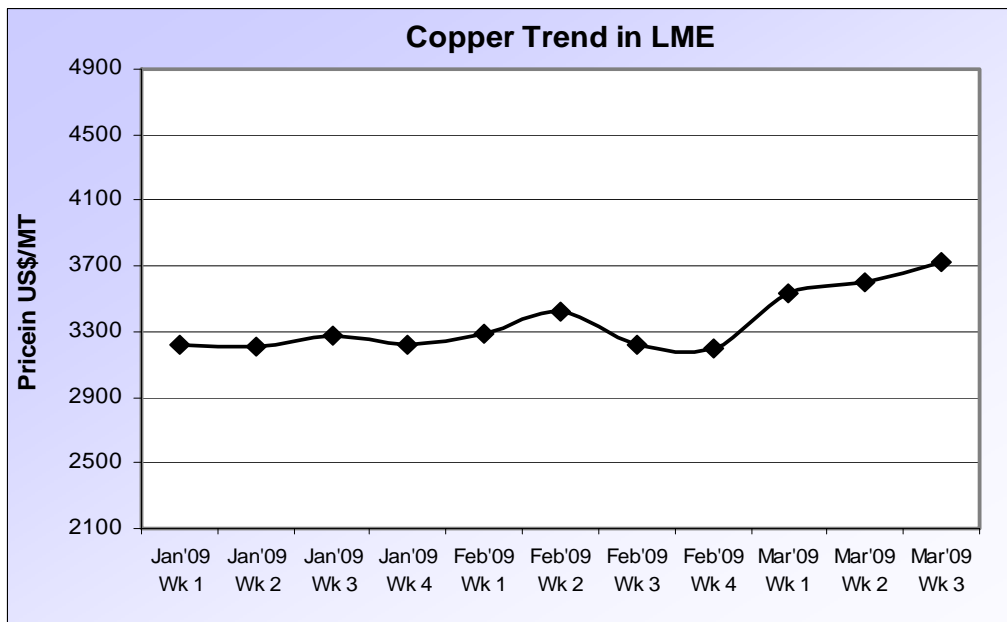


A Report on Base Metals, Scrap, Steel Ingots & Rubber

Base metals depicted a slight improvement in their prices across the world with beginning of this month. There have been slump in the production of late, and its effect is gradually becoming discernible world over as the base metals exhibited a slight improvement in the last couple of weeks. However, the sustainability of this price improvement remains doubtful as according to market sources, base metals may go down further in the coming weeks on the back of declining global demand, further reinforced by little buying support from China. In the 2nd week of March, barring lead and aluminium, all base metals trading on the London Metal Exchange (LME) declined on profit booking. Copper and zinc declined by one per cent, while nickel and tin slumped 2.6 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively. In contrast, lead and aluminum jumped 3.3 per cent and 3.4 per cent, respectively, on bargain buying by a group of traders.

