

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

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PRESS RELEASE

RECORD ECSC ORDERS FOR ROLLED STEEL IN 1959

Luxembourg, January 11, 1960: Orders received for rolled steel products in the European Coal and Steel Community in 1959 reached the all-time record level of 50,266,000 metric tons - 34% more than the 1958 total of 37,509,000 tons, and 19% more than the previous record reached in 1956, according to provisional statistics published by the Community's High Authority. This outstanding recovery in the steel market arose from the sharp upturn in the Community's economy in general from the second quarter of the year onwards, led by the building industry and certain sections of the engineering industries, notably investment goods and automobiles.

The revival of user demand coincided with a reversal of the stock trend, leading to an expansion in the steel industry which far surpassed the rate of general industrial expansion.

Despite the United States steel strike, which probably had an influence on the trend towards increased purchases for stock, increased demand from countries outside the Community played a relatively small part in the boom. Orders from non-member countries rose by just over 2¹/₂ million tons (28.2%) while orders from inside the Community rose by 10,147,000 tons (nearly 36%). A notable feature was the increase in intra-Community trade: orders placed by Community users in countries of the Community other than their own rose by 64.9% to 7,095,000 metric tons, from 4,302,000 in 1958.

Orders for rolled steel products in December reached 4,428,000 metric tons, compared with 4,567,000 in November and 3,309,000 in December 1958. While orders from inside the Community were slightly higher than the November level, there was a small decline in orders placed by non-member countries.

Order-books for rolled products rose by nearly half-a-million tons in October - the last month for which statistics are available - reaching 12,515,000 at the end of the month, against 12,032,000 in September and 9,031,000 a year earlier.

Orders received from

	<u>National Markets</u>	<u>Other Community Countries</u>	<u>Non-member countries</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 1959	2,887	654	887	4,428
November 1959	2,880	652	1,035	4,567
December 1958	2,038	437	834	3,309
Year 1959	31,314	7,095	11,857	50,266
Year 1958	23,960	4,302	9,247	37,509
Percentage difference	+ 30,7	+ 64,9	+ 28,2	+ 34,0

	<u>Orders</u>	<u>Deliveries</u>	<u>Order-books</u>
October 1959	4,881	4,424	12,515
September 1959	4,056	4,106	12,032
October 1958	3,259	3,721	9,031