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Economic Forecasts from the World's Leading Economists
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69

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Summary

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12

May 2021

Summary

OVERVIEW | Global commodity prices increase at a slower pace in April

Global commodity prices rose 1.4% over the previous month in April, down from March's 3.0% increase. Although the reading marked the seventh consecutive month of rising prices, the increase was the weakest since October 2020, suggesting that the commodity price rally is losing steam.

April's overall increase came on the back of sustained growth in base metal prices and a rebound in precious metal and agricultural prices. Looking at base metals, copper and steel prices continued to increase robustly due to upbeat demand and ongoing supply concerns, while prices for nickel and lead rebounded strongly. Similarly, gold prices also grew in April—contrasting March's fall—predominately driven by higher demand from a weaker USD and stronger inflationary pressures, particularly in the U.S. and other developed economies. Furthermore, agricultural prices received a boost from sustained demand and downbeat supply projections for wheat, corn and soybeans. On the other hand, energy prices fell modestly and for the first time since September 2020 in April, on the back of weaker crude oil prices.

FocusEconomics panelists expect global commodity prices to rise 28.5% year-on-year in Q4 2021 (previous edition: +25.1% yoy). A strong rebound in energy prices should spearhead the upturn, chiefly thanks to improving demand conditions as the global vaccine rollout and the subsequent easing of travel restrictions bode well for oil consumption. Moreover, base metal prices are expected to increase robustly relative to 2020, as fiscal spending sprees prop up industrial demand amid supply disruptions. That said, precious metal prices are forecast to dive this year, mostly on the back of softer safe-haven demand. Lastly, agricultural prices are projected to rise notably this year compared to 2020. Further ahead, our panelists forecast a 3.5% year-on-year decrease in prices in Q4 2022 amid a flattening economic recovery. ENERGY | Energy prices decrease in April for the first time since September 2020

Energy prices ticked down 0.3% in April, contrasting March's 4.3% increase and marking the worst result in seven months, predominately due to lower Brent and WTI crude oil prices. Crude oil prices averaged slightly lower than in the previous month in April, which was likely the result of OPEC+'s decision to ease its production curtailments for May–July. Moreover, despite solid progress on the global vaccine rollout, travel demand remained relatively subdued as most major economies kept some lockdown measures in place to curb the spread of Covid-19, which should have weighed on demand prospects and kept a lid on prices. That

70

90

110

130

Q4 17 Q4 18 Q4 19 Q4 20 Q4 21 Q4 22

98

102

106

110

Dec

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Q4 2021

Summary

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 3

May 2021

being said, prices for natural gas rebounded in April as a result of resilient demand, while prices for uranium also grew robustly in the month after falling in March.

Energy prices are expected to trend markedly higher this year, largely due to a low base effect after the fallout from Covid-19 hammered the global economy and oil demand last year. The likely ongoing pickup in the vaccination drive, recovering global economic activity and rebounding travel demand should underpin price growth ahead. That said, while constrained global crude production allowed demand to catch up with supply at the beginning of this year, boosting oil prices in turn, prices are likely to stay close to their current levels through year-end as output cuts are gradually eased. New Covid-19 strains, a quicker-than-expected easing of OPEC+ production curtailments and geopolitical tensions are key risks to the outlook. FocusEconomics panelists forecast a 39.0% year-on-year increase in Q4 2021 (previous edition: +38.7 yoy). Our panelists see annual energy prices dipping 1.5% in Q4 2022. BASE METALS | Base metal price growth accelerates in April Prices for base metals climbed 4.2% on a monthly basis in April, following a 3.7% rise in March. April's increase marked the 12th consecutive monthly increase in prices.

Base metal price growth gained some momentum in April, as China's industrial recovery remained relatively upbeat at the beginning of Q2, while a weaker greenback and lower U.S. bond yields likely added further upward price pressure. Notably, lead and nickel prices rebounded in April, while copper and steel prices continued to increase on the back of robust demand and concerns over supply disruptions, as inventory levels fell sharply in the second half of the month. More broadly, demand for base metals for their use in industry was likely supported by the ongoing economic recovery as the JPM global composite PMI suggested economic activity increased at the quickest pace in 11 years in April. Nevertheless, alumina and cobalt prices fell sharply in April relative to March, limiting the overall upturn in base metal prices. Base metal prices are expected to post a strong increase this year compared to 2020, against the backdrop of gradually recovering demand amid strong global fiscal stimulus. While the Chinese economy continues to grow robustly, boosting prices for industrial metals in turn, a quickening economic recovery in Japan, Europe and the U.S. should provide additional support in the remainder of the year. On the supply side, the fading effect of the pandemic will likely drive a rebuild in mining capacity, keeping a lid on prices in turn. Overall, supply chain volatility, new Covid-19 strains and uncertain U.S.-China trade relations pose risks to the outlook. Focus Economics panelists project prices to rise 16.3% annually in Q4 2021 (previous edition: +10.4% yoy). Our panelists project prices to fall 5.5% in Q4 2022.

Change in Base Metals Forecasts

Q4 2022

Q4 2021

-12

0

12

24 36

Molybdenum

Alumina

Cobalt

Lead

Nickel

Zinc

Copper

Summary

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 4

May 2021

PRECIOUS METALS | Precious metal prices rebound robustly in April

Precious metal prices were up 3.1% month-on-month in April after falling 3.8% in March, which had marked the sharpest decline since March 2020.

Gold prices increased over the previous month, predominately due to a weaker USD and stronger U.S. inflationary pressures, which supported demand for holding non-interest bearing assets such as gold. Moreover, palladium and platinum prices rose notably in April as supply chain disruptions in the semiconductor market led to a stark fall in automobile inventories. This raised production estimates for H2 2021, and supported demand for palladium and platinum in turn for their use in energy efficient vehicles. Furthermore, ongoing complications at two major Russian palladium mines also pushed palladium prices further up in recent weeks. However, silver prices were flat in April relative to the previous month.

The 2021 outlook for precious metal prices improved slightly in April, with FocusEconomics panelists projecting prices to fall 2.4% in Q4 2021 (previous edition: -3.7% yoy). The estimate chiefly reflects the anticipation of weaker safe-haven demand, and while expectations are that stronger inflation amid ultra-low interest rates will support demand for gold as a non-yielding asset, uncertainty around the future direction of the U.S. 10-year yield rate will likely weigh on price prospects. Moreover, silver and palladium prices should moderate as supply disruptions ease. Our panelists see precious metal prices losing further ground ahead, projecting a 4.4% decrease in annual terms in Q4 2022.

AGRICULTURAL | Agricultural prices rebound robustly in

Agricultural prices increased 5.5% month-on-month in April after falling 0.4% in March, which had marked the first drop in prices in seven months.

April's rebound was predominately due to a strong increase in prices for corn, soybeans and wheat. That said, rice, cotton and cocoa prices fell notably in the month, capping the overall upturn. Stronger corn and wheat prices in April were likely the result of still-solid demand prospects and the continued decline in supply projections. Meanwhile, sugar and palm oil prices likely benefited from stronger economic activity more broadly for their use as biofuels.

Focus Economics panelists project agricultural prices to rise 19.6% year-on-year in Q4 2021 (previous edition: +7.7% yoy). Prices should benefit from stronger demand this year as containment measures to control the spread of the virus are eased, particularly supporting prices for coffee and cotton. Moreover, relatively downbeat global supply outlooks for corn and wheat should add some upward price pressure. That said, more stable global supply levels overall will likely limit the upturn somewhat. Our panel projects annual prices to fall 8.6% in Q4 2022.

Steven Burke

Commodities Economist

Note: Percentage change between April 2021 and May 2021.

Source: FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast.

Change in Agricultural Forecasts

Q4 2022 Q4 2021

-8

0 8

16 24

## **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Summary FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 5 May 2021 Spot **Forecasts Fcsts** Commodity Unit (14-May) Change YTD Q2 21 $\Delta$ Spot Q4 21 $\Delta$ Spot Q4 22 $\Delta$ Spot Q2 21-Q1 23 **Brent** USD per barrel 67.1 +29.3% 65.7 -2.0% 65.4 -2.5% 64.0 -4.6% WTI USD per barrel 65.3 +35.1% 63.2 -3.3% 62.7 -4.1% 60.3 -7.7% **Natural Gas** USD per MMBtu 2.97 +16.5% 2.74 -7.7% 2.94 -1.1% 2.88 -3.2% **Coking Coal** USD per metric ton 108 +5.6% 130 +20.6% 137 +27.5% 140 +29.6% Thermal Coal USD per metric ton 99.0 +23.0% 84.1

-15.0% 80.0 -19.2% 69.3

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Summary
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 6
May 2021
Quarterly Data | Prices and Price Index (Q1 2010 = 100) | Q1 2020 - Q4 2022
Energy - Nominal Prices - Average of Period
Unit
Q1
Q2
Q3
Q4
Q1
Q2
Q3
Q4
Q1
Q2
Q3
Q4
Crude Oil
Brent
USD per barrel
51.2
33.4
43.4
45.4
61.3
65.7
66.0
65.4
65.1
64.0
64.2
64.0
Crude Oil
WTI
USD per barrel
45.9
28.0
40.9
42.7
57.9
63.2
63.3
62.7
61.8
61.0
61.1
60.3
Natural Gas
U.S. H. Hub
USD per MMBtu
1.87
1.76
2.12
2.76
2.72
2.74
2.81
2.94
2.96
2.80
2.81
```

2.88

Coking Coal Australia

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Summary
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 7
May 2021
Quarterly Data | Prices and Price Index (Q1 2010 = 100) | Q1 2020 - Q4 2022
Precious Metals Prices | Index,
Q1 2010 = 100
0
200
400
600
800
Q1 10 Q1 11 Q1 12 Q1 13 Q1 14 Q1 15 Q1 16 Q1 17 Q1 18 Q1 19 Q1 20 Q1 21 Q1 22
Gold
Platinum
Silver
Palladium
Precious Metals - Nominal Prices - Avg. of Period
Unit
Q1
Q2
Q3
Q4
Q1
Q2
Q3
Q4
Q1
Q2
Q3
Q4
Gold
LME
USD per troy ounce
1,582
1,713
1,911
1,876
1,797
1,778
1,771
1,754
1,741
1,751
1,717
1,701
Silver
H&H
USD per troy ounce
16.9
16.4
24.3
24.5
26.3
26.2
26.3
25.8
25.4
24.7
23.6
23.1
Palladium
LME
USD per troy ounce
```

