ECONOMIC AND STEEL MARKET OUTLOOK

2025 2026

Q1 REPORT

Data up to, including, Q3 2024

February 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The negative trend in the steel market which began in the second half of 2022 has continued up to the third quarter of 2024. The current downturn in EU apparent steel consumption, reflecting poor demand conditions, began in the second quarter of 2022, due to war-related disruptions, along with unprecedented rises in energy prices and production costs. Demand conditions have been worsening considerably since the second half of 2022, and this negative cycle has continued until the third quarter of 2024, mainly as a result of growing global economic uncertainty, higher interest rates – before recent policy rate cuts were implemented - and overall manufacturing weakness. The dire consequences of the conflict in Ukraine and the energy shock on steel-using industries, along with worsened overall economic outlook, triggered a severe recession (-8%) already in 2022. These protracted downside factors further impacted apparent steel consumption in 2023, resulting in another annual drop (-6%). This represented the fourth annual recession in the last five years.

In 2024, against expectations of more favourable developments in the industrial outlook and improvement in steel demand earlier this year, apparent steel consumption is set to experience another drop, more severe than previously foreseen (-2.3%, formerly -1.8%). In 2025, apparent steel consumption is projected to recover at a slower pace than our previous outlook (+2.2% vs. +3.8%), conditional on a positive evolution of the industrial outlook and easing global tensions, which are unpredictable at the moment.

Apparent steel consumption is set to experience another drop, more severe than previously foreseen.

The overall evolution of steel demand remains subject to very high uncertainty. No improvement in apparent steel consumption is expected before the first quarter of 2025, and consumption volumes are expected to remain far below pre-pandemic levels.

EU STEEL MARKET OVERVIEW

In the third quarter of 2024, apparent steel consumption continued to drop (-0.9%, after -1.4% in the preceding quarter). Total consumption volume in the third quarter of 2024 stood at 30.4 million tonnes.

Domestic deliveries mirrored the evolution in demand and contracted (-2.3%, after -1.6% in the preceding quarter). In 2022, deliveries plummeted (-9%), reflecting the sharp deterioration in demand. As a result of protracted negative trends throughout the year, domestic deliveries markedly dropped again (-4.6%) in 2023.

Imports into the EU - including semi-finished products - slightly increased (+1%) in the third quarter of 2024, after a contraction in the preceding quarter (-1.8%). It is worth noting that in absolute volumes the share of total imports out of apparent consumption has remained considerably high in historical terms throughout

2023 and up to the third quarter of 2024, rising to 28% as already seen in the second quarter.

EU STEEL-USING SECTORS

In the third quarter of 2024, the Steel Weighted Industrial Production index (SWIP) sharply dropped (-4.1%) for the third consecutive time (-2.1% in the preceding quarter). Until the end of 2023, EU steel-using sectors' output continued to show resilience and grow, albeit at a slower pace. This was despite the prolonged impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, overall manufacturing weakness and global geopolitical tensions, along with above-average energy prices.

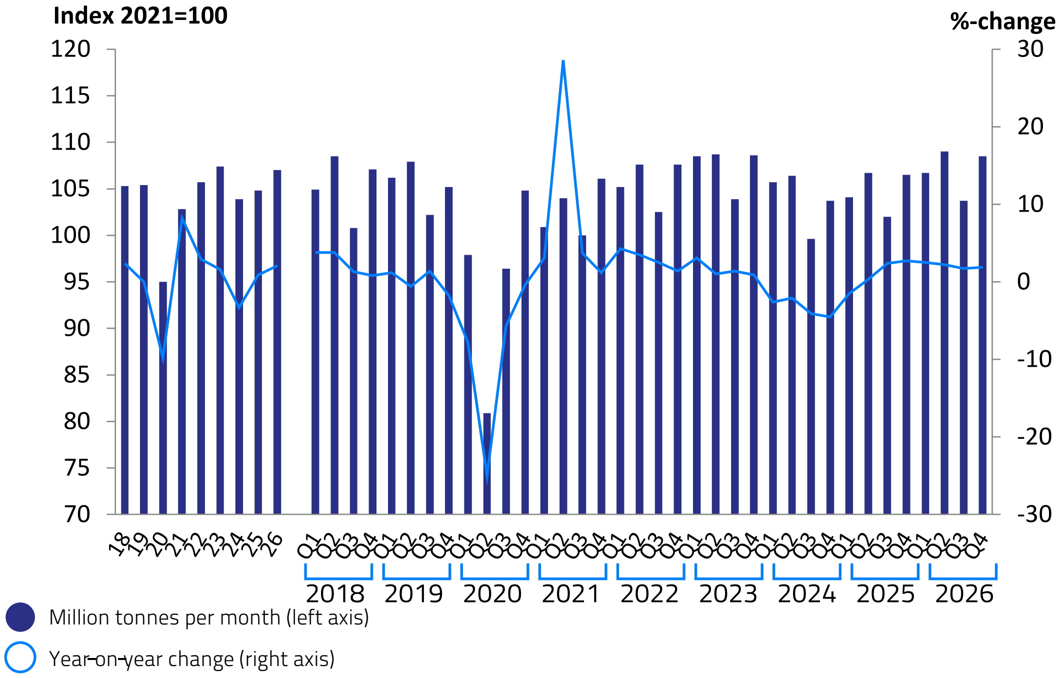
The positive trend in overall SWIP, started after the pandemic, continued up to the fourth quarter of 2023, in spite of soaring energy prices impacting production costs, component shortages and lower output that began to take their toll on total production activity in steel-using sectors in the second half of 2022. The deterioration of the economic and industrial outlook in the EU – particularly due to high inflation and the subsequent interest rate hike by the European Central Bank (ECB) – had only a limited impact on steel-using sectors' output up to the end of 2023, with the exception of the construction sector. As the industrial and economic landscape has turned even gloomier in the EU during 2024, developments of the SWIP index were driven by a continued downturn in the construction, mechanical engineering, domestic appliances and metalware sectors, as well as in the automotive sector. The construction sector, in particular, had already entered recession in the third quarter of 2022, and this trend –except for a couple of quarters - has continued up to the third quarter of 2024. Its recessionary trend is expected to persist until the first quarter of 2025.

Ongoing economic uncertainty is set to continue taking its toll on growth also in the upcoming

EU Steel Using Sectors

Production Activity

Forecast from Q4-2024



quarters, despite monetary easing by the European Central Bank (five consecutive 25 basis points policy rate cuts in the course of 2024 and January 2025), the effects of which will not be fully visible in the short-term.

In 2024, steel-using sectors' output growth is projected to experience a steeper drop than previously foreseen (-3.3% revised downwards from -2.7%). This is mainly due to expected drops in construction and automotive output. A more modest recovery is anticipated in 2025 (+0.9%, also revised downwards from +1.6%), before another moderate increase in 2026 (+2.1%).

CONCLUSIONS

The ongoing economic uncertainty is set to continue affecting steel market growth from the demand side over the upcoming quarters:

1. Despite EU industry proving quite resilient throughout 2023, the outlook for the fourth quarter of 2024 and the first quarter of 2025 remains dominated by a worsening combination of uncertainties in energy prices, weak manufacturing sectors' conditions, inflation still above target levels, severe geopolitical tensions and economic challenges, including possible future trade tensions. Despite recent monetary easing, its effects on the economic cycle will not be visible in the short-term.

2. While output grew more than expected (+2.9%) in 2022, SWIP growth in 2023 slowed down but achieved a higher-than-estimated rate (+1.6%, previously +0.9%), albeit with wide differences among individual EU economies and industrial sectors.

3.In 2024, growth in steel-using sectors is projected to decline more sharply than previously estimated (-3.3% vs. -2.7%), due to the recession in the two major steel-consuming sectors, namely construction and automotive. Persistent geopolitical tensions and the lagged impact on monetary easing weighed on the overall manufacturing sector. More moderate growth is expected in 2025 (+0,9%, revised downwards from +1.6%) , with some acceleration in 2026 (+2.1%).

Please note that, starting with this Economic and Steel Market Outlook, the new base year underlying the indices of production activity for all steel-using sectors is 2021.

Accordingly, all time series have been revised.

CONTENTS

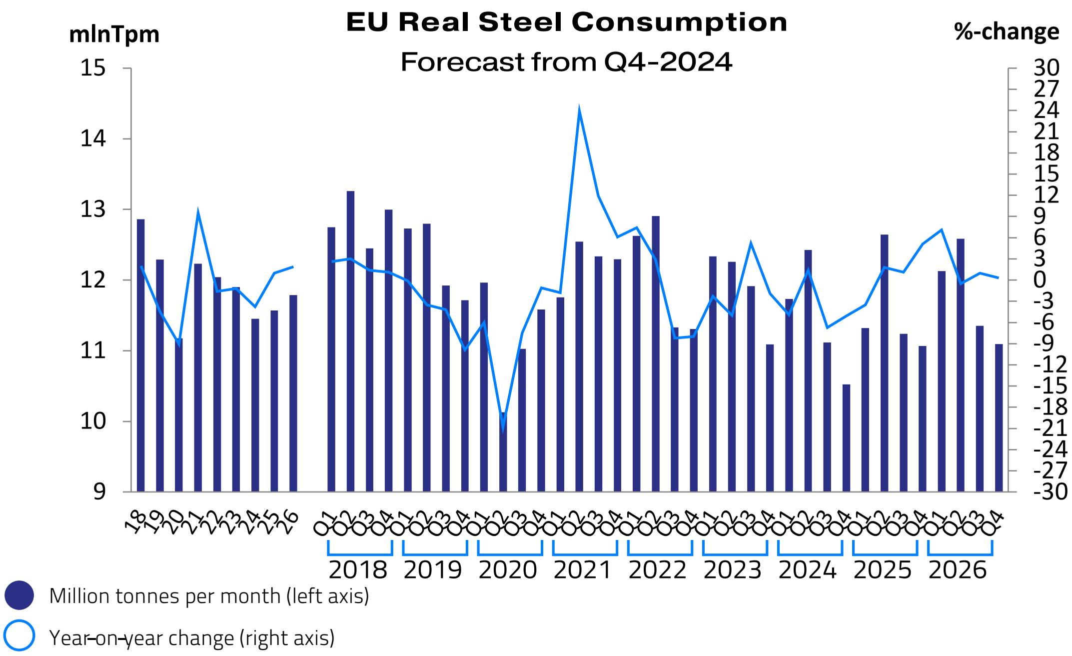
THE EU STEEL MARKET: SUPPLY

REAL STEEL CONSUMPTION

THIRD QUARTER 2024

Real steel consumption decreased in 2022 (-1.6%) and, albeit less severely, in 2023 (-1.2%). It is expected to drop again in 2024 (-3.8%) and to recover moderately in 2025 (+1%, revised upwards from +0.6%). Given the protracted economic and industrial uncertainty and low business confidence, some re-stocking along the steel distribution chain is not be expected at least before the end of 2025.

