Commodity Markets Review

March 10, 2009

DECPG, The World Bank

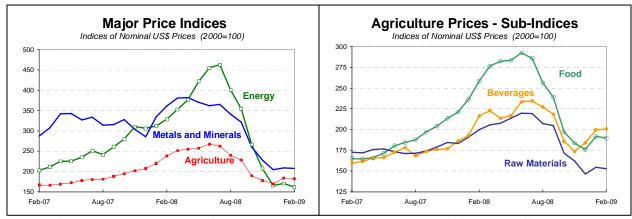
Non-energy commodity prices fell 1.3 percent in February, amid weak demand and stronger dollar (up 3.6 percent versus the euro). Commodity prices have generally traded in a narrow range the past three months after plunging during the second half of last year. The main exceptions are precious metals which have strengthened on investor safe-haven buying.

Crude oil prices decreased 4.6 percent in February, averaging \$41.8/bbl, as markets remain oversupplied. U.S. crude oil inventories continued to rise, but at a decelerating pace as imports into the U.S. have fallen sharply on OPEC production cuts. The organization has significantly reduced output, with compliance reportedly reaching 80 percent of its targeted reduction of 4.2 mb/d. OPEC meets March 15th and is likely to consider further cuts in production as global economic The declines deteriorates. in U.S. oil consumption have moderated, with gasoline consumption in February up 2.2 percent.

Coal prices fell 5.1 percent on falling demand and ample availability of export supplies. U.S. natural gas prices dropped 13.8 percent on weak demand and rising domestic supplies—primarily shale-gas—while European natural gas prices fell 5.8 percent on lower oil prices, as imported gas prices are indexed to petroleum prices with several-months' lag.

Agriculture prices fell 0.8 percent in February, with declines in most commodities due to weakening global demand and improved supply prospects. The only major increase was in sugar, up 5 percent, on expectations that India will become a net importer. Coconut oil prices fell 8 percent on improved weather conditions in the Philippines. Wheat prices dropped 6 percent on an expected large increase in global production, while maize and sorghum prices fell on reduced demand for food, feed and biofuels. Soybeans prices decreased 5 percent on higher production estimates in the U.S. and improved weather conditions in South America which has been significantly affected by drought.

Metals and minerals prices slipped 0.4 percent in February, as gains in copper were more than offset by decreases in other base metals due to weak demand and rising stocks. Precious metals jumped most, with silver and gold prices up 18 and 10 percent, respectively, on strong investment demand. Copper prices rose 3 percent and continued to climb higher in early March on stocking in China and reductions inventories—however **LME** physical consumption remains weak. Aluminum, nickel and zinc prices were down 6-8 percent in February on falling demand and rising stocks, but zinc (along with lead) has also been pulled higher in early March on stocking in China.



Prepared in the Development Economics Prospects Group (DECPG) by Shane Streifel, John Baffes and Betty Dow. Katherine Rollins is task assistant. This report is available on http://decpg.worldbank.org.

Major Movers February¹

Silver prices surged 17.9 percent on strong investment demand, particularly from Exchange Traded Funds, but prices have retreated from their peaks as industrial demand remains weak.

Gold prices jumped 9.8 percent on investor safehaven buying, but prices have been unable to forge new highs on weak physical demand from the jewelry sector.

Sugar prices rose 5.4 percent on expectations that India will become a net importer, as its crop size was revised downwards. Lower crops also expected in the EU, U.S., China and Australia.

Cotton prices fell 4.3 percent on forecasts that world cotton trade will decline by 21 percent during 2008/09 due to reduced demand from textile producers, especially in China.

Crude oil prices fell 4.6 percent as stocks continue to rise amid weak global demand, despite significant cuts in OPEC production. Coal prices dropped 5.1 percent on declining demand and ample export supplies, notably from Russia and Colombia.

Soybeans and soybean oil prices fell 5.3 and 5.1 percent, respectively, on higher production estimates in the Northern Hemisphere, and improved weather conditions in South America.

Natural gas (Europe) prices declined 5.8 percent from lower petroleum prices, as imported gas contracts are indexed to oil prices with a lag.

