

Authors

Daria Efanova
Research Associate

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Daily Base Metals Report

US stocks fluctuated, while tech gains sent Nasdaq Composite to reach record highs, other key indices were moderately lower. US initial jobless claims eased by 19,000 in the week ending February 6th, while claims for federal benefits continued to grow, highlighting the still-present challenges in the labour market. Meanwhile, US home prices post record gains, climbing by 14.9% in Q4, driven by low borrowing cost and working-from-home environment, providing the flexibility for residency. The Fed chair Jerome Powell said that the US job market is still a long way from a full recovery and more action is needed to support workers. The dollar strengthened, and the 10yr US Treasury yield picked up higher to 1.1482%. Several Asian markets have closed for the Lunar New Year holidays.

LME metals have been mixed, with copper, nickel and tin lower on the day. Aluminium prices firmed, testing the resistance at \$2,083/t to close at \$2,079.50/t, the cash to 3-month spread has tightened once again to -\$3.00/t. Zinc gained the most ground, testing the key resistance level of \$2,795/t to close at 2,789.50/t. Nickel was bid below \$18,700/t and closed lower at \$18,620/t. Copper traded lower to the \$8,250/t support level, easing off the 8-year highs seen yesterday, and closed at \$8,280.50/t. Lead was stronger today, closing at \$2,102.50/t.

Oil edged lower, alongside equities, ending on the longest runs in a couple of years. At the time of writing, WTI and Brent trade at \$58.34/bl and \$61.24/bl. Precious metals were mixed on the back of moderate US labour recovery, with gold and silver down on the day to \$1,827.07/oz and \$26.99/oz respectively.

	Open	High	Low	5pm Close	PDC	Volume	Total O.I	Spreads	Conversion
								C-3M	USc/lb
Aluminium	2064	2084	2062	2079.5	2069	9727	724631	-3.00	94.21
Copper	8251	8320	8238	8280.5	8276	7716	337324	8.75	374.58
Lead	2075	2117	2074	2102.5	2086	3111	110272	-9.30	95.94
Nickel	18700	18720	18570	18620	18715	3278	236016	-50.00	843.92
Tin	22900	23335	22900	23300	23315	240	15155	1850.00	1054.84
Zinc	2718	2796	2716	2789.5	2729	5722	232775	-18.20	126.58
					Total:	29794	1656173		

Official Prices

	Cash	3m	Dec Yr 1	Dec Yr 2	PD Cash	PD 3M	Monthly Avg	Cash	3M
Aluminium	2075.5	2080.5	2140.5	2173.5	2074.84	2079	2013.39	2016.22	
Copper	8292	8289.5	8059.5	7932.5	8303	8299.5	7990.00	7981.89	
Lead	2080	2091.5	2130	2159.5	2082.4	2095.5	2041.83	2054.22	
Nickel	18599	18651	18766	18846	18620.6	18666	18018.11	18065.00	
Tin	25568	23317			24814	23325	24619.56	23081.78	
Zinc	2726	2746.5	2769	2759	2706	2725	2626.67	2648.11	

LME Stocks (tonnes)

	Opening	In	Out	Net Change	Closing	C-warrants	Open Tonnage	Other Copper Markets	Last	% Change
Aluminium	1389975	3950	9300	-5350	1384625	217125	1167500	Comex, USc/lb		
Copper	74675	0	1175	-1175	73500	23925	49575	MAR 21	376.2	-0.28
Lead	92425	0	350	-350	92075	31300	60775	MAY 21	376.5	-0.24
Nickel	248664	1644	462	1182	249846	64848	184998	Shanghai, CNY/mt		
Tin	790	10	0	10	800	315	485	FEB 21	0	0.00
Zinc	288850	0	1800	-1800	287050	44000	243050	Mar 21	0	0.00

Global Markets

Global Markets			Currencies			Precious Metals			Previous Day's Fix	
Last	% Change		Last	% Change		Last	% Change	AM	PM	
DAX	14041	0.77	GBP	1.38	-0.18	Gold	1827.12	-0.86	1843.45	1842.65
DJI	31327	-0.35	JPY	104.79	-0.19	Silver	26.94	-0.31		2723
S&P500	3915	0.14	EUR	1.21	0.05	Gold Comex	1826.6	-0.87		
SSE	3655	1.43	CNY	6.46	-0.36	Platinum	1246.45	0.02		
Hg Seng	30174	0.45	AUD	0.78	0.36	Palladium	2368.67	0.02		
Brent	61	-0.52	RUB	73.73	0.28					

Source: Bloomberg
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