

STEEL IN FRANCE IN 2007

Editorial

2007 followed along similar lines to 2006 on a worldwide scale, showing a high economic growth driven mainly by China.

An excellent first half of the year, marked by sustained household demand and exports at a good level, enabled the European Union to maintain a slightly higher than 3% growth rate across all countries, even reaching 6% for new member states. Growth rates in France, just as in Italy, remained lower.

2007 was rich in events for the iron and steel industry in particular, including:

- continuation of sector consolidation with the first full financial year for the world number one ArcelorMittal, the integration of Corus into the Tata Steel group and the numerous takeovers detailed in L'Information, the quarterly journal of the French Steel Federation;
- production records achieved, naturally by China, which ended 2007 with 489.2 million tonnes, in other words 36% of world production, further improving its share in comparison with 2006, but also by Brazil, Turkey and India;
- a significant increase in European steel imports from China, representing 23% of all imports compared to 3% in 2004 (+ 9 million tonnes);
- a sharp rise in energy and raw material prices. Nickel, which rose sharply at the start of the year, achieved a record level in May (\$52,000) then returned to an average level of \$30,000 in only two months. Recently, ferrochromium rates have risen by 300% with the same speed;
- effective or announced acquisitions of mining assets by steel companies, notably ArcelorMittal, to expand its procurement sources and to level off its production costs.

Actual steel consumption in the European Union rose relatively sharply (+ 5.3%) in 2007 due to a significant increase in the activity of steel user sectors; France lies at a more modest but clearly positive level; the car industry is the most difficult sector but supported by its performance at export.

In 2007, environment mobilised the French Steel Federation even more strongly than in previous years, reaffirming its positions on CO₂ emissions by supporting the sector-based approach as answer to the recognized challenge of the climate change. It has actively taking part in the "Grenelle de l'Environnement" Forum as representative of the whole industry. Moreover, the FFA organized a training session and an exchange meeting on REACH for its members.

2008 should not see a slowdown from an worldwide economic standpoint. Industrial activity remains strong at the start of this year and all the steel users sectors make positive forecasts.

The perspectives of the European steel market show a positive trend. France should benefit from a rebound in the automobile sector and sustained activity in the construction sector. The recent announcement of the establishment of a new rolling mill in France is an example of the confidence held in the iron and steel industry.

In the environment sector, the French Steel Federation must be vigilant in regard to French and European public authorities. The French Presidency of the European Union in the second half of 2008 will present it with an opportunity. Environmental constraints (CO₂, recycling obligations...) will incite steel companies to design new products or processes, following the example of ArcelorMittal which recently produced a 100% recyclable colaminated steel.

The French Steel Federation must also intensify pressure on the issue of freight transport. Such a deficit of infrastructure as we know it acts as a brake upon the business of our branch.

In summary, we must be vigilant in regard to everything that may impact our industry and benefit from all the opportunities open to us to defend steel material.

Daniel Soury-Lavergne
Executive Officer

THE MARKET

Worldwide economic growth remained at around 5% for the fourth consecutive year, driven by the dynamism of the main countries with emerging economies (China, Russia and Brazil) which experienced accelerated growth.

Growth reached 2.2% in the United States despite the residential property sector drop.

2007 nonetheless marks a break with previous years because of the liquidity crisis that emerged in the interbank markets at the end of July following the subprime crisis creating a crisis of confidence. The dollar continued to fall, generating a nearly 12% rise in the value of the euro between the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007.

After years of low inflation, 2007 marks a break with **inflation rates** increasing during the second half of the year as a result of the new upsurge in oil prices and industrial and food raw material prices.

In the European Union, growth exceeded 3% for the second consecutive year, sustained by domestic demand and exports which withstood the rise in the euro exchange rate.

