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## USA Weighted Steel-Consuming Industries Activity Index (IDX) up significantly.

As of February 2014, WSD's weight index was up 6.9% year-on-year for the short-lead-time capital goods index; up 5.7% year-on-year in the long-lead-time capital goods index, and up 5.0% in the consumer goods index. The first two indices account for about 70% of the total weighting of the index. Overall, in February 2014, IDX was up 5.1% year-on-year, which compares to 6.7% in December 2013 and 3.6% for all of 2013 (Figure 1, and Table 1 on page 26).

Since 2007, the largest year-on-year decline for the index was 30.3% in May 2009, while the largest year-on-year gain was 13.6% in April 2012.

These IDX figures provide support to the concept that, at least for the moment, the U.S. is the country, and the U.S. steel market is the market, whose economy and steel industry outlook appear to be the most sustainable. ♦

## World Steel Dynamics (WSD)

is a leading steel information service in Englewood Cliffs, N.J.



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STEEL  
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WSD's steel experience, steel database and availability of steel statistics are the principles for performing steel forecasts, studies and analysis for international clients. WSD seeks to understand how the "pricing power" of steel companies the world over will be impacted by changes in the steel industry's structure.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of World Steel Dynamics and not necessarily those of AIST.

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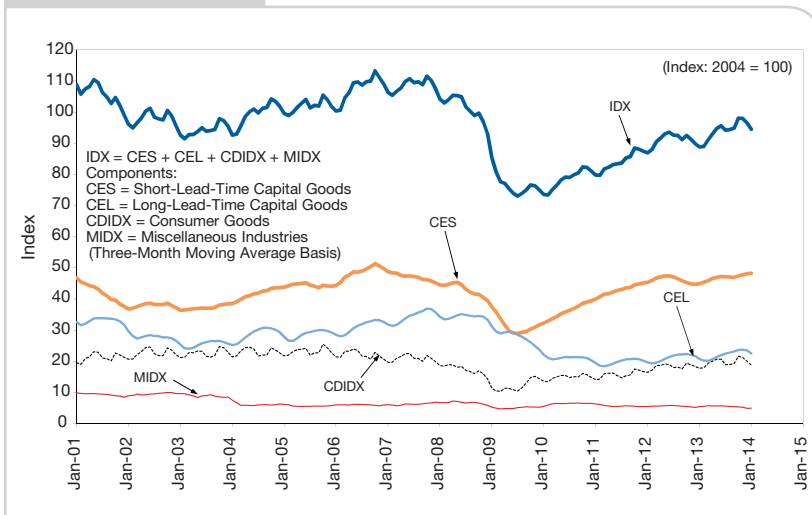
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Figure 1



Components of WSD index of steel activity (USA).

Table 1

Components of IDX (2004 = 100) as of February 2014 and 2013

Indicator	Index figure		Weighted index		y-o-y % change	Standard share of index (%)	Share of index (%)	y-o-y first two months % change
	February 2014	February 2013	February 2014	February 2013			February 2014	
<b>CES: Short-lead-time capital goods</b>								
Oil and gas well drilling	127.7	126.7	3.83	3.80	0.7	3.0	4.0	
Rail and miscellaneous	127.9	123.0	3.84	3.69	4.0	3.0	4.0	
Business equipment	159.0	154.6	7.95	7.73	2.8	5.0	8.3	
Trucks (not seasonally adjusted)	73.1	62.7	5.12	4.39	16.7	7.0	5.3	
Fabricated metals	119.5	116.5	14.34	13.97	2.6	12.0	15.0	
Non-electrical machinery	118.8	104.6	14.26	12.55	13.6	12.0	14.9	
Subtotal			49.33	46.14	6.9	42.0	51.5	7.5
<b>CEL: Long-lead-time capital goods</b>								
Ships and boats construction	98.0	85.5	0.98	0.86	14.6	1.0	1.0	
Electrical equipment	119.1	121.1	5.96	6.06	-1.6	5.0	6.2	
Non-residential construction (NSA)	62.2	57.3	14.30	13.18	8.5	23.0	14.9	
Subtotal			21.24	20.09	5.7	29.0	22.2	6.7
<b>CDIDX: Consumer goods</b>								
Residential housing (not seasonally adjusted)	35.1	34.0	1.05	1.02	3.4	3.0	1.1	
Household appliances	85.5	85.0	3.42	3.40	0.6	4.0	3.6	
Automobiles (not seasonally adjusted)	97.6	92.0	15.61	14.71	6.1	16.0	16.3	
Subtotal			20.09	19.13	5.0	23.0	21.0	3.4
<b>MIDX: Miscellaneous industries</b>								
Defense and space equipment	130.7	127.4	1.31	1.27	2.6	1.0	1.4	
Farm equipment	91.7	96.9	1.83	1.94	-5.3	2.0	1.9	
Metal cans	66.6	85.4	2.00	2.56	-22.1	3.0	2.1	
Subtotal			5.14	5.77	-11.0	6.0	5.4	-9.9
<b>Total</b>			<b>95.79</b>	<b>91.14</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.3</b>