

## The OECD Steel Committee

### Steel at the OECD

The OECD Steel Committee provides a unique forum for governments to come together to address the evolving challenges facing the steel industry, and identify political solutions to encourage open and transparent markets for steel. Through its work to reduce market distorting steel policies and encourage structural adaptation, the OECD contributes to a more viable and sustainable steel industry, so that steel continues to contribute to improved economic prosperity around the world.

### Objectives

The OECD Steel Committee aims to support the viability of the steel industry, through policies that reduce market distortions and promote competitive and open markets for steel.

The Steel Committee has emerged over the years as a unique platform where multilateral steel problems can be discussed and political solutions found.

Policy dialogue, transparency, and commitment have been the driving forces steering the Committee's work.

### OECD Steelmaking Capacity Portal

Governments participating in the OECD Steel Committee consider excess capacity as being one of the main challenges facing the global steel sector today. The OECD Steel Committee has deepened its discussions on capacity, and will take this work further in the next few years.

The OECD Steelmaking Capacity Portal supports this work by providing access to a range of data and analyses on global capacity developments.

The Portal is available at <http://oe.cd/steelcapacity>.

### Mandate

The Committee mandate calls on governments to work together in order to:

- reduce trade barriers
- deal with crisis situations in close consultation with trading partners
- facilitate necessary structural adaptations that reduce pressures for trade actions and promote rational allocation of productive resources
- avoid encouraging economically unjustified investments
- ensure that state-owned enterprises act in accordance with market principles
- facilitate multilateral co-operation consistent with the need to maintain competition.

The tools for reaching these objectives include closely monitoring market conditions, developing common perspectives regarding emerging problems in the sector, and reviewing and assessing government policies.

## Focus in 2017-18

- **world steel market developments**, including supply, demand, prices and financial performance
- **Excess capacity** in the steel industry, particularly the role of government interventions in creating or sustaining excess capacity, as well as policies aimed at easing the situation
- **trade policies**, including non-tariff measures and restrictions on raw materials trade
- the role of the state and **government support measures** that affect steel markets, trade and investment
- economic **viability and competitiveness** of the steel industry, including technology, innovation, environmental performance and long-term sustainability.

## Membership

The OECD Steel Committee has 25 **members**: Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

In addition, four **associates** (Brazil, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine), as well as six **participants** (Bulgaria, Egypt, India, Malaysia, South Africa and Chinese Taipei) bring their perspectives to the work of the Steel Committee. Australia, China, Chile, Colombia, Kazakhstan, and the Philippines, among other important steel economies, also participate in some Steel Committee meetings.

The Committee also benefits from the active participation of the World Steel Association and of national and regional steel associations, which provide expertise on a range of industry issues.

OECD Steel Committee members, associates and participants account for around 45% of global production and 75% of global exports of steel.

## Further reading

OECD (forthcoming), "Steel Market Developments, 2nd Quarter 2017", *OECD Steel Market Developments*, OECD, Paris.

Silva, F. and A. de Carvalho (2016), "Evaluating the Financial Health of the Steel Industry", OECD, Paris, [www.oecd.org/sti/ind/Evaluating-Financial-Health-Steel-Industry.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/sti/ind/Evaluating-Financial-Health-Steel-Industry.pdf).

OECD (2015), "Greening Steel: Innovation for climate change mitigation in the steel sector", OECD, Paris, [www.oecd.org/sti/ind/Environmental-patents-steel.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/sti/ind/Environmental-patents-steel.pdf).

de Carvalho, A. and N. Sekiguchi (2015), "The structure of steel exports: Changes in specialisation and the role of innovation", *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Working Papers*, No. 2015/07, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5jrxfmstf0xt-en>.

## Steel Market Developments

Steel Market Developments provide up-to-date information on global and regional steel markets. Reviewed and approved by the OECD Steel Committee, they are disseminated approximately twice a year to the public. The reports include an overview of recent supply and demand developments and, when available, forecasts from publicly available sources. Topics of special interest are also occasionally covered. Steel Market reports are available at [oe.cd/stlmarktdev](http://oe.cd/stlmarktdev).

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<http://oe.cd/steel> - [steel@oecd.org](mailto:steel@oecd.org) -  @OECDInnovation - <http://oe.cd/stinews>