GDP Growth in %

	2006	2007
World	5.3	5.2
European Union 27	3.3	3.1
North America	3.0	2.3
South America	5.5	5.7
Asia	8.1	8.0

Source : COE-Rexecode

EU growth benefited from the dynamism of new EU member countries whose growth was barely slower than in 2006 with a rate of around 6%. French, Italian and Spanish performances benefited from the good behaviour of household spending, whereas exports remained one of the German growth engines. European household revenue benefited from the improvement of the employment market throughout the year before being affected by the acceleration of the inflation rate at the end of the year. The growth of investment fell off significantly throughout the year in correlation on the one hand with the levelling-off of pressures on production capacities in the industry and on the other hand with the moderation of residential investment in several European countries. The hardening of monetary policy in particular and interest rates provided by banking institutions significantly slowed down residential property purchases.

French economic growth remained weak compared with its European partners, not rising above 1.8%, which is the same growth rate as that of Italy. Germany, with 2.6% growth, fit in line with the euro zone average. Despite a slowdown from the summer, Spanish growth reached 3.8%.

The activity of EU steel user sectors exceeded 2006 performance with a rate of 5.5%. France once again remained at a lower rate of 3%, mainly due to a further drop in production in the automobile sector.

Registrations of private and commercial cars in the EU were close to the 2006 level, with a slight drop in the EU-15 but a 9% rise in the new member states. **The sector production nonetheless increased by more than 5%** in the Union as a whole, mainly as a result of exports. It should be noted that these have particularly benefited German manufacturers, whose activity rose by 7%.

The mechanical engineering sector recorded the highest growth with a rate of above 9% after + 8% in 2006 as a result of a recovery in investments and strongly expanding exports. Germany once again stands out with a very high growth rate of 11%. In France the sector is growing at around 5%.

The metalwork sector progressed by 6.5% on average in the EU and by only 4.1% in France due to the mediocre situation of the automobile sector.

Finally, **the construction sector** was also a growth engine with a rise of around 5%, with Germany recording a lower performance. The growth of this sector slowed during the second half of the year because of the downturn in the residential sector in Spain and the UK in particular. French growth increased for the fourth consecutive year, with a rise of 3.5%.

Therefore, actual steel consumption in the EU rose by 5.3%. The dynamism of actual consumption ensured that the slight inventory rise during the second half of the year was quickly absorbed, returning to normal levels in relation to the activity of end customers. The inventory correction was also promoted by a drop in the flow of imports from third countries.

Apparent steel consumption in the European Union rose by 2.9% last year after a 12% rise in 2006. In France, apparent consumption rose by 2%, but while long products rose by 4% flat products only recorded a 1.6% rise.

DOMESTIC MARKET (steel finished products)

Supply	2007 (kt)	Variation in %
French mill deliveries	7 013	- 3.1
Imports	10 606	5.5
TOTAL	17 819	1.9

French market supply of finished steel products progressed but the rise benefited imports, which increased again by more than 5.5% following on 16% in 2006, whereas deliveries from French factories dipped somewhat.

European Union foreign trade

Imports of steel products to the EU from third countries once again saw a strong rise of 22% after + 54% in 2006. A dynamic European demand promoted the continuation of this trend, the share of imports in the EU-27 market reached around 16% but approached 20% for flat products. Chinese exports accelerated once again in the first part of the year before the trend reversed; their share of all imports reached 23% on average across the year. China is now the EU's main supplier. Flat product imports once again progressed more quickly than long product imports with respectively + 24% and + 18%.

Steel product **exports** to third countries only progressed by 0.9% with a 4.9% rise for long products and a further fallback of 1% for flat products.

The trade balance continued to show a negative trend, particularly for flat products, and since 2006 has shown a deficit for all products.

In the profile of the evolution of EU external trade, French **imports** of steel products progressed by 19% with close to + 27% for flat products and + 6.3% for long products. Imports of products of first processing also rose by close to 22%. French imports from European countries remained modest with a progression of 4.4% for steel products and close to 1% for products of first-stage processing.

French **exports** of iron and steel products fell back by 3% whereas they increased slightly for products of first processing.

Therefore, **the external balance of steel products and products of first processing continues to deteriorate**, notably for steel products.

