

# Iran's Steel Ingot Output Reaches 9.5mn Tons in 4 Months



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The statistics of Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) has released that the country produced over 9.5 million tons of steel ingot in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), which shows a 9% rise compared to the last year's corresponding period.

The statistics indicate that 9,483,000 tons of steel ingots were produced

in the current year's first four-month period.

ISPA put the volume of steel produced in the first four months of the last Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22, 2019) at 8,683,000 tons.

The total steel production volume in the country is expected to hit 30 million tons by the end of the current year (March 20, 2021), more

than 10 million tons of which would be exported to target markets.

5,562,000 tons of billets and blooms were produced in the first four months of current year, showing an 8% increase in comparison with the same period of last year.

It should be noted that 5,128,000 tons of billets and blooms were produced in the first four months of the last Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22, 2019).

Iran considerably increased its production of steel in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020-June 20, 2020), registering a three percent growth as compared to the last year's corresponding period.

Total production volume of intermediate steel in the country recorded a three percent growth as compared to the same period of last year, the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) reported in July.

## Mahabad Petrochemical Plant Launches 1st Floating Solar Power Plant



TEHRAN (Shana) -- Mahabad Petrochemical Complex has successfully launched Iran's first floating solar power plant by relying on local capabilities and technical savvy.

According to the plant, the company spent 6 months conducting research on the project.

The capacity of this power plant

is 200 kWh per day, which can reach 500 kWh if the project's second phase comes online. The power plant will be connected to the national power grid within the next few months.

Up to 80% of the equipment used in this power plant have been localized and for the first time, installed on the surface of

water storage pool of the facility. In addition to preventing water evaporation, the efficiency of the power plant has also been enhanced by 13 to 15% by cooling at the surface water level.

One of the major advantages of this plan is the prevention of water evaporation and the use of desalination plants for areas that are far from the national grid and have problems in terms of energy and power infrastructure. In addition to the construction benefits, this project is also economically viable for the investor.

The estimated cost for this project is IRR 8,500 million, whose return on investment is less than five years with the support of the government. Also, this solar power plant is supposed to provide the electricity needed by 400 rural households in the second phase.

Fired airline workers will enter an economy still reeling from the coronavirus pandemic and where weekly unemployment claims remain above 1m. The airline industry is among several where large employers have announced plans to conduct mass job cuts over the next few months.

Among the largest airlines in the U.S., thousands of workers have already taken voluntary separation agreements, early retirement or volunteered leave of absences as part of efforts to reduce workforces to mitigate expected furloughs and layoffs in October.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in the air transportation industry fell from about 512,000 workers in March 2020 to about 380,000 in June 2020.

"It's causing a lot of stress for people," said Matt, a flight attendant for five years who requested to keep their employer and last name anonymous for fear of retaliation.

"Worrying about if I will still have

my job, how long will I be out, what am I going to do in the meantime if I do get furloughed?"

These concerns are added stress for workers still on the frontlines of travel amid fears about coronavirus and issues with passengers who try to avoid following mask mandates on flights.

United Airlines said in early July 2020 it could lay off 36,000 employees, about half its workforce in the US.

Nearly 30% of employees, about 17,000, at Southwest have taken voluntary retirement or extended leave as the airline tries to avoid layoffs and furloughs.

At JetBlue, over 60% of its workforce, around 20,000 employees, have taken voluntary leave to reduce furloughs in October.

Delta Air Lines managed to avoid

## Oil Industry Builds Gate Valves for Goreh-Jask Pipeline



Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), Touraj Dehghani, CEO of the company, during a visit to the construction process of 42-inch gate valves (Metro Conduit) in the Goreh-Jask project in Arak Machinery Complex, said 83 42-inch gate valves of gate, control and emergency shut-off valves types worth about 9 million euros are used in the Goreh-Jask national project and efforts are being made to procure the items domestically.