The two consecutive recessions of 2019 and 2020 were caused by a considerable slowdown in the activity of steel-using sectors due to a downturn in manufacturing and trade, and the COVID crisis, respectively. The counter-cyclical destocking trend that started in late 2019 has persisted to date. It temporarily reversed in the first quarter of 2021 when growth in steel demand was expected to continue. The trend of weak demand conditions has continued throughout 2023 and 2024, given the protracted impact of the war in Ukraine and growing geopolitical tensions, high inflation and uncertainty on the global industrial outlook and energy prices. Although de-stocking has continued at very high historical levels - reflecting poor demand perspectives - real consumption growth was negative both in 2022 and 2023, and is also expected to be negative in 2024. A modest recovery in expected in 2025 and 2026, in line with SWIP developments.



Forecast for real consumption - % change year-on-year

Period	2024	Q1'25	Q2'25	Q3'25	Q4'25	2025	Q1'25	Q2'25	Q3'25	Q4'25	2026
% Change	**-3.8**	-3.5	1.8	5.1	5.1	**1.0**	7.1	-0.5	1.0	0.3	**1.9**

APPARENT STEEL CONSUMPTION
THIRD QUARTER 2024

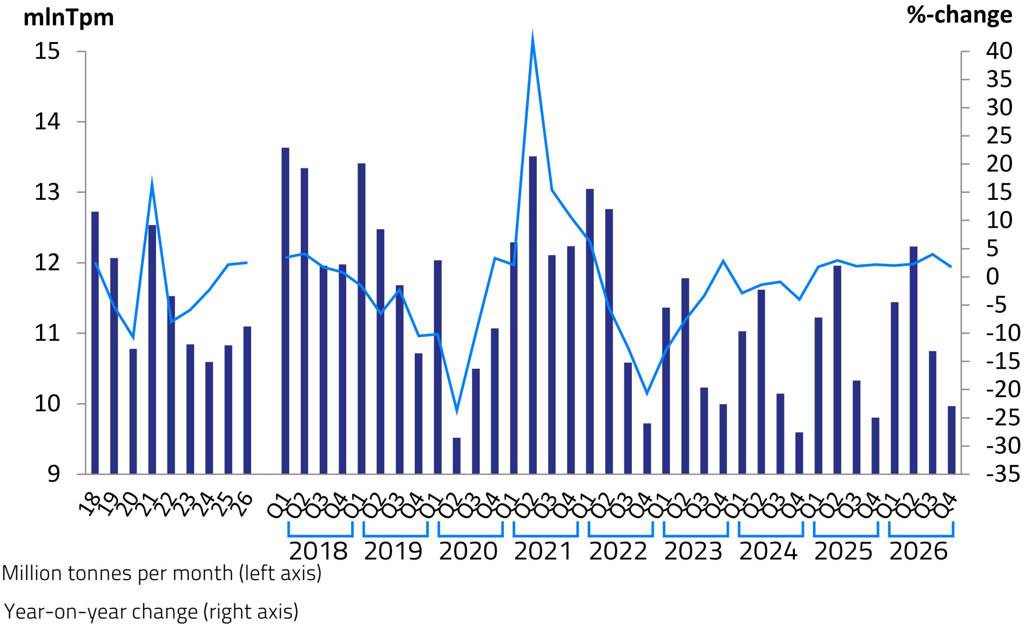
In the third quarter of 2024, apparent steel consumption continued to drop (-0.9%, after -1.4% in the preceding quarter). Total consumption volume in the third quarter of 2024 stood at 30.4 million tonnes.

The current downturn in EU apparent steel consumption, reflecting poor demand conditions, began in the second quarter of 2022, due to war-related disruptions, along with unprecedented rises in energy prices and production costs. Demand conditions have been worsening considerably since the second half of 2022, and this negative cycle has continued until the third quarter of 2024, mainly as a result of growing global economic uncertainty, higher interest rates – before policy rate cuts were implemented - and overall manufacturing weakness.

The dire consequences of the conflict in Ukraine and the energy shock on steel-using industries, along with worsened overall economic outlook, triggered a severe recession (-8%) already in 2022. These protracted downside factors further impacted apparent steel consumption in 2023, resulting in another annual drop (-6%). This represented the fourth annual recession in the last five years. In 2024, against expectations of more favourable developments in the industrial outlook and improvement in steel demand earlier this year, apparent steel consumption is set to experience another drop, more severe than previously foreseen (-2.3%, revised downwards from -1.8%). In 2025, apparent steel consumption is projected to recover at a slower pace (+2.2% vs. +3.8%), conditional on a positive evolution of the industrial outlook and easing global tensions, which are unpredictable at the moment.

The overall evolution of steel demand remains subject to very high uncertainty. No improvement in apparent steel consumption is expected before the first quarter of 2025, and consumption volumes are projected to remain far below pre-pandemic levels.

EU Apparent Consumption
Forecast from Q4-2024



EU DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN SUPPLY

In the third quarter of 2024, domestic deliveries mirrored the evolution in demand and contracted (-2.3%, after -1.6% in the preceding quarter). In 2022 deliveries plummeted (-9%), reflecting the sharp deterioration in demand. As a result of protracted negative trends throughout the year, domestic deliveries markedly dropped again (-4.6%) in 2023.

Imports into the EU - including semi-finished products - slightly increased (+1%) in the third quarter of 2024, after a contraction in the preceding quarter (-1.8%). It is worth noting that in absolute volumes the share of total imports out of apparent consumption has remained considerably high in historical terms throughout 2023 and up to the third quarter of 2024, rising to 28% as already seen in the second quarter.

EU apparent steel consumption - in million tonnes per year

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	**2024 (f)**	**2025 (f)**	**2026 (f)**
Million tonnes	147	149	153	145	129	150	138	130	127	130	133

Forecast for apparent consumption - % change year-on-year

Period	**2024**	Q1'25	Q2'25	Q3'25	Q4'25	**2025**	Q1'25	Q2'25	Q3'25	Q4'25	**2026**
% Change	**-2.3**	1.8	2.9	1.9	2.2	**2.2**	2.0	2.3	4.0	1.7	**2.5**

IMPORTS

In the third quarter of 2024, total steel imports (including semis) into the EU slightly increased year-on-year (+1%), following a decrease in the preceding quarter (-2%). During the first eleven months of 2024, imports of all steel products rose (+13%) compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. In 2023, total imports fell (-8.4%) compared to the previous year, following the drop already observed in 2022 (-6.7%).

Imports of finished products also increased (+12%) in the third quarter of 2024, following the drop seen in the preceding quarter (-5%). During the same period, imports of flat products rose (+10%) after the drop in the preceding quarter (-7%). Similarly, imports of long products rose (+18%, after an increase of +4% in the previous quarter).

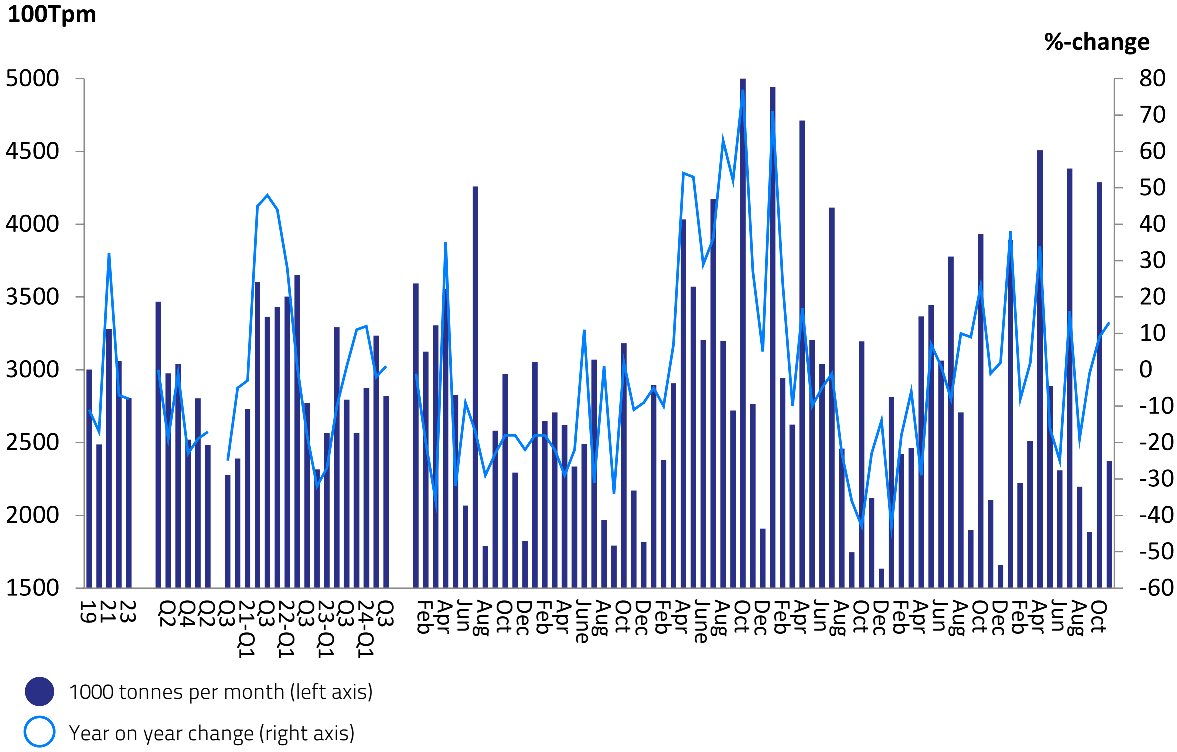
In the first eleven months of 2024, imports of finished products rose (+9%), and so did imports of both flat (+10%) and long products (+8%). In 2023, imports of finished products decreased overall (-11%). In particular, imports of flat products fell (-8%), along with imports of long products (-22%).

Imports have displayed consistent volatility throughout 2023, mirroring the fluctuations seen in the three preceding years. After the outbreak of COVID-19, imports surged again for certain products and showed some volatility over the second half of 2020. However, the increase became much more pronounced during 2021, particularly over the second and third quarters, reaching high levels in historical terms. This development mirrored buoyant steel demand conditions up to end-2021, while volatility continued over the fourth quarter of

2021 and throughout 2022. Reflecting much weaker demand since the first quarter of 2022, imports have been declining in volume from the second half of 2022 to the second quarter of 2023, before increasing again in the second half of 2023. However, over the entire year 2023, imports remained at elevated historical levels, resulting in very high import shares out of apparent consumption (27%), as well as in a widening trade deficit vis-à-vis third countries.

