

Malaysia Metals Report Q1 2015

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Abstracts

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BMI View: Malaysia has a well developed metals sector and is a leading global producer of both steel and tin, However, local producers have been met with increasing pressure from other markets in recent years, with a sharp uptick in Chinese output levels, in particular, leading to downwards pressure on prices and hence production volumes. Out outlook for both the Malaysia steel and tin sectors is therefore one of caution with production growth expected to be moderate over the next few years.

2014 saw Malaysia's steel producers experience falling output and revenues as a flood of cheap imports squeeze prices and margins. With much of this extra supply arriving in the form of cheap products from countries such as China, Indonesia and South Korea, local producers have found themselves hit by falling orders for hot rolled coils as well as other heavily imported steel products. The impact on local steelmills has been considerable with many firms forced to cut capacity in response to growing oversupply. Malaysia is estimated to have imported almost 1.83mnt of steel from China in 2013, including 924,000 tonnes of wire rods, equivalent to 80% of Malaysia's total import volume of the product.

Contents

BMI Industry View

SWOT

Metals SWOT

Industry Forecast

Steel: Import Tariffs To Halt Production Slide

Table: Steel Production & Consumption (Malaysia 2012-2018)

Tin: Production Growing Again As Prices Stabilise

Table: Refined Tin Production, Consumption & Balance (Malaysia 2010-2018)

Regulatory Development

Table: Import Duties - Steel Wire Rods

Table: Political Overview

Commodities Forecast

Commodity Strategy

Ferrous Metals

Non-Ferrous Metals

Aluminium: Sustained Break Unlikely

Copper: Prices To Decline Further By 2015

Nickel: Increase From Current Lows, But No Return To H114 Highs

Zinc: Tighter Supplies To Be Offset By Subdued Demand

Table: Select Commodities - Performance & BMI Forecasts

Commodities Forecast

Table: BMI Steel Price Forecast

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

Long-Term Outlook

Production Growth Set For Slowdown

Consumption Growth To Disappoint

Downside Risks To Price Outlook

Table: Steel Data & Forecasts

Competitive Landscape

Table: Malaysia - Financial Data Of Key Listed Companies

Company Profile

Malaysia Smelting Corporation Berhad

Table: MSC - Key Financial Data

Methodology

Cross Checks

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