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Daily Base Metals Report

US stocks remained broadly unchanged ahead of the discussion at Washington on whether the debt ceiling is to be raised. US retail sales increased by 0.4% in April, underlining consumer strength in the face of the deteriorating global environment and high borrowing costs; the gains in sales excluding autos and gasoline topped expectations. At the same time, homebuilder confidence jumped to the highest level in 10 months as limited supply continues to drive potential buyers towards new construction. The dollar bounced back above 102.50 after earlier losses, and the 10yr US Treasury yield strengthened. The 30yr yield hit the high of 3.90%, levels not seen since the banking crisis earlier in March.

The slower-than-expected recovery in manufacturing activity brought another round of weakness to the base metals market today, driving metals to settle lower. Copper saw protracted declines to the \$2,100/t support, the level not seen since November last year; the metal closed at \$8,121.50/t. Aluminium held relatively supported above \$2,250/t to settle at \$2,259.50/t. Nickel and zinc continued to test new lows on the back of lacklustre demand from the stainless steel sector, with the latter breaching the November 2020 levels; zinc closed at \$2,492/t. Lead also declined, but the longer-term ranges remain intact, causing the metal to close at \$2,045.50/t.

Oil futures held steady as US strength helped offset the softness coming from China today. WTI and Brent now trade at \$70/bl and \$74/bl. Gold and silver weakened to test the robust support levels of \$2,000/oz and \$23.70/oz, respectively.

	Open	High	Low	5pm Close	PDC	Volume	Total O.I	Spreads	Conversion
								C-3M	USc/lb
Aluminium	2266	2273	2238	2259.5	2269	16042	629348	-5.00	102.72
Copper	8263	8299	8091	8121.5	8275	18349	255857	-48.00	368.64
Lead	2075	2081	2045	2045.5	2076	5866	116229	-14.25	92.94
Nickel	21815	21890	21120	21122	21895	2461	136605	-137.25	958.22
Tin	25190	25190	24450	24524	25085	230	14440	290.00	1114.03
Zinc	2530	2549	2483	2492	2534	7384	184018	-12.50	113.10
Total:						50332	1336497		

Official Prices							Monthly Avg	
	Cash	3m	Dec Yr 1	Dec Yr 2	PD Cash	PD 3M	Cash	3M
Aluminium	2235.5	2242.5	2431.25	2529.25	2263	2259.5	2281	2289.05
Copper	8076	8129	8335.75	8347.75	8218.25	8272.5	8400.8	8431.9
Lead	2060	2074	2082	2107	2057.5	2072.5	2112.55	2118.45
Nickel	21400	21550	22812.75	23762.75	21484.75	21622	23333.5	23384.5
Tin	24925	24610			25314	24994	26128.5	25828.5
Zinc	2473.5	2491	2508.75	2483.75	2517.5	2532	2586.25	2598.1

LME Stocks (tonnes)							Other Copper Markets			
	Opening	In	Out	Net Change	Closing	C-warrants	Open Tonnage	Last	% Change	
Aluminium	568200	800	6550	-5750	562450	188625	373825	Comex, USc/lb		
Copper	76875	7050	100	6950	83825	125	83700	MAY 23	373.75 0.57	
Lead	32900	400	0	400	33300	2825	30475	JUL 23	375.1 0.60	
Nickel	39294	0	24	-24	39270	2568	36702	Shanghai, CNY/mt		
Tin	1580	115	20	95	1675	10	1665	23-Jun	64800 -0.05	
Zinc	49050	0	600	-600	48450	4900	43550	23-Jul	64640 -0.14	

Global Markets		Currencies		Precious Metals			Previous Day's Fix	
Last	% Change	Last	% Change	Last	% Change	AM	PM	
DAX	15898 -0.12	GBP	1.2493 -0.2873	Gold	1997.89 -0.9224	2015.3	2019.90	
DJI	33136 -0.64	JPY	136.6100 -0.3587	Silver	23.69 -1.6495		2389	
S&P500	4119 -0.43	EUR	1.0864 -0.0920	Gold Comex	2001.9 -1.028			
SSE	3291 -0.60	CNY	6.9767 -0.3583	Platinum	1064.88 -0.1968			
Hg Seng	19978 0.04	AUD	0.6662 -0.5672	Palladium	1506.84 -1.4654			
Brent	75 -0.33	CAD	1.3459 0.0594					

Source: Bloomberg
Updated: 16/05/2023 17:30

All price data is from 16.05.2023 as of 17:30

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