Aluminum prices fell 5.9 percent on declines in global demand, as large cuts in production (over half of which are in China) have not prevented a rise in inventories.

Sorghum and maize (substitutes for animal feed) prices decreased 6.0 and 5.5 percent, respectively, as the slumping economy reduces demand for food, feed, and biofuels.

Wheat prices declined 6.0 percent on news that global production will reach 683 million tons during 2008/09, up 12% from a year earlier when output was affected by droughts.

Beef prices fell 6.1 percent on weakening demand and larger cattle-slaughter in Australia, a result of feed and water shortages.

Zinc prices decreased 6.3 percent on very weak

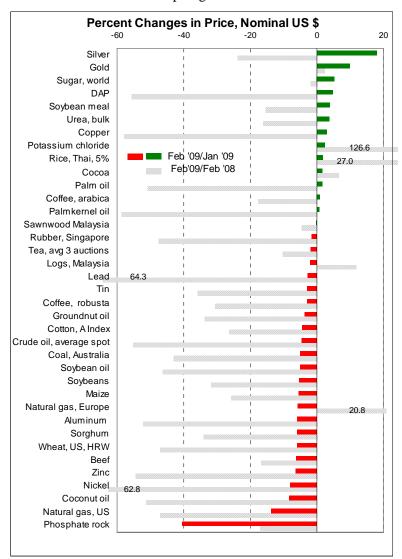
demand from the steel sector and rising stocks—although there have been significant reductions in production.

Nickel prices dropped 7.9 percent on extremely weak stainless steel demand, especially outside China, and steady gains in inventories.

Coconut oil prices fell 8.2 percent following improved weather conditions in the Philippines (world's key supplier) and increased production prospects of palmkernel oil (a close substitute).

Natural gas (U.S.) prices slumped 13.8 percent on weak demand, ample storage, and rising shale-gas production—particularly from the prolific Barnett Shale in north Texas.

Phosphate rock fertilizer prices plunged 40.6 on the continued slump in global demand.



¹ Percent change of average February 2009 prices compared to average January 2009 prices in nominal U.S. dollars (graph also includes 12-month changes in grey).

