

A collection of amazing facts about **steel**

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WHAT IS STEEL?

Discovered more than 3,000 years ago, continuously perfected, today steel is one of the world's most innovative, inspirational, versatile and essential materials. Explore what goes into its making.

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WHY ARE WE PROUD OF STEEL?

Infinitely recyclable, steel allows cars, cans and buildings to be made over and over again. Zero waste strategies and optimal use of resources, combined with steel's exceptional strength, offer an array of sustainable benefits.

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WHAT IS STEEL'S VALUE TO SOCIETY?

Produced in every region of the world, **steel is the backbone of modern society**, generating jobs and economic growth.

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THE USES OF STEEL

Steel is the world's most fundamental engineering and construction material. It is used in every aspect of our lives: in cars and cans, refrigerators and washing machines, cargo ships and energy infrastructures, medical equipment and state-of-theart satellites.

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STEEL?



When **İrOn** is combined with carbon, recycled steel and small amounts of other elements, it is transformed into a much stronger material called steel, used in a huge range of human-made applications. Steel can be

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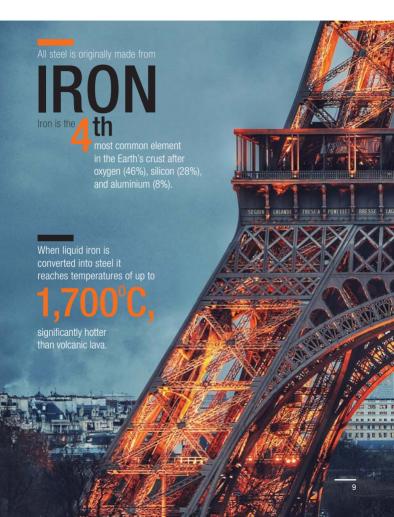
times stronger than iron.

STEEL
is an alloy of iron and carbon containing less than

2% carbon 1%



manganese and small amounts of silicon, phosphorus, sulphur and oxygen. Stainless Steel is a steel alloy with a minimum of 10.5% chromium content by mass.









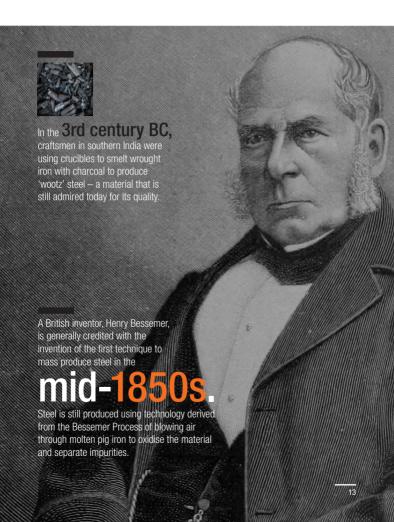
an archaeological find in Cyprus indicates that craftsmen were producing quench-hardened steel knives.



One of the earliest references to steel-working comes from the Greek historian Herodotus, referring to a bowl inlaid with steel by Glaucus of Chios in the

7th century BC

"A great bowl of pure silver, with a salver in steel curiously inlaid. Glaucus, the Chian, made it, the man who first invented the art of inlaying steel."



Steel is produced via two main routes. The blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace (BF-BOF) route and the electric arc furnace (EAF) route. Today about

of steel is produced using the BF-BOF route. 29% is produced via the

Crude steel is then rolled into finished steel products, such as coil, plate, sections or bars.

Steel Production - Route 1:

Blast furnace or integrated route

To produce 1,000 kg of crude steel, the main inputs are roughly:

1,370 kg of iron ore

780 kg of coal,

270 kg of limestone, and

125 kg of steel scrap.

Steel Production - Route 2:

ectric arc furnace route

The primary raw materials are steel scrap. direct reduced iron (DRI) and/or hot metal. and electricity. To produce 1,000 kg of crude steel, the EAF route uses roughly:

710 kg of steel scrap,

 $586\,$ kg of iron ore,

150 kg of coal and

88 kg of limestone, and

2.3 GJ of electricity.

An electric arc furnace can be charged with

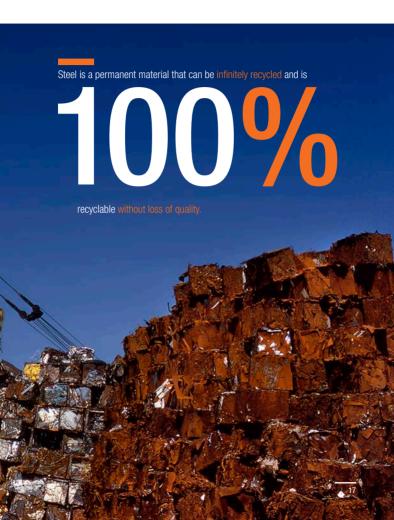
100%

steel scrap. A basic oxygen furnace can be charged with as much as

scrap. Most steel products remain in use for decades before they can be recycled. Therefore, there is not enough recycled steel available to meet growing steel demand.









