

Expert reports on non-ferrous scrap metals

(WW) – World-wide economic growth continued to provide a positive backdrop for the non-ferrous scrap metals market. While there were localised disruptions in demand and seasonal slowdowns which sometimes reduced needs on a spot basis, non-ferrous scrap metals suppliers were able to "just about sell everything" they purchase, commented Robert Stein, chairman of the non-ferrous metals division of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) in his introduction to the latest edition of the "BIR World Mirror Non-Ferrous Metals" published at the end of February.

On the Chinese market, business initially saw a few days of strong demand when the market reopened after the end of the Chinese New Year holidays, reported David Chiao from the company Uni-All Group Ltd. Then, the turmoil in parts of the Middle East and the subsequent oil price increase raised concerns among traders that another wave of economic crises and declining commodity prices could be ahead. In China's coastal provinces, inflation rates of 5 per cent in December 2010 and 4.9 per cent in January 2011 resulted in a shortage of workers, according to Mr Chiao. Labour costs were rising to such an extent that traditional labour-intensive industries including scrap processing were facing another difficult year, Mr Chiao said.

In India, too, the political unrest in the Arab World has led to some "jitters" in the country's growth drive, which may probably be temporary, though, reported Dhawal Shah from the company Metco Marketing (India) Pvt. Ltd. On the non-ferrous scrap metals market, there had been good activity in the past weeks in copper, brass, aluminium and lead. "Although raw material purchasing by finished product makers has reportedly been lower, the trading volumes have been quite impressive," Mr Shah commented.

In Latin America, demand for most grades of non-ferrous scrap metals improved during the previous month, with the recent market correction further encouraging demand, reported Alejandro Jaramillo from the company Recicladora Cachanilla from Mexico at the end of February. Demand remained robust overall and supply tight, "with dealers and consumers chasing metal that appears to be eluding them". Even lower copper scrap grades which were previously not much sought after were attracting interest. Prices for aluminium scrap were continuing to rise in line with demand while supply appeared insufficient.

Guatemala seems to plan to limit scrap metal exports by introducing a quota, according to Mr Jaramillo. Companies interested in exporting would have to apply to the government for a share of the quota. Further details about the new rules were not available yet, Mr Jaramillo said. □

The non-ferrous scrap metals market in Germany

(D) – Following some significant decreases in the last week of February, the wholesale buying-in prices for non-ferrous scrap metals stabilised in Germany, according to Dow Jones. After having dropped by up to €50 per 100 kg between the third and the fourth week of February, copper scrap grades were stable at the previous week's level at the start of March. Bright copper wire scrap (Kabul) and chopped copper wire scrap Ia (Kasus) thus stood at €670-675, and copped copper wire scrap II (Katze) changed hands at €630-635. The price range of light copper scrap (Klima) moved between €570 and €575.

Brass scrap grades had lost up to €30 per 100kg in the second half of February. Last week, light brass scrap (Modus) continued to range at €320-325, while red brass scrap I (Radar) changed hands at €515-520.

Remelted zinc scrap also remained at the previous week's level of €140-145, while the top price of old zinc scrap yielded by €5, bringing the range to €110-115. Chromium steel scrap was unchanged at €45-50, but the price ranges of V2A and V4A nickel chrome steel cuttings were lower



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by €5 compared to the week before at €180-185 and €255-260, respectively.

Aluminium scrap grades, which had remained largely stable during the second half of February, recorded few changes at the start of March. New aluminium low on copper was traded at €135-140, as in the week before. By contrast, at €165-170, the price range of pure aluminium wire was €5 lower than the week before. The same applied to extrusion cuttings which moved to €170-175. Sheet cuttings and turnings were unchanged at €90-95, as was cast scrap at €100-105. □

Dow Jones Wholesale Buying-In Prices for Non-Ferrous Scrap Metals in Germany

2 March 2011

Prices in €/100 kg

	02.03.2011	23.02.2011	03.03.2010
Bright copper wire scrap (Kabul)	670 - 675	670 - 675	515 - 520
Chopped copper wire scrap Ia (Kasus)	670 - 675	670 - 675	515 - 520
Chopped copper wire scrap II (Katze)	630 - 635	630 - 635	480 - 485
Unalloyed copper wire scrap I (Kader)	620 - 625	620 - 625	480 - 485
Unalloyed copper wire scrap II (Kanal)	580 - 585	580 - 585	470 - 475
Heavy copper scrap (Keule)	595 - 600	595 - 600	475 - 480
Light copper scrap (Klima)	570 - 575	570 - 575	450
Brass scrap (Milbe)	350 - 355	350 - 355	310 - 315
Light brass scrap (Modus)	320 - 325	320 - 325	245 - 250
Brass rod turnings (Maler)	400 - 405	400 - 405	315 - 320
New rolled brass scrap (Magda)	475 - 480	480 - 485	365 - 370
Red brass scrap I (Radar)	515 - 520	515 - 520	375 - 380
Red brass scrap II (Rampe)	505 - 510	505 - 510	365 - 370
Remelted zinc	140 - 145	145 - 150	135 - 140
Old zinc scrap	110 - 115	115 - 120	105 - 110
Chromium steel	45 - 50	45 - 50	30 - 35
Nickel chrome steel cuttings V2A	180 - 185	185 - 190	135 - 140
Nickel chrome steel cuttings V4A	255 - 260	260 - 265	180 - 185
New aluminium low on Cu	135 - 140	135 - 140	110 - 115
Pure aluminium wire	165 - 170	170 - 175	140 - 145
Cast aluminium scrap, max 2 % Fe	100 - 105	100 - 105	95 - 100
Aluminium sheet cuttings, max 2 %	90 - 95	90 - 95	75 - 80
Aluminium turnings, allowance 5 %	90 - 95	90 - 95	75 - 80
Aluminium extrusion cuttings AlMgSi 0.5	170 - 175	175 - 180	143 - 147

Prices free warehouse in commercial quantities (3-5t)

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Source: Dow Jones