2,279 1.968

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Crude Oil
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
May 2021
Brent Crude Oil (prices in USD/bbl, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
66.7
51.9
31.2
+0.6%
+29.3%
+114.9%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
65.7
-2.0%
65.4
-2.5%
64.0
-4.6%
Spot
67.1
14-May-21
Q2 21
Q4 21
Q4 22
```

Brent Crude Oil

Brent crude prices rose up over the past month, bolstered by a healthier demand backdrop thanks to firming global economic activity amid the ongoing Covid-19 vaccine rollout. On 14 May, oil traded at USD 67.1 per barrel, which was up 0.6% from the same day last month. Moreover, the benchmark price for global crude oil was up 114.9% from the same day last year and was 29.3% higher on a year-to-date basis. Brent crude prices jumped to an eight-week high on 12 May, propelled by a healthier demand backdrop. According to PMI data, global economic activity for April expanded at the strongest pace in 11 years in sequential terms likely boosting demand prospects for oil in turn—amid an accelerating vaccine rollout in major economies. Notably, upbeat conditions in China and the U.S. more than offset downward price pressures stemming from the worsening of the health crisis in parts of Asia, particularly India. Meanwhile, global production increased only marginally in April according to OPEC's latest report, as rising Iranian and Nigerian output was mostly offset by lower volume in Libya and Venezuela, which should have supported crude prices in recent weeks. However, OPEC+ began to ease its production curtailments on 1 May, which will likely weigh on prices in May-June. Although crude prices are seen retreating slightly from their current levels by year-end, prospects for the oil market continued to improve in May. Firming activity in major economies and an expected rebound in global travel amid the ongoing global vaccination drive should revive oil consumption this year, boosting prices in turn. That said, the easing of OPEC+ supply cuts and rising production elsewhere are set to weigh on prices, likely trumping supportive demand-side fundamentals. New Covid-19 strains, geopolitical tensions and supply volatility are key risks to the outlook. Our panelists

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FOCUS ECONOMICS
Crude Oil
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 9
Brent Crude Oil | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ABN AMRO Bank
64.0
60.0
61.0
59.0
59.0
61.0
64.0
65.0
62.0
61.0
Actinver
67.4
69.2
69.8
70.7
71.6
72.6
73.5
ANZ
75.0
72.0
70.0
68.0
65.0
65.0
63.0
BayernLB
60.0
60.0
55.0
BBVA Research
67.4
66.5
65.0
63.0
64.0
63.0
62.0
62.0
65.4
```

63.0

**BMO Capital Markets** 

### **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Crude Oil May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 10 3,500 4,000 4,500 5,000 2000 2005 2010 2017 2020 2025 2030 2035 Production Consumption Oil 38.8% Gas 28.5% Coal 32.7% Transport 47.4% Power generation 1.6% Industrial 35.2% Other sectors 15.8% Share of fuel usage in industry Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2017 US 20.8% Saudi Arabia 20.4% Russia 20.2% Canada 8.6% Iran 8.5% Iraq 8.1% China 7.0% UAE 6.4% US 19.8% China 13.6% India 5.1% Japan 4.1%

Saudi Arabia 3.8%

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Crude Oil
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 11
May 2021
WTI Crude Oil (prices in USD/bbl, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
63.2
48.4
27.4
+3.4%
+35.1%
+138.4%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
63.2
-3.3%
62.7
-4.1%
60.3
-7.7%
Spot
65.3
14-May-21
Q2 21
Q4 21
Q4 22
WTI Crude Oil
```

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil prices rose over the past month, predominately due to the ongoing recovery in global economic activity and solid progress on the Covid-19 vaccine front. WTI crude oil traded at USD 65.3 per barrel on 14 May, which was up 3.4% from the same day last month. Moreover, the price was up 138.4% from the same day last year and was 35.1% higher on a year-to-date basis.

WTI crude oil prices reached an over eight-week high on 12 May, on the back of improving demand prospects. PMI readings for April suggested global economic activity expanded at the strongest pace in 11 years in sequential terms, while an acceleration in the vaccine rollout both in the U.S. and globally, coupled with the partial easing of lockdown measures in some major economies, supported demand expectations for crude oil. Demand optimism in China and the U.S. underpinned the upward momentum in prices, more than offsetting downside pressures stemming from the spike in new Covid-19 cases in India and Brazil. In terms of supply, OPEC output and U.S. crude oil production rose marginally in April, while OPEC+ began to ease its production curtailments on 1 May, which will likely keep a lid on price pressures in the coming months. That said, U.S. inventories fell again in the week ending 14 May, providing a further boost to WTI prices. Oil price prospects continued to improve in May, although prices are still seen edging down from their current levels by year-end. On the one hand, firm global economic activity and a rebound in travel demand thanks to vaccination progress should boost oil consumption, supporting prices in turn. On the other hand, recovering global output amid the easing of OPEC+ supply cuts should more than offset rebounding demand, tilting prices slightly downwards. All told, the outlook remains uncertain, with new Covid-19 variants, geopolitical

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FOCUS ECONOMICS
Crude Oil
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 12
WTI Crude Oil | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ABN AMRO Bank
60.0
60.0
58.0
56.0
56.0
58.0
60.0
61.0
59.0
58.0
Actinver
63.8
64.9
65.5
66.4
67.3
68.2
69.1
ANZ
72.5
69.5
67.5
66.0
63.0
63.0
61.0
BBVA Research
63.8
62.9
61.6
60.1
61.2
60.3
59.3
59.6
61.8
60.2
BMO Capital Markets
56.9
56.9
57.0
62.0
62.0
62.0
62.0
66.0
57.1
```

62.0

**BMO Economics** 

### **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Crude Oil May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 13 3,500 4,000 4,500 5,000 2000 2005 2010 2017 2020 2025 2030 2035 Production Consumption Oil 38.8% Gas 28.5% Coal 32.7% Transport 47.4% Power generation 1.6% Industrial 35.2% Other sectors 15.8% Share of fuel usage in industry Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2017 US 20.8% Saudi Arabia 20.4% Russia 20.2% Canada 8.6% Iran 8.5% Iraq 8.1% China 7.0% UAE 6.4% US 19.8% China 13.6% India 5.1% Japan 4.1%

Saudi Arabia 3.8%

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Natural Gas
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 14
May 2021
U.S. Henry Hub Natural Gas (prices in USD/MMBtu, app)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
2.62
2.55
1.68
+13.4%
+16.5%
+76.8%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
2.74
-7.7%
2.94
-1.1%
2.88
-3.2%
Q4 22
Q2 21
Q4 21
Spot
2.97
14-May-21
Natural Gas
Prices for natural gas continued to climb in recent weeks
```

Prices for natural gas continued to climb in recent weeks on healthier prospects for U.S. exports and domestic consumption. On 14 May, the Henry Hub Natural Gas price was USD 2.97 per one million British thermal units (MMBtu), which was 13.4% higher than on the same day in the previous month. Moreover, the price was up 16.5% on a year-to-date basis and was 76.8% higher than on the same day in 2020. Prices rose as the outlook for U.S. exports and domestic consumption improved amid the gradual easing of restrictive measures. Furthermore, forecasts for cooler weather in May in some parts of the U.S. also supported prices. On the other hand, forecasts for mild weather conditions later in the month likely tempered the rise, as they suggest a delay in demand for summer cooling.

Looking ahead, prices are expected to ease slightly from their current level, partly due to a shift from natural gas to coal usage in electric power generators as a result of the recent rise in natural gas prices. That said, tighter supply of natural gas this year provides an upside risk to the outlook. FocusEconomics panelists see the spot price averaging USD 2.94 per MMBtu in Q4 2021, before falling to USD 2.88 per MMBtu in Q4 2022.

This month, 6 panelists upgraded their Q4 2021 estimates, while 1 revised their projections downwards and 10 left their forecasts unchanged.

The price range forecast for Q4 2021 remains relatively wide: The maximum price forecast is USD 3.30 per MMBtu, while the minimum forecast is USD 2.46 per MMBtu.

. ↑ 7 ↑ 6

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Natural Gas
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 15
Natural Gas | Forecasts and futures prices
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ABN AMRO Bank
2.60
2.50
2.60
2.60
2.40
2.40
2.50
2.60
2.75
2.60
BMO Capital Markets
2.75
2.75
2.93
3.00
2.50
2.50
2.41
2.50
2.78
2.60
BMO Economics
2.85
2.50
Capital Economics
2.60
2.70
2.90
3.00
3.06
3.19
3.38
3.56
2.70
3.15
Citigroup Global Mkts
3.00
3.30
3.30
3.20
2.80
2.70
2.70
3.10
2.90
```

Complete Intelligence

### **FOCUS ECONOMICS Natural Gas** May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 16 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 2000 2005 2010 2017 2020 2025 2030 2035 Production Consumption Oil 38.8% Gas 28.5% Coal 32.7% Transport 2.8% Power generation 34.2% Industrial 35.1% Other sectors 27.9% Share of fuel usage in industry **Fact Sheet** Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2017 US 20.0% Russia 17.3% Iran 6.1% Canada 4.8% Qatar 4.8% Other 47.1% US 20.1% Russia 11.6% Iran 6.6% Canada 5.8% Qatar 3.2% Other 52.7% 2007

Total 164 trillion cubic meters
North

Thermal Coal

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 17

May 2021

Australian Thermal Coal (prices in USD/mt, aop)

1m ago

31-Dec-20

1y ago

93.4

80.5

51.8

+6.0%

+23.0%

+91.3%

Forecasts and change from spot

**Forecast** 

**Forecast** 

Forecast (last 6 months)

Period

 $\Delta$  Spot

84.1

-15.0%

80.0

-19.2%

69.3

-30.1%

Q4 22

Spot

99.0

14-May-21

Q2 21

Q4 21

Thermal Coal

Prices for Australian thermal coal were relatively stable in the second half of April, before skyrocketing in early May. On 14 May, the commodity traded at USD 99.0 per metric ton, which was up 6.0% from the same day last month. Moreover, the price was 23.0% higher on a year-to-date basis and was up 91.3% from the same day last year.

Prices for thermal coal, which is used in power stations, took flight in early to mid-May on rising prices for iron ore. Moreover, strong growth in exports to Korea and India in April, with shipments up by more than one million tons, further supported prices, while the lingering impact of supply-side disruptions due to major flooding in Australia likely provided an additional boost. The rise in prices came despite the persistence of trade tensions between Australia and top coal consumer China: No thermal coal was cleared in China in March for the third consecutive month.

Looking ahead, prices for Australian thermal coal are expected to come down from their current levels by the end of this year amid ongoing tensions between Australia and China, weighing on the demand outlook. Moreover, a global push towards greener energy sources should see overall demand ease. However, a spur in demand on the back of an accelerating vaccine rollout poses an upside risk. The panel projects that the price of thermal coal will average USD 80.0 per metric ton in Q4 2021 and USD 69.3 per metric ton in Q4 2022.