French foreign trade (in kt)								
	Steel products				Processing products			
	Exports		Imports		Exports		Imports	
	2007	Var. %	2007	Var. %	2007	Var. %	2007	Var. %
European Union countries (27)	14242	3.1	14708	4.4	1190	1.9	2026	1.7
Third countries	1736	1.7	818	19.4	746	0.9	189	21.9
of which:								
Western Europe	617	9.4	147	- 22.6	104	2.0	65	14.0
Central and Eastern Europe	31	29.2	80	11.1	54	217.6	17	- 19.0
United States	291	30.5	70	1 33.3	66	- 8.3	7	133.3
China	45	32.4	59	321.4	27	- 57.1	46	84.0
Other third countries	752	3.7	462	21.9	495	2.1	54	10.2
TOTAL	15978	- 3.0	15526	5.1	1936	1.5	2215	3.2

Source : Customs(*) Steel products = finished steel products + semi-products for re-rolling

WORLD STEEL PRODUCTION

	Production (kt)			Variations	
	2 005	2 006	2 007	06/05	07/06
European Union	195 462	206 844	210 185	+ 5.8%	+ 1.6%
of which:					
Germany	44 524	47 224	48 550	+ 6.1%	+ 2.8%
Austria	7 031	7 129	7 578	+ 1.4%	+ 6.3%
Belgium	10 420	11 631	10 685	+ 11.6%	- 8.1%
Bulgaria	1 969	2 124	2 050	+ 7.9%	- 3.5%
Spain	17 826	18 391	18 953	+ 3.2%	+ 3.1%
Finland	4 739	5 054	4 431	+ 6.6%	- 12.3%
France	19 481	19 852	19 250	+ 1.9%	- 3.0%
Greece	2 266	2 416	2 554	+ 6.6%	+ 5.7%
Italy	29 350	31 624	31 990	+ 7.7%	+ 1.2%
Luxemburg	2 194	2 802	2 858	+ 27.7%	+ 2.0%
Netherlands	6 919	6 372	7 368	- 7.9%	+ 15.6%
Portugal	1 400	1 400	1 400	+ 0.0%	+ 0.0%
United Kingdom	13 239	13 871	14 317	+ 4.8%	+ 3.2%
Sweden	5 723	5 466	5 673	- 4.5%	+ 3.8%
Baltic States	550	550	550	+ 0.0%	+ 0.0%
Hungary	1 958	2 084	2 227	+ 6.4%	+ 6.9%
Poland	8 336	10 008	10 632	+ 20.1%	+ 6.2%
Czech Republic	6 189	6 862	7 059	+ 10.9%	+ 2.9%
Romania	6 280	6 263	6 340	- 0.3%	+ 1.2%
Slovakia	4 485	5 093	5 082	+ 13.6%	- 0.2%
Slovenia	583	628	638	+ 7.7%	+ 1.6%
Other Western European countries	24 792	27 999	30 352	+ 12.9%	+ 8.4%
of which :					
Turkey	20 965	23 315	25 761	+ 11.2%	+ 10.5%
Other Eastern European countries	113 351	119 931	124 106	+ 5.8%	+ 3.5%
of which:					
Kazakhstan	4 451	4 269	4 782	- 4.1%	+ 12.0%
Russia	66 146	70 830	72 220	+ 7.1%	+ 2.0%
Ukraine	38 641	40 892	42 830	+ 5.8%	+ 4.7%
North America	127 631	131 789	132 834	+ 3.3%	+ 0.8%
of which:					
Canada	15 327	15 493	15 718	+ 1.1%	+ 1.5%
United States	94 897	98 557	98 181	+ 3.9%	- 0.4%
Mexico	16 195	16 445	17 563	+ 1.5%	+ 6.8%
South America	45 316	45 298	48 251	- 0.0%	+ 6.5%
of which:					
Argentina	5 380	5 533	5 387	+ 2.8%	- 2.6%
Brazil	31 610	30 901	33 784	- 2.2%	+ 9.3%
Venezuela	4 910	4 864	5 020	- 0.9%	+ 3.2%
Asia	598 083	675 918	754 574	+ 13.0%	+ 11.6%
of which:					
Republic of China	355 790	422 989	489 241	+ 18.9%	+ 15.7%
South Korea	47 820	48 455	51 367	+ 1.3%	+ 6.0%
India	45 780	49 450	53 080	+ 8.0%	+ 7.3%
Japan	112 471	116 226	120 196	+ 3.3%	+ 3.4%
Taiwan	18 942	20 000	20 450	+ 5.6%	+ 2.3%
Middle East	15 257	15 376	16 452	+ 0.8%	+ 7.0%
Africa	17 995	18 780	18 764	+ 4.4%	- 0.1%
of which:					
South Africa	9 494	9 718	9 100	+ 2.4%	- 6.4%
Australia - New Zealand	8 646	8 691	8 746	+ 0.5%	+ 0.6%
World	1 146 533	1 250 626	1 344 264	+ 9.1%	+ 7.5%

