Commodity Markets Review

April 8, 2010

DECPG, The World Bank

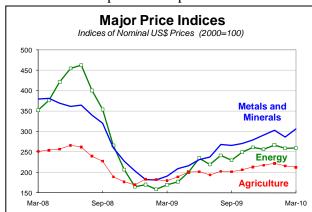
Non-energy commodity prices rose by 1.8 percent in March, with large gains in metals and a few agricultural commodities, although most agriculture markets are broadly well supplied.

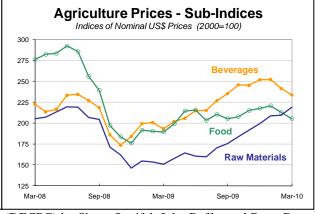
Crude oil prices rose 6.1 percent in March to average \$79.3/bbl, but surged above \$85/bbl in early April as market conditions continue to tighten. U.S. oil demand (which fell by more than 4 percent in 2009) was up 1.9 percent for the 4-week period ending April 2nd compared with the same period a year earlier, with gasoline demand up 1.7 percent. Distillate demand was only slightly negative, suggesting a bottom to the large drop in diesel consumption and truck transport the past two years. Inventories for crude and products remain high but both have fallen significantly from their peaks of last year. OPEC left its production quotas unchanged at its meeting on March 17th.

U.S. natural gas prices dropped 19.6 percent in March, as mild spring temperatures reduced space-heating demand. The inventory-withdrawal season ended early, with end-March stocks well above the five-year average. Unconventional gas production, from such fields as the Marcellus Shale in the Northeast Appalachia region and the Haynesville Shale in Louisiana, is growing steadily and contributing to the downward pressure on prices.

Agriculture prices decreased 1.5 percent in March, down for the second straight month. Sugar prices dropped 25 percent—eliminating much of the past years' gain—as most producing countries increased plantings in response to higher prices. Soybean meal prices fell 12 percent on expectations of higher supplies in the first half of this year, mainly from Argentina and Brazil. Cocoa, tea and rice prices each fell 6 percent due to improved supply conditions. Partly offsetting these declines, coconut oil and palmkernel oil prices jumped more than 10 percent on strong import demand by China, and tight supply of palmkernel oil, while cotton and rubber prices rose 7 percent on supply shortfalls.

Metals and minerals prices surged 7.0 percent in March resuming their upward climb on improving demand outside China, falling inventories, and positive macroeconomic sentiment. Nickel prices jumped 18 percent and are up nearly one-third this year-due to strong demand from stainless steel producers and ongoing strikes at Vale's nickel operations in Canada. Copper prices rose 9 percent, testing the \$8000/ton level in April, reflecting concerns that mine supply growth will be insufficient in the medium term to satisfy anticipated growth in demand. Silver prices rose 8 percent on strong investment demand and recovering industrial consumption in high-income countries.





Prepared in the Development Economics Prospects Group (DECPG) by Shane Streifel, John Baffes and Betty Dow. Katherine Rollins is task assistant.

Major Movers March¹

Nickel prices surged 18.4 percent due to strong demand by stainless steel producers, falling stocks, and ongoing strikes at Vale's Canadian nickel operations.

TSP prices jumped 18.1 percent reflecting relatively strong demand from the Asian subcontinent.

Coconut oil and palmkernel oil prices (close substitutes) rose 15.4 percent and 11.3 percent, respectively, mainly in response to strong import demand by China and tight supplies of palmkernel oil.

Copper prices rose 9.0 percent due to declining stocks and concerns about sufficient new mine production over the medium term.

Silver prices rose 8.1 percent on strong investment demand along with a rebound in industrial demand in high-income countries. **Aluminum** prices rose 7.6 percent owing to improving demand outside China, notably restocking in the auto sector, amid an acute lack of scrap material.

Beef prices increased 7.3 percent because of low supply from Australia, as flooding continued to hamper transport.

