

International Stainless Steel Forum



Media Release

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Global stainless steel production recovers in first quarter

Brussels, 2 July 2008. According to preliminary figures released today, global stainless steel production was 7.4 million metric tons (mmt) in the first quarter of 2008. The figures, published by the International Stainless Steel Forum (ISSF), show that stainless steel production increased by 6.5% compared to the last quarter of 2007.

Compared to the first quarter of 2007 production decreased by 3% across the world. It should be noted that 7.589 mmt of stainless steel was produced in that quarter of 2007, the highest figure ISSF has recorded for a single three-month period.

All areas of the world increased production compared to the last quarter of 2007. The Asia region showed the lowest growth rate (3.6%) while The Americas region leads the way with growth of 13.4%. Western Europe/Africa (9.8%) and Eastern Europe (9.7%) are both contributing to the recovery. Asia is still the largest stainless steel producing region with production of 4.2 mmt in the first quarter of this year.

Table 1 shows the total production for the first quarter of 2008 and comparisons with both the first and last quarters of 2007.

**Table 1: Stainless crude steel production (in '000 metric tons):
1st Quarter 2008 compared to 4th and 1st Quarters of 2007.**

Region	Quarter		Q-o- Q +/- %	Quarter 1		Q-o- Q +/- %
	4/2007	1/2008		2007	2008	
Western Europe/Africa	2,209	2,426	9.8	2,546	2,426	-4.7
Central and Eastern Europe	87	96	9.7	101	96	-5.4
The Americas	619	702	13.4	749	702	-6.3
Asia	3,997	4,139	3.6	4,188	4,139	-1.2
World total	6,913	7,363	6.5	7,584	7,363	-2.9

Source: International Stainless Steel Forum (ISSF)

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Notes to editors:

The International Stainless Steel Forum (ISSF) is a non-profit research organisation which serves as the world forum on various aspects of the international stainless steel industry. ISSF was founded in 1996 and is based in Brussels, Belgium.

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