This month, no panelists panelist revised their Q4 2021 forecasts downwards. Meanwhile, 5 kept their estimates unchanged and 1 raised their projections.

Panelists have diverging views regarding the outlook for the commodity: The minimum price forecast for Q4 2021 is USD 65.0 per metric ton, while the maximum price forecast for Q4 2022 is USD 102.7 per metric ton.

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FOCUS ECONOMICS
Thermal Coal
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 18
Thermal Coal | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ANZ
78.0
77.0
75.0
70.0
70.0
70.0
68.0
BMO Capital Markets
90.0
90.0
90.0
65.0
65.0
65.0
58.0
84.7
71.3
Capital Economics
83.1
65.0
65.0
67.5
63.5
60.0
56.5
54.4
75.0
62.0
Citigroup Global Mkts
85.0
0.08
85.0
75.0
72.0
75.0
78.0
84.0
75.0
Complete Intelligence
97.0
99.0
102.7
101.4
96.5
```

Deutsche Bank

### **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Thermal Coal May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 19 2,000 2,500 3,000 3,500 4,000 4,500 2000 2005 2010 2017 2020 2025 2030 2035 Production Consumption Oil 33.7% Gas 32.4% Coal 33.8% Commercial 0.1% Power generation 92.5% Industrial 7.3% Share of fuel usage in industry **Fact Sheet** Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2017 China 47.3% US 10.1% Australia 8.1% India 8.0% Indonesia 7.4% Other 19.2% China 50.7% India 11.4% US 8.9% Russia 2.5% South Africa 2.2% Other 24.3% 2007

North America

Total 848 billion tons

Coking Coal

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 20

May 2021

Coking Coal

Australian coking coal prices continued to trend down in recent weeks. On 14 May, the commodity traded at USD 108 per metric ton, which was down 2.0% from the same day of the previous month. However, the price was 5.6% higher on a year-to-date basis, but was down 5.5% from the same day last year.

The continued cooldown in prices for Australian coking coal was partly due to the ongoing Chinese ban on coal imports from Australia, as the Asian giant looked towards different sources of the commodity, such as the U.S. and Canada. Moreover, steel production cuts in China dampened overall demand for thermal coal, which is used in steel-making. Although tensions remain between Australia and top consumer China, prices for Australian coking coal are forecast to rise by year-end and through next year, as firming global economic activity boosts demand for the commodity. Our panelists forecast prices to average USD 137 per metric ton in Q4 2021 and USD 140 per metric ton in Q4 2022.

Australian Coking Coal (prices in USD/mt, aop)

1m ago

31-Dec-20

1y ago

110

102 114

-2.0%

+5.6%

-5.5%

Forecasts and change from spot

**Forecast** 

Forecast

Forecast (last 6 months)

Period

 $\Delta$  Spot

130

+20.6%

137

+27.5%

140

+29.6%

Q4 22

Spot

108

14-May-21

Q2 21

Q4 21

Coking Coal prices and futures prices

Annual data

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020 2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

USD per mt (aop)

### **FOCUS ECONOMICS Coking Coal** FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 21 May 2021 1,000 1,050 1,100 1,150 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 Production Steel production 76.0% Alumina refining 16.0% Others 8.0% Share of coal usage in industry Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2017 China 47.3% US 10.1% Australia 8.1% India 8.0% Indonesia 7.4% Other 19.2% China 50.7% India 11.4% US 8.9% Russia 2.5% South Africa 2.2% Other 24.3% 2007 Total 848 billion tons North America 29.6% Central & South America 1.9% Europe &

Eurasia 32.1% Africa 5.9%

Gasoil

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 22

May 2021

Gasoil

Prices for European low sulfur gasoil trended upwards over the past month, mostly on the back of rising global crude oil prices. On 14 May, gasoil traded at USD 549 per metric ton, which was up 6.2% from the same day last month. Moreover, the price was 31.4% higher on a year-to-date basis and was up 132.8% from the same day last year.

Global crude prices increased markedly in recent weeks, bolstered by an accelerating global economic recovery amid the deployment of Covid-19 vaccines, which boosted gasoil prices in turn. On top of that, resilient fuel demand in Europe and the effect of supply disruptions in the U.S. due to the shutdown of the Colonial Pipeline in early May further supported prices.

Gasoil prices are seen declining by year-end, mostly due to increasing global crude oil production and fading supply chain disruptions. That said, the recovery in consumption should gain steam in the coming months as the vaccine rollout accelerates and restrictions ease further in Europe, boding well for prices in turn. Volatile global oil supply and the spread of new strains of Covid-19 cloud the outlook. Our panelists see prices averaging USD 485 per metric ton in Q4 2021 and USD 526 per metric ton in Q4 2022.

European Gasoil 0.2% Sulfur (prices in USD/mt, aop)

1m ago

31-Dec-20

1y ago

517

418

236 +6.2%

+31.4%

+132.8%

Forecasts and change from spot

Forecast

Forecast

Forecast (last 6 months)

Period

 $\Delta$  Spot

499

-9.1%

485

-11.6%

526

-4.1%

Q4 22

Spot 549

14-May-21

Q2 21

Q4 21

Gasoil prices and futures prices

Annual data

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2021

### **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Gasoil FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 23 May 2021 1,100 1,200 1,300 1,400 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 Production Consumption France 10.0% Germany 25.5% Italy 5.2% Spain 12.9% UK 7.9% Belgium 1.7% Russia 7.0% Turkey 7.7% Poland 3.1% Czech Republic 6.4% Other 12.7% France 10.0% Germany 12.5% Italy 10.9% Spain 7.1% UK 9.9% Netherlands 2.4% Russia 13.3% Turkey 4.0% Poland 6.3% Czech Republic 1.5% Other 22.3% **Fact Sheet** Consumption | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World

# **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Gasoline FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 24 May 2021

I Consensus and futures

Gasoline

Gasoline prices rose over the past month, amid the shutdown of a major pipeline in the U.S. and the kickoff of the spring driving season. On 14 May, reformulated blendstock for oxygenate blending (RBOB) gasoline traded at USD 2.18 per gallon, which was 3.8% higher than on the same day last month. Moreover, the price was up 38.0% on a year-to-date basis and was 118.0% higher than on the same day last year. Prices trended firmly upwards in recent weeks, riding a wave of surging crude oil prices as the global economic recovery gained steam. In addition, gasoline prices were boosted by seasonally stronger demand for fuel in the U.S. and the shutdown of the Colonial Pipeline in early May due to a cybersecurity attack, which sparked panic-buying along the East Coast and caused fuel shortages.

Prices for gasoline are expected to retreat from their current level by year-end, as supply disruptions fade and global crude oil production continues to increase, pushing gasoline refinery rates higher in turn. That said, recovering travel-related consumption should limit the pullback in prices, although new strains of Covid-19 cloud the outlook. FocusEconomics panelists see gasoline trading at an average of USD 1.81 per gallon in Q4 2021 and USD 1.84 per gallon in Q4 2022.

RBOB Gasoline (prices in USD/gal, aop)

1m ago 31-Dec-20 1y ago 2.10 1.58 1.00 +3.8% +38.0%

Forecasts and change from spot

Forecast **Forecast** 

+118.0%

Forecast (last 6 months)

Period Δ Spot 1.98 -9.1% 1.81

-16.8%

1.84 -15.4%

Q4 22

Spot

2.18

14-May-21

Q2 21

Q4 21

Notes and sources

Reformulated Blendstock for Oxgenate Blending (RBOB) Gasoline spot prices in USD per gallon (gal). All data are from Thomson Reuters. Forecasts based on FocusEconomics

Consensus Forecast. Futures prices traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX). Futures are as of spot date.

1.0 1.4

1.8

2.2

### **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Gasoline FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 25 May 2021 Gasoline 55% Diesel 22% Jet Fuel 12% **Biofuels** 5% Natural Gas 3% Other 3% Light trucks 33.0% Cars & Motorcycles 24.7% Heavy trucks 23.7% Aircraft 9.3% **Boats** 5.2% Train & Bus 2.1% Military 2.1% Share of fuel usage in transportation Fact Sheet Refinery prod. | %-share in World Refinery cons. | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2017 United States 17.6% Russia 11.4% Canada 5.1% China 4.8% Brazil 3.5% Other 57.5% United States 20.4% China 13.9% Middle East 8.5% Africa 4.4% Japan 3.8%

Other 49.1% 2007

## **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Uranium FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast 126 May 2021 Uranium Prices for uranium slumped in the second half of April, before bouncing back in early May on improved sentiment. The commodity traded at USD 30.4 per pound on 14 May, which was 1.5% higher than on the same day a month earlier. Meanwhile, the price was up 1.3% on a year-to-date basis, but was 9.0% lower than on the same day last year. The key factor driving prices up was the news that Sprott Inc.—a global investment fund specialized in precious metals and real assets—added a physical uranium trust to its existing physical commodity funds. This followed the company's takeover of the Uranium Participation Corp. In addition, the Biden administration's approval to use public funds to keep the U.S.' existing fleet of nuclear power plants operative further supported prices. Looking ahead, uranium prices are forecast to rise further amid greater demand and tighter supply. Our panelists forecast prices to average USD 32.3 per pound in Q4 2021 and USD 40.0 per pound in Q4 2022. Uranium U3O8 (prices in USD/lb, aop) 1m ago 31-Dec-20 1y ago 30.0 30.0 33.4 +1.5% +1.3% -9.0% Forecasts and change from spot **Forecast** Forecast Forecast (last 6 months) Period $\Delta$ Spot 29.9 -1.6% 32.3 +6.2% 40.0 +31.6% Q4 22 Spot 30.4 14-May-21 Q2 21 Q4 21 Uranium prices and futures prices Annual data 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

2025 USD per lb (aop)

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Uranium
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 27
May 2021
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
Production from Mines | Thousand metric tons
Global
72.6
74.0
77.9
80.1
83.4
88.7
94.2
Kazakhstan
28.1
26.7
27.4
27.4
28.8
30.7
34.4
Canada
15.9
16.2
16.7
16.7
16.7
18.6
18.6
Australia
7.7
7.1
7.9
8.5
8.6
9.2
9.8
Africa
9.5
11.4
13.1
14.9
16.7
17.8
18.9
Other
11.4
12.6
12.9
12.7
12.7
12.4
Consumption | Thousand metric tons
Global
79.4
84.0
```