Steel closes the material loop

without being confined to a single application.

ALL

types of steel can be recycled back into new steel of various grades, keeping their inherent material properties.

Steel scrap from lower value steel products can be

converted into high value steels

by using appropriate processing and metallurgy.

For other materials this is not typically possible; in the case of concrete, wood and aluminium the quality of recycled material is often downgraded or downcycled and the material has a limited number of lives.



New and innovative steels are continually being developed. In 2022, the steel industry invested

6.3%

of revenue in capital investment projects, research and process improvement.

Steel is not a single product. There are more than

3,500

different grades of steel with many different physical, chemical, and environmental properties, allowing a range of thicknesses and shapes. Each grade of steel has properties designed for its specific application.



00000 Over

of the 3,500 steel grades in use today did not exist 20 years ago.



On average,

1.91 tonnes of ${\rm CO_2}$ are emitted for every tonne of steel produced.

The steel industry generates between 7 and 9% of direct emissions from the global use of fossil fuels.

The majority of the CO₂ comes from the chemical reaction of steelmaking.

The industry is working together on many initiatives to develop breakthrough steelmaking technologies that could reduce CO, emissions by more than



potentially revolutionising the way steel is made.



WHY ARE WE PROUD OF STEL?







The steel industry uses its resources efficiently and produces very little waste. According to the data reported by our members, in 2022:

97%

of steel industry raw materials were converted:

70%

were converted into steel products.

28%

were converted into co-products. As little as

2%

became waste.





Nearly

100%

of the steel industry's co-products can be used.

Slag

is used in cement, road construction, fertilisers, hydraulic engineering and sea forestation

Process gases

are used to produce heat and/or electricity.

Emulsions and oils

are used as reducing agents.

Iron oxides and zinc

are recovered from dust and sludges.

Chemicals

are used as input material for the chemical industry.

Slag is the highest volume steel industry solid co-product. On average, for the blast furnace route approximately,

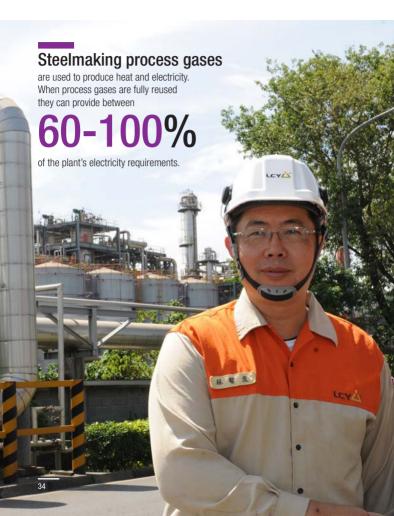
400kg of slag is produced per tonne of crude steel.

In the electric arc furnace, around

170kg of slag is produced per tonne of crude steel.







Technologies are being developed to convert steelmaking process gases into methanol and ethanol, thereby conserving energy, and **reducing the need for fossil fuels** in other sectors, such as transport.



Energy consumption per tonne of steel has been

reduced by 60%



The average energy intensity per tonne of steel produced has dropped from 50 GJ/t in the 1960s to its current level of around

20 GJ/t



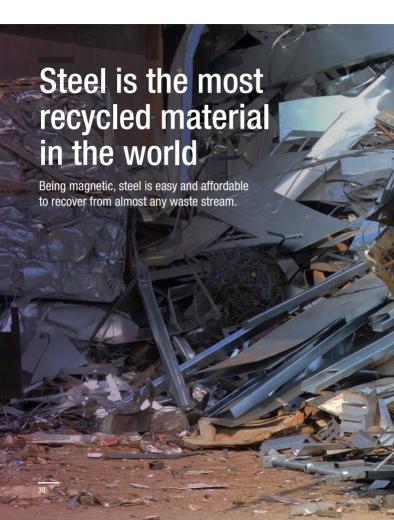
Around 90% of water

used in the steel industry is cleaned, cooled and returned to source. Most of the loss is due to evaporation. Water returned to rivers and other sources is often cleaner than when extracted.



