Oil | Agriculture | Metals | Carbon & Power | Dry Freight
Click on headers to go to that section

Top News - Oil

Saudi Arabia's crude exports slip from nine-month high in April
Saudi Arabia's crude oil exports fell in April, slipping from their highest in nine months hit in the previous month, data from the Joint Organizations Data Initiative (JODI) showed on Monday.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT
Saudi Arabia is the world's largest exporter of crude oil. OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia, can pause or reverse oil production increases if the market weakens, the Saudi energy minister said this month.

BY THE NUMBERS
Crude exports from the world's largest oil exporter decreased 6.9% to 5.968 million barrels per day (bpd) in April, down from 6.413 million bpd in March. The country's crude production rose to 8.986 million bpd in April from 8.973 million bpd in the prior month. Data also showed that Saudi refineries' crude throughput fell by 0.015 million bpd to 2.545 million bpd and direct crude burning increased by 93,000 bpd to 400,000 bpd in April.

CONTEXT
Monthly export figures are provided by Riyadh and other members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to JODI, which publishes them on its website. Saudi Arabia this month lowered the official selling price of its flagship Arab Light crude to Asia for July, which marked the first cut in five months, and was at the lower end of traders' expectations in a Reuters survey. The potential price reduction for Asia, which accounts for 82% of Saudi Arabia's oil exports, underscores the pressure faced by producers in the OPEC group, amid robust non-OPEC supply growth and a global economy facing headwinds. OPEC+ agreed to extend most of its deep oil output cuts well into 2025 at its policy meeting on June 2.

ANALYSIS-Global gasoline refining margins slump on slow summer driving season
Oil refiners are making less money selling their gasoline as demand during the peak summer driving season has fallen short of what they expected when many of them boosted production. Softness in gasoline markets have upended years of record profits on selling transportation fuels. In the U.S., the world's largest gasoline market, refiners ramped up sharply, expecting demand that never materialized. U.S. gasoline demand was 9 million barrels per day (bpd) in the first week of June, 1.7% below last year and seasonally the lowest since 2021, government data showed. In Asia, weakness in the gasoline market has already led to run cuts, and refiners elsewhere are also likely to pull back in weeks ahead. This could reduce global demand for crude oil. "Given the retreat from elevated margins, we cite risk to refiners' continued maximum output strategy to reap record profits," BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, said in a note last month.
Brent oil prices are down about 9% from a mid-April peak to around $83 a barrel, most recently on concerns that the OPEC+ producer group will add supply to the market. The producer group last week warned that a slow start to the summer driving season and low margins are weighing on sentiment. Even with crude prices slipping, Asian refiners' profit on making gasoline from a barrel of Brent halved in the last week of May to about $4 per barrel. A glut of fuel supplies prompted the fall in refining margins, Wood Mackenzie analyst Priti Mehta said. Overall refining margins fell under $2 a barrel in Singapore in May, compared with an average of $5 a year ago.
European gasoline refining margins fell to $10.80 a barrel on June 13, the lowest since January 25. U.S. gasoline crack spread, the difference between gasoline futures and the cost of WTI crude oil, was under $22.50 a barrel for the first time since February.

PULLBACK
Taiwan's Formosa Petrochemical Corp, one of Asia's largest refined products exporters, plans to cut run rates at its crude distillation units in June to 440,000 bpd, down 40,000 bpd from its original plan to process 480,000 bpd. "Increased flows from the Middle East to Asia and increased Indian exports are weakening the cracks, otherwise demand in Asia is healthy," a spokesperson for Formosa told Reuters. U.S. demand has been pressured by a mix of factors, including more people flying instead of driving long distances and more fuel-efficient cars and electric vehicles, UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said last month. Higher output from American refineries, combined with weak demand, has lifted U.S. gasoline stockpiles by 5.7 million barrels since the start of April to 233.5 million barrels by June 7, the highest for this time since 2021.
U.S. refiners cut run-rates to 95% in the week ended June 7, after utilizing a one-year high of 95.4% in the prior week, U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) data showed. That was the first cut since April. They will need to lower rates further if demand remains lackluster, Mizuho analyst Robert Yawger said. "We're looking at the potential for one of the worst years for summer U.S. gasoline demand in the post-COVID world. No way that refiners can continue to crank fuels at 95% utilization," he said.