Growth in world steel production retained its dynamism with a 7.5% rise, with close to 1345 million tonnes of raw steel produced according to the IISI. This level corresponds to an additional production of 95 million tonnes of which 66 million are imputable to China. The average rate of growth since 2000 has hardly dipped at all.

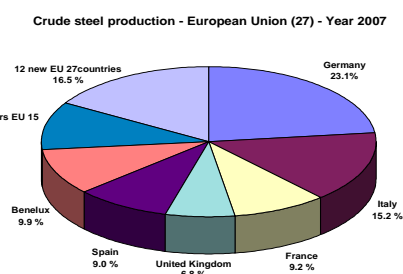
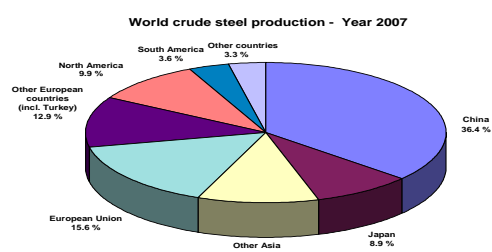
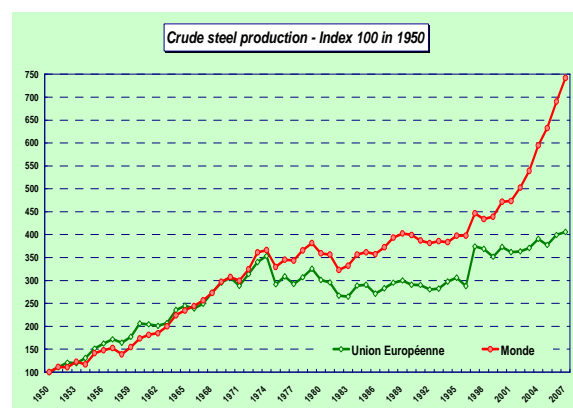
Asia recorded growth of 11.6 % and its share of world production amounts to around 56%. The growth rate of Chinese production hardly slowed with a 15.7% rise after 18.9% in 2006, that is 36% of world production.

In **North America**, production progressed weakly due to the collapse of American consumption (inventory adjustment combined with weaker activity in the steel using industries). The area represents less than 10% of world steel production.

Steel production in **South America** progressed by 6.5 %, led by strong growth in the economies of countries in the region, particularly Brazil, where apparent consumption progressed by around 18%.

In **Turkey**, growth levels remained at an excellent 10.5%, also driven by strong growth in the Turkish steel using industries, and thus apparent consumption rose by more than 15%.

Growth in **European Union** production remained weak in comparison with other world economic areas at 1.6%, with higher increases than this average seen in Poland, Spain and Germany in particular. As for **France steel production fell by 3%**. The European market was supplied by the strong inflow of imports from third countries. Thus the European Union (27)' share in world steel production amounted to less than 16% in 2007.