EU Total Steel Imports

Finished products



IMPORTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

In the first eleven months of 2024, the main countries of origin for finished steel imports into the EU market were, in descending order: Turkey, India, South Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, China, Ukraine and Japan. The top five exporting countries in the first eleven months of 2024 accounted for 57% of total EU finished steel imports. Turkey became the leading exporting country to the EU (with a share of 15%), followed by India (12%), South Korea (11%) Vietnam (10%), Taiwan (9%), and China (7%).

In the first eleven months of 2024, imports from major exporting countries showed diverging developments. Imports of finished products boomed from Turkey (+87%) and also increased from Vietnam (+27%), India (+14%), Taiwan (+6%) and South Korea (+4%). On the contrary, imports of finished products plunged from Japan (-18%) and China (-10%).

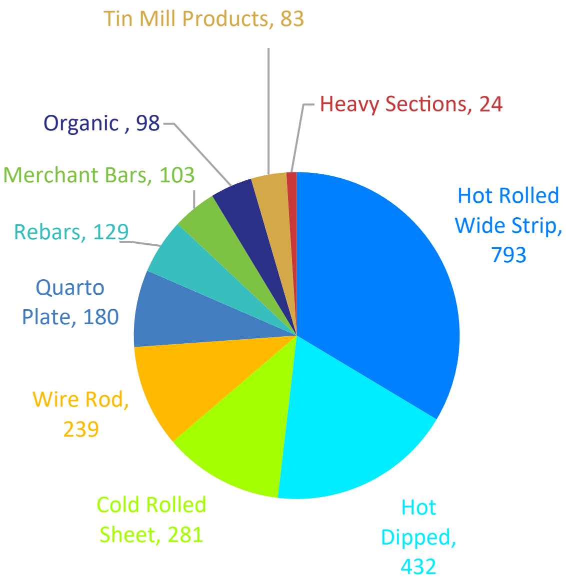
IMPORTS BY PRODUCT CATEGORY

According to customs data, in the first eleven months of 2024 imports of flat products into the EU market increased (+10%), as well as imports of long products (+8%). The share of long products out of total finished steel product imports was 21%. Overall, imports of finished products increased (+9%).

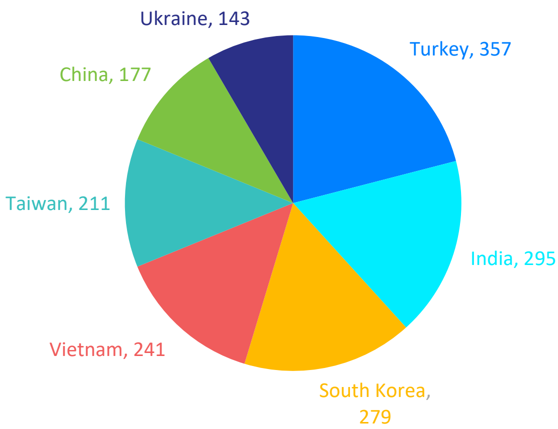
Within the flat product market segment, imports of all flat products increased during the first eleven months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. In particular, imports of hot dipped significantly increased (+19%), along with coated sheets (+20%), organic (+29%), and cold rolled sheets (+14%). Imports of hot-rolled wide strip and quarto plate increased more moderately (both +5%).

Regarding long products, imports in the first eleven months of 2024 recorded an increase for wire rod and rebars (+20% and +24% respectively), whereas imports of merchant bars and heavy sections fell (-19% and -14% respectively).

EU Finished Steel Imports by Country
11M-2024,
(monthly '000 metric: tonnes)



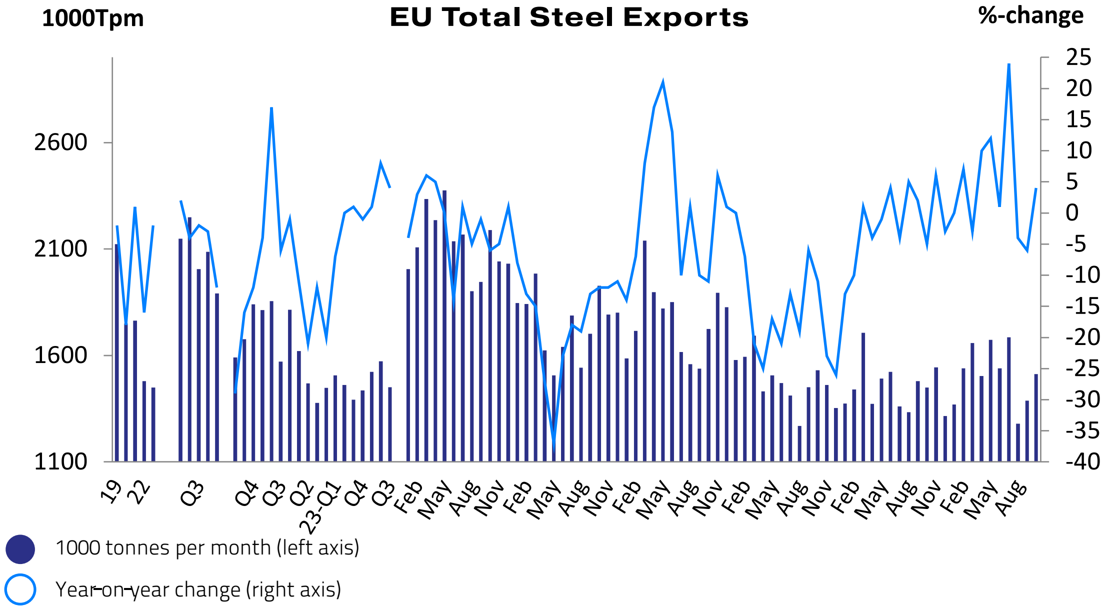
EU Finished Steel Imports by Product
11M-2024,
(monthly '000 metric: tonnes)



EXPORTS

In the third quarter of 2024, total EU exports of steel products to third countries increased (+4%, after +8% in the preceding quarter). Exports of finished steel products increased (+2%), after increasing also in the second quarter (+5%). In particular, exports of flat products increased (+7), whereas exports of long products dropped (-6%). Over the first eleven months of 2024, total exports rose (+4%), as well as exports of finished products (+4%), as a result of a rise for both flat and long products (+4% and +3% respectively).

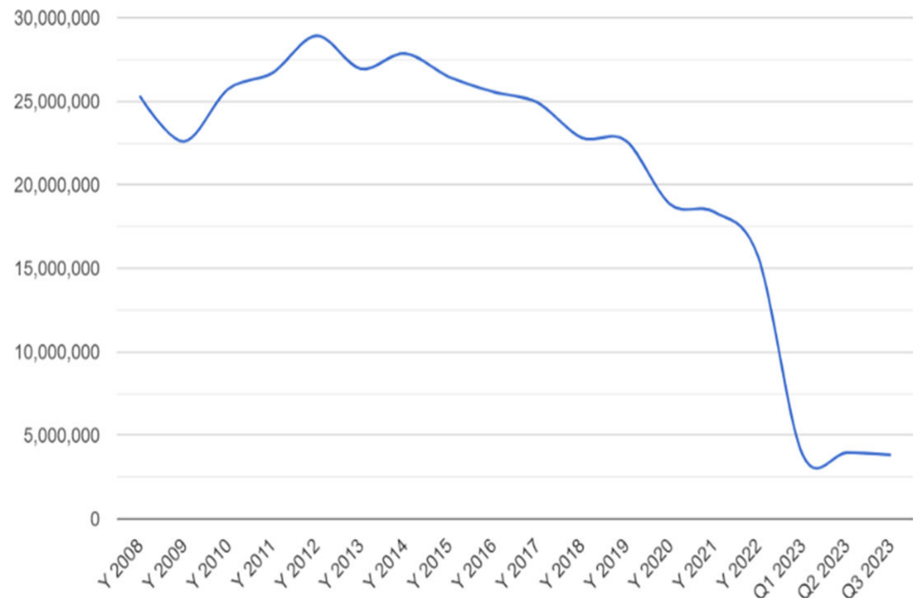
Throughout the entire year of 2023, exports of finished products fell (-3%), due to a decline in flat products (-9%) and despite an increase in long product exports (+10%).



Total Exports to Third Countries

Finished Steel Products

(metric: tonnes)



EXPORTS BY COUNTRY

During the first eleven months of 2024, the main destinations for EU steel exports were the United Kingdom, the United States, Turkey, Switzerland, China and Egypt. The first five destinations together accounted for 57% of total EU finished product exports.

Among the major export destinations, exports of finished products, rose to the United States (+30%), China (+8%), Norway (+6%), the United Kingdom (+11%) whereas exports declined to Switzerland -1 (-7%), Turkey (-8%) and Egypt (-8%).

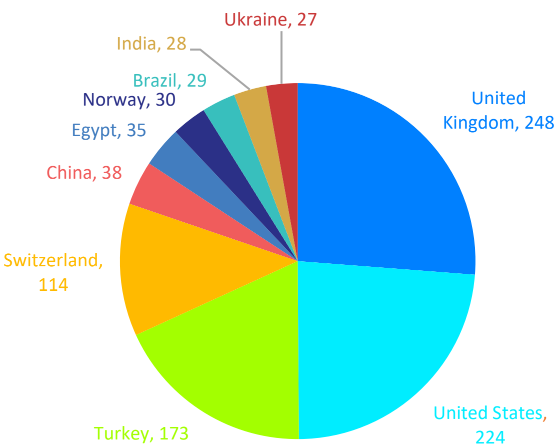
EXPORTS BY PRODUCT CATEGORY

In the first eleven months of 2024, exports of finished products increased (+4%) as a result of an increase both in flat and long product exports (+4% and +3%, respectively). During the same period, flat products accounted for 65% of finished product exports overall. In 2023, exports of finished products dropped (-3%), due to a decrease in exports of flat products (-9%) and an increase in exports of long products (+10%).

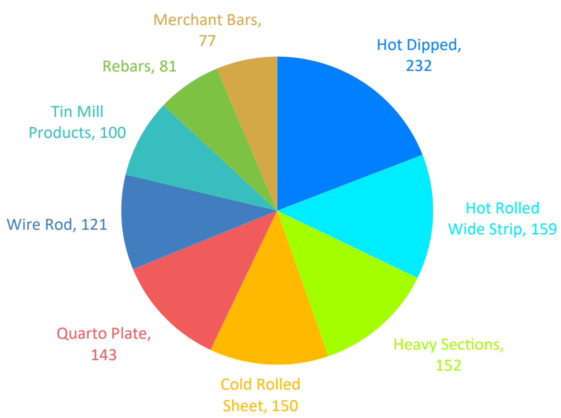
Among flat products, in the first eleven months of 2024 exports of quarto plate and hot rolled wide strip decreased (-8% and -3% respectively). Conversely, exports of organic rose (+18%), along with exports of cold rolled sheet (+9%), coated sheet (+9%) and hot dipped (+7%).