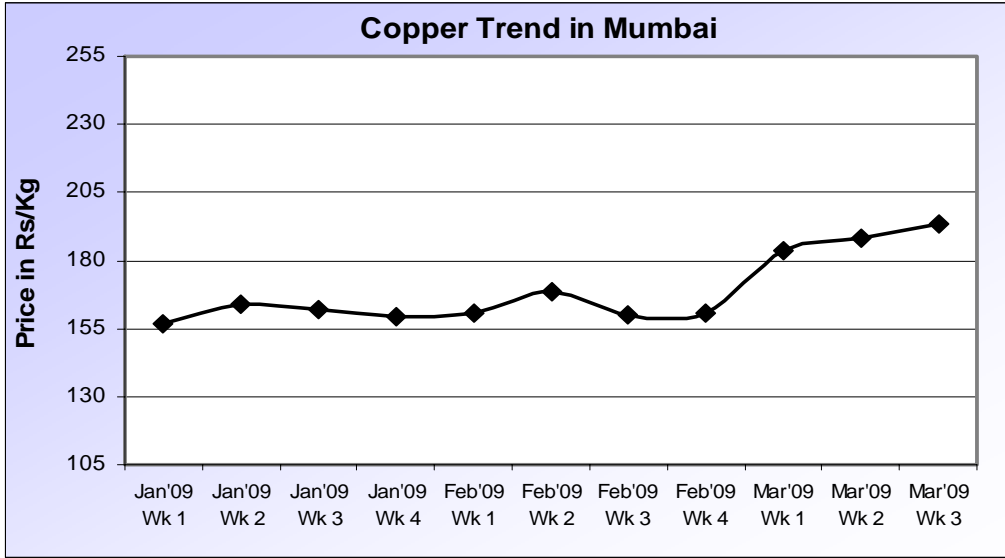
Copper Market Overview

The domestic market as well as the international market witnessed a slight improvement in the copper prices since the beginning of the final month of this financial year 2008-09. Copper at LME exhibited a rise of more than 3 per cent over a week while over a fortnight copper at LME witnessed an increase of more than 5 percent. Copper in LME prevailed at USD 3,735/MT as on March 18, 2009. The domestic market also remained aligned to the international market and depicted some improvement in the copper prices with the inception of March. Over a week, Copper in Mumbai market experienced a price increase of more than 2.5 per cent while over a fortnight the rise is more than 4.8 per cent. On 19th March, 2009; copper in Mumbai market prevailed at Rs. 194.8/Kg (basic)



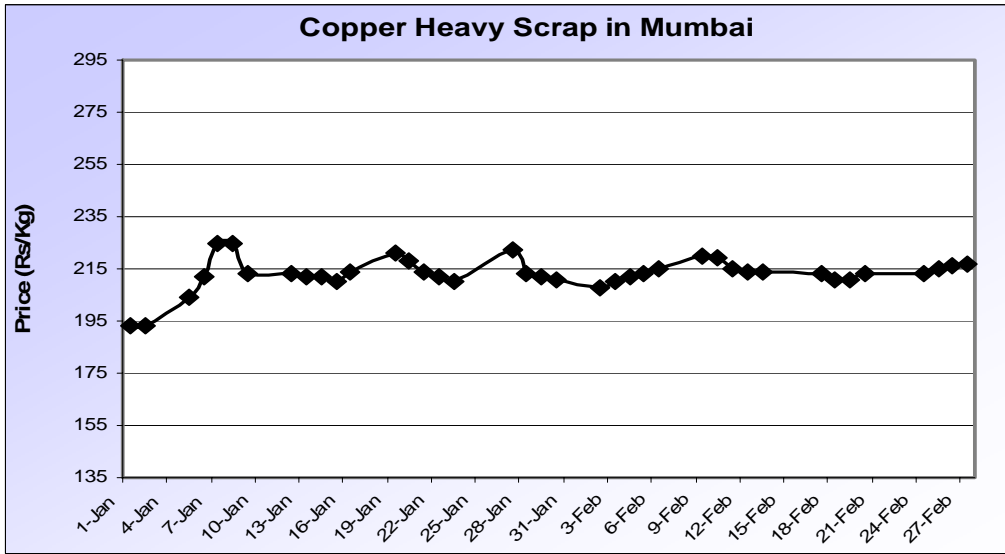
Price is in USD/MT

Source: LME



Price is in Rs/ Kg(basic)

