

STAT

INDUSTRY
POLISH IRON AND STEEL IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1948

W. Kondracki

5# The iron and steel industry exceeded the plan in the first half of the current year in all the more important varieties of products. Total production is valued at 1,043.5 million zlotys in terms of 1937 prices. This is 14.2% ^e in excess of the plan.

The completion of the plan for various products is shown below

(percent of plan for the first half of 1948):

coke,	105.5;
pig iron,	102.2;
steel,	111.6;
rolled products,	114.5;
seamless pipes,	115.2;
seamed pipes,	108.6;
forged and pressed products,	119.3;
cold rolled products,	133.8;
structural steel,	124.0;
iron castings,	123.5; and
steel castings,	115.4.

The plan was exceeded because of a marked improvement in the delivery of smelting products, a decrease of bottle^{necks} in steel and rolling mills and increased labor productivity.

In 1947, particular attention was given to supplying the demand for scrap iron and coke for blast furnaces. Because deliveries of domestic and imported scrap^{iron} (from Soviet-occupied Germany) steadily improved, it was even possible to create certain reserves in the foundries. According to reports of the Main Office ~~of Scrap~~ of Scrap, the average monthly deliveries of scrap^{iron} in the first half of the current year increased 34.5% over the monthly average for 1947.

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To provide a supply of coke suitable for blast furnaces is a serious problem. Research in this connection and the application of its findings in the production of coke are proving very successful. As a result, the consumption of coke in the blast furnaces decreased and production of pig iron increased. The improvement in securing a supply of domestic and imported ores, and the creation of adequate winter reserves also helped to secure favorable production results.

Another factor, which was responsible in a great measure for exceeding the plan for the first half of 1948, was the continued increase in the productivity of labor. In 1947, production per man-hour in terms of 1937 zlotys increased 26 percent over 1946. This was attributed to the extensive program of exploiting all production facilities. In the current year, the increase in labor productivity can be attributed chiefly to shop competition. If we compare production per man-hour in January (10.1 zlotys) and in June (11.6 zlotys), we find a very marked increase (about 15 percent). Improvement in shop discipline was greatly responsible for this increase.

Deliveries of foreign ores showed a decided increase in the second quarter, or about 272 percent, over the first quarter. Deliveries of domestic scrap ^{iron} from the Main Office of Scrap were about the same as in the first quarter, however a marked decrease in deliveries of foreign scrap was noted.

Employment in the iron and steel industry numbered 85,856 workers as of 30 June, ¹⁹⁴⁸ which includes 9,240 office workers. Compared with employment figures of 31 December 1947, this is a 0.6 percent increase in the total employed and 4.3 percent increase in the employment of office workers.

A number of investments was carried out. The blast furnace was equipped with a turbo-blower with an air suction capacity of 100, ⁰⁰⁰ thousand cubic meters per hour and a pressure of 2.2 absolute atmospheres. The installation of this equipment increased production of pig iron in the blast furnace.

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A rolling mill for the production of channel bars of a medium diameter of 580 (mm) was rebuilt. In addition to channels, production of strip steel or hoop iron for railroad assemblies was begun after electric power was installed. Ground is being prepared for the building of a new coke plant. Work is underway in connection with perfecting the blast furnaces and the building of auxiliary equipment such as sintering plants, storage rooms for ores and pig iron, bins for raw materials, travelling cranes, etc.

The results of the first ⁶~~six~~ months indicate that the ^{annual}~~yearly~~ plan will be exceeded.

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