Exports of all individual long products increased over the same period. In detail, exports rose for rebars (+7%), wire rod (+3%), heavy sections (+6%) and merchant bars (+4%).

EU Finished Steel Exports by Destination
11M-2024,
(monthly '000 metric: tonnes)



EU Finished Steel Exports by Product
11M-2024,
(monthly '000 metric: tonnes)



TRADE BALANCE

In the first eleven months of 2024, total trade deficit (including semis) amounted to 1.6 million tonnes per month (1,593 kilotonnes). In 2023, the total trade deficit reached 1.4 million tonnes per month (1,355 kilotonnes) compared to 1.6 million tonnes (1,582 kilotonnes) in 2022.

As for finished products, the trade deficit of the first eleven months of 2024 was 1.1 million tonnes per month (1,051 kilotonnes). This resulted from the combination of a deficit of 1 million tonnes per month (1,038 kilotonnes) for flat products and a deficit of 14 kilotonnes per month for long products.

In 2023, the deficit for finished products amounted to 797 kilotonnes per month, resulting from a deficit of 809 kilotonnes for flat products and a surplus of 12 kilotonnes for long products.

The largest trade deficits for finished products with individual trade partners during the first eleven months of 2024 were with India (278 kilotonnes per month), South Korea (270 kilotonnes), Vietnam (238 kilotonnes), Taiwan (210 (kilotonnes), Turkey (183 kilotonnes), China (135 kilotonnes) and Japan (128 kilotonnes). The major destination countries for EU finished steel exports with a finished product trade surplus during the first eleven months of 2024 were the United States (221 kilotonnes per month), the United Kingdom (129 kilotonnes), Switzerland (74 kilotonnes), and the United Arab Emirates (12 kilotonnes).

THE EU STEEL MARKET: FINAL USE

OUTLOOK FOR STEEL-USING SECTORS

TOTAL ACTIVITY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2024

In the third quarter of 2024, the Steel Weighted Industrial Production index (SWIP) sharply dropped (-4.1%) for the third consecutive time (-2.1% in the preceding quarter). Until the end of 2023, EU steel-using sectors' output continued to show resilience and grow, albeit at a slower pace. This was despite the prolonged impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, overall manufacturing weakness and global geopolitical tensions, along with above-average energy prices.

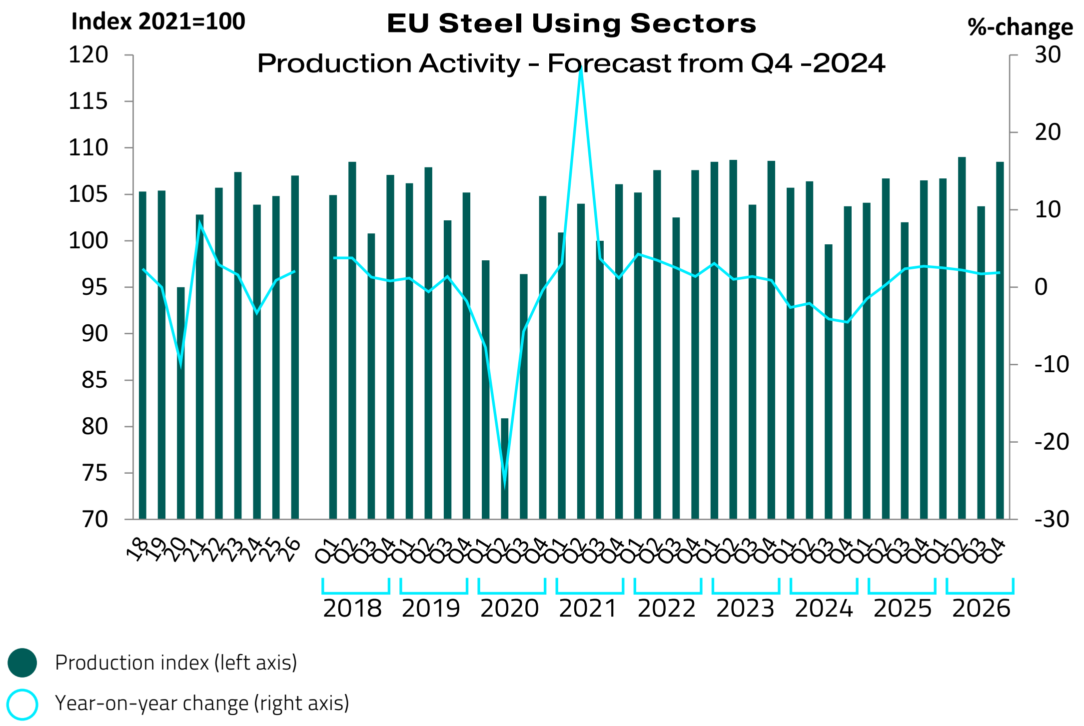
The positive trend in overall SWIP, started after the pandemic, continued up to the fourth quarter of 2023, in spite of soaring energy prices impacting production costs, component shortages and lower output that began to take their toll on total production activity in steel-using sectors in the second half of 2022. The deterioration of the economic and industrial outlook in the EU – particularly due to high inflation and the subsequent interest rate hike by the European Central Bank (ECB) – had only a limited impact on steel-using sectors' output up to the end of 2023, with the exception of the construction sector. As the industrial and economic landscape have turned even gloomier in the EU during 2024, developments of the SWIP index were a combination of a continued downturn in the construction, mechanical engineering, domestic appliances and metalware sectors, and also in the automotive sector. The construction sector, in particular, already entered recession in the third quarter of 2022 and this trend – with the exception of a couple of quarters - has continued up to the third quarter of 2024. Its recessionary trend is expected to continue until the first quarter of 2025.

The ongoing economic uncertainty is set to continue taking its toll on growth also over the upcoming quarters, despite monetary easing by the ECB (four consecutive 25 bps policy rate cuts in the course of 2024), whose effects will not be fully visible in the short-term.

TOTAL FORECAST 2025-2026

Despite persisting downside factors, steel-using sectors' output continued to grow in 2023 (+1.6%, revised upwards from +0.9%), albeit with wide differences across individual European economies and sectors, and mostly due to the better-than-expected performance of the construction sector in some EU countries (particularly in Italy). However, SWIP resilience has come to an end in 2024 and steel-using sectors' output growth is projected to experience a steeper drop than previously foreseen (-3.3% revised downwards from -2.7%). This is mainly due to drops in construction and automotive output. A more modest recovery is anticipated in 2025 (+0.9%%, also revised downwards from +1.6%), before another moderate increase in 2026 (+2.1%)

Total steel-using sectors' output had increased more than expected (+3.2%) in 2022, following the rebound in 2021 (+8.2%), after the sharp decline recorded in 2020 (-9.8%) due to the impact of the pandemic.



Year-on-Year %-Change in EU Steel Weighted Industrial Production (SWIP) Index

	% Share in total consumption	2024	Q1'25	Q2'25	Q3'25	Q4'25	2025	Q1'25	Q2'25	Q3'25	Q4'25	2026
Construction	37	**-2.0**	-0.9	0.4	2.5	2.2	**1.1**	1.5	1.5	1.7	2.3	**1.8**
Mechanical engineering	12	**-4.7**	-1.5	0.1	0.9	1.7	**0.3**	3.9	2.8	1.9	1.4	**2.5**
Automotive	20	**-8.4**	-2.6	0.3	5.8	5.7	**2.1**	3.6	4.3	0.2	0.0	**2.1**
Domestic Appliances	3	**-5.0**	3.0	1.9	2.7	3.5	**2.8**	2.5	1.9	1.6	1.4	**1.9**
Other Transport	2	**4.6**	1.1	-1.3	2.3	3.1	**1.3**	0.8	1.8	2.2	2.7	**2.5**
Tubes	8	**-3.0**	-3.8	0.5	3.3	1.8	**0.4**	4.3	-1.4	0.1	1.7	**1.2**
Metal Goods	16	**-3.9**	-1.2	-0.9	0.1	1.7	**-0.1**	1.9	2.6	2.6	2.7	**2.5**
Miscellaneous	2	**-2.2**	0.0	1.9	3.6	3.5	**2.2**	2.3	2.5	0.7	2.2	**1.9**
Total	100	**-3.3**	-1.5	0.3	2.4	2.7	**0.9**	2.5	2.2	1.7	1.9	**2.1**

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

ACTIVITY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2024

Construction output has been under pressure since the third quarter of 2022. This is due to several factors, including rising construction material prices, labour shortages in some EU countries, and increasing economic uncertainty. Most notably, higher interest rates in 2022 and 2023, driven by monetary policy tightening, have also played a key role. Although the ECB has recently implemented four policy rate cuts, their impact is expected to be lagged over time. In the third quarter of 2024, output in the sector dropped for the third consecutive time (-2.2%, following -1.2% in the preceding quarter). This negative trend is expected to persist until the first quarter of 2025, primarily due to the lagged impact of lower interest rates. While further monetary policy easing is not predictable, it is not ruled out, and could depend on future price developments. Such easing will be key to reducing mortgage rates and improving housing demand. In line with real production volumes, the recession in the sector has been confirmed also by the latest quarterly developments in investment in construction, which dropped year-on-year for the third consecutive time in the third quarter of 2024 (-2.7%, after -2% in the preceding quarter).

As expected, residential investment dropped for the eighth consecutive quarter, due to the belated impacted of monetary easing on mortgage interest rates (-3.7%, after -4.7% in the second quarter of 2024),. Conversely, relatively more positive developments were seen in recent quarters in 'other construction' investment, particularly in civil engineering. However, investment in this construction subsegment also dropped (-1.7%), after increasing in the preceding quarter (+0.8%). Expansion in public construction is projected to continue during 2024, but at a much slower pace due to lower public expenditure in construction and to EU budgetary constraints.

FORECAST 2025-2026

Governments have been using public construction spending as a countercyclical tool since the COVID-led recession of 2020 to bolster recovery. However, while overall construction activity is expected to continue benefitting to a limited extent from governmental housing support and public construction schemes, the impact of these publicly-funded construction schemes is expected to significantly decrease in 2024 due to multiple downside factors, including the shortage of construction materials, their rising prices as well as reduced fiscal room for construction spending in EU countries. These issues have resulted in declining construction confidence as confirmed by latest available data (December 2024).

