

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNITY STEEL OUTPUT DOUBLES OVER 15 YEARS; 1965 COAL PRODUCTION FALLS

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 21, 1966 -- Community steel production in 1965 reached a record total of 85.9 million metric tons - double the level of 1952 (the first year of the European Coal and Steel Community's existence).

However, Community coal production decreased 4.6 per cent in 1965 compared to 1964 due in part to an increase in shorter working hours and more workers leaving the mines.

Community steel production has increased 105 per cent since 1952, 48 per cent since 1958 and 17 per cent since 1961. Overall Community production was nearly 4 per cent higher in 1965 than the previous year. Increases occurred mainly in Italy (30 per cent) and the Netherlands (17 per cent). Production was relatively stable in the other member countries.

Community Crude Steel Production 1952-1965  
(million metric tons)

	1952	1958	1961	1964	1965	% 65/64
Germany	10.6	26.3	33.5	37.3	37.3	-1.4
France	10.9	14.6	17.6	19.8	19.6	-0.9
Italy	3.6	6.4	9.4	9.8	12.6	+29
Netherlands	0.7	1.4	2.0	2.7	3.1	+17.3
Belgium	5.2	6.0	7.0	8.7	9.2	+5
Luxembourg	3.0	3.4	4.1	4.6	4.6	+0.6
ECSC	42.0	58.0	73.5	82.9	85.9	+3.7

In comparison, United States crude steel output was 84.5 million metric tons in 1952, 115.3 million tons in 1964, and 119.0 million tons in 1965. The 1965 production represents an increase of 40.2 per cent since 1952 and 3.2 per cent over last year.

December crude steel production in the Community reached 7.02 million metric tons. The output was slightly below the 7.06 million metric tons recorded in November 1965 and higher than the December 1964 production of 6.94 million metric tons. Although Community production remained relatively stable over the last two months of 1965, output dropped by over 200,000 metric tons in Germany. Production rose slightly during the same period in most other member countries.

(MORE)

New orders for steel products placed in the Community totalled 5,559,000 metric tons in December 1965. The amount fell only slightly below the record 1965 figure of 5.6 million metric tons in March. Export orders remained high at 1.2 million metric tons.

Rolled Steel Orders (1000 metric tons)

	Community	Exports	Total
December 1965	4,382	1,177	5,559
November 1965	3,739	1,187	4,926
October 1965	3,928	1,030	4,958
December 1964	4,046	1,276	5,322

Community pig-iron production in 1965 rose by 4 per cent to a total of 63.2 million metric tons. The increase was particularly marked in Italy where new plant facilities contributed to a 56.6 per cent rise.

1965 Coal Production Down

Coal output of 223.8 million metric tons in 1965 was 10.7 million metric tons below the 1964 level. The cutback was most noticeable in the largest Community coal-producing country, Germany, where production declined by 7.3 million metric tons. Output dropped 1.7 million metric tons in France and 1.5 million metric tons in Belgium.

Community Coal Production 1965  
(million metric tons)

	Germany	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium	Community
1965	140.5	51.3	0.4	11.7	19.8	223.8
1964	147.8	53.0	0.5	11.8	21.3	234.5
Difference						
in tons	- 7.3	-1.7	-0.1	-0.1	-1.5	-10.7
% difference	- 4.9	-3.2	-21	-0.9	-7.2	- 4.6

Shorter hours caused the loss of about 2.2 million metric tons during the year. In addition, over 20,000 miners left the coal industry in the Community, representing a reduction of nearly 5 per cent compared to 3.4 per cent in 1964.

Productivity in the Community mines continued to rise in 1965 at about the same rate as the previous year. However, increased productivity was not sufficient to offset the rate at which workers left the industry. The smaller number of miners in the Community coal industry was only one cause of the 1965 drop in coal output. The main factors continued to be lower demand due to milder weather, larger consumer stocks, and competition from other energy sources.