COMMODITY PRICE DATA

COMMODITY PRICE DATA Annual averages Quarterly averages Monthly averages											200	
			uai avera Jan-Dec	_	Oct-Dec				Oct-Dec	Dec	nıy avera Jan	ges Feb
Commodity	Unit	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009
Energy												
Coal, Australia	<u>a/</u> \$/mt	65.73	127.10	77.39	83.47	114.00	138.65	162.80	92.97	78.65	79.40	75.38
Crude oil, avg, spot	<u>a/</u> \$/bbl	71.12	96.99	42.85	87.61	95.31	120.97	115.68	56.00	41.34	43.86	41.84
Crude oil, Brent	<u>a/</u> \$/bbl	72.70	97.64	44.05	88.95	96.67	122.39	115.60	55.89	41.58	44.86	43.24
Crude oil, Dubai	<u>a/</u> \$/bbl	68.37	93.78	44.05	83.21	91.30	116.67	113.47	53.67	41.00	44.97	43.14
Crude oil, West Texas Int.	<u>a/</u> \$/bbl	72.28	99.56	40.44	90.67	97.94	123.85 286.0	117.98	58.45 266.2	41.44	41.74	39.15
Natural gas Index Natural gas, Europe	<u>a/</u> 2000=100 a/ \$/mmbtu	186.5 8.56	267.9 13.41	221.0 13.49	197.7 9.37	235.3 10.86	12.40	284.1 14.62	200.2 15.75	255.0 15.50	230.2 13.89	211.8 13.09
Natural gas, US	a/ \$/mmbtu	6.98	8.86	4.88	7.03	8.65	11.35	9.03	6.40	5.79	5.24	4.52
Natural gas LNG, Japan	a/ \$/mmbtu	7.68	12.53	12.68	8.96	10.45	11.71	13.33	14.62	13.78	13.05	12.30
Non Energy Commodities	<u>ar</u>		.2.00	.2.00	0.00			.0.00			.0.00	.2.00
Agriculture												
Beverages												
Cocoa	<u>b/</u> c/kg	195.2	257.7	264.5	199.7	247.7	276.4	282.6	224.1	239.4	262.4	266.7
Coffee, Arabica	<u>b/</u> c/kg	272.4	308.2	284.2	296.1	328.5	315.1	321.2	267.8	262.3	282.9	285.5
Coffee, robusta	<u>b/</u> c/kg	190.9	232.1	179.6	202.1	247.3	243.6	244.8	192.6	181.9	182.4	176.9
Tea, auctions (3), average	<u>b/</u> c/kg	203.6	242.0	216.7	225.6	234.6	254.7	272.3	206.6	192.6	218.6	214.7
Tea, Colombo auctions	<u>b/</u> c/kg	252.2	278.9	250.1	296.7	305.2	298.5	303.2	208.8	191.6	245.9	254.3
Tea, Kolkata auctions	<u>b/</u> c/kg	192.1	225.5	184.4	207.1	176.6	244.0	260.9	220.2	208.9	190.6	178.2
Tea, Mombasa auctions	<u>b/</u> c/kg	166.5	221.8	215.5	173.0	221.8	221.6	252.8	190.8	177.3	219.3	211.8
Food												
Fats and Oils	b / C/m+	010	1 224	704	1 000	1 270	1 100	1 046	770	740	734	674
Coconut oil	<u>b/</u> \$/mt \$/mt	919 607	1,224 816	704 462	1,098 724	1,379 914	1,499 1,013	1,246 817	772 520	740 495	734 479	674 446
Copra Groundnut oil	b/ \$/mt	1,352	2,131	1,319	1,651	2,007	2,328	2,417	1,773	1,436	1,343	1,295
Palm oil	b/ \$/mt	780	949	567	928	1,156	1,198	928	512	503	562	571
Palmkernel oil	\$/mt	888	1,130	572	1,084	1,375	1,420	1,114	609	554	570	574
Soybean meal	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	308	424	376	408	443	484	450	320	300	369	383
Soybean oil	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	881	1,258	769	1,105	1,384	1,466	1,353	830	738	789	749
Soybeans	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	384	523	402	485	563	585	566	377	360	413	391
Grains												
Barley	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	172.4	200.5	117.0	194.6	216.8	239.1	216.6	129.5	115.2	121.4	112.5