HBIS Tangsteel's new waste water treatment centre located in North China has a water treatment capacity of 6,000 m³ per hour: 3,000 m³ of the water treated is industrial waste water and 3,000 m³ is urban waste water. Annually the centre saves 24.5 million tonnes of fresh water and boasts a

100% waste water recovery rate







In 2021. million tonnes

of scrap, saving nearly 1 billion tonnes of CO. emissions that would have been emitted from the production of virgin steel.

By sector, global steel recovery rates for the following areas are estimated to be at least:

85% 90% 90% 50%

Construction

Automotive

Machinery

Flectrical and domestic appliances

25 billion tonnes

of steel scrap have been recycled to make new steel since 1900. This has reduced iron ore consumption by around 33 billion tonnes, as well as cutting coal consumption by 16 billion tonnes.



Recycling accounts for significant energy and raw material savings.

Recycling one tonne of steel scrap saves 1.5 tonnes of CO₂, 1.4 tonnes of iron ore, 740 kg of coal, and 120 kg of limestone.

Steel products are durable and simply last a long time.

The average life for steel products is approximately

40

years.

In applications with a long service life, such as buildings or infrastructure, we will need to wait up to 100 years or more to recycle. In the case of steel packaging the time between production and recycling can be just a few weeks; in the case of vehicles this may be up to 15-20 years.







A warehouse built in 2000 in Slough, UK, with a floor space of 3,320m² was re-erected in a different location in 2015, using the same steel structure. The savings associated with this project were quantified as follows:

56%

less embodied carbon at completion compared to a comparative new build.

25%

saving in costs compared to an equivalent new build.



Steel products can easily be remanufactured, restoring used products to like-new condition, such as automotive engines and wind turbines



Remanufactured turbines can keep wind farms at peak capacity long beyond their designed lifetime. Remanufacturing can almost

double the return

on the original investment by extending turbine life by up to

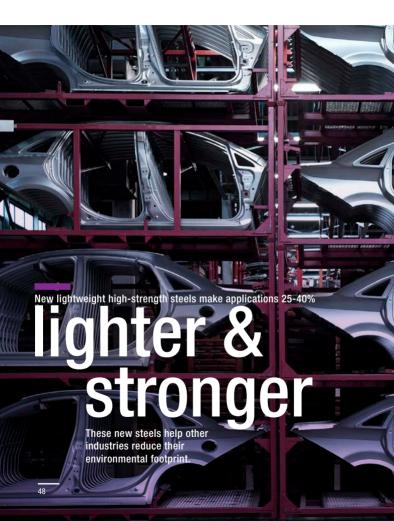
20 years

Remanufactured engines can be produced with up to

83%

less energy than the energy needed to produce a new engine, and emitting up to 87% less CO₂. Consumers can also save up to 53% on cost over a new engine.









Fabric dust filters in steel plants typically have a collection efficiency rate of more than

99% even when particle size is very small.



thyssenkrupp has equipped its Duisburg sinter plant with one of the largest fabric filters in the steel industry. The filter reduces dust emissions by 99.99%. It is made up of more than

44,000

extremely fine filter bags, each almost three meters long and with a total fabric area of 45,000m².







including the generation of thermal and renewable energy, electrification, mass transport and the hydrogen economy. Without steel, the Paris Agreement will not be met.





SOCIETY?









The weight of the crude steel produced in the world in 2022 is equal to the steel required to produce

Beijing 44,880 National Stadiums.



12022, the top steel producing countries were:

China

India

Japan

United States

Russia

1018.0 Mt 125.3 Mt 89.2 Mt 80.5 Mt

71.5 Mt

2022



The top 5 producing countries accounted

for **73%**

of global steel production. The top 10 producing countries accounted for **O** 4 **O**

of global steel production. The top **50** producing countries accounted

for **99%**

of global steel production.

Steel production % split

% split 2000 2022 15.2 54.0 China 24.7 9.7 Europe 3.2 6.6 India 15.8 5.9 North America 4.9 12.6 Other Asia & Oceania 4.7 4.2 Japan 11.7 4.6 Russia & Other C.L.S. + Ukraine 3.8 Africa & Middle East 2.9 5.1 3.5 South Korea

South America

4.8

2.3



The biggest single facility we have on record is POSCO's Gwangyang Works, which produced 21.4 Mt of carbon steel in 2017. Considering that the average car contains 900 kg of steel, this is equal to the production of

23,800



, 000 cars a year or 65,205 cars a day.

25% of steel is traded internationally.

The amount of steel in use in the world today is equal to around

224

kg per person per year.



2050

steel use is projected to increase by around 20% compared to present levels in order to meet the needs of our growng population.





2 million
people are employed
within the mill
(direct steelmaking
employment).

1.5 million
people work in support services (contractors).