85.9 89.4

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Aluminium
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
128
May 2021
Aluminium LME
(prices in USD/mt, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
2,307
1,974
1,440
+5.7%
+23.5%
+69.3%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
2,233
-8.4%
2.122
```

-13.0% 2,073 -15.0% Q2 21 Q4 21 Q4 22 Spot

2,438
14-May-21
Aluminium
The aluminium price rally gained further steam in recent weeks, with price soaring to an over three-year high in early May, on sturdy global demand and supply concerns in China. Aluminum traded at USD 2,438 per metric ton on 14 May, which was up 5.7% from the same day in the previous month.

which was up 5.7% from the same day in the previous month. Moreover, the price was 23.5% higher on a year-to-date basis and was up 69.3% from the same day a year ago. Aluminium prices continued to soar over the past month, bolstered by both demand- and supply-side fundamentals. On the demand side, the global aluminium usage PMI posted the strongest expansion in over a decade in April, amid improving industrial demand conditions in top consumer China and an accelerating recovery in the manufacturing sector elsewhere, supported by progressing vaccination efforts. On the supply side, mounting tensions between China and Australia—a major supplier of raw materials—added further fuel to the price rally, after Beijing announced that it would suspend economic dialogue with Canberra, spurring fears of major aluminum supply disruptions ahead. The ongoing curtailment of aluminium smelters in China due to environmental regulations also boded well for prices.

Aluminium prices are expected to retreat from their current levels by year-end, as the recovery in global demand gradually flattens and supply fears fade. Global aluminium production capacity is expected to rise this year, which should spearhead the decline in prices for the base metal. That said, reviving manufacturing activity in major economies should limit a stronger pullback in prices. Notably, the outlook remains uncertain due to volatile trade relations and the spread of new strains of Covid-19. FocusEconomics panelists see prices averaging USD 2.122 per metric ton in Q4 2021 and USD

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Aluminium
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 29
May 2021
Aluminium | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ABN AMRO Bank
2,350
2,400
2,440
2,440
2,445
2,450
2,450
2,320
2,450
ANZ
2,200
2,000
1,925
1,900
1,950
2,150
2,250
BMO Capital Markets
2,275
2,200
2,100
2,100
2,100
2,000
2,000
1,880
2,161
2,050
BMO Economics
2,205
2,094
Capital Economics
2,245
2,200
2,050
1,975
1,925
1,875
1,825
1,775
```

2,150 1,900

CIBC World Markets

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Aluminium
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 30
May 2021
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
Production | Million metric tons of primary aluminium
52.2
54.2
58.1
58.9
59.4
60.0
United States
1.9
1.7
1.6
8.0
0.7
0.9
UAE
1.9
2.3
2.5
2.5
2.6
2.6
Russia
3.6
3.3
3.5
3.6
3.6
3.7
China
26.5
28.3
31.4
31.9
32.2
33.0
Other
18.3
18.5
19.1
20.1
20.3
19.8
Consumption | Million metric tons of primary aluminium
Global
49.9
54.5
57.5
59.0
62.8
66.1
EU15
8.4
8.6
```

8.8 9.0

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Alumina
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 31
May 2021
Alumina
Alumina COMEX
(prices in USD/mt, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
270
297
241
+2.2%
-7.0%
+14.4%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
283
+2.4%
290
+5.0%
294
+6.6%
Q2 21
Q4 21
Q4 22
Spot
276
14-May-21
Alumina prices and futures prices
Annual data
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
USD per mt (aop)
411
377
310
348
472
334
270
291
296
298
303
309
Quarterly data
Q2 20
```

Q3 20 Q4 20

### **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Alumina FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 32 May 2021 75 100 125 150 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 Smelting Grade Alumina Available Smelting Grade Alumina Requirement Distribution of bauxite reserves in 1998, 2008 and 2018 SGA Alumina Available and Required | Million metric tons Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World China 55.4% Australia 14.6% Brazil 6.1% India 5.0% North America 2.4% Other 16.5% Major alumina producers in 2018 2008 Total 27,000 million tons Australia 21.5% Brazil 7.0% Guinea 27.4% Jamaica 7.4% China 2.6% India 2.9% Other 31.2% 2018 Total 6,900 million tons Australia 17.4% Canada 3.6% DR Congo 49.3% Cuba

7.2% Philippines 4.1% Russia

Copper

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 33

May 2021

Copper LME

(prices in USD/mt, aop)

1m ago

31-Dec-20

1y ago

9,081

7,749

5,174

+12.5%

+31.8%

+97.4%

Forecasts and change from spot

**Forecast** 

**Forecast** 

Forecast (last 6 months)

Period

 $\Delta$  Spot

9,104

-10.9%

8,646

-15.4%

8.353

-18.2%

10,215

14-May-21

Q2 21

Q4 21

Spot

Q4 22

Copper

Copper prices soared to a record high in early May, due to strong global demand and heightened supply concerns in top producer Chile. On 14 May, the red metal closed the day at USD 10,215 per metric ton, which was up 12.5% from the same day last month. Moreover, the price was 31.8% higher on a year-to-date basis and was up 97.4% from the same day in 2020.

Copper prices rose steadily over the past month due to the ongoing global economic recovery, which has continued to support demand for the red metal. The JPM global composite PMI hit an 11-year high in April, pointing to continued momentum in global economic growth. Meanwhile, the IHS global copper usage PMI also accelerated in April, with output among manufacturers identified as heavy users of copper rising at the quickest pace in 40 months, boding well for copper demand and supporting prices in turn. On the supply side, strike threats from workers at BHP Group's Escondida and Spence copper mines in Chile loomed heavily in early May after contract negotiations broke down, putting further stress on already tight copper supplies and consequently sending prices to a new record high.

Prices should fall from their current record levels later this year as supply conditions improve, particularly in South America, where production levels should recuperate the losses sustained last year amid strikes and measures to contain the virus. That said, copper's use in new technologies such as electric vehicles should support demand, moderating the decline in turn. Our panel projects copper prices to average USD 8,646 per metric ton in Q4 2021 and USD 8,353 per metric ton in Q4 2022.

This month, 14 analysts polled by FocusEconomics kept their projections unchanged for Q4 2021, 12 upgraded their

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Copper
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 34
Copper | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21
Q3 21
Q4 21
Q1 22
Q2 22
Q3 22
Q4 22
Q1 23
2021
2022
ABIF
8,818
8,378
ABN AMRO Bank
9,525
9,965
9,990
10,005
10,100
10,100
10,250
9,455
10,115
AGPV
7,937
7,937
ANZ
9,500
8,500
9,000
8,700
8,600
8,500
8,800
Banchile Inversiones
```

### **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Copper May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 35 2008 Total 550,000 thousand tons Chile 29.1% United States 6.4% Indonesia 6.5% Australia 4.4% Russia 3.6% Peru 10.9% Other 39.1% 2018 Total 830,000 thousand tons Chile 20.5% United States 5.8% China 3.1% Australia 10.6% DRC 2.4% Peru 10.0% Other 47.6% Distribution of proven reserves in 2008 and 2018 Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2017 China 38.0% Chile 10.4% Japan 6.4% United States 4.6% Russia 4.1% Other 36.5% China 50.6% United States 7.6% Germany 5.1%

Japan 4.3%

Iron Ore

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

136

May 2021

Iron Ore CFR China

(prices in USD/mt, aop)

1m ago

31-Dec-20

1y ago

173.5

161.0

91.7

+20.2%

+29.5%

+127.4%

Forecasts and change from spot

**Forecast** 

**Forecast** 

Forecast (last 6 months)

Period

 $\Delta$  Spot

171.5

-17.8%

144.8

-30.6%

116.3

-44.2%

208.5

14-May-21

Q2 21

Q4 21

Spot

Q4 22

Iron Ore

Iron ore prices surged in recent weeks on the back of strong demand for steel and supply concerns due to an accelerating global economic recovery. On 14 May, the benchmark iron ore 62% Fe import price including freight and insurance at the Chinese port of Tianjin traded at USD 208.5 per metric ton (mt), which was 20.2% higher than on the same day last month. Moreover, the price was up 29.5% on a year-to-date basis and it was 127.4% higher than on the same day last year.

Prices for iron ore hit a new record high on 12 May, on solid demand for steel from top consumer China and expectations of higher appetite for the steel-making commodity elsewhere, in line with recovering industrial and economic activity globally. On top of this, several other factors exerted upward pressure on prices, including supply tightness; speculative activity following renewed trade tensions between China and Australia, which could translate into more expensive iron imports for the Asian giant; an expected peak in Chinese demand ahead of the introduction of the country's new steel curbs; and increased iron ore purchasing as a hedge against inflation.

Looking ahead, prices are seen subsiding markedly from their current levels, owing to expectations of lower demand from top consumer China once the country's steel output curbs are in place. However, recovering industrial activity globally should cushion the fall and keep prices relatively high. That said, pandemic-related uncertainty, amid the possibility of vaccine delays and further Covid-19 flare-ups, poses key a downside risk to global demand. FocusEconomics panelists estimate prices will average USD 144.8 per metric ton in Q4 2021 and USD 116.3 per metric ton in Q4 2022.

This month, 2 panelists left their forecasts unchanged, while

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Iron Ore
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 37
May 2021
Aluminium | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ABN AMRO Bank
190.0
165.0
155.0
140.0
135.0
125.0
120.0
170.0
130.0
BMO Capital Markets
130.0
115.0
120.0
120.0
95.0
95.0
85.0
140.0
107.5
Capital Economics
167.0
163.0
148.0
138.0
133.0
128.0
123.0
118.0
160.0
130.0
Citigroup Global Mkts
185.0
185.0
160.0
140.0
130.0
120.0
110.0
174.0
125.0
Commerzbank
160.0
150.0
130.0
110.0
110.0
```

Fitch Solutions

## **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Iron Ore FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 38 May 2021 1,200 1,300 1,400 1,500 1,600 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 Seaborne Supply Seaborne demand Rio Tinto 12.8% BHP 13.3% **FMG** 7.8% Vale 16.8% Other 49.3% Rio Tinto 13.4% **BHP** 12.5% **FMG** 8.2% Vale 16.6% Other 49.3% Top iron ore producing companies in 2014 and 2016 Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2018 Australia 40.2% Brazil 20.6% CIS countries 9.0% India 8.8% China 5.4% Other 15.9% China 55.4% India 8.1% CIS countries 6.8% European Union 6.6% Japan

6.3% Other

Nickel

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

139

May 2021

Nickel LME

(prices in USD/mt, aop)

1m ago

31-Dec-20

1y ago

16,335

16,554

12,006

+7.2%

+5.8%

+45.9%

Forecasts and change from spot

Forecast

**Forecast** 

Forecast (last 6 months)