The EIA on Tuesday lowered its forecast for U.S. gasoline consumption this year to 8.89 million bpd from an earlier estimate of 8.91 million.

OVERWHELMING SUPPLY

Margins should improve as U.S. gasoline rises as it typically does throughout the summer, Rabobank strategist Joe DeLaura said. Yet he warned the market has consistently underperformed. Margins should get some support from a slower-than-expected ramp up of new refineries such as Mexico's Olmeca refinery in Dos Bocas, which is aiming to lower the country's import needs. As of May, however, Dos Bocas was behind schedule and did not produce commercially viable gasoline and diesel. In Nigeria, the Dangote refinery delayed gasoline deliveries until July. The market must still adjust to overwhelming supply growth from new refineries ramping up and expansions of existing plants which have boosted fuel exports from the Middle East, India and China. Gasoline exports from the Middle East have been at seasonal records over the last six months, according to Kpler data.

Indian and Chinese refiners are taking advantage of access to discounted Russian oil, Mehta said. Their higher supplies are likely to keep Asian gasoline cracks under pressure through the summer, she said. "The peak for gasoline (cracks) was already reached in April, when cracks averaged $17.3/bbl Dubai crude in Asia. We don't expect them to strengthen a lot through the summer period," Mehta said. Chinese gasoline exports grew by about 100,000 bpd in May from April, ending last month at around 350,000 bpd, according to WoodMac. Indian gasoline exports averaged 360,000 bpd in May, up 50,000 bpd on the month.

Top News - Agriculture

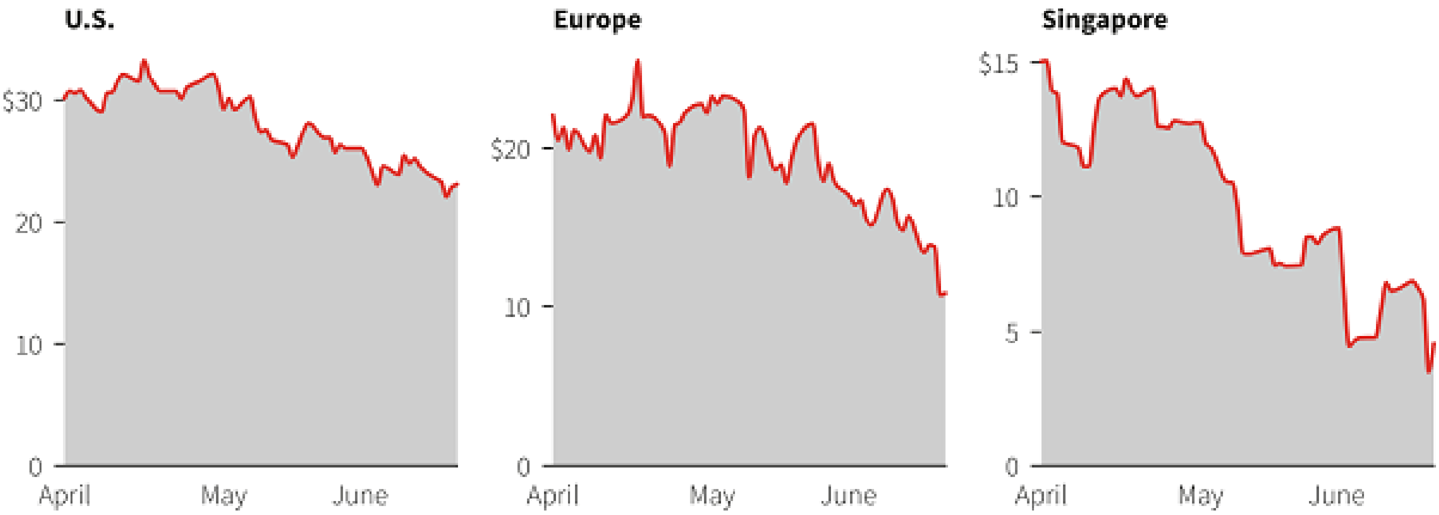
NOPA May US soy crush tops most trade estimates at 183.625 mln bushels