ENERGY SUPPLIES

IRON ORE (kt)

	2006	2007*	Variation in % 2007/2006
Imports	20,077	20,044	- 0.2 %

* Preliminary figures

SCRAP (kt)

	2006	2007*	Variation in %
Domestic Collection	9,274	8,756	- 5.6 %
Imports	1,830	2,058	12.5 %
Total supplies	11,104	10,814	- 2.6 %
Consumption	10,398	10,163	- 2.3 %

*Preliminary figures

Main sources of imports

Brazil : 67.8 %	Mauritania : 13.2 %
Australia : 12.2 %	Canada : 5.4 %

ENERGY

Coke and bituminous coal consumption down by 5.4 % and external purchases by 5 %.

INVESTMENTS – RESEARCH – DEVELOPMENT

Main investments announced, started or achieved in 2007 are divided into three categories:

1. Respect for environment and energy savings:

- ArcelorMittal Méditerranée put a slag granulation equipment for its blast furnace n°1 into operation in November 2007 and ended the upgrading of its coking plant to comply with the environmental standards.
- ArcelorMittal Atlantique et Lorraine put a heat recovery system into operation on the hot bank of its sinter line n° 2 for distant heating.
- Ascometal Allevard covered its old slag pile with vegetation.
- Ascometal Dunes equipped 4 soaking pits with oxygas burners in order to reduce ingot heating time, natural gas consumption and CO2 emissions. It will upgrade the dedusting system of ladle metallurgy.
- Ascometal Fos-sur-Mer upgraded its internal rubbish dump and keeps on complying its pickling residues neutralization system at its wire finishing line with the rules.
- Ascometal's four plants (Dunes, Hagondange, Allevard and Fos-sur-Mer) have been certified ISO 14001 as regards environmental management since the end of 2007.
- Duferco Coating plants (Beaumont and Strasbourg) implemented investments aiming at maintaining its installations in order, at improving safety or at respecting environment laws. Works on the galvanizing line in Strasbourg were ended.
- All the plants of Riva Group transformed their ISO 9001 certification into a global certification including PARSIDER SA and RIVA ACIER SA with particularly QSE (Quality, Health and Safety at work and Environment) certification of SAM Montereau plant in a first step.
- Sam Neuves-Maisons put a new billet reheating furnace into operation to reduce NOx emissions.

2. Customers requirements fulfilment and quality improvement:

- ArcelorMittal Méditerranée Fos has started an automatic surface inspection system on its hot strip mill and in February 2008 it achieved the upgrading of its continuous casting n° 1 which includes the transformation of the caster head into vertical curved .
- ArcelorMittal Méditerranée Saint-Chély d'Apcher installed a new thickness regulation system at its cold rolling mill.
- ArcelorMittal Atlantique et Lorraine Florange improved its means of logistics through a significant operation in adapting its internal flows including a new hall and the upgrading of an inspection line.
- Ascometal Allevard installed a dimensional measurement gauge at its flats rolling mill.
- Ascometal Fos installed a laser dimensional control system on a control line at its bar finishing mills.

3. Costs optimization and increased capacities:

- ArcelorMittal Méditerranée started a new coal grinding installation for injection into the blast furnaces in November 2007 and into BF n°1 in January 2008 after upgrading, including an increase in capacity. It started a new hot metal tapping place and a new track for the transfer of ladles in its meltshop allowing a better flow in its internal streams of production.
- ArcelorMittal Atlantique et Lorraine renewed the control system of its galvanizing line in Florange Sainte-Agathe and the process control systems of its roughing mill at the hot strip in Florange. After modernization it started also its continuous casting n° 22 in February 2008 following the rebuilding of the machine n° 23 and before n° 21 in 2009.
- ArcelorMittal Packaging Basse-Indre brought into service a new landing stage allowing to increase the size of boats from 2,500 t to 5,000 t.
- Ascometal Dunes put in service a new heat treatment line (2 furnaces + hardness measurement and saws). Cost: 13 million €.
- Ascometal Fos is to implement a third annealing/tempering cell for thick bars (4 M€).
- LME invested 80 M€ in its plant in Trith Saint-Léger in a new hot rolling mill and new equipment at the meltshop including a 65/75 MW electric furnace and a new continuous casting. Moreover all the cooling circuits were replaced and the whole current supply was renovated.

