Rupee 3.5 billion (\$40.86 million) investment to meet the growing demand for high-quality scrap for its steel production.
- Tata Steel has signed contracts with Clecim and ABB to supply a 1.8 million mt pickle line as part of the company's green steelmaking project at Port Talbot, South Wales.
- South Korea has imposed a provisional antidumping duty of 21.62% on stainless steel plates from China for 4 months, a note from the Ministry of Economy and Finance said.

- Japan's JFE Steel has decided to proceed with building a new electric arc furnace with 2 million mt/year of crude steel output at its West Japan Works at Kurashiki, after receiving a government grant, the steelmaker said in a statement.
- Brazilian steelmaker and miner Companhia Siderurgica Nacional said it has completed the purchase of a majority stake in leading Brazilian logistics company Estrela Comercio e Participacoes SA, boosting its logistics presence.
- Australia's steel industry is in talks with the federal government to enact a rarely used safeguard instrument recently adopted in Europe to protect smaller players from the impacts of US tariffs.
- Germany's Exxellin has acquired Turkish alloy and bright steel bar producer Akcelik's 58% shareholding in Romania's Tristar Steel to become the majority shareholder, Tristar board member Luciano Giol said.
- The headwinds facing China's steel industry, under pressure for four years from a property slowdown, have intensified with Washington ratcheting up tariffs against the country to 145%, and that is expected to hit a pause button on almost all direct exports of manufactured goods to the US.
- Malaysia has terminated an antidumping investigation into steel wire rods imported from China, Indonesia and Vietnam, the government said.
- Italy-based engineering company Tenova, part of Techint Group, and Finnish-based engineering company Coolbrook have announced a strategic partnership to develop a solution to drive carbon steel production, the two companies said in a press note.

INDIAN STEEL MARKET ROUND-UP

The following is a status report on the performance of Indian steel industry during April-March 2024-25, based on provisional data released by Joint Plant Committee (JPC) in its MIS Report for April-March 2024-25. It is to be noted that total finished steel includes both non-alloy and alloy (including stainless steel) and all comparisons are made with regard to same period of last year.

Item	Performance of Indian steel industry		
	April-March 2024-25* (MnT)	April-March 2023-24 (MnT)	% change*
Crude Steel Production	151.967	144.299	5.3
Hot Metal Production	91.339	87.045	4.9
Pig Iron Production	8.334	7.364	13.2
Sponge Iron Production	55.654	51.560	7.9
Total Finished Steel (alloy/stainless + non-alloy)			
Production	146.560	139.151	5.3
Import	9.551	8.320	14.8
Export	4.858	7.487	-35.1
Consumption	152.001	136.290	11.5
Source: JPC; *provisional; MnT=million tonnes			

Overall Production

- **Crude Steel:** Production at 151.967 million tonnes (MnT), up by 5.3%.
- **Hot Metal:** Production at 91.339 MnT, up by 4.9%.
- **Pig Iron:** Production at 8.334 MnT, up by 13.2%.
- **Sponge Iron:** Production at 55.654 MnT, up by 7.9%, led by coal-based route (84% share).
- **Total Finished Steel:** Production at 146.560 MnT, up by 5.3%.

Contribution of Other Producers

- **Crude Steel:** SAIL, RINL, TSL Group, AM/NS, JSWL Group & JSPL together produced 86.221 MnT (57% share) during this period, up by 0.4%. The rest (65.746 MnT) came from the Remaining Producers, up by 12.6%.
- **Hot Metal:** SAIL, RINL, TSL Group, AM/NS, JSWL Group & JSPL together produced 83.991 MnT (92% share) up by 3.9%. The rest (7.348 MnT) came from the Remaining Producers, up by 18.4%.
- **Pig Iron:** SAIL, RINL, TSL Group, AM/NS, JSWL Group & JSPL together produced 2.092 MnT (25% share) down by 5.3%. The rest (6.242 MnT) came from the Remaining Producers, up by 21.1%.
- **Total Finished Steel:** SAIL, RINL, TSL Group, AM/NS, JSWL Group & JSPL together produced 80.046 MnT (55% share) up by 2.3%. The rest (66.513 MnT) came from the Remaining Producers, up by 9.2%.