The U.S. soy crush rebounded in May from a seven-month low the prior month and topped most trade estimates as processors churned through more beans than any previous May on record, according to National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA) data released on Monday. NOPA members, which account for around 95% of soybeans crushed in the United States, processed 183.625 million bushels of soybeans last month, up 8.4% from an April crush of 169.436 million bushels. It was also 3.2% above the 177.915 million bushels crushed in May 2023, which was the previous record for the fifth month of the year. The crush exceeded the average trade estimate of 178.352 million bushels, based on a Reuters survey of 11 analysts. Estimates ranged from 171.350 million to 187.643 million bushels, with a median of 178.000 million bushels. Numerous U.S. soy processors restarted idled

Chart of the Day

Gasoline margins slump across major trading hubs

Gasoline crack spreads - difference in price of fuel to cost of crude oil - have dropped sharply since April on rising supplies and weak demand.



Note: In dollars per barrel; Europe and Singapore spreads against Brent crude, U.S. spread against WTI
Source: Refinitiv

plants last month following widespread downtime in April for seasonal maintenance and repairs. Soy processors had been crushing at a brisk pace since the fall harvest, with record crush tallies in February and March, to take advantage of good processing margins, which have narrowed since earlier this year.
The May crush was notably higher that a month earlier in the eastern Midwest, Iowa, the northern Plains and the Southwest, but down in top soy producer Illinois, NOPA data showed. Soyoil stocks among NOPA members as of May 31 fell to 1.724 billion pounds, down 5.9% from the 1.832 billion pounds on hand at the end of April and 7.9% below year-ago stocks of 1.872 billion pounds. Analysts, on average, had expected stocks to dip to 1.775 billion pounds, according to estimates from eight analysts. Soyoil stocks estimates ranged from 1.675 billion to 1.950 billion pounds, with a median of 1.749 billion pounds.

US farmers shun buyers, cling to unsold corn as prices slump

South Dakota farmer Eric Kroupa received a flurry of calls from grain dealers and ethanol plants asking to buy the corn locked away in his bins when prices neared 4-1/2-month peaks last month. He sold some, but is waiting for buyers to up their bids to sell more. Prices have since eased and are hovering just above three-year lows posted in February. "There's a lot of corn out there but it's sitting in the farmers' bins and not the end-users' hands," Kroupa said.
After stockpiling crops for much of this season due to low prices, many farmers in the world's largest corn-producing nation continue to shun buyers despite few signs that prices will improve. Grain supplies are ample and early ratings of summer crops are the best in years. A larger-than-normal volume of grain remains unsold, according to Reuters interviews with 15 grain farmers across the U.S. Midwest. By September 2025, U.S. corn inventories are expected to reach a six-year high, according to the U.S Agriculture Department. Uncertainty around if and when farmers will liquidate their stocks could make for choppy grain prices, both in cash and futures markets. Farmers risk waiting too long to sell as a flood of newly harvested grain is likely to drag down prices this October and November. Buyers, aware the harvest is coming, still need enough supplies to keep processing plants running and exports flowing this summer. An economic stare-down between growers and grain buyers is taking shape, said Angie Setzer, a partner at Michigan-based Consus Ag. "I've never seen anything like it in my life. No one's engaged, not the farmer and not the consumer," Setzer said.
Many growers sold just enough this spring to cover short-term cash-flow needs, Setzer said. Some are counting on adverse weather this summer to trigger price rallies, though nothing is guaranteed. Three farmers told Reuters they convinced seed and chemical suppliers to reduce late fees, allowing them to hang on to their crop. Others, including Kroupa, use the futures market to hedge the risk of further price declines. Meanwhile, commercial buyers are banking on lower prices this summer due to the grain glut, analysts said.
USDA will offer an update of how much corn sits on farms in a quarterly stocks report on June 28.
U.S. corn supplies stored at the farm level stood at just over 5 billion bushels as of March 1, the second-highest on-farm stocks on record for that date, according to USDA. On-farm stocks represented 60.85% of the entire U.S. corn supply, the largest share since 2005.
Some buyers are trying to pry grain away from farmers by offering premiums for immediate supplies to fill near-term needs, but are lowering prices once those orders are filled. Archer-Daniels-Midland on Friday offered farmers a 7-cent-per-bushel premium for corn delivered to its Decatur, Illinois, processing plant by Sunday versus later in the month. At ADM's Cedar Rapids, Iowa, plant, that premium is 15 cents. Such offers of a few extra pennies per bushel can amount to thousands of dollars per grain transaction. Indiana crop and cattle producer Samuel Ebenkamp emptied one corn bin with sales during an early-May rally, but opted to hold the rest. He'll sell more if prices rally again, but he's holding tight to ensure his cattle feed needs are covered until the fall harvest. His neighbors are making similar financial calculations, he said. "There is an insane amount of on-farm storage here," Ebenkamp said. "It doesn't appear anyone's in a rush to sell."
Farmers are still holding a larger-than-normal amount of their last harvest while demand for corn has been fairly solid, analysts said. "Ethanol margins are still relatively good. Feed margins are good. So there is demand out there. And as you look at the export sector, it's going to be improving," said Dan Basse, president of Chicago-based consultancy AgResource Co. How they fill that demand this summer is unclear, Basse said. "They are short-bought and the farmer is still long. Who is going to blink first?"