Source: MCX

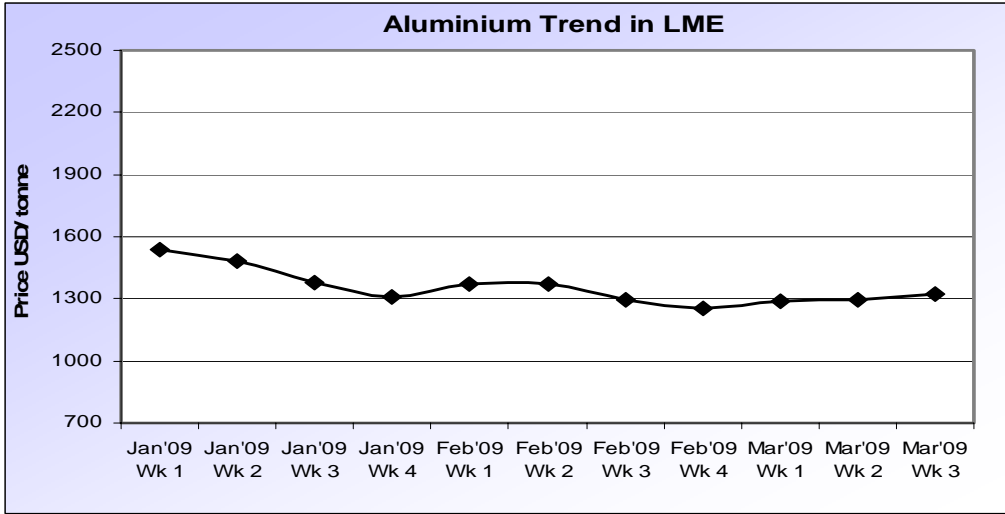


Price is in Rs/ Kg & all inclusive in Mumbai market

Source: Metal Trade Intelligence

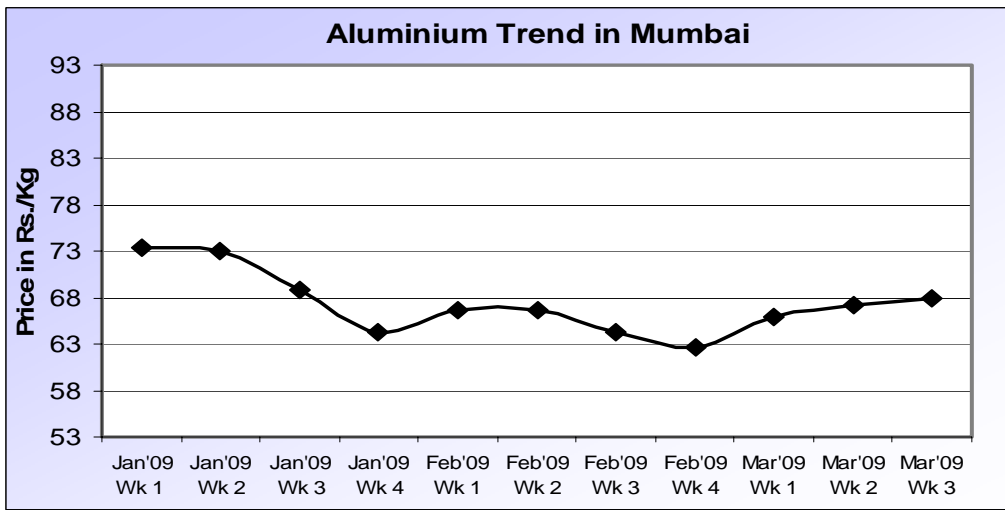
Aluminium Market Overview

Aluminum also exhibited an improved price trend since the beginning of March both in the domestic as well as in the international markets. Aluminum at LME exhibited a rise of nearly 2 per cent over a week while over a fortnight aluminum at LME witnessed an increase of more than 2.4 percent. Aluminum in LME prevailed at USD 1,338.5/MT as on March 18, 2009. The domestic market also exhibited a similar trend like that of the international market and depicted some improvement in the aluminum prices with the inception of March. Over a week, aluminum in Mumbai market experienced a price increase of more than 1.2 per cent while over a fortnight the rise is of nearly 3 per cent. On 19th March, 2009; aluminum in Mumbai market prevailed at Rs. 68/Kg (basic)