Period

 $\Delta$  Spot

16,872

-3.7%

16,876

-3.7%

16.397

-6.4%

17,516

14-May-21

Q2 21

Q4 21

Spot

Q4 22

Nickel

Prices for nickel increased in recent weeks, supported by higher demand and rising prices for stainless steel. On 14 May, nickel traded at USD 17,516 per metric ton, which was 7.2% higher than on the same day in the previous month. Moreover, the price was 45.9% higher than on the same day a year ago, and was up 5.8% on a year-to-date basis. The rise in nickel prices over the past month came on the back of growing appetite for battery-grade nickel, particularly in Europe and in China. Moreover, a higher global manufacturing PMI reading in April signaled improving demand prospects for base metals. This, coupled with increasing prices for stainless steel—one of the main end-uses for nickel—amid supply concerns and higher inflation expectations, likely provided an additional boost. However, expectations of higher supply following the return of Brazil's Atlantic Nickel into full production likely tempered the increase in prices. Looking ahead, nickel prices are seen losing some ground, as supply is expected to notably outpace demand. That said, solid demand expectations for EV batteries, amid rising appetite for electric vehicles, will likely cushion the fall. All told, much still depends on the pace of global vaccination efforts, with the possibility of Covid-19 flare-ups and the subsequent prolongation of restrictive measures clouding the outlook. Our analysts see nickel prices averaging USD 16,876 per metric ton in Q4 2021 and USD 16,397 per metric ton in Q4 2022. This month, 5 panelists on our Consensus Forecast panel raised their forecasts. Meanwhile, 3 cut their Q4 2021 projections and 12 left their forecasts unchanged from the previous month.

Panelists have diverging views on how prices will evolve this year, reflecting lingering uncertainty in the market: For Q4 2021, the maximum price forecast is USD 19,750 per metric

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Nickel
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 40
Nickel | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21
Q3 21
Q4 21
Q1 22
Q2 22
Q3 22
Q4 22
Q1 23
2021
2022
ABN AMRO Bank
16,875
17,250
17,200
17,350
17,500
17,500
17,600
17,250
17,490
ANZ
17,600
18,150
18,700
18,975
19,250
18,700
18,975
BMO Capital Markets
16,750
16,000
16,000
15,750
15,750
15,750
15,750
16,000
16,575
15,750
BMO Economics
16,865
15,763
Capital Economics
16,260
16,250
```

15,500 14,940

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Nickel
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 41
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
Mine Production | Thousand metric tons of non-refined nickel
2,468
2,061
2,129
1,911
2,160
2,300
Australia
233
266
225
203
179
170
Indonesia
822
146
129
173
345
560
Philippines
236
411
465
311
366
340
Canada
223
229
235
235
214
160
Russia
243
264
261
221
214
210
Nickel Production | Thousand metric tons of refined nickel
Global
2,010
1,840
1,856
1,859
2,092
2,191
Consumption | Thousand metric tons of refined nickel
Global
1,823
1,590
```

1.783

Lead

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 42

May 2021

Lead LME

(prices in USD/mt, aop)

1m ago

31-Dec-20

1y ago

1,974

1,976

1,600

+8.3%

+8.2%

+33.6%

Forecasts and change from spot

Forecast

**Forecast** 

Forecast (last 6 months)

Period

 $\Delta$  Spot

1,989

-7.0%

1,926

-9.9%

1.907

-10.8%

2,138

14-May-21

Q2 21

Q4 21

Spot

Q4 22

Lead

Lead prices continued to rise in recent weeks, buoyed by surging demand for non-ferrous metals from China and signs of an ongoing global recovery. On 14 May, lead traded at USD 2,138 per metric ton, which was 8.3% higher than on the same day a month earlier. Moreover, the price was up 8.2% on a year-to-date basis and was 33.6% higher than on the same day of last year.

Lead prices climbed to an over one-year high in early May, supported by strong demand for base metals amid solid appetite from China. In addition, rekindled demand for secondary lead premiums from Southeast Asia, coupled with improved macroeconomic sentiment in line with progressing vaccination efforts, added further lift to prices. Meanwhile, more upbeat automotive data in April, amid higher numbers of passenger car sales in China, likely exerted further upward pressure on prices.

Going forward, prices are expected to lose some ground, as high stocks in top consumer China are likely to weigh on demand. Moreover, a potential slowdown in the vaccination rollout, coupled with the possibility of further Covid-19 flareups, and the gradual transition to electric vehicles and lithiumion batteries, pose key downside risks. FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast panelists see prices averaging USD 1,926 per metric ton in Q4 2021 and USD 1,907 per metric ton in Q4 2022.

This month, no panelists Consensus Forecast panelist cut their Q4 2021 projections. Meanwhile, 9 panelists left their estimates unchanged from the previous month and 6 raised their forecasts

Our panel has diverging views on lead prices over the short term: Maximum and minimum price forecasts for Q4 2021 are USD 2.100 per metric ton and USD 1.700 per metric ton.

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Lead
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 43
Lead | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ANZ
1,950
1,900
1,850
1,900
1,950
2,000
2,000
BMO Capital Markets
1,900
1,800
1,700
1,750
1,750
1,750
1,750
1,550
1,853
1,750
Capital Economics
1,975
1,975
1,925
1,890
1,865
1,840
1,815
1,790
1,950
1,850
Citigroup Global Mkts
1,900
1,950
2,000
2,050
2,050
2,050
2,050
1,965
2,050
Commerzbank
2,100
1,900
1,800
1,750
1,750
```

Complete Intelligence

## **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Lead May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 44 2008 Total 79,000 thousand tons United States 9.7% Australia 30.4% China 13.9% Kazakhstan 6.3% Peru 4.4% Canada 0.5% Other 34.7% 2018 Total 83,000 thousand tons United States 6.0% Australia 28.9% China 21.7% Mexico 6.7% Peru 7.2% Russia 7.7% Other 21.7% Distribution of proven reserves in 2008 and 2018 Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2017 China 42.0% United States 9.0% Korea 7.2% India 5.0% Germany 3.2% Other 33.6% China 41.3% United States 14.1% Korea 5.4%

India

Tin

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 45

May 2021

Tin LME

(prices in USD/mt, aop)

1m ago

31-Dec-20

1y ago

27,767

20,545

15,205

+12.7%

T12.1 /0

+52.4%

+105.9%

Forecasts and change from spot

**Forecast** 

**Forecast** 

Forecast (last 6 months)

Period

 $\Delta$  Spot

26,560

-15.1%

23,727

-24.2%

21,681

-30.7%

31,300

14-May-21

Q2 21

Q4 21

Spot

Q4 22

Tin

Tin prices continued to rocket over the past month, surging to record-high levels in the first half of May, on buoyant demand for electronics and lingering supply scarcity. On 14 May, tin traded at USD 31,300 per metric ton, which was up 12.7% from the same day in the previous month. Moreover, the price was 52.4% higher on a year-to-date basis and was up 105.9% from the same day last year.

Upbeat demand conditions and tight global supply propelled tin prices in early May, extending this year's rally. Robust global demand for consumer electronics—of which tin is a key component—has drained physical stocks of tin so far this year, thus creating a shortage of the metal and kicking off the price rally. As the global economic recovery continued to gain pace in April—reflected by the global composite PMI hitting an 11-year high in the month—upside pressures strengthened, seemingly bolstering tin prices in turn. Moreover, supplyside fundamentals provided additional tailwinds for tin prices: Global output remains well below its pre-pandemic levels in May, largely due to supply disruptions in top exporters Indonesia and South America, with the former posting a 24% drop in shipments in Q1.

Tin prices are set to fall back from their current levels by end-2021 as the supply and demand imbalance gradually narrows. Global production should gradually pick up on the back of capacity rebuilding in Indonesia and South America, while supply chain disruptions will eventually fade, triggering a correction in prices. Nevertheless, a sustained recovery in demand should keep prices well above last year's levels. Further ahead, the outlook remains bright thanks to tin's usability in new technologies, including electric vehicles, robotics and renewable energy. FocusEconomics panelists see the price of tin averaging USD 23.727 per metric ton in

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Tin
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 46
Tin | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21
Q3 21
Q4 21
Q1 22
Q2 22
Q3 22
Q4 22
Q1 23
2021
2022
BMO Capital Markets
28,000
25,000
24,000
20,000
20,000
20,000
20,000
17,500
25,332
20,000
Capital Economics
27,770
27,000
25,000
23,750
23,250
22,750
22,250
21,750
25,950
23,000
Citigroup Global Mkts
24,000
22,000
20,000
20,000
21,000
21,000
20,000
22,750
20,500
Commerzbank
25,000
22,000
20,000
21,000
21,000
Complete Intelligence
27,425
27,796
```

29,348 30,629

## **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Tin May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 47 2008 Total 5,600 thousand tons China 30.4% Indonesia 14.3% Malaysia 8.9% Peru 12.7% Brazil 9.6% Bolivia 8.0% Other 16.1% 2018 Total 4,700 thousand tons China 23.4% Brazil 14.9% Bolivia 8.5% Australia 7.9% Indonesia 17.0% Russia 7.4% Other 20.9% Distribution of proven reserves in 2008 and 2018 Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2017 China 50.0% Indonesia 19.8% Malaysia 7.5% Brazil 5.1% Peru 4.7% Other 13.0% China 48.1% United States 8.3% Japan 7.6% Germany 5.2%

Korea 3.4% Other

7inc

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 48

May 2021

High Grade Zinc LME

(prices in USD/mt, aop)

1m ago

31-Dec-20

1y ago

2,801

2,729

1,958

+4.3%

+7.0%

+49.1%

Forecasts and change from spot

Forecast

**Forecast** 

Forecast (last 6 months)

Period

 $\Delta$  Spot

2,804

-4.0%

2,673

-8.4%

2,568

-12.0%

2.920

14-May-21

Q2 21

Q4 21

Spot

Q4 22

Zinc

Zinc prices jumped to an over two-year high in early May, buoyed by healthier demand conditions in top consumer China and an accelerating global economic recovery. On 14 May, zinc traded at USD 2,920 per metric ton, which was up 4.3% from the same day last month. Moreover, the price was 7.0% higher on a year-to-date basis and was up 49.1% from the same day last year.

Zinc prices trended firmly upwards in recent weeks, supported by incoming data that pointed to upbeat global industrial demand. PMI readings suggested that the Chinese manufacturing sector regained momentum in April, while global manufacturing activity posted the strongest expansion in over a decade at the beginning of Q2, amid an accelerating vaccine rollout and the easing of lockdown restrictions in most major economies. Meanwhile, in contrast to supportive demand-side fundamentals, supply-side factors seem to have weighed on zinc prices somewhat. After recording a large surplus in 2020, oversupply conditions in the global zinc market continue to linger in May, as mines restore production and supply chain disruptions fade.