Top News - Metals

Record copper prices likely to pause U.S. scrap shipments to China

China's copper scrap imports have soared due to shortages of concentrate that is processed into refined metal used in the power and construction industries, but record high prices mean U.S. shipments are likely to pause. Smelters in top copper consumer China have faced concentrate shortages since last year when First Quantum lost the right to operate its Cobre mine in Panama, which accounted for 1% of global mined supply in 2022. China's copper waste and scrap imports overall climbed 25% to 783,004 tonnes in the first four months of this year compared to the same period in 2023, according to Trade Data Monitor (TDM).

TDM data also shows China's scrap imports from the United States jumped 37% to 153,059 tonnes in January to April this year from the same period last year.
Copper scrap from the U.S. is priced at a discount to the CME price, which hit a record $5.1985 a lb or $11,460 a tonne on May 20 due to parties which had sold futures being forced to buy them back or roll over positions.
"Chinese buyers are deferring U.S. copper scrap shipments," a source at a Chinese trading firm said, adding that China's top scrap supplier was the United States. The source said some Chinese buyers were looking to price U.S. scrap against copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME), trading at a discount to CME prices.
Deteriorating production at other mines, many in Latin America, has exacerbated concentrate shortages and Chinese smelters have imported more copper scrap to feed their furnaces and protect their margins. China is home to half of the world's copper smelters and the largest buyer of raw materials including concentrates and scrap. Scrap typically accounts for about 9 million tonnes or roughly 30% of global copper supplies annually.
"Due to concentrate tightness copper smelters are processing more scrap and blister," said Macquarie analyst Alice Fox.
"Given the cost of physical collection and processing - during periods of significant price movement, scrap tonnages on a contained copper basis can move by up to one million tonnes per annum, effectively rebalancing the market during periods of high or low prices." Macquarie expects the gap between copper supply and demand to widen to 1.6 million tonnes in 2030 from a deficit around 86,000 tonnes this year.

ANALYSIS-Brazil joins race to loosen China's grip on rare earths industry
Mining giant Brazil has big ambitions to build a rare earths industry as Western economies push to secure the metals needed for magnets used in green energy and defence and break China's dominance of the supply chain. Working to its advantage are low labour costs, clean energy, established regulations and proximity to end markets, including Latin America's first magnet plant which would provide a ready buyer for the metals.
But low rare earths prices, technical challenges and nervous lenders pose challenges to the Latin American nation's hopes to propel itself into the world's top five rare earths producers.
The pace at which Brazil's rare earths projects come together will be a test for how successful the West may be at building a new advanced industry almost from scratch to break China's grip. Brazil holds the world's third -largest rare earth reserves. The country's first rare earths mine, Serra Verde, started commercial production this year. Output is set to grow, analysts, mining CEOs and investors say, supported by Western government incentives that are also accelerating a global rare earths refining and processing industry. "Brazil as a source of potential rare earths is a very exciting proposition because there have been some very meaningful

