

South Korea Metals Report Q1 2015

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Abstracts

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BMI View: South Korean metals consumption growth is set to moderate in 2015, as the country's exports of manufactured goods are hit by a global economic slowdown and an expected contraction in Europe. South Korea is a major producer of steel and slab zinc, but domestic mining output of ferrous and nonferrous metals is small and reliant on imports for the raw materials required by the metals industry. Domestically produced metals and metal products are fundamental to the country's industrial base, as well as trade.

South Korea has very small reserves of copper and the production level of both mined and refined copper is insufficient to meet domestic demand. The country has to rely on imports to supplement domestic production, and is the world's sixth largest importer of refined copper and the world's fifth largest importer of copper blisters and anodes, which are unrefined forms of copper.

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