Zinc prices are seen declining from their current levels by the end of 2021, chiefly on the back of recovering global output, as mining activity recovers from the pandemic-induced disruption. Major mines in South America, especially in Peru, are seen returning to their pre-pandemic capacity levels this year, which will likely result in oversupply conditions continuing to prevail on a global level, thus weighing on prices. More positively, recovering global economic activity amid fiscal stimulus measures and accelerating vaccination programs should soften the pullback in prices. FocusEconomics panelists see prices averaging USD 2,673 per metric ton in Q4 2021 and USD 2.568 per metric ton in Q4 2022.

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Zinc
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 49
Zinc | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ABN AMRO Bank
2,855
2,875
2,860
2,885
2,895
2,865
2,855
2,835
2,875
ANZ
2,900
2,700
2,700
2,700
2,800
2,700
3,000
BMO Capital Markets
2,700
2,300
2,200
2,250
2,250
2,250
2,250
2,300
2,487
2,250
BMO Economics
2,535
2,315
Capital Economics
2,755
2,650
2,550
2,475
2,425
2,375
2,325
2,290
2,675
```

2,400

CIBC World Markets

## **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Zinc May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 50 2008 Total 180,000 thousand tons United States 7.8% Australia 23.3% Canada 2.8% China 18.3% Kazakhstan 7.8% Peru 10.0% Other 30.0% 2018 Total 230,000 thousand tons Australia 27.8% China 19.1% Peru 9.1% Mexico 8.7% United States 4.8% India 4.3% Other 26.1% Distribution of proven reserves in 2008 and 2018 Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2017 China 45.1% Korea 7.6% India 5.7% Canada 4.3% Japan 3.8% Other 33.4% China 48.9% United States 5.8% Korea 5.0% India

4.6% Japan

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Cobalt
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 51
May 2021
Cobalt
Cobalt
(prices in USD/mt, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
49,830
31,998
29,564
-11.5%
+37.8%
+49.2%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
49,301
+11.8%
49,295
+11.8%
55,370
+25.6%
Spot
44,100
14-May-21
Q2 21
Q4 21
Q4 22
Cobalt prices and futures prices
Annual data
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
USD per mt (aop)
30,754
28,440
25,491
55,851
72,920
33,289
31,422
48,088
53,257
55,281
53,101
Quarterly data
Q2 20
Q3 20
```

Q4 20 Q1 21

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Molybdenum
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 52
May 2021
Molybdenum
Molybdenum
(prices in USD/mt, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
26,015
20,900
18,298
+0.8%
+25.5%
+43.4%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
24,251
-7.6%
19,842
-24.4%
18,739
-28.6%
Q4 21
Q4 22
Spot
26,235
14-May-21
Q2 21
Molybdenum prices and futures prices
Annual data
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
USD per mt (aop)
25,199
17,020
14,132
17,659
26,382
25,694
19,649
22,759
19,842
20,834
21,605
22,377
Quarterly data
Q2 20
Q3 20
```

Q4 20 Q1 21

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Steel
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 53
May 2021
Steel EUR
Steel USA
Hot Rolled Coil Steel USA
(prices in USD/mt, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
1,358
1,005
475
+10.8%
+49.8%
+216.8%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
1,352
-10.2%
1,105
-26.6%
790
-47.5%
1,505
14-May-21
Q2 21
Q4 21
Spot
Q4 22
Steelusa prices and futures prices
Annual data
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
USD per mt (aop)
653
461
520
620
828
604
579
1,222
842
736
662
588
Quarterly data
Q2 20
```

Q3 20 Q4 20

## **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Steel FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 54 May 2021 Metal products 14.0% Machinery & Equipment 15.0% Transport 21.0% Domestic appliances 2.0% Construction 35.0% Other 13.0% Ingots and semi-finished 13.3% **HR Sheets** and Coils 18.8% Galvanised Sheet 10.2% Steel tubes and fittings 9.3% **CR Sheets** and Coils 8.3% **HR Bars** and Rods 4.7% Wire Rod 6.0% **Plates** 7.3% Other 22.1% Share of steel by industry and product Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2017 China 49.2% Japan 6.2% India 6.0% **United States** 4.9% Russia 4.1% Other 29.6% China 43.5% Other Asia 19.9% European

Union 10.5%

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Gold
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 55
May 2021
Gold LBMA (prices in USD/toz, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
1,735
1,898
1,730
+5.9%
-3.2%
+6.2%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
1,778
-3.2%
1,754
-4.5%
1,701
-7.4%
Q2 21
Q4 21
Q4 22
Spot
1,837
14-May-21
Gold
·
10
\uparrow
9
\uparrow
4
=
19
21
18
\downarrow
3
↓
2
↓
2
Forecast Revisions (by number of panelists)
Q2 21
Q4 21
Q4 22
Panelist Spread
Gold prices and futures prices
Annual data
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
```

2019

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Gold
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 56
Gold | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ABN AMRO Bank
1,738
1,713
1,675
1,625
1,575
1,525
1,771
1,600
ANZ
1,850
2,000
1,900
1,850
1,800
1,600
1,550
BayernLB
1,750
1,700
1,650
BMO Capital Markets
1,775
1,800
1,775
1,860
1,860
1,870
1,870
1,845
1,786
1,865
BMO Economics
```

1,800 1,700

Capital Economics

## **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Gold May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 57 Total 2018 2,165 metric tons Jewellery 85% Electronics 3% Other Industrial 2% Official Coins 7% Medals 3% Total 2018 653 metric tons Jewellery 46% **Electronics** 33% **Dentistry** 4% Other Industrial 6% Official Coins 11% Usage of gold by industry in developing and developed countries Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2018 China 12.0% Australia 9.4% Russia 8.4% US 7.6% Canada 5.8% Indonesia 5.7% Other 51.1% China 27.9% India 24.9% US 5.5% Japan 3.5% Turkey 3.5% Other

Total World 2009 29.873 metric tons

34.7%

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Silver
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 58
May 2021
Handy & Harman Silver (prices in USD/toz, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
25.4
26.4
15.8
+7.7%
+3.9%
+73.6%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
26.2
-4.6%
25.8
-6.0%
23.1
-15.8%
Spot
27.4
14-May-21
Q2 21
Q4 21
Q4 22
Silver
```

Silver prices jumped notably in recent weeks, likely due to upbeat industrial demand and some speculative trading. Silver traded at USD 27.4 per troy ounce on 14 May, which was up 7.7% from the same day last month. Moreover, the price was 3.9% higher on a year-to-date basis and was up 73.6% from the same day a year prior.

Silver prices received a notable bump in early May, predominately due to robust industrial production activity in the U.S. and China in March, which likely supported demand prospects. Moreover, the JPM global composite PMI and the IHS global manufacturing PMI both hit over-decade highs in April, suggesting momentum in the industrial sector remained strong and further boosting silver prices in turn. Meanwhile, stronger inflation in the U.S. and some weakness in the greenback should have also supported demand for silver due to its attractiveness as a non-interest bearing asset.

The FocusEconomics panel expects prices to dip from their current levels going forward. Safe-haven demand and speculative buying that have boosted silver prices recently should soften later in 2021 as clarity over the virus emerges and prices return closer to fundamentals. That said, recovering industrial production and strong fiscal stimulus measures should temper the fall. Our panelists project silver prices to average USD 25.8 per troy ounce in Q4 2021 and USD 23.1 per troy ounce in Q4 2022.

Compared to last month, 10 panelists made no changes to their Q4 2021 projections, while 1 revised down their forecasts and 3 raised their estimates.

There continues to be a notable divergence in panelists' views: The maximum price forecast for Q4 2021 is USD 30.0 per troy ounce, while the minimum projected price is USD 20.0 per troy ounce.

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Silver
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 59
Siver | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ABN AMRO Bank
24.3
23.8
23.3
22.8
22.4
22.2
24.6
22.6
ANZ
26.4
28.6
27.1
26.4
25.0
22.2
21.5
BMO Capital Markets
26.5
27.5
26.0
28.0
26.0
26.0
26.0
24.5
26.6
26.5
BMO Economics
27.0
26.5
Capital Economics
24.2
23.5
22.3
21.3
21.0
20.6
20.2
20.0
23.9
```

20.8

Citigroup Global Mkts

# **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Silver May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 60 Total 2018 248.5 million ounces China 26.0% US 23.7% Japan 13.4% Germany 7.8% India 5.8% Taiwan 5.2% Russia 3.6% South Korea 3.2% France 2.1% Others 9.1% Total 2018 58 million ounces China 49.8% United States 10.9% Ja... India 4.5% United Kingdom 4.0% Germany 3.8% Canada 2.8% Others 19.5% Industrial sector usage by country in 2018 Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2018 Mexico 22.0% Peru 16.2% China 12.8% Russia 4.8% Chile 4.7% Bolivia 4.5% Other 35.0%

India 20.7%

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Palladium
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 61
May 2021
Palladium LME (prices in USD/toz, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
2,689
2,342
1,785
+6.4%
+22.2%
+60.3%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
2,673
-6.6%
2.678
-6.4%
2.435
-14.9%
2,861
14-May-21
Spot
Q4 22
Q2 21
```

Palladium

Q4 21

Palladium prices hit a record high in early May due to continued supply concerns, as well as healthy demand prospects. On 14 May, palladium closed the day at USD 2,861 per troy ounce, which was 6.4% higher than on the same day of the previous month. Moreover, the price was up 22.2% on a year-to-date basis and was 60.3% higher than on the same day last year. Palladium prices continued to increase robustly in recent weeks, predominately due to some ongoing supply disruptions at Russian mines operated by top producer Nornickel. Constrained production, coupled with expectations of stronger demand for palladium from the automotive sector in the second half of the year, pushed palladium prices to a fresh all-time high on 4 May. The ongoing semiconductor shortage has forced automakers to destock in recent months, and consequently vehicle production is anticipated to surge in the second half of 2021, boding well for palladium demand and supporting prices in turn.

FocusEconomics panelists see palladium prices falling later this year, as recent supply concerns over Nornickel's mining operations ease and rebounding output in South Africa supports production. Moreover, the possibility of a slow vaccine rollout and subsequent continued lockdowns globally poses a significant downside risk to prices. That said, tougher environmental regulations in the EU should support demand for energy efficient vehicles and limit the overall downturn. Our panelists see prices averaging USD 2,678 per troy ounce in Q4 2021 and USD 2,435 per troy ounce in Q4 2022. This month, 7 panelists left their Q4 2021 projections stable, while 4 raised their forecasts and no panelists downgraded

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Palladium
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 62
Palladium | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ABN AMRO Bank
2,425
2,475
2,513
2,538
2,563
2,588
2,412
2,550
BMO Capital Markets
2,725
2,400
2,300
2,300
2,000
1,875
1,850
1,750
2,458
2,006
Capital Economics
2,760
2,950
3,000
3,015
3,040
3,065
3,090
3,115
2,800
3,050
Citigroup Global Mkts
2,800
3,000
2,800
2,200
2,100
1,900
1,800
2,775
2,000
Commerzbank
2,450
2,500
2,500
2,500
2,600
```