Maize	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	163.7	223.1	168.1	171.9	220.4	259.0	244.7	168.4	158.3	172.8	163.4
Rice, Thailand, 5%	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	326.4	650.2	585.1	344.0	478.1	855.3	703.0	564.4	531.8	580.0	590.3
Rice, Thailand, 25%	\$/mt	306.5	n.a.	467.8	329.5	n.a.	n.a.	669.5	449.9	422.0	464.0	471.5
Rice, Thailand, 35%	\$/mt	300.1	n.a.	n.a.	327.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
* Rice, Thai, A1. Special / Sup Sorghum	er \$/mt \$/mt	272.3 162.7	482.3 207.8	317.4 148.7	312.0 173.4	442.8 218.7	693.7 246.9	478.6 214.7	314.1 151.0	287.0 138.6	318.6 153.3	316.3 144.1
Wheat, Canada	\$/mt	300.4	454.6	329.3	415.3	621.7	484.4	390.2	322.1	325.1	340.2	318.5
Wheat, US, HRW	b/ \$/mt	255.2	326.0	231.9	341.9	411.8	346.5	317.7	228.1	220.1	239.1	224.7
Wheat US SRW	\$/mt	238.6	271.5	189.2	326.2	384.1	277.8	241.5	182.7	179.3	195.1	183.4
Other Food	•											
Bananas EU	\$/mt	1,037	1,188	1,047	1,068	1,421	1,263	1,123	944	1,006	1,028	1,067
Bananas US	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	676	844	849	652	836	920	775	847	830	820	878
Fishmeal	\$/mt	1,177	1,133	1,005	1,075	1,126	1,185	1,198	1,023	1,036	1,009	1,001
Meat, beef	<u>b/</u> c/kg	260.3	313.8	243.9	259.8	282.1	332.7	372.4	268.0	247.7	251.6	236.2
Meat, chicken	b/ c/kg	156.7	169.6	174.4	156.7	158.8	167.9	177.1	174.7	174.4	174.9	173.8
Meat, sheep	c/kg	412.0	458.5	380.5	437.9	453.6	493.2	477.3	410.0	393.1	380.7	380.3
Oranges	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	957	1,107	775	982	1,103	1,322	1,163	842	762	783	767
Shrimp, Mexico	<u>b/</u> c/kg	1,010	1,069	979	1,045	1,103	1,109	1,048	1,014	1,014	988	970
Sugar EU domestic	<u>b/</u> c/kg	68.09	69.69	51.40	72.00	74.51	77.59	74.70	51.97	53.02	52.31	50.49
Sugar US domestic	<u>b/</u> c/kg	45.77	46.86	43.96	44.48	44.85	46.34	51.52	44.72	43.59	44.42	43.49
Sugar, world	<u>b/</u> c/kg	22.22	28.21	28.51	22.61	28.42	27.01	31.14	26.28	25.90	27.76	29.26
Raw Materials												
Timber	¢/~	204.2	E06.0	146.4	400.0	E20.0	EE A A	E 40 F	470.0	470.0	470.0	404.0
Logs, Cameroon	\$/cum	381.3 268.0	526.9 292.3	446.1	409.6 275.5	530.8 293.4	554.4 282.3	548.5	473.8 315.7	476.6	470.2 329.7	421.9 322.5
Logs, Malaysia Plywood	<u>b/</u> \$/cum c/sheets	640.7	292.3 645.5	326.1 573.8		293.4 640.4	202.3 647.3	277.7 648.6	645.5	326.6 646.1	529.7 574.7	573.0
Sawnwood, Cameroon	\$/cum	760	958	694	647.0 838	1,036	1,052	974	771	734	698	690
Sawnwood, Malaysia	<u>b/</u> \$/cum	806.3	889.1	818.0	802.5	860.3	935.8	900.3	859.9	845.8	818.4	817.5
Woodpulp	\$/mt	767.0	820.2	572.5	819.4	850.2	870.7	848.8	711.0	630.3	580.0	565.0
Other Raw Materials		-	-	-			-		-			
Cotton A Index	<u>b/</u> c/kg	139.5	157.4	124.5	153.0	167.9	166.5	168.2	126.9	122.2	127.2	121.8
Cotton Memphis	c/kg	142.9	161.5	133.1	155.5	174.2	171.6	170.0	130.1	131.1	134.9	131.4
Rubber, US	c/kg	248.0	284.1	167.6	264.8	292.6	311.7	329.1	202.8	154.3	169.8	165.3
	3											
Rubber, Singapore	<u>b/</u> c/kg	226.3	258.6	147.5	243.1	273.5	303.5	298.4	159.0	120.3	148.7	146.3

