

Germany Metals Report Q4 2014

<https://marketpublishers.com/r/GD92979D4B0EN.html>

Date: October 2014

Pages: 59

Price: US\$ 1,295.00 (Single User License)

ID: GD92979D4B0EN

Abstracts

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Germany's metals sector will continue to feel the squeeze as output prices remain low and costs stay stubbornly high. We forecast subdued growth in consumption of key metals such as steel, copper and aluminium, chiefly due to a muted outlook for economic activity in the country. Key metal consuming sectors such as autos and construction will remain weak. For autos production, we do not foresee a return to growth until 2018 at the earliest. Illustrative of challenges faced by the wider metals sector, steel mills will remain under significant pressure, as low output prices squeeze margins. This will encourage consolidation of operations and dampen output growth. We forecast that steel production will post only erratic growth in the coming years, as low prices will continue to bite.

Contents

BMI Industry View

SWOT

Metals SWOT

Industry Forecast

Steel: Only Modest Growth On The Horizon

Production To Remain Under Pressure

Table: Steel Production & Consumption (Germany 2010-2018)

Table: Steel Industry Historical Data (Germany 2005-2012)

Aluminium: Weak Prices To Restrain Production Growth

Table: Aluminium Production & Consumption (Germany 2010-2018)

Copper: Sector To Struggle

Table: Refined Copper Production, Consumption & Balance (Germany 2010-2018)

Regulatory Development

Table: Political Overview

Commodities Forecast

Commodity Strategy

Ferrous Metals:

Steel: Prices To Remain Subdued

Non-Ferrous Metals:

Aluminium: Price Strength To Continue In Q3/14

Copper: Further Decline By Year's End

Lead: Constructive Price Outlook

Nickel: Moderation To Continue

Tin: Upside Ahead

Zinc: Consolidation Before Multi-Year Gains

Table: Select Commodities - Performance & BMI Forecasts

Steel: Prices To Head Higher From 2016

Table: BMI Steel Price Forecast

Short-Term Outlook (three-to-six months)

Long-Term Outlook

Production: Chinese Rationalisation Measures To Bite

Consumption: Slowing Demand Growth On The Horizon

Burgeoning Chinese Exports Will Not Last

Eurozone Growth Downgrade Highlights Long Road To Recovery

Risks To Price Forecast

Table: Steel Data & Forecasts

Competitive Landscape

Table: Germany - Largest Listed Metals Producers

Company Profile

ArcelorMittal

Company Overview

Company Strategy

Latest Financial Results

Company Details

Financial Data

Table: ArcelorMittal - Key Financial Data

ThyssenKrupp AG

Table: ThyssenKrupp - Key Financial Data

Aurubis AG

Table: Aurubis - Key Financial Data

Methodology

Cross Checks

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