Complete Intelligence

## **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Palladium May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 63 2019 Total 8879 thousand ounces North America 27.8% Europe 21.1% Japan 9.4% China 25.7% Other 16.0% 2019 Total 519 thousand ounces North America 12.9% Europe 32.9% Japan 4.2% China 31.0% Other 18.9% Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2019 Russia 39.2% South Africa 37.1% Canada 8.8% US 6.6% Zimbabwe 5.4% Others 2.9% North America 27.8% Europe 21.1% Japan 9.4% China 25.7% Other 16.0% 2010 World mine production 6,612 thousand ounces

South Africa 40.5%

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Platinum
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 64
May 2021
Platinum LME (prices in USD/toz, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
1,180
1,068
758
+3.9%
+14.8%
+61.7%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
1,202
-2.0%
1,219
-0.6%
1.215
-0.9%
Q2 21
Q4 21
Q4 22
Spot
```

1,226 14-May-21 Platinum

Platinum prices increased in recent weeks, in line with other precious metals, likely due to an improving demand outlook. On 14 May, platinum traded at USD 1,226 per troy ounce, which was up 3.9% from the same day last month. Moreover, the price was 14.8% higher on a year-to-date basis and was up 61.7% from the same day in 2020.

The rise in prices over the past month was likely due to robust industrial production activity in the U.S. and China in March, which should have supported demand prospects for platinum. Moreover, healthy manufacturing PMI data for April suggests momentum continued to gain steam. Meanwhile, solid progress on the vaccine front and still-strong fiscal stimulus measures should be stoking vehicle demand—U.S. vehicle sales were well above their five-year average in March and April. Furthermore, some destocking from automakers due to the global shortage of semiconductors will likely lead to a significant boost in vehicle production in the second half of the year, further boosting demand prospects for platinum and consequently pushing prices higher.

Platinum prices will likely remain close to their current level later this year, as stronger industrial demand partially offsets recovering supply in South Africa. A potentially prolonged Covid-19 outbreak hitting demand is a downside risk, while possible pandemic-driven mine closures and the substitution of palladium for platinum in catalytic converters—given the large price disparity between the two metals—pose upside risks. Panelists expect prices to average USD 1,219 per troy ounce in Q4 2021 and USD 1,215 per troy ounce in Q4 2022. This month, 9 panelists left their forecasts for Q4 2021 unchanged, no panelists cut their forecasts and 3 revised their projections upwards.

There is a substantial divergence in panelists' views on the

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Platinum
May 2021
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 65
Platinum | Forecasts and futures prices
Annual average
Individual Forecasts
Q2 21 Q3 21 Q4 21 Q1 22 Q2 22 Q3 22 Q4 22 Q1 23
2021
2022
ABN AMRO Bank
1,263
1,288
1,313
1,338
1,363
1,388
1,225
1,350
ANZ
1,200
1,250
1,300
1,320
1,250
1,200
1,150
BMO Capital Markets
1,225
1,175
1,050
1,000
1,000
1,000
1,000
950
1,153
1,000
Capital Economics
1,120
1,025
950
890
865
840
815
790
1,055
850
Citigroup Global Mkts
1,200
1,250
1,300
1,300
1,300
1,350
1,400
1,225
```

1,340

Commerzbank

## **FOCUS ECONOMICS Platinum** May 2021 FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 66 2019 Total 3,208 thousand ounces North America 15.6% Europe 38.5% Japan 9.8% China 9.6% Other 26.5% 2019 Total 722 thousand ounces North America 11.1% Europe 13.2% Japan 6.1% China 35.0% Other 34.6% Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2019 South Africa 72.2% Russia 11.7% Zimbabwe 7.9% Canada 3.8% US 2.5% Others 1.9% North America 15.6% Europe 38.5% Japan 9.8% China 9.6% Others 26.5% 2010 World Mine Production was 6,183 thousands

ounces South Africa

Cocoa

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 67

May 2021

Cocoa

Cocoa prices increased over the past month, likely due to unfavorable weather conditions in West Africa, which raised concerns over supply. On 14 May, the spot price was USD 2,474 per metric ton, which was 5.4% higher than on the same day last month. Meanwhile, the price was up 2.5% on a year-to-date basis but was 6.7% higher than on the same day last year.

The rise in cocoa prices since the start of May was predominately due to below average rainfall amid high temperatures in most of Cote d'Ivoire's key cocoa-growing regions, which has the potential to hamper the size of the April–September mid-crop. Irregular rainfall and drier conditions will likely result in smaller, more acidic beans if they persist, therefore lowering supply levels, which should have benefited prices.

Prices are seen staying close to their current level this year, supported by healthier demand as the global economy continues to recover, while volatile weather conditions in West Africa remain a key upside risk. Our panelists forecast prices to average USD 2,451 per metric ton in Q4 2021 and USD 2,506 per metric ton in Q4 2022.

Annual average

Individual Forecasts

Q2 21

Q3 21

Q4 21

Q1 22 Q2 22

Q2 22 Q3 22

Q4 22

Q4 22 Q1 23

QIZ.

2021

2022 ABN AMRO Bank

2,445

2,475

2,595

2,640

2,660

2.680

2,690

-

2,500

2,670

Capital Economics

2,375

2,475

2,625

2,715

2,740

2,765

2,790

2,800

2,500

2,750

Citigroup Global Mkts

2,500

2,500

2,400

-

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Cocoa
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 68
May 2021
Fact Sheet
Fact Sheet
3,800,000
4,000,000
4,200,000
4,400,000
4,600,000
4,800,000
2013/14
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
Production
Consumption
Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World
Côte
d'Ivoire
13.1%
Netherlands
12.9%
Indonesia
10.5%
Germany
9.4%
United
States
8.6%
Other
45.5%
Global production and consumption | Metric tons
2011/12
2012/13
2013/14
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
Production | Metric tons
Global
4,095,400
3,945,200
4,370,100
4,157,700
3,997,000
4,744,000
4,587,000
Côte d'Ivoire
1,485,900
1,449,000
1,746,200
1,750,000
1,581,000
2,020,000
2,000,000
Ghana
879,300
835,500
896,900
```

695,700 778,000 970,000

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

169

May 2021

Corn

Corn prices increased over the last month, despite pulling back somewhat in recent days. Corn traded at USD 644 cents per bushel on 14 May, which was 8.4% higher than on the same day a month earlier. In addition, the price was up 33.0% on a year-to-date basis and was 102.8% higher than on the same day last year.

Demand has likely remained solid in recent weeks amid strong Chinese purchases, as the Asian giant aims to rebuild the world's largest hog herd and amid growing demand from its refining industry, which uses the commodity as input. In addition, in Brazil—the third largest global supplier—delays to the soybean harvest, coupled with challenging climate conditions, boded ill for supply. That said, May's USDA report struck a bearish note, forecasting higher production in the U.S. in the next growing season, coupled with bigger ending stocks and lower exports, which likely caused corn prices to give up some of their gains in mid-May.

Corn prices are seen dipping from their current level later this year, as they have likely run ahead of fundamentals in recent months. Moreover, Chinese purchases could tail off as demand from the hog industry normalizes. FocusEconomics analysts see prices averaging USD 582 cents per bushel in Q4 2021 and USD 508 cents per bushel in Q4 2022.

Annual average

Individual Forecasts

Q2 21

Q3 21

Q4 21 Q1 22

Q2 22

Q3 22

Q4 22

Q1 23

2021

2022

**ABN AMRO Bank** 

635

655

640

635

625 610

600

615

620

Capital Economics

580

590

565

540

515

490

465

450

565

500

Citigroup Global Mkts

575 575

500

## **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Corn FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 70 May 2021 950,000 1,000,000 1,050,000 1,100,000 1,150,000 2014/15 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 Production Consumption Global production and consumption | Thousand metric tons 2008/2009 Total 147,289 thousand tons United States 28.9% China 36.1% European Union 4.1% Brazil 8.2% Mexico 2.4% Other 20.3% 2018/2019 Total 309,778 thousand tons **United States** 14.2% China 67.1% European Union 2.2% Brazil 2.6% Mexico 1.1% Other 12.8% Distribution of ending stocks in 2008/09 and 2018/19 Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2018 United States 33.3% China 23.4% Brazil 8.6% European Union 5.5%

Argentina 4.2%

Soybeans

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 71

May 2021

Soybeans

The price of soybeans jumped over the past month, likely due to supply concerns in the U.S. and Argentina. Soybeans traded at USD 1,586 cents per bushel on 14 May, which was 12.5% higher than on the same day last month. Moreover, the price was up 20.6% on a year-to-date basis and was 89.5% higher than on the same day last year.

Prices received a notable boost in recent weeks due to poor growing conditions across the Northern Plains in the U.S., which should have weighed heavily on the domestic supply outlook. Moreover, dry conditions in major producer Argentina likely also raised international output concerns and provided further support to prices. However, softer U.S. export data and solid sowing progress in the U.S. as a whole should have somewhat tempered the overall rise in prices.

Soybean prices will likely taper from their recent highs later this year, but they should remain upbeat nonetheless due to firm demand and tighter supply conditions. Panelists see the price of soybeans averaging USD 1,314 cents per bushel in Q4 2021 and USD 1,156 cents per bushel in Q4 2022.

Annual average

Individual Forecasts

Q2 21

Q3 21

Q4 21

Q1 22

Q2 22

Q3 22 Q4 22

Q1 23

2021

2022

**ABN AMRO Bank** 

1.495

1,395

1,420

1,425

1,415

1,390

1,360

1,425

1,400

ANZ

1.340

1,230

1,270

1,030

970

960

1.040

**BBVA Research** 

1.412

1,306

1,202

1,217

1,186

1,155

1.126

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Soybeans
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 72
May 2021
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
Production | Thousand metric tons
Global
320,718
316,565
349,309
339,993
360,993
United States
106,905
106,869
116,931
120,065
123,664
Brazil
97,200
96,500
114,600
120,800
117,000
Argentina
61,450
58,800
55,000
37,800
55,000
China
12,690
12,360
13,644
15,200
15,900
Paraguay
8,154
9,217
10,336
9,810
9,500
Consumption | Thousand metric tons
Global
264,754
275,130
287,423
295,257
304,798
United States
50,975
51,335
51,742
55,926
56,880
Argentina
40,235
43,267
43,309
36,933
```

43,200

**European Union** 

### **FOCUS ECONOMICS**

Sugar

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 73

May 2021

Sugar

Prices for sugar continued to increase in recent weeks, hitting an over four-year high on 27 April. Sugar traded at USD 17.2 cents per pound on 14 May, which was 8.3% higher than on the same day last month. Moreover, the price was up 16.2% on a year-to-date basis and was 59.7% higher than on the same day last year.