Looking at construction sub-sectors, rise in interest rates – as a consequence of policy rate hikes by the ECB and other central banks – has already impacted residential construction demand. Civil engineering is expected to continue providing the strongest contribution to the construction sector's performance, but to a lower extent. This segment will continue to be supported by EU-wide public policies (NextGenerationEU, etc.), but their effects have become increasingly uncertain and difficult to quantify due to the recent deterioration of the economic outlook. The Stability and Growth Pact, that had been suspended until the end of 2023, has been operational again since January 2024, leaving less room for government spending in infrastructure. However, the visible effects in terms of construction output related to projects linked to NexGenEU will be lagged over time.As regards the private non-residential construction subsector (offices, commercial buildings, etc.), the subdued business investment outlook continue to remain unfavourable to investment in non-residential projects in the near future.

As a result, the construction sector proved very resilient in 2023 (+0.6%, revised from a previously reported drop of -0.8%), albeit thanks to outstanding growth in some countries and with large differences in trends among Member States, but is expected to drop in 2024, with a slightly less pronounced decline than previously forecasted (-1.1%, revised from -1.3%). The sector is anticipated to recover in 2025 (+1.1%) and in 2026 (+1.8%), primarily due to the projected impact of monetary easing.

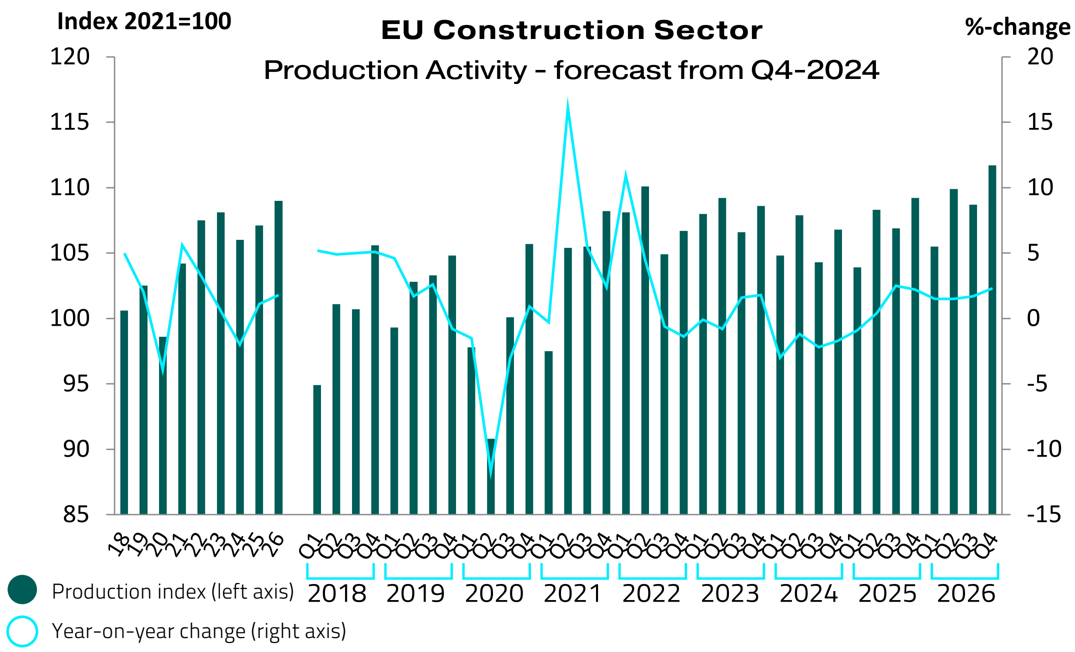
PAST TRENDS

The positive trend in construction output observed since the fourth quarter of 2020 (eight consecutive quarters of growth) came to an end already in the third quarter of 2022 (-0.6%) and the downturn has continued since, as reflected in the data of the last two quarters (drops in output of –2.3% and -0.1%, respectively). The sector had experienced a vigorous rebound in 2021 (+6.3%), largely boosted by generous governmental support schemes at EU and national level benefitting the private residential and civil engineering sub-sectors, after the decline in 2020 (-4.8%) due to the pandemic.

Construction confidence in the EU has been considerably impacted by issues all along the supply chain and the overall deterioration of the economic and industrial outlook since February 2022, and has remained in negative territory since then. The private non-residential construction subsector (offices, commercial buildings, etc.) has continued to pay the highest toll to the pandemic in 2020 and also partly in 2021 with increasing vacancy rates, and has recovered only partially since then.

Construction Confidence Indicator

(Balance of positive and negative answers)



AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

ACTIVITY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2024

In the third quarter of 2024, the automotive sector's output decreased for the third consecutive quarter, and a steeper rate (-12.1%, following -7.8% in the preceding quarter). The positive cycle observed from the second quarter of 2022 to the fourth quarter of 2023 - partly due to comparison with the very low output volumes experienced in 2021 and 2022 - came to an end by late 2023. This shift was driven by a deeply worsening outlook for the sector, with supply-side uncertainties over EV production standards and infrastructures, along with demand-side challenges from declining household real income and high inflation. However, output in the sector has always remained well below the levels seen before the pandemic and even below those seen before the pre-COVID recession in 2019.

EU PASSENGER CAR VEHICLE DEMAND

Continued supply chain issues causing order delays, war-related disruptions, low consumer confidence and squeezed incomes due to persistent inflation and economic uncertainty, there has been a consistent improvement in demand throughout 2023 and most of 2024. As a result, in the whole year 2024, new passenger car registrations rose slightly, i.e. by 0.8% reaching around 10.6 million units, thus remaining some 2.4 below pre-pandemic levels (i.e. 13 million units in 2019). Spain continued to show positive market conditions, recording a +7.1% growth rate. In contrast, declines were observed in France (-3.2%), Germany (-1%), and Italy, with a slight drop of -0.5%.

In December 2024, new car registrations in the EU rose by +5.1%. Spain outperformed other EU countries, achieving a +28.8% increase. France recorded only a modest +1.5% increase. Among the four largest EU markets, drops were recorded in Germany (-7.1%) and Italy (-4.9%).

Battery-electric cars were the third-most-popular car type for EU consumers in 2024. In December, electric cars'market share reached 15.9%, contributing to a 13.6% market share for the full year 2024, higher than diesel cars, whose market share declined to 11.9%. Petrol cars still led with 33.3%, while hybrid-electric cars strengthened their second position, holding a 31% market share.

FORECAST 2025-2026

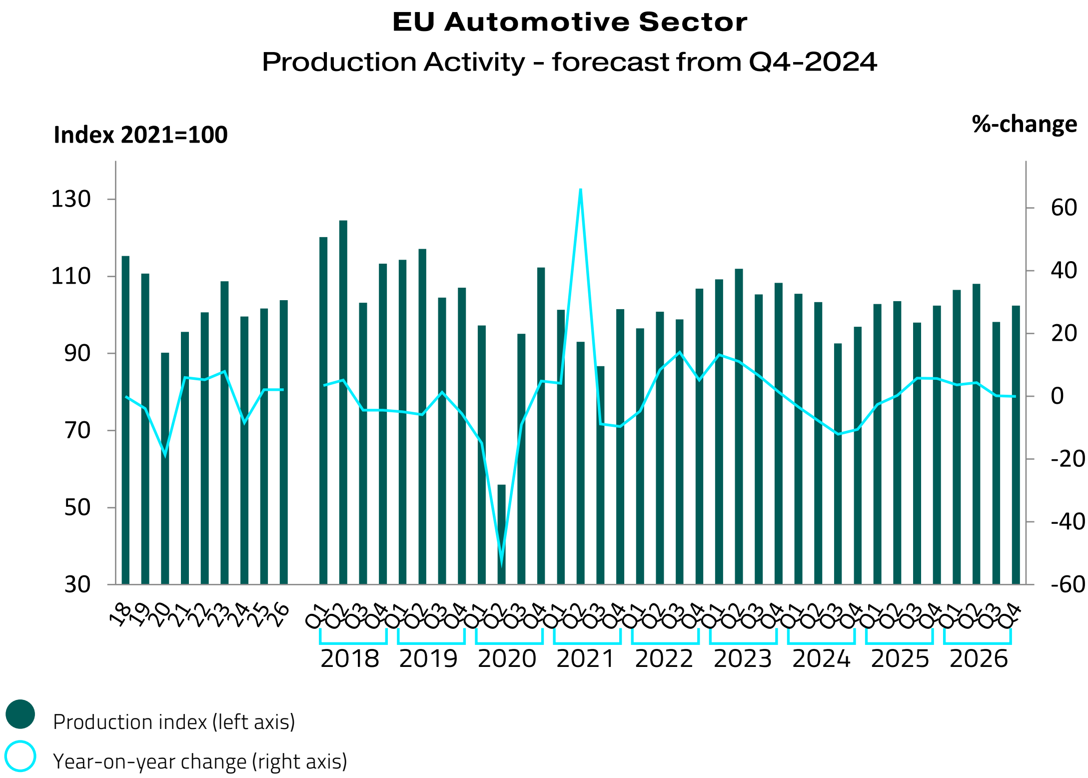
In 2023, despite the overall subdued investment outlook, automotive output rebounded more robustly than expected (+8%). However, output levels have remained low in historical terms, far below the levels seen in 2018 and 2019. Due to the protracted weakness of the manufacturing sector, overall EV standards uncertainty and lacklustre consumer confidence, the sector is projected to experience a heavier contraction in output in 2024 than previously estimated (-8.4%, formerly -6.5%). A modest recovery is foreseen in both 2025 and 2026 (+2.1%), with absolute output volumes still far below 2019 levels.

Demand is projected to remain weak until the macroeconomic picture and consumer disposable income substantially improve, given the rather unpredictable economic outlook and uncertain economic growth perspectives. However, demand has shown resilience against uncertainties around the implementation of EVs and delays in the launch of new models - most are hybrid or fully electric, preparing the ground for the ban of petrol cars by 2035 – which have proven unsupportive factors of consumer demand. Coupled with the lack of facilities such as recharging points, they have also delayed investment decisions by carmakers.

A full recovery in global trade and external demand from major markets, particularly the United States and China, will be a crucial factor for EU car exporters. However, challenges remain, especially regarding Chinese EV export volumes to EU markets but also as regards the US, where the IRA is expected to boost domestic EV production.

PAST TRENDS

Automotive was hit more than any other steel-using sectors during the pandemic in 2020, resulting in a very severe slump (-18.7%). Subsequently, output modestly rebounded (+2.6%) in 2021. In 2022, the sector grew robustly (+5.3%) thanks to a very positive performance in the first half of the year, despite the impact of war-related disruptions and the very severe energy shock in the EU, also due to the very low output levels seen for several quarters since 2021.