Tin prices rose 7.3 percent due to relatively strong demand from the electronics sector, mainly in China.

Cotton prices rose 7.1 percent on strong demand and reports that global production during the current season (2009/10) will face a larger than expected shortfall.

Rubber prices rose 6.8 percent to reach a record high of \$3.34/kg on the back of poor yields due to weather-related problems in Vietnam and certain regions of Thailand and Malaysia.

Crude oil prices rose 6.1 percent following strengthening demand outside China. U.S. oil demand in March rose by about 2 percent y/y.

Rice prices fell 5.7 percent due to increased supplies by Thailand and Vietnam, the world's two largest exporters.

Tea prices fell 6.1 percent mainly because of a seasonal down-turn for Kolkata auctions as buyers wait for high-quality new-season tea in April/May, and also higher production in Kenya.

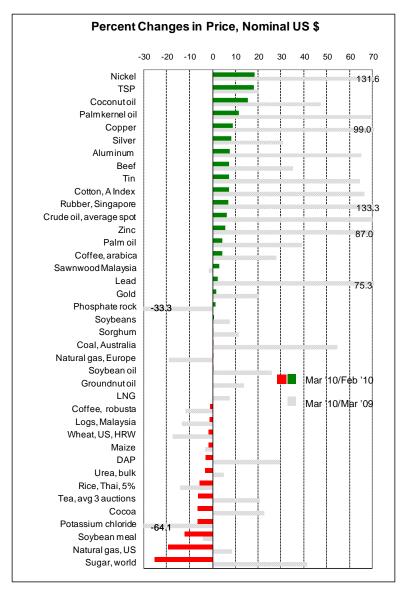
Cocoa prices fell 6.6 percent reflecting optimistic mid-crop prospects in key West Africa cocoa producing countries.

Potassium chloride prices decreased 6.7 percent owing to still weak demand amid surplus capacity.

Soybean meal prices declined 12.3 percent on expectations that global supplies during the first half of 2010 will increase by 8% y/y.

Natural gas (U.S.) prices dropped 19.6 percent due to weak demand because of mild spring temperatures, and ample inventories.

Sugar prices plunged 25.4 percent as most producing countries increased plantings in response to the high prices of the past few months.



¹ Percent change of average March 2010 prices compared to average February 2010 prices in nominal U.S. dollars (graph includes 12-month changes in grey).