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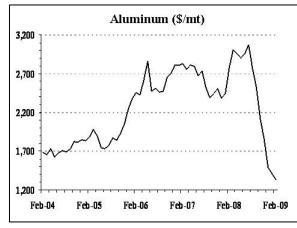
a/ Included in the energy index (2000=100) b/ Included in the non-energy index (2000=100) c/ Steel not included in the non-energy index \$\\$ = US dollar \$\psi = US cent \ bbl = barrel \ cum = cubic meter \ dmtu = Dry Metric Ton Unit \ kg = kilogram \ mmbtu = million British thermal units \ mt = metric ton \ toz = troy oz \ n.a. = not available \ n.q. = no quotation

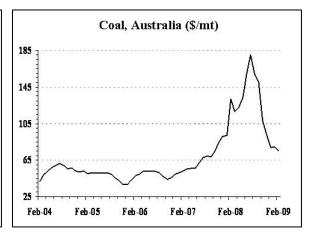
COMMODITY PRICE DATA

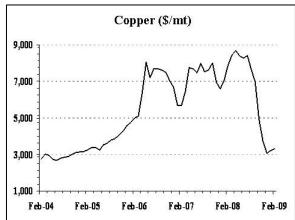
		Annual averages Quarterly averages								Monthly averages		
		Jan-Dec			Oct-Doc		Apr-Jun		Oct-Doc	Dec	Jan	Feb
		2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009
1		2001	2000	2000	2001	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2003
Fertilizers												
DAP	b/ \$/mt	433	967	359	522	860	1,192	1,154	663	408	351	368
Phosphate rock	b/ \$/mt	70.9	345.6	211.3	98.3	234.4	367.5	409.2	371.3	350.0	265.0	157.5
Potassium chloride	b/ \$/mt	200.2	570.1	862.8	230.8	367.7	511.1	635.0	766.7	772.5	853.1	872.5
TSP	b/ \$/mt	339	879	335	425	715	1,036	1,108	659	405	350	320
Urea, E. Europe, bulk	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	309.4	492.7	268.3	365.4	357.6	575.7	745.4	292.2	225.4	263.4	273.3
Metals and Minerals												
Aluminum	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	2,638	2,573	1,372	2,444	2,743	2,940	2,787	1,821	1,490	1,413	1,330
Copper	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	7,118	6,956	3,268	7,188	7,796	8,443	7,680	3,905	3,072	3,221	3,315
Gold	\$/toz	696.7	871.7	900.8	788.0	926.8	896.0	869.6	794.5	816.1	858.7	943.0
Iron ore	b/ c/dmtu	84.7	140.6	140.6	84.7	140.6	140.6	140.6	140.6	140.6	140.6	140.6
Lead	<u>b/</u> c/kg	258.0	209.1	111.7	321.5	289.9	230.7	191.2	124.5	96.3	113.3	110.1
Nickel	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	37,230	21,111	10,858	29,219	28,957	25,682	18,961	10,843	9,686	11,307	10,409
Silver	c/toz	1,341	1,500	1,242	1,424	1,765	1,720	1,495	1,020	1,032	1,140	1,344
* * Steel products index, Japar c/ 2000=10		182.0	289.3	284.1	192.0	229.6	279.2	338.2	310.4	283.4	283.8	284.4
Steel cr coilsheet, Japan, Reir c/ \$/mt		650.0	965.6	1100.0	650.0	762.5	900.0	1100.0	1100.0	1100.0	1100.0	1100.0
Steel hr coilsheet, Japan,	Reir c/ \$/mt	550.0	883.3	1000.0	550.0	700.0	833.3	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0
Steel, rebar, Japan, Reins	state <u>c/</u> \$/mt	521.5	760.2	473.8	556.8	639.4	837.5	934.2	629.6	446.3	462.5	485.0
Steel wire rod, Japan, Reinsta c/ \$/mt		533.3	1009.8	1200.0	553.3	754.0	950.0	1135.0	1200.0	1200.0	1200.0	1200.0
Tin	<u>b/</u> c/kg	1,454	1,851	1,121	1,634	1,778	2,265	2,051	1,310	1,124	1,137	1,104
Zinc	<u>b/</u> c/kg	324.2	187.5	115.0	262.3	243.0	211.3	177.0	118.5	110.1	118.7	111.2
NEW World Bank commodity price indices for low and middle income countries(2000 =100)												
Energy		244.8	342.0	165.9	298.6	331.1	417.8	406.0	212.9	165.3	170.3	161.5
Non Energy Commodities		224.7	272.0	197.8	237.3	281.2	307.8	292.6	206.3	189.3	199.2	196.5
Agriculture		180.3	229.5	182.5	201.0	236.4	259.4	243.5	178.6	169.5	183.3	181.7
Beverages		169.9	210.0	200.3	179.4	210.7	221.4	226.8	181.2	184.0	199.7	200.9
Food		184.7	247.4	190.6	213.2	257.2	286.3	260.5	185.7	176.0	191.7	189.6
Fats and Oils		209.0	277.3	193.7	259.9	310.2	327.7	288.9	182.4	171.6	194.6	192.8
Grains		189.0	281.7	221.8	215.6	274.6	335.2	298.5	218.6	206.6	225.0	218.6
Other Food		149.0	177.1	158.5	149.7	171.9	187.4	188.9	160.2	154.1	157.6	159.3
Raw Materials		174.9	195.7	153.7	182.1	198.9	213.7	210.4	160.0	146.3	154.6	152.8
Timber		136.8	150.5	145.1	137.2	146.8	155.4	150.2	149.4	148.8	145.6	144.6
Other Raw Materials		216.6	245.3	163.1	231.3	255.8	277.4	276.3	171.6	143.7	164.5	161.8
Fertilizers		240.1	566.7	385.6	292.0	409.4	624.1	741.1	492.2	417.7	405.0	366.1
Metals and Minerals		314.0	325.7	208.0	305.7	358.7	371.1	342.4	230.6	204.0	208.4	207.6

