

Netherlands Metals Report Q2 2014

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Abstracts

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The Netherlands' metals sector is set for sound growth over the coming years as prices for high quality steel remain elevated and encourage production. Steel will continue to dominate the country's metals industry; however, we do not expect any significant new investment over the coming years. Tata Steel, the largest producer in the country is facing up to an increasingly hostile and competitive operating environment with cheap steel and aluminium being exported from China. However, opportunities remain in high-quality steel, which the Netherlands is a key producer.

In 2012, Dutch steel output experienced a strong decline as the year began with much uncertainty still surrounding the eurozone and the sluggish US economic recovery; however, efforts by eurozone leaders to rectify the European debt crisis as the year progressed were taken as reassurance by businesses and investors in 2012, and so steel production in the Netherlands picked up to close the year with a growth rate of -1.0% year-on-year (y-o-y), reaching 6.87mn tonnes (mnt). This follows two years of growth that saw output up 4.0% and 28.5% in 2011 and 2010 respectively. While this figure will have been disappointing after two consecutive years of positive growth, it could have been a lot worse had it not been for the rally in output in the second half of the year. Carrying on from the rally in production activity in H213, BMI estimates that steel production in the Netherlands grew once more in 2013, rising to around 6.95mn tonnes, equivalent to a growth rate of 1.0% y-o-y from 2012. Similarly, we estimate that steel consumption in the Netherlands turned around a 6.98% y-o-y contraction in growth in 2012 to record a 2.95% increase to 4.12mn tonnes in 2013.



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