MARKET MONITOR as of 06:53 GMT

Contract	Last	Change	YTD
NYMEX Light Crude	$80.16 / bbl	2.18%	11.88%
NYMEX RBOB Gasoline	$2.43 / gallon	1.65%	15.23%
ICE Gas Oil	$768.75 / tonne	0.85%	2.40%
NYMEX Natural Gas	$2.80 / mmBtu	-2.71%	11.50%
Spot Gold	$2,319.89 / ounce	-0.54%	12.47%
TRPC coal API 2 / Dec, 24	$119.75 / tonne	-1.24%	23.45%
Carbon ECX EUA	€67.99 / tonne	-0.42%	-15.40%
Dutch gas day-ahead (Pre. close)	€34.15 / Mwh	-2.51%	7.22%
CBOT Corn	$4.52 / bushel	-1.15%	-6.66%
CBOT Wheat	$6.09 / bushel	-3.06%	-4.73%
Malaysia Palm Oil (3M)	RM3,905 / tonne	-0.79%	4.94%
Index	**Close 17 Jun**	**Change**	**YTD**
Thomson Reuters/Jefferies CRB	343.31	-0.28%	13.90%
Rogers International	28.94	-0.55%	9.93%
U.S. Stocks - Dow	38,778.10	0.49%	2.89%
U.S. Dollar Index	105.42	0.10%	4.04%
U.S. Bond Index (DJ)	429.32	-0.50%	-0.32%

discoveries made in the past couple of years," said Daniel Morgan of Barrenjoey investment bank in Sydney. "I do think outside of China, Brazil's projects are the most economic greenfield projects available." The U.S. and its allies, almost entirely dependent on China for rare earths metals and magnets, set out to build a separate supply chain by 2027 after deliveries were disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic early this decade.

LONG HAUL

China produced 240,000 metric tons of rare earths last year, more than five times the next biggest producer, the United States, according to U.S. Geological Survey data. It processes around 90% of the global supply of rare earths into permanent magnets used in everything from wind turbines to electric vehicles and missiles. For countries like Australia, Vietnam and Brazil looking to catch up, progress is slow. Serra Verde has taken 15 years to get into production. It is expected to produce 5,000 tons once ramped up and could double output by 2030, its CEO said. "Serra Verde and Brazil have significant competitive advantages that could underpin the development of a globally significant rare earths industry over the long term," Serra Verde CEO Thras Moraitis told Reuters. Those include attractive geology, access to hydropower, established regulations and a skilled workforce, he said. "It is still a nascent sector which will require continued support to establish itself in a highly competitive market. Key processing technologies are controlled by a small number of players," he said. Brazil could have two or three more rare earths mines by 2030, potentially exceeding Australia's current annual output, said Reg Spencer, an analyst at broker Canaccord.

BASEMENT PRICES

One major obstacle is a 70% slump in rare earths prices over the past two years that has made it difficult for companies to raise funds for mines and processing. "Getting money at the moment is tough," Nick Holthouse, chief executive of Australian-listed developer Meteoric Resources, told Reuters. Meteoric is targeting an investment decision in late 2025 for its Caldeira project in Brazil's Minas Gerais state which will produce light and heavy rare earths. In March, the U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM) expressed interest in providing Meteoric up to $250 million for the project. The company also has a preliminary deal to supply rare earth oxides to a separation plant in Estonia run by Toronto-listed Neo Performance Materials. Brazilian Rare Earths, too, is in the early stages of developing a large rare earths deposit in the country's northeast, backed by Australia's richest person, Gina Rinehart. Its CEO, Bernardo Da Veiga, highlighted Brazil's low operating costs as an advantage over rivals like Australia, where he said a truck driver at an iron ore mine would earn up to A$200,000 ($133,200) a year plus food and accommodation. "That same truck driver in Brazil, doing the same job, earns like $15,000 a year and he rides his bike to work and brings his lunch. There's just no comparison."