2.5 million people work in seconda

people work in secondary employment in the steel industry (rolling, stamping, service centres, trading etc.).

For every job created in the steel industry, 8.1 indirect jobs are created, or in other words, the steel industry supports the employment of

49.3 million people.

THE USES OF STEEL















Substituting regular steels for

Advanced High-Strength Steels

makes it possible to build high-rise buildings with

50%

less steel compared to the amount needed 50 years ago.



SKYSCRAPERS

are made possible by steel. Completed in 1885, the New York Home Insurance Building in Chicago, Illinois is the

first 10-storey building

to be supported by a structural steel frame.



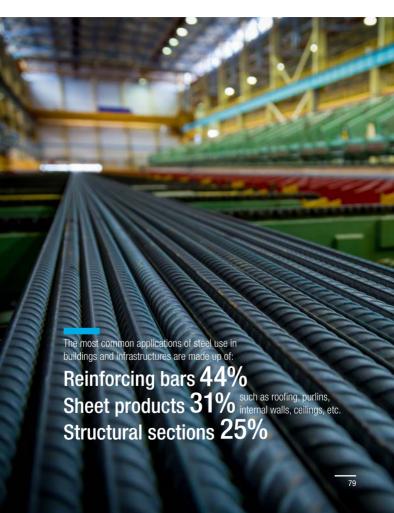


In 2020, the total number of buildings in the world over

200 metres high, was

1,737

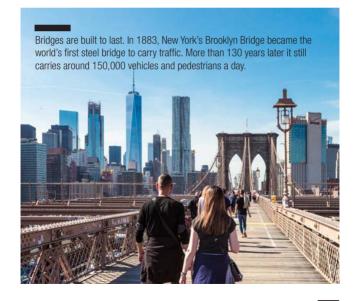
a 557% increase from the year 2000, when there were only 263.

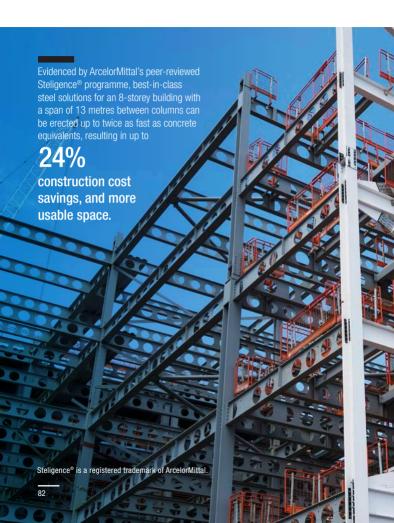












Steel buildings are increasingly designed to be reused and are therefore easy to assemble and disassemble, ensuring major environmental savings. CO₂ emissions savings from building reuse are estimated at



1 to 1.5 kg CO₂/kg steel.

In earthquake prone zones, the foundations of a concrete building are

up to 75% heavier

compared to light steel-framed solutions. Steel frames have the added advantage of ductility and flexibility.









Steel-framed structures are inherently non-combustible, and do not burn nor contribute to the spread or intensity of a fire.





To prevent steel framing's load-bearing capacity from diminishing at excessive temperatures, steel structures are coated with a

fire-resistant layer,

or surrounded with fire-resistant materials.





Car manufacturers use

Advanced High-Strength Steel (AHSS)

to reduce vehicle weight to achieve better fuel economy for internal combustion engines and increased range for battery electric powertrains.



The much acclaimed

first mass-produced car,

the Ford Model T, came off the production line in 1908. Already then, engineers made use of a highly strong and light material - vanadium steel - in critically stressed parts, such as the crankshaft, forged front axle, and wheel spindles.

Automakers are increasingly using
Advanced High-Strength Steels
(AHSS) to meet new stringent
fuel efficiency regulations. Today
vehicle body structures contain
more than 50% AHSS

Today the strength of steel in a vehicle's body structure can reach

1,900MegaPascals.

This is nearly 10 times stronger than 50 years ago.







Car manufacturers use Advanced High-Strength Steel (AHSS) for safer vehicles. Some AHSS grades are engineered to absorb crash energy, such as in a front crash, and some are engineered to deflect crash energy such as in a side crash.





The Volvo XC40 has been designed for maximum occupant protection in all types of crash scenarios through the usage of

hot-formed boron steel

in the safety cage. This steel comprises 20% of the total body weight. The XC40 was selected as the 2018 EU Car of the Year.



There would be no electric mobility without

steel.

Electrical steel is an essential material in the construction of generators and motors for electric vehicles.

Automakers are opting for steel in the body of electric cars for

lightweighting, safety, battery protection and cost reduction.

The Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicle uses: 80% steel, of which 44% is
Advanced High-Strength Steel (AHSS)
The Hyundai Kona electric vehicle uses: 52% AHSS.







Steel cans are used to pack more than

1,500

food and drink items as well as paint, health and beauty products and household products. Canned foods are the most tamper-resistant food packaging option available today.



In the last 20 years, the weight of steel cans has been reduced on average by



33%.

The thickness of a 3-piece food can is down from 0.2 mm in 1986 to 0.12 mm today.





ⁿ2019

average steel packaging recycling rates in Europe reached an all-time high of 84%. Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands reported rates of over 90%. In Japan in 2019, steel packaging recycling rate reached an impressive 93.3%

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Each can recycled saves about the saves about its weight in CO₂

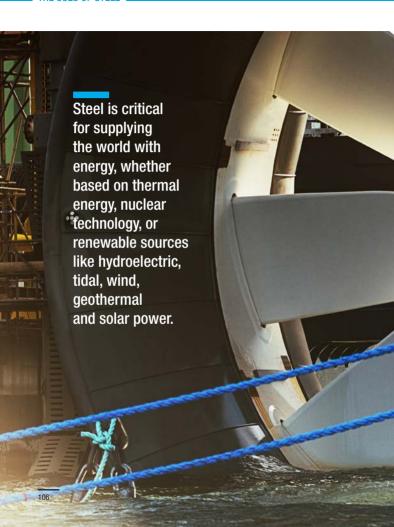


The recycling of a single steel can saves energy equivalent to:

laundry load hour of TV, or hours of a 10-watt LED bulb.









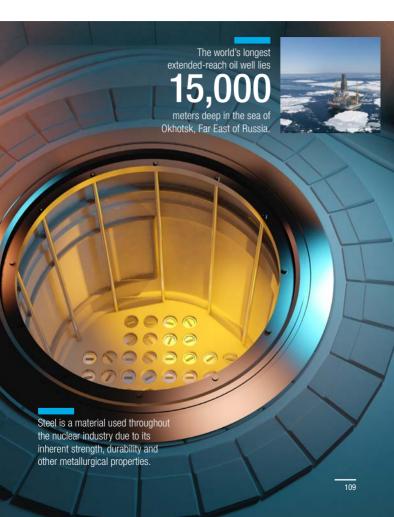


Pipes can be made to withstand extreme temperatures of

over 400°C and below -40°C.

They have to provide absolute reliability

throughout their entire life cycle, which can last years.









Hydropower is currently the leading renewable source, accounting for around 53% of the world's global renewable installed capacity in 2017. The Three Gorges Dam is the world's largest power station. The dam used $750,000\,$ tonnes of steel in its construction, enough to build 102 Eiffel Towers.



A wind turbine is comprised of between 84% and 90% iron and steel materials, used in the tower, nacelle and rotor. An average of

300-600 tonnes

of steel are required for a typical 4 MW onshore wind turbine







Rail tracks are



100%

steel. Under normal circumstances a rail track has a life span of between 30 to 35 years. Sections which endure high pressure intensity such as tight curves on metro lines will last 12 years. An additional 5.5 years can be added when the rail track is moved to lower speed routes.





The world's longest rail line in a single piece is

150

metres long. This is 6 times longer than 50 years ago.

Today the length of the worldwide rail network spans

1,051,767 km. This is equivalent to going

round the world 26 times.







Traveling by train can reduce CO₂ emissions by

91% and 88%

compared to flying and driving respectively. For an equivalent travel distance of 600 km, a plane will emit 93.0 kg of CO₂ and a car 67.4 kg, compared to only 8.1 kg of CO₂ for a high-speed electric train.

Steel makes up around

10-15%

by mass of high speed trains. The main steel components of these trains are bogies (structure underneath the trains including wheels, axels, bearings, bogie frames and motors). Most freight wagons are made of steel.









Around

17,000,000 shipping containers are currently in use across the world and the majority are made of steel.



The OECD estimates that levels of water loss vary from 17-30% in many developed cities. In Tokyo, replacing the old lead and ductile iron pipes with stainless steel pipes reduced recorded water loss from

17% to just 2%.





Stainless steel is ideal for use in hygienic applications because it is inert and is easy to clean and to sterilise. It is resistant to wear and to scratching, which gives it a longer useful life than competing materials, which, in turn, gives it a significant life cycle cost benefit.



The World Steel Association (worldsteel) is one of the largest and most dynamic industry associations in the world, with members in every major steel-producing country. worldsteel represents steel producers, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes. Members represent around 85% of global steel production.

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