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

ACTIVITY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2024

In the third quarter of 2024, output in the mechanical engineering sector fell for the fourth consecutive time (-4.1%, after -6.2% in the first quarter). Driven by the post-COVID industrial recovery, the rebound seen in previous quarters during 2022 and 2023 had brought output back to absolute high levels, even above those recorded before 2019. However, the sector's growth had remained exposed to ongoing downside risks, including the prolonged impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, increasing global geopolitical tensions and the continued deterioration of the industrial outlook, as observed throughout 2023 and 2024. Consequently, the sector's output began to shrink over the fourth quarter of 2023 and is expected to follow a downward trend throughout the remainder of 2024, with a projected return to growth – albeit subject to uncertainty - only in the second half of 2025.

FORECAST 2025-2026

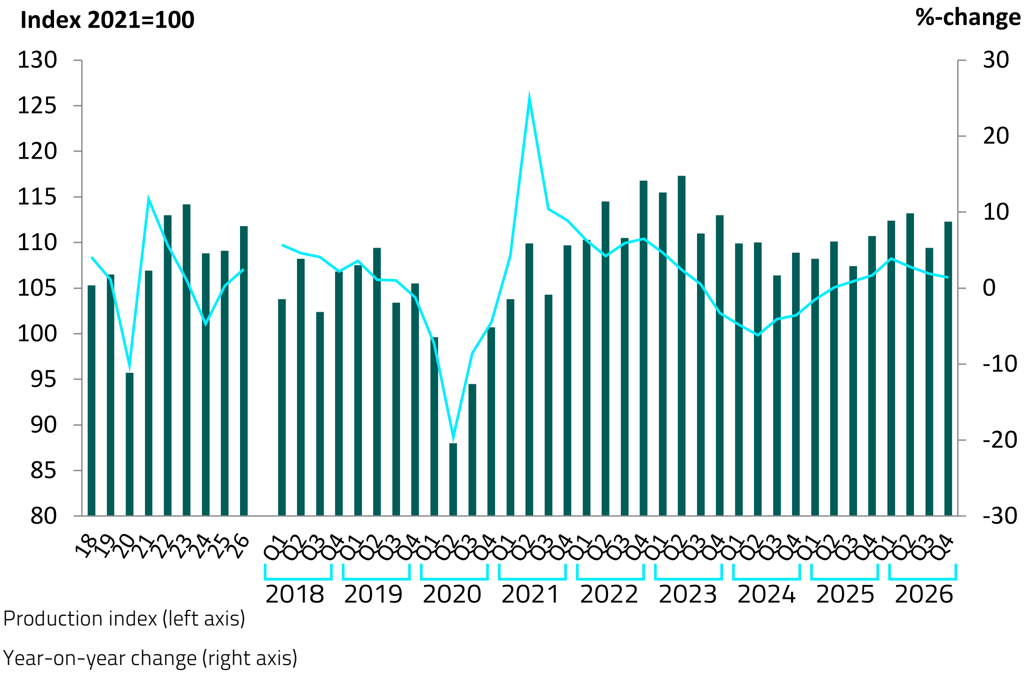
Despite the aforementioned challenges, mechanical engineering output grew in 2023, although revised downwards from an earlier estimate (+1%, from +1.6%). However, the sector is expected to decline in 2024, with a projected deeper drop than previously foreseen (-4.7%, from -4.1%). A tiny recovery is anticipated in 2025 (+0.3%) before some improvement in growth in 2026 (+2.5%).

PAST TRENDS

In 2022, the sector grew robustly (+5.7%) thanks to a positive performance in the first half of the year, despite the impact of war-related disruptions and a severe energy shock. It followed a more robust rebound (+11.7%) in 2021 after the sharp decline (-10%) in 2020 due to the pandemic.

EU Mechanical Engineering Sector

Production Activity - forecast from Q4-2024



STEEL TUBE INDUSTRY

ACTIVITY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2024

In the third quarter of 2024, output in the steel tube sector dropped for the third consecutive time (-3.3%, after -3.4% in the preceding quarter). The positive trend in the sector, driven by the post-pandemic recovery in 2021, was abruptly interrupted by war-related disruptions and supply chain issues in the second half of 2022, and this situation has persisted to date. The uncertainty about energy prices further to the energy shock of the summer of 2022 – despite a continued decrease in gas and energy prices - has continued into 2023 and 2024 has also significantly affected investment in the sector, including pipeline project developments in the EU.

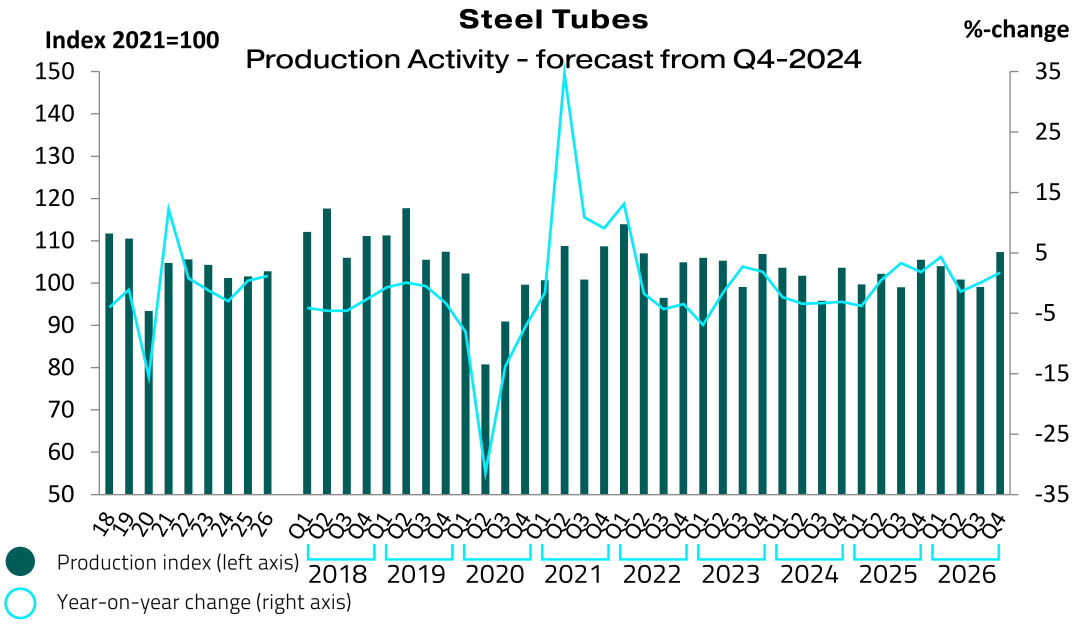
FORECAST 2025-2026

In 2023, output in the EU steel tube sector experienced a milder-than-projected drop (-1.2%), which is expected to be followed by another, more severe drop (-3%) in 2024, and by modest growth in 2025 (+0.3%) as well as in 2026 (+1.2%). In the longer term, demand for large welded tubes from the oil and gas sector is not expected to improve substantially as the EU has accelerated its transition towards LNG shipping for its energy needs, thereby reducing its reliance on gas transported via pipelines.

On one hand, global oil demand is not expected to boost the launch or the implementation of new pipelines in the short-term, due to high geopolitical uncertainty and a poor global economic outlook. Oil demand is expected to keep declining throughout the rest of 2024 in the EU, aligning with low economic growth expectations. On the other hand, demand from the construction sector is also set to ease and thus provide a modest contribution to growth in output, whereas tube demand from the automotive and engineering sectors is forecast to remain relatively stronger.

PAST TRENDS

In 2022 the sector's output grew only moderately (+0.8%), after the rebound seen in 2021 (+12%). In 2020, output in the EU steel tube industry was heavily impacted by the industrial shutdown due to the pandemic. Likewise for other steel-using sectors, the rebound seen during 2021 eased considerably throughout 2022 and turned into recession in 2023 as a result of severe global supply chain issues and the disruptions linked to Russia's war in Ukraine. These factors have further delayed ongoing projects and impacted the availability of materials.



ELECTRIC DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

ACTIVITY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2024

In the third quarter of 2024, output in the electrical domestic appliances contracted for the third consecutive quarter (-2.4%). These figures are in line with the declining trend observed since the second quarter of 2021, which marked the end of a bigger-than-expected post-COVID recovery in output. This negative trend is expected to continue before reversing only in the first quarter of 2025.

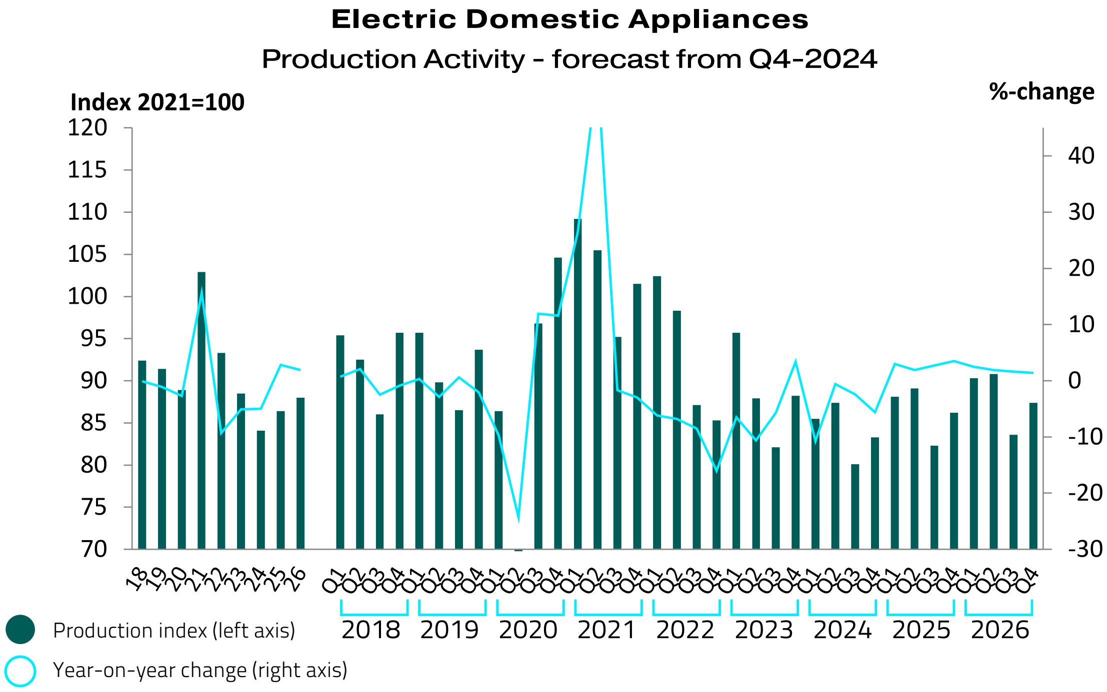
FORECAST 2025-2026

Output in the domestic appliances sector recorded two consecutive recessions in 2022 (-9.3%) and 2023 (-5%), and is expected to experience a third severe one in 2024 (-5%, revised from -2.2% from -2.7%). Recovery is foreseen, albeit at moderate rates, in 2025 and 2026 (+2.8% and +1.9% respectively).