Research and development:

In 2007, ArcelorMittal's effort of research and development as regards manufacturing process contributed to the priority aims of the group: lowering costs notably through an increased flexibility as regards energy and raw materials, improving the quality of products, environment control through reduced CO2 impact of processes.

Some examples:

1. Environment control

ULCOS project started its second phase aiming at evaluating 5 steel producing techniques at a pilot and/or preindustrial stage aiming at a drastic reduction of CO2 emissions; among them, the technology consisting in recycling decarbonated top gas in a blast furnace was tested during several weeks on a small pilot blast furnace; the results confirmed the technological feasibility of this solution which has to be validated at a larger scale.

As regards co products recycling the engineering of a recycling system for sludge and dust (of blast furnaces and oxygen converters) through reduction and melting in an electric furnace has to be noticed; this process allows to obtain a product enriched in zinc which can be enhanced in the zinc treatment and refining

route. Moreover several solutions for the treatment and the enhancement of slags have been studied representing attractive solutions to suppress the throw-away of these coproducts. New technologies to reduce SOx and NOx emissions at the sintering of iron ore were tested at a pilot scale.

2. Lowering of production costs and flexibility as regards energy and raw materials

- assessment of several technologies allowing the maximal use of raw materials more significant but of lower quality (very fine ore, non-coking coal) in the upstream process
- validation of the oxygen converter control technology allowing to ensure the flexibility of burdens between scrap and liquid iron (up to 280 kt of scrap)
- adaptation of the secondary metallurgical processes in order to partly replace some ferroalloys very expensive by raw materials ore-based (Ti, Mo...)
- development of techniques allowing to control even to suppress scale formation at the hot strip mill
- designing of very effective systems of regulation at the hot strip mill allowing to suppress the strip mismatches without reducing the line speed
- designing and implementing innovative technologies in order to significantly reduce band vibrations on the galvanizing lines what allows to increase the line speed.

3. Improvement of the firmness of the processes and of the quality of products

- settling of numerical models allowing to estimate the wear state of blast furnace hearths in real time contributing to preserve their lifetime
- designing of video systems for the inspection of coke furnaces allowing to evaluate the state of the refractory walls of the furnaces and to pilot repairs
- implementing of global numerical simulation models of steel continuous casting: thermomechanical behaviour models allowing to identify the conditions likely to avoid the formation of surface defects; multiphase models of flows in ingot moulds to predict the hydrodynamics conditions allowing to avoid segregation defects
- implementation on-line of the control model of pickling baths (stake productivity and environment) and of the control model of batch annealing (stake productivity and energy reduction)
- designing and implementation of simultaneous measurement systems of surface temperature and emissivity by optical emission spectrometry; this tool proves to be essential for an efficient and accurate piloting of the annealing lines for high strength steels and therefore for the control of the final properties of the product. Angelina™ beam designed within less than a year by ArcelorMittal long products research centre.

ENVIRONMENT – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2007 was marked by an acceleration in environmental concerns in France. This development, triggered by the introduction of the environment as an important issue in the presidential campaign, was reinforced by the launch of the "**Grenelle de l'Environnement**" in June.

Moreover, at a European level discussions on matters of primary importance to the iron and steel industry continued and indeed intensified, with a view to the outcomes that should be formed in the second half of 2008, i.e. under the French Presidency of the European Union.

As regards the issue of **climate change**, the end of the period 2005/2007 was considered to be a trial period by the European Union and as preparation for the period 2008/2012. These exercises have moreover shown certain aspects of the emission permit system as it is currently envisaged to be ill adapted to the iron and steel industry:

- the concept of "cap and trade": as it is extremely difficult for industrialists as well as for states to forecast economic activity for a particular period, the period 2005/2007 ended in a surplus of quotas allocated and a fall of the quota price to a very weak value. As a reaction, the allocations for the period 2008/2012 currently seem insufficient and may lead to production downturns at the end of the period if the activity remains tenable; the introduction of the new European Union countries into the system also changes the facts;
- the non-homogeneity of the applications of the directive on emission permits in the European Union creates distortions of competition between sites and rigidities for transnational iron and steel groups.

