

United States Metals Report Q1 2015

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Abstracts

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BMI View: The US metals sector will see modest growth over the next several years. Accelerating economic expansion will encourage metal production and consumption, but total production and consumption levels will remain below pre-crisis levels through 2018.

Accelerating real GDP growth in the coming quarters will lead to modest growth in the metals sector. We now forecast real GDP growth of 2.7% in 2015, up from our previous forecast of 2.6%, and estimate growth of 2.3% in 2014, up from our earlier estimate of 2.1%. Gains in non-residential construction, automotive production, and oil and gas investment, should lead to steady, albeit low, demand growth for refined metal products. Nevertheless, we expect US economic expansion to remain below historical trends in the coming years. Combined with currently elevated inventories, weak foreign demand, and increased competition from cheap imports, the metals sector will not return to pre-financial crisis levels of consumption and production.

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