Some growth in output is expected only from the first quarter of 2025, due to the protracted weakness of the manufacturing sectors and subdued economic outlook that has continued to hinder industrial activity and impact consumer demand. In the longer-term, some supportive factors will partly offset these downside factors, and continue providing some incentives to growth. Remote working will remain widely practiced across the EU in the next years, albeit to a much lesser extent than during the pandemic. In the longer term, developments linked to the so-called 'Internet of Things' (smart applications that enable the connection of home appliances and devices) should also benefit the sector, although their impact is not likely to be visible before 2026.

PAST TRENDS

Widespread remote working across the EU boosted demand for home appliances and other related goods over the second half of 2020 and the first half of 2021, but afterwards the sector cycle has considerably eased. This was due to multiple downside factors such as gradual return to offices after the pandemic, supply chain issues, rising energy costs, the war in Ukraine and the deterioration in the EU industrial outlook that has been seen since the first half of 2023.



EU ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2025-2026

GDP GROWTH

Thanks to a higher-than-expected resilience of the economy and positive contribution from the services sector, the EU economy avoided recession in 2023, albeit achieving much lower than in 2022 (+0.5% vs. +3.6%). This resulted from multiple downside factors, namely high inflation (albeit on a downwards path throughout 2023) and subsequent monetary tightening, war-related uncertainty and geopolitical tensions, high energy and commodity prices, all factors weighing on business investment. EUROFER's EU GDP forecasts has remained unchanged compared to the previous outlook for 2024 (+0.9%) but has been lowered for 2025 (+1.2%, from +1.5%), and foresees growth of +1.5% in 2026. Overall uncertainty has been dominating the economic landscape throughout 2024 and still lingers for 2025. EU economic growth continues to be primarily driven by the services sector, whereas the contribution to GDP growth from industrial sectors remains very low. However, growth is uneven across EU countries and faces multiple downside risks. The ongoing war in Ukraine, uncertainty surrounding inflation – albeit slowing down almost to the 2% target -, persistently high interest rates despite recent monetary easing, and conflicts in the Middle East (both ongoing and potential), are likely to weigh on economic confidence, along with growing concerns linked to the effects of possible trade tensions due to the newly-set Trump Administration. However, a so-called 'soft landing', which is a combination of lower inflation without economic recession, has materialised so far during 2024, similar to what was observed in 2023, and is also expected to continue in 2025.

The impact of the above downside factors has proven asymmetrical across EU individual economies. Germany has experienced a mild recession in 2023 (-0.3%), mostly due to the weakness of its manufacturing sector, which is expected to be repeated in 2024 (-0.1%), before recovery in 2025 (+0.4%), which should gain further speed in 2026 (+1.2%). Austria, Sweden, Czech Republic and Hungary also faced recession in 2023 (-1%, -0.2%, -0.6% and -0.7%, respectively), but are all set to recover in 2024 with the exception of Austria, and to achieve growth in 2025. As for France and Italy, real GDP growth in 2023 was above the EU average (+1.1% and +0.7%, respectively), and their economies are set to grow also in 2024, but at diverging paces (+1.1% and +0.5% respectively), before growing by +0.8% each in 2025 and both gaining speed in 2026 (+1.6% and +0.9%). Spain has recorded a more pronounced GDP growth than the EU average in 2023 (+2.7%) which is also expected to be seen in 2024, 2025 and 2026 (+3%, +2.3% and +1.7%, respectively).

The latest IMF World Economic Outlook (January 2025) forecasts global GDP growth of +3.2% in 2024 and +3.3% in 2025, broadly unchanged compared to its previous outlook, with +0.8% and +1% in the euro area for 2024 and 2025, respectively. As regards Germany, the IMF predicts a GDP drop of -0.2% in 2024 and recovery of +0.3% in 2025 and +1.1% in 2026. The OECD, in its latest Economic Outlook (December 2024), estimates euro area GDP growth to be +1.3% in 2025, (unchanged compared to the previous outlook) and +1.5% in 2026. It also forecasts flat

GDP growth for Germany in 2024 and slightly higher growth in 2025 (+0.7%) and in 2026 (+1.2%).

As in the past years, services are expected to continue to provide the primary contribution to GDP growth also in 2025, whereas manufacturing is expected to remain weak, contrary to the post-pandemic rebound experienced in 2021 and up to the first quarter of 2022.

MAJOR EU ECONOMIES

In the third quarter of 2024, the EU economy continued to follow the weak trend observed in the first quarter, with a quarter-on-quarter increase of +0.4% in real GDP, after +0.2% in the preceding quarter. On a year-on-year basis, the EU's real GDP growth was +1%, after +0.8% in the second quarter of 2024.

Despite its weak manufacturing sector, the German economy has avoided technical recession between the second and the third quarters of 2024 (-0.3% and +0.1% quarter-on-quarter, respectively, albeit resulting in a drop of -0.3% year-on-year in the third quarter). However, it has continued to pay the toll to the belated impact of higher interest rates, despite ongoing monetary easing, uncertainty over energy prices and rising global tensions affecting its manufacturing sector, especially the automotive industry.

Other major euro area economies had diverging developments over the third quarter of 2024. Spain achieved higher-than-average GDP growth (+0.8% quarter-on-quarter, and +3.4% year-on-year). France recorded a real GDP growth of 0.4%, resulting in year-on-year growth of +1.2%. By contrast, Italy, whose manufacturing sector is deeply integrated with the German one, saw its real GDP achieve flat growth, resulting in a +0.4% growth year-on-year. In line with the latest leading indicators, which continue to signal weakness in the manufacturing sector (see confidence indicators on page 27), it appears very unlikely that EU economies will see growth gaining speed before the first half of 2025, as the economic outlook remains very uncertain with a fragile growth conditional upon several downside factors.

ENERGY PRICES

Throughout 2024, energy prices have been on the rise since early 2024 to a current value of around € 48 per MW/h in January 2025, after exceeding the threshold of € 50 per MW/h in December 2024. The reasons behind these developments in in the gas price index include higher gas demand expectation due to a colder-than-expected winter, despite lower consumption from the industry due to the economic slowdown, lower contribution to electricity generation from the wind power sector and other renewables since late 2024. On the other hand, the transition from Russian pipeline gas to shipborne liquefied natural gas (LNG) from other suppliers, mainly the US, continues. uncertainty over future developments in energy prices remains. The ongoing wars in Ukraine and in the Middle East along with other global geopolitical tensions could push future increases in gas and oil prices, which however have not so far materialised due to subdued global economic activity.

INFLATION

Inflation reached highs unseen since 1985 in the EU in October 2022, peaking at 11.5%, before easing considerably since then. However, HICP inflation has been accelerating again since September 2024, reaching 2.7% (from 2.1%). Among major EU economies, in December 2024 inflation rose to 2.8% in Germany, to 1.8% in France, to 2.8% in Spain. It remained below the 2% target in Italy (1.4%), as well as in Lithuania, Luxembourg and Ireland.

Energy prices have decreased considerably (from 41% in June 2022 to 0.7% in December 2024), but core inflation remains elevated, i.e. from 6.6% in March 2023 to 2.9% in December 2024. This points once again to the fact that inflationary developments are also driven by endogenous factors. Prices are expected to see moderate developments also in 2025, despite potential inflation-igniting factors still on the background. EUROFER estimates an inflation rate of 2.4% in 2024 and 2% in 2025 before reaching 1.8% in 2026, below the 2% ECB inflation target (the European Commission's November 2024 forecast predicts 2.6%, 2.4% and 2%, respectively).

MONETARY POLICY

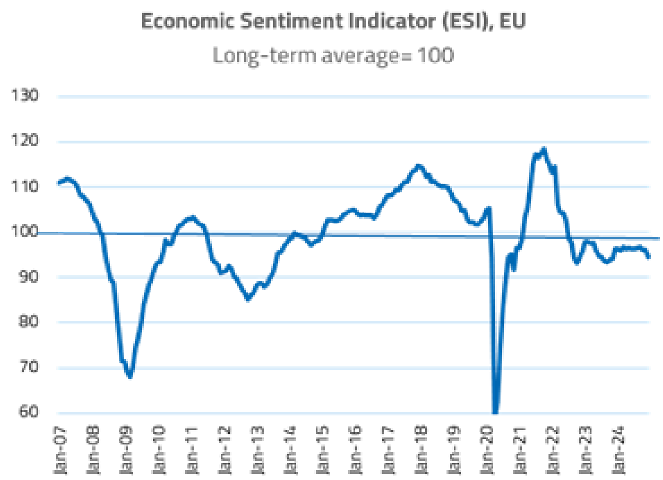
Due to the highest inflation rate over the last 35 years, central banks in advanced economies were bound to tighten their monetary policy stance. The ECB has raised its policy rate from zero up to 4.50% since July 2022, with the last hike in September 2023. This has inevitably reduced the room for supportive fiscal policies, in particular government spending by EU member states, as borrowing costs increased, especially for highly-indebted economies. Thanks to continued moderation in inflation in the course of 2023 and 2024, the ECB has implemented five- broadly expected - 25 basis points cuts in June, September, October, December and Januray respectively, bringing its policy rate (i.e. the deposit facility rate) to 2.75%. Further reductions are possible depending on price developments, which remain unpredictable as price-igniting factors (primarily energy prices) cannot be ruled out.

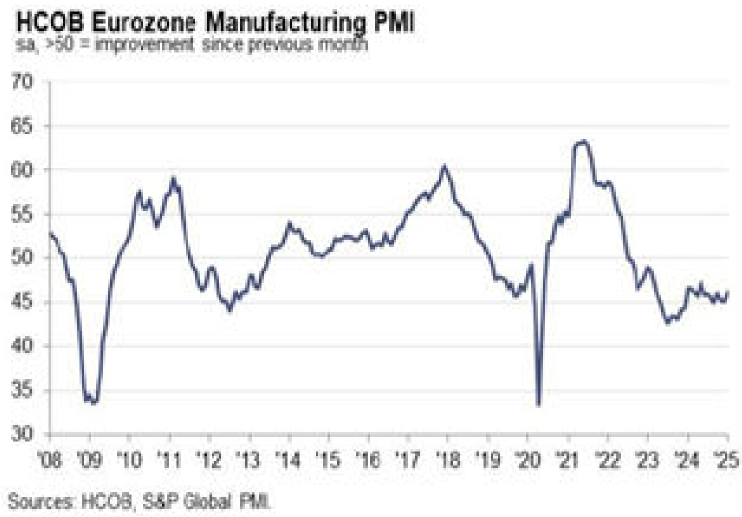
CONFIDENCE AND LEADING INDICATORS

ECONOMIC SENTIMENT INDICATOR (ESI)

Overall economic confidence in the EU, measured by the Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI), has been on a downward path since early 2022 due to widespread concerns over war-related issues, high inflation and deteriorating economic outlook. In July 2022, it reached the lowest level since October 2013 at 92.6, and has consistently been lingering near the lowest levels observed since the second half of 2013, standing at 94.5 in December 2024.