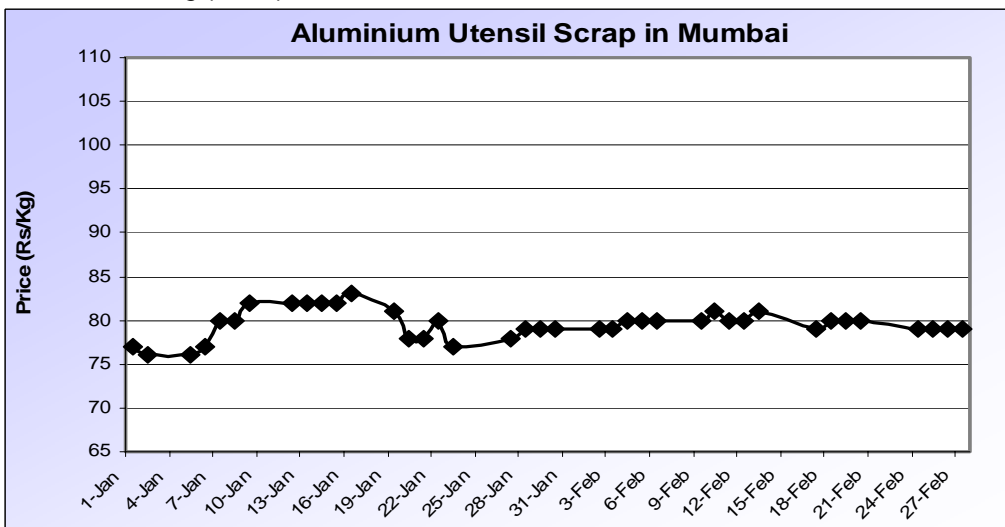
Price in USD/MT

Source: LME



Price is in Rs/ Kg (basic)

