



Monday, November 25, 2024

Base metals rebounded after two consecutive weeks of declines starting in early November. Prices found support from China's decision to cancel export tax rebates beginning December 1st, sparking concerns about a potential reduction in overseas shipments. However, further gains were limited by a stronger U.S. dollar, which reached its highest level in 13 months.

Rebate cancellations

China announced reduction in the export tax rebate rate for some refined oil products, photovoltaics, batteries, and certain non-metallic mineral products from 13% to 9%. The abolition of the 13% VAT refund by the Ministry of Finance, which will take effect on December 1, which also applies to copper and aluminium product exports. China's aluminium exports have long been a source of contention with Western trading partners, who accuse the country of unfair subsidies and harmful trade practices. Removing the tariff on exports could be a preemptive concession at a time when international tensions are growing. China's copper product shipments are not minor, totaling roughly 700,000 tons per year, but aluminum volumes are on a different scale. In 2023, the country's exports of semi-manufactured items such as bars, sheets, and tubes totaled 5.2 million tons.

China braces for heavy tariffs

China's commerce ministry announced a number of policy measures aimed at increasing the country's overseas trade, including a pledge to increase firm financial support and expand agricultural commodity exports. With U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's threat to impose tariffs of more than 60% on all Chinese goods, which has spooked Chinese manufacturers and accelerated factory relocation to Southeast Asia and other

Commodity	Copper	Aluminum	Zinc
Open	824.45	245.7	280.1
Close	813.75	247.60	282.25
Change	18.60	4.95	5.50
% Change	2.34%	2.04%	1.99%
Open Int.	1925	1102	507
Change	-5648	-1322	-1973
Pivot	818.7	247.0	281.5
Resistance	825.0	249.1	286.2
Support	807.4	245.5	277.5

LME Inventory Weekly Market Data				
Commodity	Copper	Nickel	Aluminum	Zinc
Open	271525	159156	716425	259500
Close	272525	159000	708550	261325
Change	1000	-156	-7875	1825
% Change	0.37%	-0.10%	-1.10%	0.70%

regions, exporters in the world's second-largest economy are bracing for trade disruptions. According to a Reuters poll, US could put roughly 40% tariffs on Chinese imports early next year, potentially reducing China's GDP by up to one percentage point. China will push financial institutions to provide additional products to help enterprises enhance their currency risk management, as well as to increase macroeconomic policy coordination to keep the Yuan "reasonably stable," according to an online statement from the ministry.

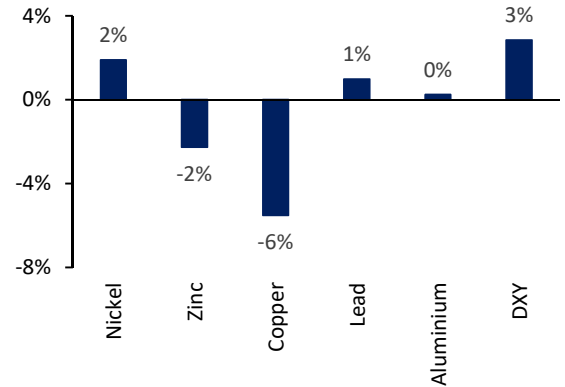
China Loan Prime Rate and Business Activity

The People's Bank of China kept one-year loan prime rate unchanged at 3.10%, while the five-year rate also stays at 3.60%. China is showing early signs of stabilization following its most aggressive stimulus measures since the pandemic. This development comes as the country prepares for the return of President-elect Donald Trump, who has threatened to increase tariffs on Chinese exports. In the previous month, the central bank maintained its one-year policy rate after implementing a record reduction in funding costs. This cautious approach signaled a measured strategy to sustain economic growth while carefully managing monetary stimulus. Policymakers have also delivered interest-rate cuts and support for the property and stock markets, while also rolling out a \$1.4 trillion debt swap program to curb risks faced by local authorities and free up fiscal room for them to promote growth. Last month, PBOC Governor Pan Gongsheng reiterated the central bank may lower the RRR — which frees up cash for banks to lend — by another 25 to 50 basis points by the end of the year depending on market liquidity conditions which may support metal prices. The Eurozone's dominant services industry contracted and manufacturing sank deeper into recession this month, pressuring the Euro further. Manufacturing and Services PMI figures from China this weekend will be important to watch for.

Outlook:

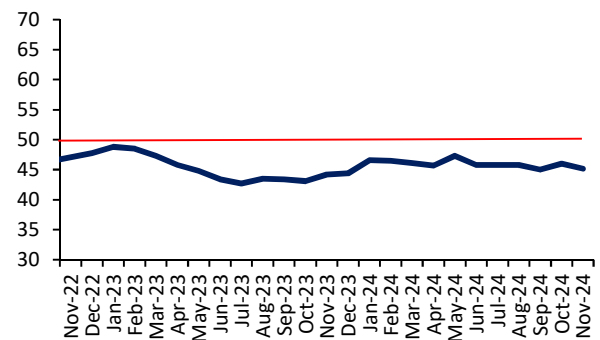
Although metal prices have been struggling due to underwhelming measures from China government, heightened tensions, tariff threat and a rallying dollar, some support can be seen from the announcement and implementation of China cancelling the 13% tax rebate on aluminium and copper products starting from 1 December. This will have implications for the global aluminium market, making it more expensive.

Change in LME Metals MTD



Source: - Reuters

EuroZone Manufacturing PMI



Source: Reuters

Technical Outlook: -

Copper

In the last week, copper gave a positive close, with a gain of around 18 rupees or 2.34%. The 14- period Relative Strength Index (RSI) on the daily chart is currently trading below the midpoint mark of 50 indicating sideways to lower range. Prices are holding below 20 day SMA in a broad consolidation. Immediate support can be identified at Rs. 785 level whereas immediate resistance is observed at Rs. 825. There is a possibility for it to trade in the ongoing consolidative phase.



Zinc

In the last week, zinc gave a positive close with a gain of around 5.50 rupees or 2.00%. The 14- period Relative Strength Index (RSI) is currently trading at 48 indicating sideways to lower range. Immediate support can be identified at Rs. 274 mark whereas resistance is observed at Rs. 285 level. There is a possibility for the dip towards 274 level initially testing downward sloping channel breakout followed by a rebound towards 285 on the higher side.



Aluminum

In the last week, aluminium prices gave a positive close with a gain of around 5 rupees or 2.00%. The 14- period Relative Strength Index (RSI) currently trading above 61, signalling market strength. Prices are sustaining above the symmetrical triangle pattern breakout and the slope of 20 day moving average is turning upwards and is relatively stronger. We maintain buying on dips till it holds above Rs. 239 level testing Rs. 252 on the higher side followed by Rs. 260 as an extended target.





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