COMMODITY PRICE DATA

COMMODITY PRICE DATA													
			al averages an-Dec Jan-Mar		Jan-Mar		terly ave		Jan-Mar	Montr Jan	-	averages Feb Mar	
Commodity	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	
E													
Energy Coal, Australia	a/_\$/mt	127.10	71.84	95.19	71.93	66.48	7131	77.66	95.19	97.00	94.19	94.38	
Crude oil, avg, spot	a/ \$/bbl	96.99	61.76	77.06	44.11	59.19	68.21	75.50	77.06	77.12	74.76	79.30	
Crude oil, Brent	a/ \$/bbl	97.64	61.86	76.65	44.98	59.13	68.37	74.97	76.65	76.37	74.31	79.27	
Crude oil, Dubai	a/ \$/bbl	93.78	61.75	75.86	44.56	58.93	68.07	75.46	75.86	76.64	73.56	77.37	
Crude oil, West Texas Int.	<u>a/</u> \$/bbl	99.56	61.65	78.67	42.80	59.52	68.21	76.08	78.67	78.36	76.41	81.25	
Natural gas Index	<u>a/</u> 2000=100	267.9	153.5	169.6	198.2	142.9	123.3	149.4	169.6	177.5	172.0	159.3	
Natural gas, Europe	a/ \$/mmbtu	13.41	8.71	8.80	11.94	8.18	6.91	7.81	8.80	8.80	8.80	8.81	
Natural gas, US	a/ \$/mmbtu	8.86	3.95	5.15	4.57	3.70	3.17	4.36	5.15	5.81	5.34	4.29	
Natural gas LNG, Japan	a/ \$/mmbtu	12.53	8.94	10.14	10.90	7.60	7.91	9.33	10.14	10.02	10.20	10.20	
Non Energy Commoditie	S												
Agriculture Beverages													
Cocoa	b/ c/kg	257.7	288.9	329.9	259.4	257.9	296.4	341.8	329.9	352.3	329.6	307.7	
Coffee, Arabica	b/ c/kg	308.2	317.1	353.7	283.9	320.2	322.7	3417	353.7	350.3	348.0	362.7	
Coffee, robusta	b/ c/kg	232.1	164.4	150.8	175.8	165.3	160.1	156.4	150.8	154.5	149.6	148.3	
Tea, auctions (3), average	<u>b/</u> c/kg	242.0	272.4	280.9	218.0	266.1	303.6	301.9	280.9	289.8	285.1	267.7	
Tea, Colombo auctions	b/ c/kg	278.9	313.7	335.2	2617	299.1	356.1	338.0	335.2	341.1	332.1	332.3	
Tea, Kolkata auctions	b/ c/kg	225.5	251.5	220.9	177.4	2713	273.0	284.4	220.9	243.8	229.5	189.4	
Tea, Mombasa auctions	b/ c/kg	221.8	252.0	286.6	214.9	228.0	281.7	283.2	286.6	284.5	293.8	281.5	
Food													
Fats and Oils Coconut oil	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	1,224	705	834	677	779	711	734	834	784	798	021	
Copra	\$/mt	1,22 4 816	725 480	557	447	513	469	491	557	524	538	921 608	
Groundnut oil	b/ \$/mt	2,131	1,184	1,359	1,283	1,166	1,133	1,152	1,359	1,316	1,380	1,380	
Palm oil	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	949	683	808	577	743	679	732	808	793	798	832	
Palmkernel oil	\$/mt	1,130	700	922	577	763	700	761	922	878	894	995	
Soybean meal	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	424	408	369	365	424	431	412	369	404	375	329	
Soybean oil	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	1,258	849	917	755	863	856	921	917	923	914	915	
Soybeans	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	523	437	417	394	461	454	439	417	436	406	408	
Grains													
Barley	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	200.5	128.3	144.3	116.3	129.5	122.0	145.5	144.3	146.5	137.4	148.9	