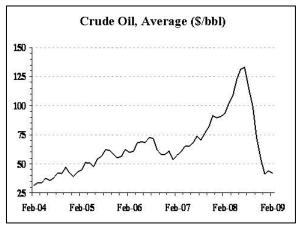
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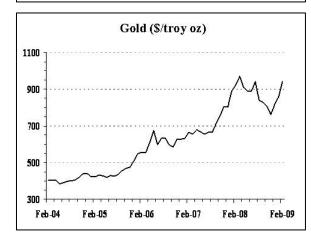
Selected Commodity Prices, Nominal US dollars, 2001-2008

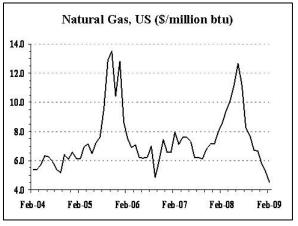


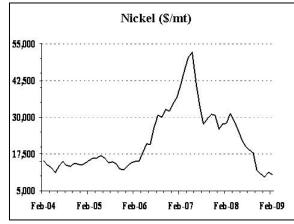


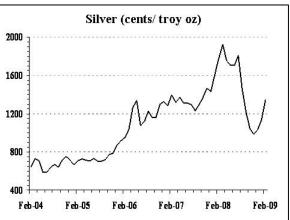




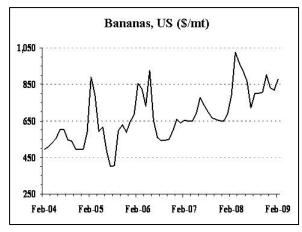


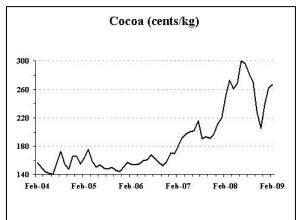


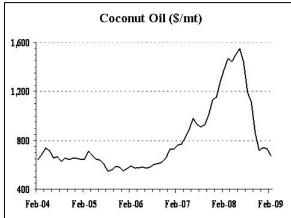


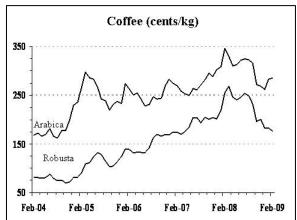


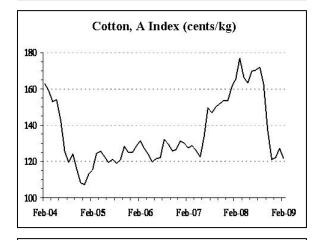
Selected Commodity Prices, Nominal US dollars, 2001-2008 cont'd

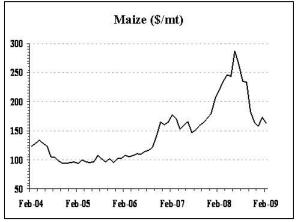


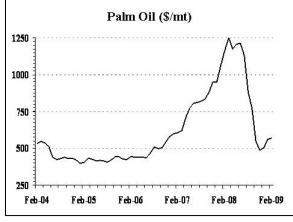


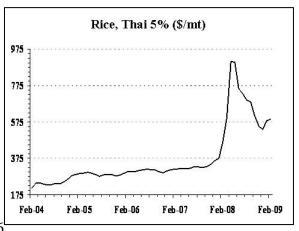












Selected Commodity Prices, Nominal US dollars, 2001-2008 cont'd