Referring to the Minister of Petroleum's emphasis on localization and increasing the production capacity of items in the country, he continued: "The Pe-

roleum Engineering and Development Company have informed all its consultants and contractors the ban on foreign purchases of goods that can be manufactured in the country."

The PEDEC CEO said for the first time in the country, 42-inch sour fluid compatible gate valves (NACE) have manufactured domestically by domestic companies while many of the types procured domestically were previously imported.

## Report: \$6.3bn of Non-Oil Products Exported in Q1

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian ministry of industry has reported that the country could manage to export \$6.3 billion of non-oil products in the first 3 months of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21, 2020).

According to the same announcement, the ministry plans to export \$41 billion of non-oil products by the current year end.

The ministry plans encourage and support exports of steel, copper and aluminum in the current year and expects exports of minerals to constitute for one fourth of the total non-oil exports of the country in the said time, it added.

The Iranian body is also aimed at increasing extraction of minerals in the present year by 30 percent compared to the year before.

Last year, 410 million tons of minerals were extracted in Iran, it said.

Industry ministry also plans to add 1,000 inactive mine to domes-



tic mining cycle which presently includes 1,400 active mines, the same announcement confirmed.

According to earlier reports, holding nearly 68 different types of minerals, Iran is ranked among the world's top 10 mineral-rich countries, however, the country's mining sector is still underdeveloped and small mines which can

be considered the major drivers of the industry are lagging behind a few big companies which enjoy the government's full support.

The plan for reviving inactive mines is one of the most significant plans of "Resistance Economy" in Iran and the administration is strongly determined to pursue the goal.

## South Pars Site 2 Completes 2nd Gas Condensate Export Pipeline



TEHRAN (Shana) -- The deputy director of South Pars Phase 19 Development Project Seyed Hossein Azimi an-

nounced the completion of the first part of the second gas condensate export pipeline of phases of South Pars Site 2.

Referring to the gas condensate export plant of South Pars Site 2 by using two sing point mooring (SPM) systems, Azimi said, "Currently, SPM 1 has been commissioned and due to the arrival the second SPM to Iran in May, construction of the pipeline and installation of this system is under way."

He stated that the capacity of loading gas condensate with the SPM 2 system is 7,000 cubic meters per hour, and added this system will be installed in the south of the Asia Aram jetty.

Azimi stated that in this project, a new method (shore pulling) will be used to pull the sea pipeline from the shore.

## Major U.S. Airlines Warn to Lay Off Thousands of Workers

LONDON (The Guardian) - Major U.S. airlines have warned they will lay off tens of thousands of workers in October when the CARES Act payroll support program for the industry expires, raising the prospect of devastation for many workers and their families.

Fired airline workers will enter an economy still reeling from the coronavirus pandemic and where weekly unemployment claims remain above 1m. The airline industry is among several where large employers have announced plans to conduct mass job cuts over the next few months.

Among the largest airlines in the U.S., thousands of workers have already taken voluntary separation agreements, early retirement or volunteered leave of absences as part of efforts to reduce workforces to mitigate expected furloughs and layoffs in October.

United Airlines said in early July 2020 it could lay off 36,000 employees, about half its workforce in the US.

Nearly 30% of employees, about 17,000, at Southwest have taken voluntary retirement or extended leave as the airline tries to avoid layoffs and furloughs.



Spirit Airlines expects to furlough between 20% to 30% of its frontline workers in October, from its workforce of about 9,000 employees.

Alaska Airlines intends to cut its workforce by 7,000 employees by the end of 2020, while 30% of its 23,000 employees have volunteered for a leave of absence.

Smaller U.S. airlines are expected to roll out layoffs in October, including Hawaiian Airlines which announced the airline, currently employing over 7,000 workers, is likely to be 15% to 25% smaller by next summer.

Delta Air Lines managed to avoid plans to conduct furloughs and layoffs so far due to 20% of their workforce taking voluntary retirements.