Maize	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	223.1 650.2	165.5	162.7	166.9	176.0	151.3 539.0	167.8	162.7	167.3	161.8	159.0 504.8	
Rice, Thailand, 5% Rice, Thailand, 25%	<u>b/</u> \$/mt \$/mt	050.∠ n.a.	580.0 458.1	536.2 477.2	586.3 469.4	552.4 458.7	539.0 441.4	542.3 462.8	536.2 477.2	568.8 510.6	535.0 474.7	504.8 446.3	
Rice, Thailand, 35%		n.a. n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
* Rice, Thai, A1. Special / Super	\$/mt	482.3	326.4	400.7	323.4	326.3	309.7	346.1	400.7	420.2	405.0	377.0	
Sorghum	\$/mt	207.8	151.1	156.9	145.3	155.8	139.3	163.8	156.9	161.8	154.1	154.7	
Wheat, Canada	\$/mt	454.6	300.5	280.2	3219	325.6	271.2	283.4	280.2	287.2	279.0	274.3	
Wheat, US, HRW	b / \$/mt	326.0	224.1	195.4	2316	250.5	208.8	205.4	195.4	2012	194.0	191.1	
Wheat US SRW	\$/mt	2715	186.0	193.5	187.4	195.6	165.2	195.6	193.5	198.8	191.8	190.0	
Other Food	4.												
Bananas EU	\$/mt	1,188	1,145	1,020	1,142	1,288	1,118	1,032	1,020	941	976	1,144	
Bananas US	b/ \$/mt	844	847	781	891	858	826	813	781	785	720	838	
Fishmeal Meat, beef	\$/mt b/_c/kg	1,133 313.8	1,230 263.6	1,660 314.3	1,013 245.2	1,097 262.8	1,276 273.2	1,535 273.5	1,660 314.3	1,681 295.1	1,627 312.5	1,672 335.3	
Meat, chicken	b/c/kg	169.6	171.7	167.2	173.5	174.1	173.9	165.1	167.2	166.4	166.9	168.3	
Meat, sheep	c/kg	458.5	427.6	448.0	378.5	428.7	453.3	450.1	448.0	448.8	451.4	443.9	
Oranges	b/ \$/mt	1,107	909	990	799	870	861	1,107	990	1,089	982	898	
Shrimp, Mexico	b/ c/kg	1,069	945	827	976	970	970	864	827	805	838	838	
Sugar EU domestic	b/ c/kg	69.69	52.44	46.38	5144	53.76	55.43	49.11	46.38	47.81	45.85	45.47	
Sugar US domestic	b/ c/kg	46.86	54.88	84.31	43.82	47.89	57.31	70.48	84.31	86.77	88.74	77.41	
Sugar, world	b/ c/kg	28.21	40.00	52.04	28.85	33.89	46.98	50.29	52.04	58.36	55.98	4178	
Raw Materials													
Timber	() (- · · · · · ·	500.0	4045	4047	400.0	0040	444.0	440.5	4047	440.4	4040	400.4	
Logs, Cameroon Logs, Malaysia	\$/cum <u>b/</u> \$/cum	526.9 292.3	4215 287.2	431.7 253.5	426.8 313.6	394.8 284.5	414.9 279.6	449.5 271.1	4317 253.5	442.4 258.2	424.3 252.8	428.4 249.6	
Plywood	c/sheets	292.3 645.5	564.6	557.2	572.8	264.5 565.8	561.5	558.4	557.2	256.2 557.2	252.6 557.2	557.2	
Sawnwood, Cameroon	\$/cum	958.3	748.9	808.4	689.2	721.2	779.0	806.3	808.4	804.1	804.9	816.1	
Sawnwood, Malaysia	b/ \$/cum	889.1	805.5	792.2	813.7	829.7	7714	807.4	792.2	792.4	781.0	803.3	
Woodpulp	\$/mt	820.2	614.6	773.0	565.1	550.0	627.7	715.6	773.0	752.6	776.5	790.0	
Other Raw Materials													
Cotton A Index	b/ c/kg	157.4	138.2	178.7	120.8	132.4	1419	157.7	178.7	170.6	176.5	189.0	
Cotton Memphis	c/kg	1613	145.3	183.3	122.4	137.5	148.8	172.4	183.3	177.7	181.3	190.7	
Rubber, US	c/kg	284.1	214.6	346.1	165.8	187.0	221.0	284.7	346.1	335.1	343.3	360.0	
Rubber, Singapore	b/ c/kg	258.6	192.1	318.6	146.0	166.4	199.3	256.5	318.6	309.2	312.7	333.9	