COMPLEXITIES

While labour is cheap, developers face technical hurdles. Unlike in China, many Western companies are still perfecting the complex processes for producing rare earth metals, a costly challenge that has stalled projects for years. To spur developments, the Brazilian government launched a 1 billion reais ($194.53 million) fund in February to finance strategic minerals projects, including rare earths. It also wants to build an industry for transforming these minerals into alloys for batteries, wind turbines and electric motors, the Ministry of Mines and Energy said in a statement. The challenge is to stimulate production and build partnerships to promote element separation technologies and supply chain development, the ministry said. It is also looking into rare earths recycling.

Among companies talking to the government about recycling technology is Australia's Ionic Rare Earths, which has a pilot recycling plant in Belfast and a tie up with Brazilian developer Viridis Mining and Minerals, its CEO Tim Harrison said. Brazil is also building a magnet factory due to start operating later this year as a proof of concept, Flavio Roscoe, president of Minas Gerais' state Federation of Industries (FIEMG) said. "Our objective is to be a developer, a multiplyer of this technology," Roscoe said. "Brazil has the opportunity to be the world's option to China."

Top News - Carbon & Power

More than 800 coal plants worldwide could be profitably decommissioned, research group says

More than 800 coal-fired power plants in emerging countries could be decommissioned and profitably replaced by cleaner solar energy starting from the end of the decade, research on Monday showed.

Though only a tenth of existing coal plants are scheduled to shut down by 2030, more could close if efforts are made to identify opportunities, the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) said.

"The key problem here is a lack of a pipeline of well defined, contracted, bankable coal-to-clean transactions," said Paul Jacobson, lead author of the report.

Around 15.5 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide are generated every year by 2,000 gigawatts of coal power. The International Energy Agency says emissions need to reach zero by 2040 if temperature rises are to remain within the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius. But decommissioning is costly, especially if plants are still paying off debt or tied to power purchase agreements

(PPAs) that commit them to supplying electricity over decades. Governments have been looking for solutions to pay for the transition - including the Asian Development Bank's Energy Transition Mechanism - but only a small number of projects have gone ahead. The 800 viable transition targets identified by IEEFA include around 600 built thirty years or more ago, many of which have repaid debts and are no longer tied down by lengthy PPAs.
With profit margins for renewables now sufficient to cover the cost of replacing coal plants, decommissioning the remaining 200 plants built between 15 and 30 years ago could also be affordable, though obstacles remain, including fossil fuel subsidies that inflate an asset's value. Decommissioning newer plants will be a bigger financial challenge, particularly in countries still building fresh capacity, including Vietnam. Environmental groups have criticised transition financing for paying polluters not to pollute. Jacobson said "guardrails" were required to avoid creating perverse incentives. "Companies that continue to build new coal power plants while seeking concessions to build renewable energy should not be allowed to use that to benefit from this," he said.

Germany's solar installations up 35% in early 2024
Germany's solar power installation rose by 35% year-on-year in the first four months of 2024, boosted by a rise in industrial, commercial and ground-mounted photovoltaics demand, solar power association BSW said on Tuesday. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the sudden drop in Russian fossil fuel exports to Germany, Berlin has introduced several pieces of legislation to accelerate solar power expansion, part of Berlin's plan to cover 80% of its energy needs from renewables by 2030 and to become climate neutral by 2045.
New solar power capacity grew by more than five gigawatts (GW) in the first third of this year, as 56% of businesses and over 60% of real estate owners in Europe's biggest economy are interested in investing in solar power systems, BSW said, citing a May survey by YouGov. BSW said it expects a double-digit percentage growth in installations and solar storage capacity in 2024, meeting the government targets of 19 GW of new annual capacity to reach 215 GW, or 25% of its domestic electricity consumption, by 2030.
In the first four months of this year, newly installed photovolatics capacity on commercial rooftops rose by 81% while solar installations on open spaces grew by 74% compared to the same period last year. In the residential sector, new installations rose by 1%.
"Following a significant solar boom in Germany's residential areas, commercial rooftops and underperforming open spaces are now being electrified with solar technology," BSW head Carsten Körnig said in a statement.