At the end of 2007, the Commission proposed a new **directive on the emission permit market**; it includes positive aspects, particularly owing to very strong actions performed with member States by federations representing energy-intensive activities, with the French Steel Federation (FFA) playing a considerable role. The risk of distortions of competition and the unbearable cost for some industries was acknowledged. Now for our industries it is a matter of proving that this risk is real, both in terms of the direct CO₂ cost and the cost of electricity. In 2008 the FFA will therefore continue to invest heavily in dialogue with public authorities on this matter.

Alongside the European discussions, the FFA also takes part in international discussions at the time of the main negotiation conferences (Bali in 2007, Poznan in 2008 and above all Copenhagen in 2009). This involves communicating the work of the IISI (International Iron and Steel Institute) on a worldwide sectoral approach to anti-climate change.

Other European projects mobilised the FFA at a national level and in Eurofer: the review of the directive on waste, with the issue of the status of scrap, and the review of the directive on the

integrated prevention of pollutants, which governs the usage authorisations for our sites.

But 2007, and 2008 even more so, will see the emergence of projects concerning products, and not only in their production phase. **REACH** is the archetype of this kind of regulation and covers all of our activities. REACH came into force in June 2007, and at the end of 2007 the FFA created an information, exchange and assistance area on the matter for its members; this activity continues in 2008. Moreover, it takes part in numerous projects required to clarify this regulation, both at a national and European level.

Finally, in France the FFA is deeply involved in the Grenelle de l'Environnement project, and will continue to be in 2008. In fact, this work may cause some **dangers of exaggerated costs** to materialise for the iron and steel industry, but equally will be a **source of opportunities**, in particular in the field of property, in which steel has a role to play in insulation and renovation work and with solutions that barely generate disorder during the work. However, this work has also clearly shown the role of recyclable materials in protecting resources and limiting environmental impact. More than ever therefore, **recycling** will be a growth area for steel.

RECYCLING

Between 2006 and 2007, the consumption rate of scrap iron to produce 1 ton of crude steel went from 52.4 % to 52.8 %.

This increase is due to the increase in EAF share, main user of scrap up from 38.35 % to 38.7 % within a context of a slight decrease of crude steel production.

For products at the end of their life it is always difficult to measure accurate recycling rates as there are no detailed statistics from recovery except for packaging measured by Eco-Emballages.

Packaging figures should be improved owing to a better follow-up of the packaging valued from the DIB (Industrial harmless waste).

The association RECYCLACIER* is an efficient player to recover figures from people in charge of the upgrading of waste; an increasing number of them were labelled by that organization.

For other products our estimations are based on the observation of flows and the ADEME data relating to waste.

These rates, measured for packaging and estimated for the other products lead us to-day to situate the global recycling rate of steel contained in equipment and consumption goods between 80 and 85 % in a context of very high demand for secondary materials. For the other products included in DEEE (waste from electric and electronic equipment), more accurate figures should become available from qualified Eco organisms; these figures are collected at the moment by ADEME.

* Recyclacier web site: www.recyclacier.com

Markets	Steel recycling rate
Packaging	65.5%
Electroappliances	75%
Car industry	95%
Construction	75%

STANDARDIZATION

The number of French standards related to the competencies of BN Acier (Standardization Office), published in 2007, now stands at 26, the lowest level over the last ten years and linked to the decrease in the work programme. Sixteen of these standards come from the European or international industry and ten standards (nine of which relate to steel for reinforced concrete) are from the French industry. Of the 26 standards, only five are new.