The increase in prices came amid a drop in production in Brazil—the world's top sugar producer—in April due to unfavorable weather conditions, while output in Thailand was also lower. Moreover, poor weather for crop growth in Europe—the world's third largest producer—also pushed up prices recently.

Sugar prices are projected to drop from their current high levels later this year, on an expected recovery in Thai production, while India and Europe are also seen yielding higher output. However, concerns over lower output in Brazil remain, with producers tempted to process more sugar cane into ethanol—potentially more profitable for them than sweetener, which could temper the fall in prices. Our panelists see prices averaging USD 15.8 cents per pound in Q4 2021 and USD 14.9 cents per pound in Q4 2022.

Annual average

Individual Forecasts

Q2 21

Q3 21

Q4 21

Q1 22 Q2 22

Q3 22 Q4 22

Q1 23

2021

2022

**ABN AMRO Bank** 

16.6

17.5

17.6

16.9

16.6

16.3

16.2

16.9

16.5

Capital Economics

15.4

15.5

14.8

14.4

14.3

14.2 14.1

13.9

15.2

14.3

Citigroup Global Mkts

16.2

15.5

15.1

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Sugar
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 74
May 2021
160,000
170,000
180,000
190,000
200,000
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
Production
Consumption
Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World
Fact Sheet Sugar
Others
59.1%
India
15.5%
European
Union
10.6%
China
8.8%
Brazil
6.0%
Global production and consumption | Thousand Metric tons
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
Production | Thousand metric tons
Global
177,582
164,888
173,980
191,813
188,251
Brazil
35,950
34,650
39,150
38,870
34,200
India
30,460
27,385
22,200
32,445
33,830
European Union
18,449
14,283
18,313
21,150
20,300
Thailand
10,793
9,743
10,033
```

13,730 14,100

#### **FOCUS ECONOMICS**

Wheat

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

| 75

May 2021

Wheat

Prices for wheat surged over the past month, likely due to supply concerns amid still-elevated geopolitical tensions in the Black Sea region. On 14 May, wheat traded at USD 707 cents per bushel, which was 9.1% higher than on the same day in the previous month. Moreover, the price was 40.8% higher than on the same day last year and it was up 10.4% on a year-to-date basis.

The stark rise in wheat prices in recent weeks was predominately driven by dry conditions across both the Northern and Southern Plains in the U.S. and the Canadian Prairies. Conditions were particularly unfavorable across the Southern Plains, likely curbing production prospects and consequently sending prices higher. Meanwhile, geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine continue to keep investors on edge with regard to wheat output in the Black Sea region, which should have also benefited prices over the past month.

Prices should ease from their current levels later this year as more favorable weather conditions prevail. That said, geopolitical tensions are upside risks to the outlook. Our panelists see prices averaging USD 645 cents per bushel in Q4 2021 and USD 599 cents per bushel in Q4 2022.

Annual average

Individual Forecasts

Q2 21

Q3 21

Q4 21

Q1 22 Q2 22

Q3 22

Q4 22

Q4 ZZ

Q1 23

2021

2022

**ABN AMRO Bank** 

690

695

700

680

675

660 650

-

685

665

**BMO Economics** 

-

-

-

\_

\_

-

680

640

Capital Economics

609 575

538

520

# **FOCUS ECONOMICS** Wheat FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast | 76 May 2021 700,000 725,000 750,000 775,000 2014/15 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 Production Consumption 2008/2009 Total 166,185 thousand tons European Union 11.4% China 27.5% India 8.1% Canada 3.9% United States 10.8% Other 38.3% 2018/2019 Total 267,534 thousand tons European Union 4.2% China 52.3% India 5.5% Canada 1.9% United States 10.3% Other 25.8% Fact Sheet Production | %-share in World Consumption | %-share in World Major producers and consumers in 2018/19 European Union 18.7% China 17.9% India 13.6% Russia 9.7% United States 7.0%

Other 33.1%

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Coffee
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 77
May 2021
Coffee
Coffee Arabica (prices in USD cents/lb, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
124
120
98
+10.7%
+14.6%
+40.9%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
133
-3.3%
141
+2.6%
147
+7.1%
Q4 22
Spot
138
14-May-21
Q2 21
Q4 21
80
100
120
140
160
May-20
Nov-20
May-21
Nov-21
May-22
Coffee prices and futures prices
Annual data
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
USD cents per lb (aop)
171
132
138
132
114
98
```

107 134

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Cotton
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 78
May 2021
Cotton
Cotton ICE (prices in USD cents/lb, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
84.2
78.1
57.9
-2.1%
+5.5%
+42.5%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
85.0
+3.1%
84.3
+2.3%
8.08
-2.0%
Spot
82.4
14-May-21
Q2 21
Q4 21
Q4 22
Cotton prices and futures prices
Annual data
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
USD cents per lb (aop)
76.2
63.3
65.6
73.3
82.0
67.4
64.3
84.7
82.5
81.5
80.9
80.3
Quarterly data
Q2 20
Q3 20
Q4 20
```

Q1 21 Q2 21

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Palm Oil
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 79
May 2021
Palm Oil
Palm Oil (prices in USD/mt, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
1,180
1,045
498
+10.2%
+24.4%
+161.3%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
1,024
-21.3%
950
-26.9%
894
-31.3%
Q2 21
Q4 21
Q4 22
Spot
1,300
14-May-21
Palmoil prices and futures prices
Annual data
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
USD per mt (aop)
816
615
705
720
596
566
712
990
903
895
898
901
Quarterly data
Q2 20
Q3 20
Q4 20
```

Q1 21 Q2 21

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Rice
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 80
May 2021
Rice
Rice (prices in USD/mt, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
504
529
498
-1.6%
-6.2%
-0.4%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
528
+6.6%
523
+5.4%
467
-5.8%
Q2 21
Q4 21
Q4 22
Spot
496
14-May-21
460
500
540
580
May-20
Nov-20
May-21
Nov-21
May-22
Rice prices and futures prices
Annual data
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
USD per mt (aop)
422
387
395
397
420
417
497
```

523 467

```
FOCUS ECONOMICS
Wool
FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast
| 81
May 2021
Wool
Wool AWEX EMI (prices in AUD cents/kg, aop)
1m ago
31-Dec-20
1y ago
1,285
1,171
1,179
+1.6%
+11.5%
+10.8%
Forecasts and change from spot
Forecast
Forecast
Forecast (last 6 months)
Period
\Delta Spot
1,311
+0.3%
1,261
-3.5%
#N/A
#N/A
Q4 21
Spot
1,306
14-May-21
Q2 21
Q4 22
Wool prices and futures prices
Annual data
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
AUD cents per kg (aop)
1,047
1,198
1,294
1,539
1,906
1,747
1,229
1,279
1,174
1,141
1,123
Quarterly data
Q2 20
Q3 20
Q4 20
```

Q1 21 Q2 21 **FOCUS ECONOMICS** 

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast

82

May 2021

Notes and Statements

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### **PUBLICATION NOTE**

Consensus Forecasts are mean averages of projections of economic forecasters surveyed by FocusEconomics for our monthly publication. Quarterly averages may not correspond to the annual figures due to different forecast panels. Monthly forecasts are interpolated values based on quarterly averages.

The production-weighted averages for the FocusEconomics Global Commodity Index and Energy, Base Metals, Precious Metals and Agricultural Indices refer to commodities surveyed by FocusEconomics on a monthly basis, and include the following commodities:

Energy (8 commodities):

Brent Crude Oil and WTI Crude Oil, Coking Coal, Gasoil, Gasoline,

Natural Gas, Thermal Coal and Uranium U308.

Base Metals (12 commodities):

Aluminium, Alumina, Cobalt, Copper, Iron Ore, Lead, Molybdenum,

Nickel, Steel (USA), Steel (Europe), Tin and Zinc.

Precious Metals (4 commodities):

Gold, Palladium, Platinum and Silver.

Agricultural (10 commodities):

Cocoa, Coffee, Corn, Cotton, Palm Oil, Rice, Soybeans, Sugar,

Wheat and Wool.

Weights are based on global production volumes and reflect the latest forecasts on production and market prices.

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Notes

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MAJOR ECONOMIES

& SWITZERLAND

G7 countries (United States, Canada, Japan, United Kingdom, France, Germany &

Italy), Switzerland and overview of the BRIC countries

**EURO AREA** 

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania,

Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain

NORDIC ECONOMIES

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

**CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE** 

Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania,

Slovakia and Slovenia

CIS PLUS COUNTRIES

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia,

Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey

**EAST & SOUTH ASIA** 

Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Australia and New

Zealand

**ASEAN ECONOMIES** 

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam,

Australia and New Zealand

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela

CENTRAL AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti,

Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman,

Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique,

Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

ECONOMIC FORECASTS FOR KEY INDICATORS IN 132 COUNTRIES IN 12 REGIONS

REAL SECTOR

GDP per capita, Economic Growth, Consumption, Investment, Industrial Production, Unemployment Rate,

Fiscal Balance and Public Debt

MONETARY & FINANCIAL SECTOR

Money, Inflation Rate, Policy Interest Rate and Exchange Rate

**EXTERNAL SECTOR** 

Current Account, Trade Balance, Exports, Imports, International Reserves and External Debt

**ENERGY** 

Brent Crude Oil, WTI Crude Oil, Coking Coal, Gasoil (European market), Gasoline (U.S. benchmark), Natural

Gas.

Thermal Coal and Uranium

**BASE METALS** 

Alumina, Aluminium, Cobalt, Copper, Iron Ore, Lead, Molybdenum, Nickel, Steel (European and U.S.

markets), Tin and Zinc

PRECIOUS METALS

Gold, Silver, Palladium and Platinum

AGRÍCULTURAL

Cocoa, Coffee, Corn, Cotton, Palm Oil, Soybeans, Rice, Sugar, Wheat and Wool

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