Contribution of Public Sector Units (PSU)

- **Crude Steel:** With 84% share, the Private Sector (127.740 MnT, up by 6.4%) led crude steel production compared to the 16% contribution of the PSUs (up by 0.1%).
- **Hot Metal:** With 71% share, the Private Sector (65.121 MnT, up by 7.0%) led hot metal production, compared to the 29% contribution of the PSUs (up by 0.2%).
- **Pig Iron:** With 90% share, the Private Sector (7.521 MnT, up by 13.2%) led pig iron production, compared to the 10% contribution of the PSUs (up by 13.2%).
- **Total Finished Steel:** With 86% share, the Private Sector (126.085 MnT, up by 6.3%) led production of finished steel, compared to the 14% contribution of the PSUs (down by 0.2%).

Contribution of Flat /Non-Flat in Finished Steel

- **Production:** Non-flat products accounted for 55% share (up by 5.9%), the rest 45% was the share of flats (up by 4.6%).
 - **Import:** Flat products accounted for 95% share (up by 14.6%), the rest 5% was the share of non-flats (up by 18.1%).
 - **Export:** Flat products accounted for 84% share (down by 38.7%), the rest 16% was the share of non-flats (down by 5.6%).
 - **Consumption:** Led by Non-flat steel (53% share; up by 8.9%) while the rest 47% was
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the share of flat steel (up by 14.6%).

Finished Steel Production Trends

- At 146.560 MnT, production of total finished steel was up by 5.3%.
- Contribution of the non-alloy steel segment stood at 135.171 MnT (92% share, up by 4.2%), while the rest was the contribution of the alloy steel segment (including stainless steel).
- In the non-alloy, non-flat segment, in volume terms, major contributor to production of total finished steel was Bars & Rods (62.963 MnT, up by 6.9%) while growth in the non-alloy, flat segment was led by HRC (54.124 MnT, up by 1.7%) during this period.

Finished Steel Export Trends

- Overall exports of total finished steel at 4.858 MnT, down by 35.1%.
- Volume wise, GP/GC Sheets/Coil (1.136 MnT) was the item most exported (23% share in total finished steel).
- Italy (0.708 MnT) was the largest export market for India.

Finished Steel Import Trends

- Overall imports of total finished steel at 9.551 MnT, up by 14.8%.
- India was a net importer of total finished steel in April-March 2024-25.
- Volume wise, HR Coil/Strip (3.962 MnT, up by 9.1%) was the item most imported (41% share in total finished steel).
- Korea (2.810 MnT) was the largest import market for India (29% share in total).

Finished Steel Consumption Trends

- At 152.001 MnT, consumption of total finished steel was up by 11.5%.
- Contribution of the non-alloy steel segment stood at 138.644 MnT (91% share, up by 10.4%), while the rest was the contribution of the alloy steel segment (including stainless steel).
- In the non-alloy, non-flat segment, in volume terms, major contributor to consumption of total finished steel was Bars & Rods (63.067 MnT, up by 10.0%) while growth in the non-alloy, flat segment was led by HRC (56.898 MnT, up by 11.0%) during this period.



INDIAN ECONOMY – HIGHLIGHTS OF PERFORMANCE

GDP: As per provisional estimates of the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q3 2024-25 is estimated to have attained a level of ₹47.17 lakh crore, as against ₹44.44 lakh crore in Q3 2023-24, showing a growth of 6.2 per cent. All the sectors reported positive growth during the quarter under review, with the *Public Administration, Defence & Other Services* sector reporting the highest growth of 8.8% and *Mining & Quarrying* sector registering the lowest growth of 1.4%.

Industrial Production: Provisional CSO data show that the overall Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for April-March 2024-25 rose by 4.0% over the same period of the previous fiscal, encouraged by similar high levels of growth trends noted for the various sectors/sub-sectors.

Infrastructure Growth: Provisional data released by the DPIIT indicate that the Index for the Eight Core Infrastructure Industries saw a growth of 4.4% during April-March 2024-25. Barring Crude Oil and Natural Gas all the other sectors reported positive growth during the period. While crude oil sector reported a contraction of 2.2% in April-March 2024-25, the steel sector reported the highest growth of 6.7% during the period under review.

Inflation: The rate of inflation based on Consumer Price Index stood at 3.16% and that on Wholesale Price Index stood at 0.85% in April 2025. CPI inflation fell marginally but WPI inflation fell significantly compared with the previous month.

Prepared by: Joint Plant Committee