The number of European standards (elaborated or managed by ECISS, "European Committee for Iron and Steel Standardization"), approved in the field of iron and steel products and steel processing products, amounted to 385 at the end of 2007. On that date, there were 110 subjects registered with the ECISS work programme, an increase of close to 40% compared to the end of 2006, including only 35 new studies (that is 32% of the total, another drop in comparison with the previous year).

The total number of meetings held by French, European or international standardization bodies, attended by BN Acier engineers, was slightly up in comparison with 2006 (+ 4%). This increase is as a result of the larger number of meetings of European bodies.

Other meetings attended by BN Acier engineers in 2007 relate to activities linked to standardization: participation in product certification authorities (AFNOR AFAQ Certification, AFCAB, ASQPE), accreditation authorities (COFRAC), professional bodies (AIMCC, CEPMC, EUROFER) and organisations entrusted with regulation and the follow-up thereof (DGCCRF for food use, DG Santé for drinking water use, GRO D PRO, a parallel organisation to the Permanent Construction Committee), in which BN Acier engineers represent the steel industry. The number of these meetings remained at the same level as 2006.

French standards published during the last 10 years in the steel industry					
Year	Standards from French origin		Standards from foreign origin		Total
	New	Revised	New	Revised	
1998	3	1	25	2	31
1999	0	5	35	9	49
2000	3	0	40	3	46
2001	3	3	20	2	28
2002	9	3	34	5	51
2003	7	1	32	10	50
2004	1	0	14	14	29
2005	0	0	17	29	46
2006	1	0	17	25	43
2007	1	9	4	12	26

KEY FIGURES FOR FRANCE IN 2007

French domestic production

Crude steel production	19.3 million tons
Share of electric steelmaking	38.7 %
Share of continuous casting products	95.1 %

Deliveries of steel products (excluding re-rolling in France)	21.2 million tons
of which finished steel products (excluding re-rolling)	17.1 million tons
Steelmaking activity	15.8 billion euros
Foreign trade : exports imports	11.6 billion euros 11.8 billion euros
French consumption of steel finished products (apparent consumption)	16.5 million tons

Delivery figures correspond to deliveries invoiced in France (commercial definition)

Total deliveries of processing products	3.6 million tons
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FÉDÉRATION FRANÇAISE DE L'ACIER (F.F.A.)

- ▶ SPECIALIZED BODIES
 - French Technical Steelmaking Association (A.T.S.) 33 1 71 92 20 18
E-mail: svp.clients@ats.ffa.fr
 - Steel Standardization Office (BN Acier) 33 1 71 92 20 19
E-mail : svp.clients@bnacier.ffa.fr
- ▶ INFORMATION AND PROMOTION BODIES
 - Slags Technical and Promotion Centre (CTPL) 33 5 62 12 03 96
 - Stainless Development Institute (I.D. Inox) 33 2 40 43 77 64
E-mail : contact@idinox.com
 - ConstruirAcier 33 1 71 92 17 27
 - Revue de Métallurgie 33 1 71 92 20 34
E-mail : revmet@ffa.fr
- ▶ REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION
 - Professional Organization of Steel and Metallurgical Industries (GESIM) 33 3 87 18 39 20
- ▶ SPECIALIZED PROFESIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
 - Professional Organization of Reinforcement Producers (APA) 33 1 44 90 88 88
 - Professional Organization of Packaging Steel (CSAE) 33 1 71 92 03 25
 - Professional Organization of Fine Special Steel Producers (S.P.A.S.) 33 1 71 92 20 21
E-mail : svp.clients@spas.ffa.fr
 - French Metals Trading Federation (FFDM) 33 1 45 00 72 50
 - Professional Organization of French Steel Pipe Industry (SIFTA) 33 1 41 31 56 40
E-mail : sifta.info@orange.fr
 - National Professional Organization of Steel Flat Products Profiling (SNPPA) 33 1 40 69 58 90
 - Professional Organization of Steel Wire Drawers (S.T.A.) 33 1 40 69 52 00
E-mail : sta.com@wanadoo.fr

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