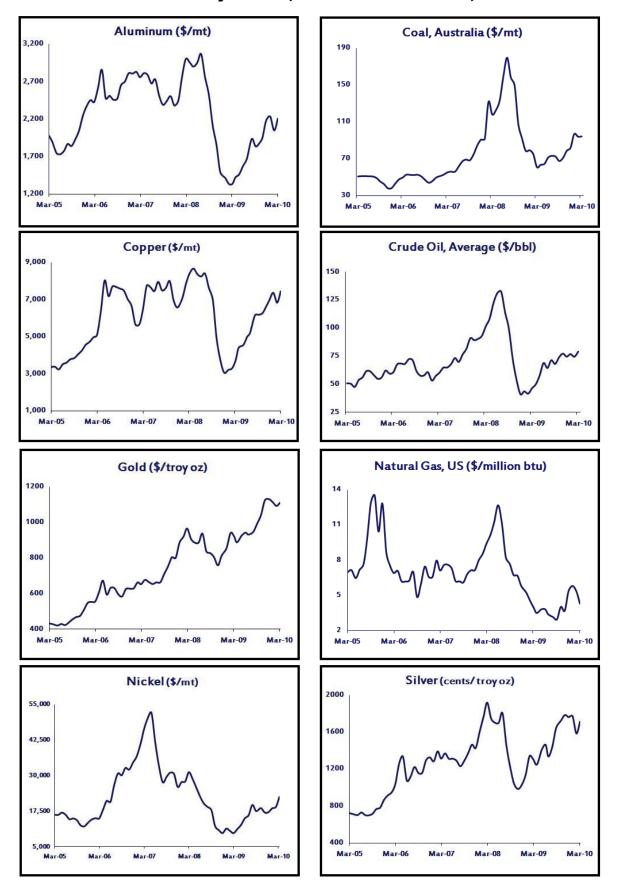
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COMMODITY PRICE DATA

