

Taiwan Metals Report Q1 2015

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Abstracts

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BMI View: Taiwan's steel producers are facing into increasing headwinds in 2015 as global supply levels tick upwards as a result of a cooling Chinese economy. Chinese exporters are increasingly targeting the Taiwan market, forcing local producers to reduce prices. Meanwhile, Taiwan's own steel export sector finds itself battling against the increasingly protectionist stances of governments in Europe and North America.

While production levels have trended upwards over the past few years, having contracted in 2012, the rate of growth appears to be slowing as local producers come under increasing supply pressure as Chinese steelmakers ramp up exports in an effort to counteract slowing domestic demand. Chinese steel exports to Taiwan were estimated to have increased by more than 400% y-o-y in September 2014, according to analysis from Bloomberg. While Taiwan and other neighbouring countries are receiving the lion's share of China's excess stock, there are reports of exports 'flooding' a number of Asian markets, including Japan, India and extending as far afield as Latin America.

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