

# **Sweden Metals Report Q4 2014**

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#### **Abstracts**

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BMI View: BMI's Q4 2014 Sweden Metals report examines the trends within the country's steel and aluminium sectors and assesses the challenges facing the industry's key players as they look to recover from the downturn in metal demand and prices over the past few years. The decline in Sweden's steel production appears to have bottomed out. After contracting by 11.5% yearon- year (y-o-y) in 2012, output grew by 1.8% in 2013 and growth is forecast to accelerate to 3.9% this year.

Following six consecutive quarters of decline, SSAB, the country's largest steel producer and a key bellwether for the market saw a return to profit growth in the first half of 2014 and the firm has raised prices on shipments to the US during the second half of the year. The company's position has been further strengthened by a recent merger with Finnish metals and construction firm Rautaruukki which will grant the new entity greater control over setting prices across the local northern European market.



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