Top News - Dry Freight

China's May aluminium imports surge 61% year-on-year
China's aluminium imports jumped 61.1% in May from a year earlier, customs data showed on Tuesday, with market participants attributing the increase to rising shipments from Russia, which is subject to Western sanctions. China, the world's top consumer of the light metal, imported 310,000 metric tons of unwrought aluminium and products last month. The data include primary metal and unwrought, alloyed aluminium.
Russia, one of the world's main producers of aluminium, nickel and copper, hiked its shipments to China after exchanges in the U.S. and Britain in April banned the delivery of Russian metals produced following sanctions on Russian metals.
China imported 500,741 tons of primary aluminium from Russia in the first four months this year, 91.6% more than the 261,379 tons in the same period last year. May import data by country of origin will be released on Thursday.
Aluminium imports from countries other than Russia have been constrained this year because global prices remained higher compared to that in China, traders said. Optimism about demand from the solar and electric vehicle industries and a speculative frenzy has led to a large rally in aluminium prices this year, with the benchmark contract on the London Metal Exchange hitting a near two-year high late last month. In the first five months of the year, China imported 1.8 million tons of unwrought aluminium and products, 81.7% higher than the same period last year. Imports of bauxite, a key raw material for aluminium, climbed 4.7% to 13.55 million tons in May, the customs data showed. Imports of bauxite in the first five months of the year stood at 64.04 million tons, up 5.8% from a year earlier.

Russian new harvest wheat export prices decline as bad weather fears subside
Russian wheat export prices for the new harvest have declined significantly from a week ago as concern over the impact of bad weather on the grain harvest has subsided, analysts said.
The price of 12.5% protein Russian new crop wheat scheduled free-on-board (FOB) with delivery in July was $234 per metric ton at the end of last week, $8 lower than the price of this class of old crop wheat a week earlier, according to the IKAR consultancy. In late May, the price of a ton of new crop wheat was estimated by the market at $250 FOB and higher, agriculture consultancy Sovecon wrote. Sovecon determined the price of wheat with a protein content of 12.5% with the nearest delivery at $244-248 a ton at the end of last week, down from $250-$253 a ton FOB.
According to IKAR head Dmitry Rylko, apart from Turkey, which announced that it had stopped imports, demand from other importers is weak, as buyers see that the harvest in the Black Sea region is not as bad as

previously feared. "It feels like the market has priced in Russian crop problems for now," Sovecon noted.
"Russian weather is becoming friendlier for the new crop. However, rains at this stage (post grain-filling) are irrelevant for wheat yields in the south. On the contrary, if they last too long, they could damage quality and lead to additional losses." Spring frosts and drought resulted in the loss of a substantial part of the winter crops, which had to be reseeded.
The weekly consensus forecast by the Rusgrain Union showed an 8.6% decline in the 2024 wheat crop to 79.3 million tons and a 14.7% drop in wheat exports in the 2024/25 season to 40.0 million tons. Russia has almost completed the sowing campaign and started harvesting the new crop in the southern regions of the country. As of June 7, farmers had seeded 27.0 million hectares of grains, compared to 29.7 million hectares in the same period in 2023. That included 12.1 million hectares of spring wheat, compared to 13.6 million last year, Sovecon wrote. Russia is the world's largest wheat exporter. Its exports declined to 0.80 million tons of grain last week from 1.36 million in the previous week. Exports included 0.78 million tons of wheat, down from 1.19 million tons a week earlier, Sovecon wrote, citing port data. Sovecon estimates wheat exports in June at 4.0 million tons, compared to 3.6 million tons in June 2023.

Picture of the Day

A worker cleans up an oil slick at Tanjong Beach in Sentosa, Singapore, June 16. REUTERS/Edgar Su

(Inside Commodities is compiled by Lactus Fernandes in Bengaluru)

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