

# United Kingdom Metals Report Q4 2014

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## Abstracts

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**BMI View:** After a strong year for the UK steel industry in both production and consumption in 2013, we are forecasting a muted recovery going forward. In line with its European counterparts, the UK metals industry has been rocked by low profitability that has led to capacity reductions and disinvestment. However, the worst is probably over for the UK, as slightly stronger domestic demand and recent investment from international firms such as Sahaviriya Steel Industries and Tata Steel should arrest the decline in sector fortunes and ensure that the sector continues to accelerate through to the end of our forecast period in 2018.

Serving as a constant reminder that the recovery may be built upon fragile ground, however, monthly data for activity in the steel sector in the UK has been volatile during the first six months of 2014. Indeed, after a strong start with 30.8% y-o-y growth in January, a 9.3% drop off in activity in April, and a sluggish recover since means that that m-o-m activity at the end of the first half of the year sits below where it stood six months previously.

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