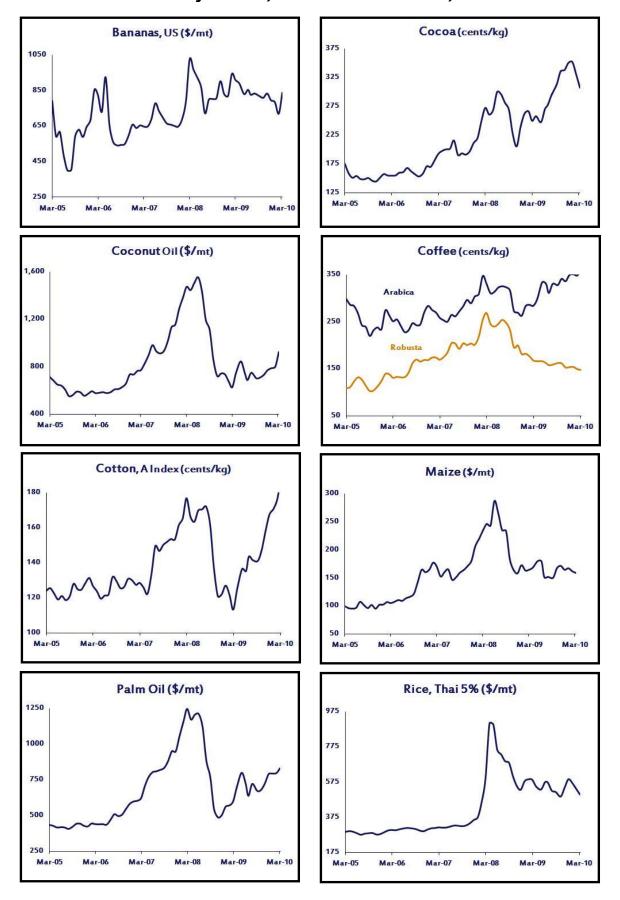
		Annual averages Quarterly averages								Monthly averages			
		Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Mar	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	
		2008	2009	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	
Fertilizers													
DAP	<u>b</u> / \$/mt	967.2	323.1	464.8	362.2	303.6	309.6	316.9	464.8	427.5	490.5	476.3	
Phosphate rock	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	345.6	121.7	102.1	193.3	113.3	90.0	90.0	102.1	97.5	103.8	105.0	
Potassium chloride	<u>b</u> / \$/mt	570.1	630.4	334.0	865.2	726.7	506.8	423.0	334.0	354.4	335.0	312.5	
TSP	<u>b</u> / \$/mt	879.4	257.4	316.9	3217	247.7	224.7	235.7	316.9	296.3	300.0	354.4	
Urea, E. Europe, bulk	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	492.7	249.6	2810	267.3	2411	241.6	248.3	2810	275.8	288.6	278.8	
Metals and Minerals													
Aluminum	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	2,573	1,665	2,163	1,360	1,485	1,812	2,003	2,163	2,235	2,049	2,206	
Copper	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	6,956	5,150	7,232	3,428	4,663	5,859	6,648	7,232	7,386	6,848	7,463	
Gold	\$/toz	872	973	1,109	909	922	960	1,102	1,109	1,118	1,095	1,113	
Iron ore	b/ c/dmtu	140.6	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	
Lead	b/ c/kg	209.1	171.9	222.1	115.7	149.9	192.8	229.3	222.1	236.8	212.4	217.2	
Nickel	<u>b/</u> \$/mt	21,111	14,655	19,959	10,471	12,920	17,700	17,528	19,959	18,439	18,976	22,461	
Silver	c/toz	1,500	1,469	1,693	1,265	1,376	1,477	1,760	1,693	1,775	1,587	1,715	
** Steel products index, Japan F c/ 2000=100		289	227	211	275	215	211	207	211	206	209	220	
Steel cr coilsheet, Japan, Reins c/ \$/mt		966	783	725	1,033	700	700	700	725	700	700	775	
Steel hr coilsheet, Japan, Reins c/2 \$/mt 8		883	683	625	933	600	600	600	625	600	600	675	
Steel, rebar, Japan, Reinstated c/ \$/mt		760	486	546	473	450	500	522	546	510	550	578	
Steel wire rod, Japan, Reinstate c/ \$/mt		1,010	969	751	1,200	1,007	857	814	751	750	750	753	
Tin	b/ c/kg	1,851	1,357	1,721	1,103	1,351	1,459	1,517	1,721	1,771	1,636	1,755	
Zinc	b/ c/kg	187.5	165.5	228.9	117.2	147.3	176.1	2214	228.9	243.4	215.7	227.5	
NEW World Bank com	modity price i	ndices fo	or low an	d middle	income co	ountries((2000 =	100)					
Energy		342.0	214.3	262.2	166.3	204.5	230.3	256.1	262.2	267.5	259.3	259.8	
Non Energy Commodities		272.0	213.2	244.3	189.9	207.8	219.8	235.2	244.3	248.9	239.9	244.1	
Agriculture		229.5	197.8	216.8	181.9	197.1	199.5	212.6	216.8	222.0	215.9	212.6	
Beverages		210.0	219.9	242.7	197.9	207.3	226.4	247.9	242.7	252.5	2418	233.9	
Food		247.4	205.1	213.1	190.4	209.8	206.4	213.7	213.1	220.8	213.0	205.4	
Fats and Oils		277.3	216.2	224.7	191.4	227.9	220.9	224.5	224.7	230.1	223.0	2211	
Grains		2817	214.9	205.2	2213	225.3	202.3	210.8	205.2	213.6	204.0	198.1	
Other Food		177.1	181.6	204.9	161.3	172.1	191.2	202.0	204.9	215.2	207.9	191.4	
RawMaterials		195.7	168.7	212.7	153.1	161.1	168.9	192.0	212.7	209.2	209.8	219.3	
Timber		150.5	138.9	133.3	143.1	141.8	133.6	137.3	133.3	133.8	131.7	134.3	
Other Raw Materials		245.3	2014	299.6	164.0	182.2	207.5	251.8	299.6	291.5	295.1	312.3	
Fertilizers		566.7	293.0	259.0	376.6	300.6	252.1	242.8	259.0	255.2	260.2	261.5	
Metals and Minerals		325.7	235.6	299.0	185.0	219.0	257.6	280.8	299.0	303.4	286.8	306.8	

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 = US dollar = US dollar = US denti 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

Selected Commodity Prices, Nominal US dollars, 2005-2010



Selected Commodity Prices, Nominal US dollars, 2005-2010 cont'd



Selected Commodity Prices, Nominal US dollars, 2005-2010 cont'd