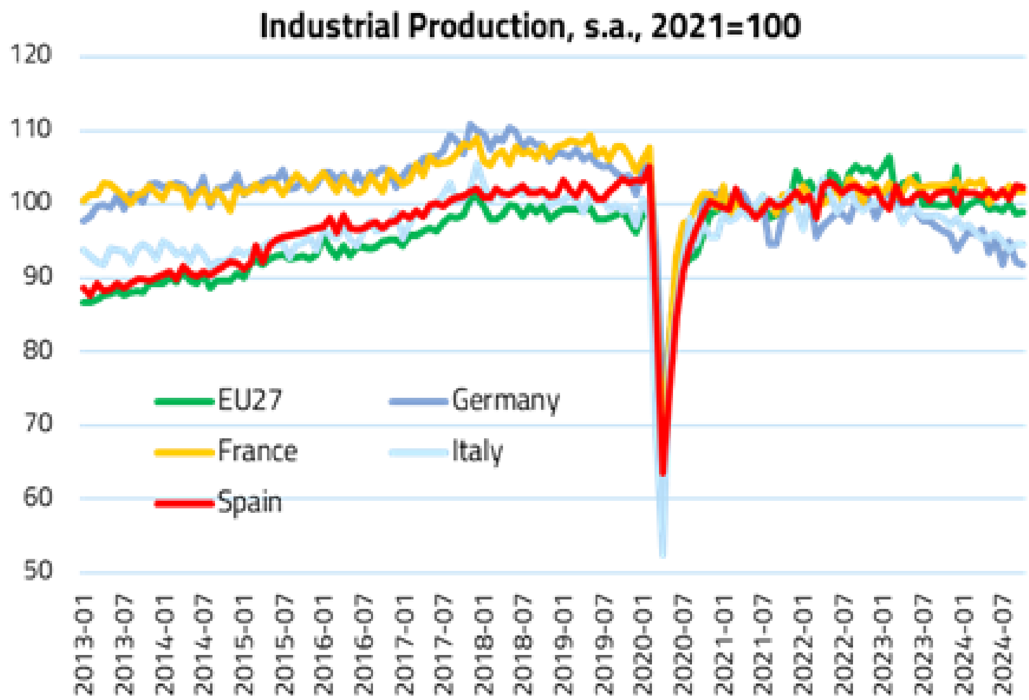
The HCOB Eurozone Manufacturing PMI fell further below the 50 expansion-threshold in January 2025, standing at 46.8 (December: 44.3,) which represented a 8-month high and signalled a renewed rise in private sector business activity in the euro area. However, the rate of expansion was only marginal, amid ongoing demand weakness. There were signs of improvement in the euro area's largest economy, with business activity in Germany stabilising at the start of the year, ending a six-month sequence of decline. France remained in contraction, but the pace of reduction eased to the weakest since last September. The rest of the euro area continued to outperform the largest two economies, seeing a further modest expansion of output,





GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN PRESSURE INDEX (GSCPI)

Over the course of 2024, global supply chain conditions, which largely affect trade and transportation costs, have continued to reflect softening global demand and uncertain economic growth. The Global Supply Chain Pressure Index (GSCPI), which had peaked to 4.35 in July 2021 due to global supply chain disruptions, slightly rose to -0.22 in December, up from -0.27 in November. Concerns about freight accessibility in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf due to the ongoing conflicts and tensions in the Middle East have had relatively little impact so far.



EU INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

EU industrial production has shown signs of weakness throughout 2023 and 2024. This trend continued up to the third quarter of 2024, resulting in the fifth consecutive year-on-year drop (-1.5%, after -3.6% in the previous quarter). Among major EU economies, only Spain saw growth in manufacturing output (+0.7%, after +0.9% in the preceding quarter) in the second quarter of 2024. In contrast, Germany continued to experience severe industrial recession (-4.7%, following -5.1% in the second quarter of 2024). Italy recorded its sixth consecutive quarterly decrease (-4.3%, after -3% in the preceding quarter). France recorded its second consecutive decrease in manufacturing output, albeit milder (-0.9%, after -1.1%).

The latest available monthly data (up to October 2024) indicates that output levels are still decreasing and remain below the all-time highs recorded before the pandemic in some major EU economies. Industrial output in Spain has returned back to pre-pandemic levels, but this is not yet the case for France and Germany, while industrial output has also receded in Italy. Industrial output is expected to remain affected by a combination of factors. These include the uncertainty associated with ongoing conflicts and geopolitical tensions, such as the situation in Ukraine and, more recently, in the Middle East, high inflation and higher interest rates, as well as future developments in energy prices, which are still not entirely predictable.

The EU experienced a pronounced drop in industrial production (-8.1%) in 2020, followed by a vigorous rebound in 2021 (+8.2%), and achieved more moderate but resilient growth in 2022 (+2%). However, in 2023 industrial output dropped (-1.5%) due to continued downside factors, especially high production costs and overall manufacturing weakness. Subsequently, another drop, albeit moderate, is expected for 2024 (-2%, revised downwards from -0.3%), before gaining some ground in 2025 and 2026 (+0.8% and +2.5% respectively).

EUROFER Macroeconomic data, EU

Annual % change, unless otherwise indicated

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
GDP	3.6	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.5
Private Consumption	3.9	0.7	1.0	1.5	1.7
Government Consumption	1.8	1.8	2.6	1.7	0.7
Investment	1.9	1.7	-0.8	1.0	1.7
Investment in mach. equip.	3.2	2.5	-2.6	2.2	1.5
Investment in construction	0.6	1.1	-0.8	0.1	2.1
Exports	8.0	0.0	0.7	1.7	2.2
Imports	7.1	-1.3	0.2	2.1	2.4
Unemployment rate (level)	6.5	6.3	6.1	5.8	5.3
Inflation	8.3	6.4	2.4	2.0	1.8
Industrial Production	2.0	-1.5	-2.0	0.8	2.5

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

SECTOR DEFINITIONS ACCORDING TO NACE REV.2

BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

41	Construction of buildings
42	Civil engineering
43	Specialised construction activities
25.1	Manufacture of metal structures and parts of structures
25.2	Manufacture of tanks, generators, radiators, boilers

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

28	Manufacture of machinery and equipment
27.1	Manufacture of electric motors, generators, transformers
25.3	Manufacture of steam generators, except central heating hot water boilers

AUTOMOTIVE

29	Manufacture of motor vehicles and trailers

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

27.51	Manufacture of electric domestic appliances

OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT

30	Manufacture of other transport equipment
30.1	Building and repair of ships
25.3	Manufacture of railway locomotives and rolling stock
30.91	Manufacture of motorcycles

STEEL TUBES

24.2	Manufacture of steel tubes

METAL GOODS

25	Manufacture of fabricated metal products excluding 25.1-25.2-25.3

OTHER SECTORS

26	Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products
27	Manufacture of electric motors, generators, transformers, electricity distribution and control apparatus excluding 27.1 and 27.5

EU STEEL MARKET DEFINITIONS

SWIP: abbreviation for Steel Weighted Industrial Production index. It is used as a proxy for real steel consumption. Activity in the steel-using sectors is weighted with the relative share of each sector in total steel consumed by all sectors.

Real steel consumption: Real consumption is the use of all steel products used by steel-using sectors in their production processes, also referred to as the 'final use' of steel products, adjusted for the stock cycle.

Apparent steel consumption: Apparent consumption is also referred to as 'steel demand'. It is total deliveries of all steel products and qualities by EU producers plus imports less 'receipts' into the EU, minus exports to third countries. In other words, apparent consumption is deliveries by EU producers plus imports minus receipts (that is, imports by EU producers themselves of material that is further processed), minus exports to third countries. EUROFER's definition of apparent consumption includes all qualities, including stainless, and all finished products and semi-finished products.

If apparent consumption exceeds real steel consumption, the surplus is stocked in the distribution chain. If apparent consumption is less than real steel consumption, inventories are being withdrawn.

Steel industry receipts: In both the apparent consumption and market supply statistics, the imports component of the calculation is written, in the EUROFER definition, as 'imports less receipts'.

The 'receipts' in this instance mean imports by EU producers themselves of finished or semi-finished steel products that are further processed by the producer and transformed into other products. In the publicly available EUROFER figures, only finished products are shown and thus impacted by the receipts calculation.

This correction is important because it prevents double-counting that would artificially inflate the size of the market. If an EU producer imports a tonne of hot rolled strip that it further processes into a tonne of cold rolled which it then delivers to the EU market - in an uncorrected calculation the import of one tonne would then become one imported tonne plus one EU-processed and delivered tonne. The imported tonne is thus corrected out in the import side of the market supply and apparent consumption figures.

Narrow definition: EUROFER applies the so-called "narrow definition" which excludes steel tubes and first transformation products from the product scope used for calculating steel consumption. Hence, the steel tube sector is a steel-using sector under this definition.

Steel intensity: the ratio of real steel consumption to steel weighted production in the steel-using sectors. This reflects the usually slightly negative impact on consumption of innovation in steel products, inter-material substitution, improvements in process efficiency and design, etc.

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN STEEL ASSOCIATION (EUROFER)

EUROFER AISBL is located in Brussels and was founded in 1976. It represents the entirety of steel production in the European Union. EUROFER full members are steel companies and national steel federations throughout the EU. The major steel companies and national steel federations of Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom are also members.

The European Steel Association is recorded in the EU transparency register: 93038071152-83. VAT: BE0675653894. The RLE or RPM is Brussels.

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN STEEL INDUSTRY

The European steel industry is a world leader in innovation and environmental sustainability. It has a turnover of around €191 billion and directly employs 303,000 highly-skilled people, producing on average 140 million tonnes of steel per year. More than 500 steel production sites across 22 EU Member States provide direct and indirect employment to millions more European citizens. Closely integrated with Europe's manufacturing and construction industries, steel is the backbone for development, growth and employment in Europe.

Steel is the most versatile industrial material in the world. The thousands of different grades and types of steel developed by the industry make the modern world possible. Steel is 100% recyclable and therefore is a fundamental part of the circular economy. As a basic engineering material, steel is also an essential factor in the development and deployment of innovative, CO2-mitigating technologies, improving resource efficiency and fostering sustainable development in Europe.

EUROFER

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