



# ICSG PRESS RELEASE

## Copper: Preliminary Data for January 2005

The International Copper Study Group (ICSG) released preliminary January 2005 data for world copper supply and demand in its April 2005 Copper Bulletin.

According to the preliminary ICSG data, the apparent refined copper balance for January 2005 showed a production deficit of 20,000 tonnes (t). The reported drawdown of all stocks for January 2005, however, was 37,000 t of refined copper.

World refined usage for January 2005 grew by 1.4% compared with that of January 2004.

On the supply side, mine production increased by 14.1% in January 2005 compared with that in January 2004, mainly because of higher output in Chile and Indonesia. Nevertheless, January mine production was substantially lower than output in the preceding months. The calculated mine capacity utilization rate had been at an exceptionally high level during the preceding quarter and was not believed to be sustainable. Downstream, primary refined production rose by 6.6%, bringing it more in line with concentrates supply. Secondary refined (from scrap) production increased by 9.9%, resulting in an increase of total refined copper production of 7.0% compared with that of January 2004.

At the end of March 2005 copper stocks held at the major metal exchanges (LME, COMEX, SHFE) totalled 100,927 t, a decline of 38,318 t from the end of February. Exchange stocks were down by 23,326 t compared to the year-end 2004 level. The average LME cash price for March 2005 was US\$3,379.6 per tonne, as compared with the February average of US\$3,253.7 per tonne.

### World Refined Copper Usage and Supply Trends, 1999-2005

Thousand metric tonnes, copper

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004		2004			2005
							Jan	2005	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
World Mine Production	12,788	13,211	13,626	13,580	13,677	14,527	1,078	1,230	1,293	1,283	1,350	1,230
World Mine Capacity	13,760	14,201	14,462	15,121	15,273	15,766	1,322	1,392	1,369	1,333	1,385	1,392
Mine Capacity Utilization (%)	92.9	93.0	94.2	89.8	89.6	92.1	81.5	88.4	94.5	96.2	97.5	88.4
Primary Refined Production	12,443	12,634	13,718	13,422	13,460	13,796	1,117	1,191	1,190	1,201	1,227	1,191
Secondary Refined Production	2,103	2,125	1,862	1,846	1,774	1,980	158	174	165	161	155	174
Refined Production (Secondary+Primary)	14,545	14,759	15,580	15,268	15,234	15,775	1,275	1,364	1,355	1,362	1,382	1,364
World Refinery Capacity	16,946	17,046	17,741	18,327	18,806	19,303	1,622	1,690	1,669	1,622	1,683	1,690
Refineries Capacity Utilization (%)	85.8	86.6	87.8	83.3	81.0	81.7	78.6	80.7	81.2	84.0	82.1	80.7
World Refined Usage 1/	14,271	15,122	14,885	15,140	15,620	16,496	1,365	1,384	1,344	1,434	1,281	1,384
Four Weeks of World Refined Usage 3/	1,098	1,163	1,145	1,165	1,202	1,269	1,248	1,267	1,213	1,330	1,294	1,267
Refined Stocks End of Period	1,634	1,291	1,992	2,048	1,780	923	1,661	886	884	909	923	886
Period Stock Change	126	-344	702	55	-267	-857	-119	-37	-54	25	14	-37
Refined Balance 2/	274	-363	695	128	-385	-721	-90	-20	10	-72	101	-20
Refined Balance Seasonally adjusted 2/ 3/	274	-363	695	128	-385	-721	-83	-12	35	-61	-26	-12

Due to the nature of statistical reporting, the published data should be considered as preliminary since some figures are currently based on estimates and could change.

1/ Based on EU apparent usage

2/ Surplus or deficit is calculated using total refined production minus refined usage

3/ Seasonally adjusted for the months