Source: NCDEX

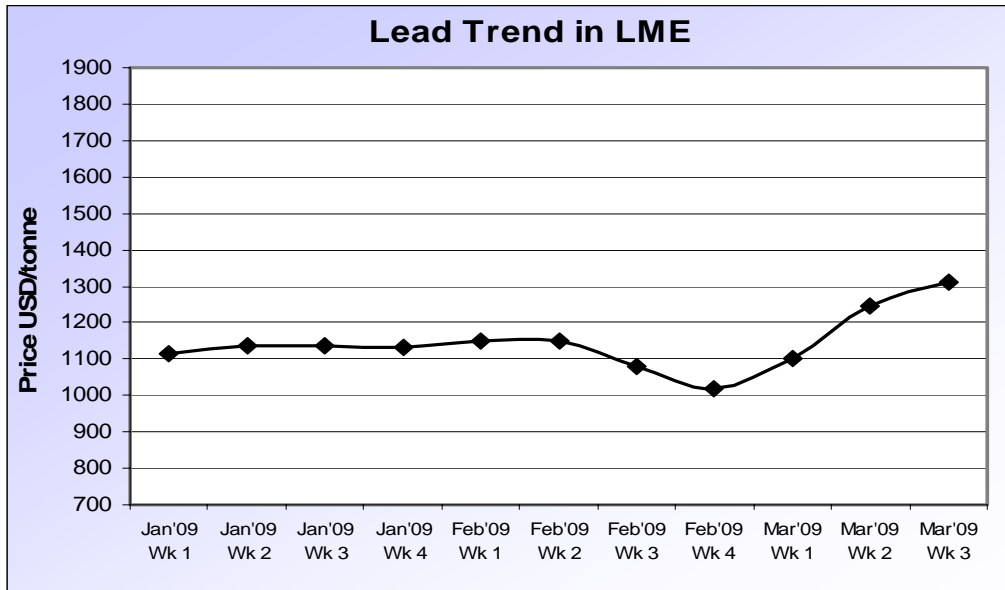


Price is in Rs/ Kg & all inclusive in Mumbai market

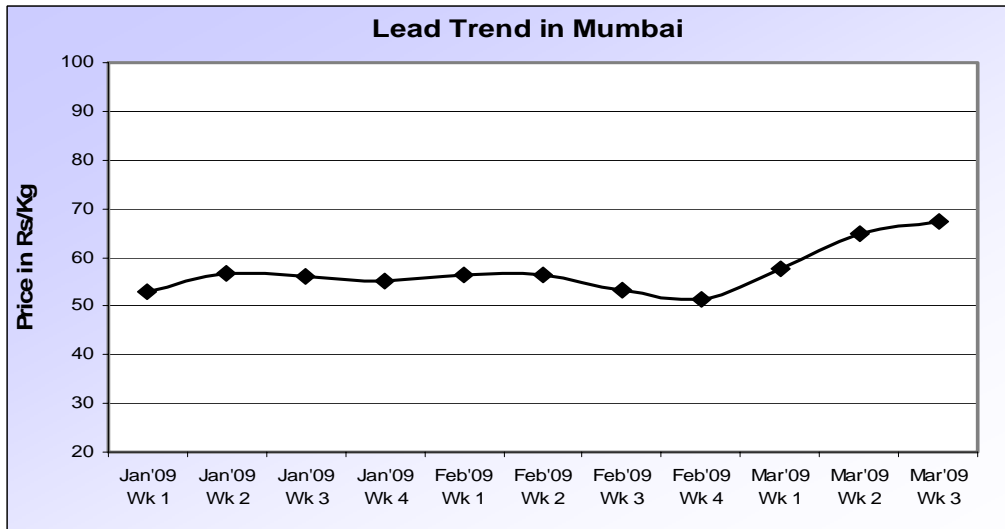
Source: Metal Trade Intelligence

Lead Market Overview

The market for lead remained upward since February week 4. Lead at LME exhibited a rise of more than 5 per cent over a week while over a fortnight lead at LME witnessed a whopping rise of more than 19 percent. Lead in LME prevailed at USD 1,320/MT as on March 18, 2009. The domestic market also exhibited a similar trend like that of the international market and depicted some improvement in the lead prices in last three weeks. Over a week, lead in Mumbai market experienced a price increase of more than 3 per cent while over a fortnight lead in Mumbai depicted a conspicuous rise of more than 15.5 per cent. On 19th March, 2009; lead in Mumbai market prevailed at Rs. 67.8/Kg (basic)



Source: LME



Price is in Rs/ Kg (basic)

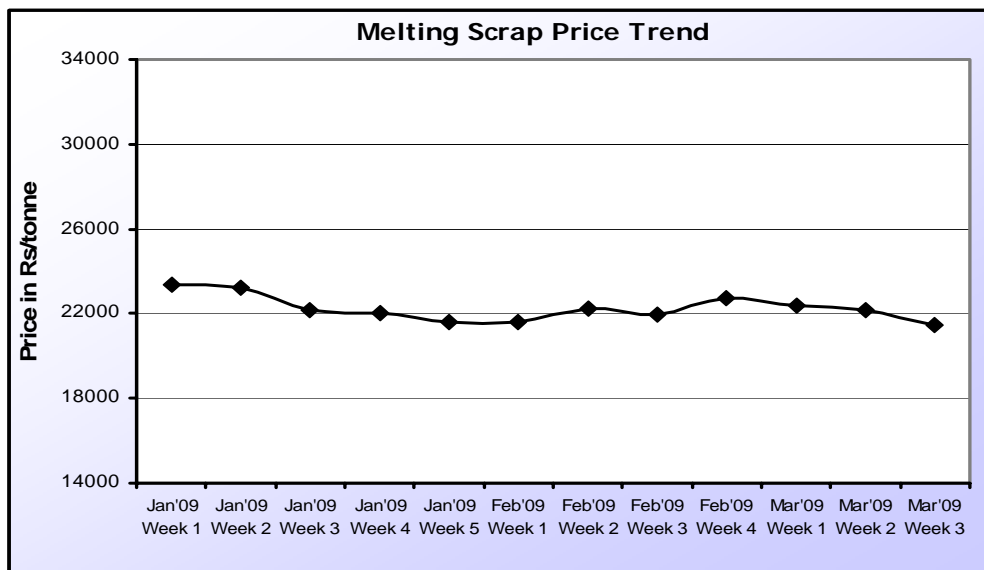
Source: MCX

Melting Scrap Market Overview

Stable demand, prices for Indian scrap imports: Indian import prices and demand for shredded and heavy melting steel scrap have been relatively stable over the past month mainly due to the sluggishness of demand over the said period. The selling prices of HMS 1&2 80:20 have been hovering at around USD 255-265/tonne cfr based on quality of the scrap, its origin and reliability of the seller. According to trading sources in Kolkata, an offer for containerised scrap is around 20,000 tonne of HMS 80:20 sold while the offer of whole or broken into smaller quantities is hovering around USD 260/tonne cif Kandla and Nhava Sheva ports.

Source: Steel Business Briefing

Melting Scrap at Mandi Govindgarh is currently prevailing in the range of Rs. 21,300/tonne (incl. excise duty) to Rs. 21,800/tonne (incl. excise duty), a drop of around 3 percent over a week. **Sponge iron at Raipur** saw a drop of nearly Rs.250/MT in a day and prevailing at Rs. 15,850/MT (incl. ED) on Mar 19, 2009. Over a week, sponge iron in Raipur exhibited a price drop of nearly 2.5 per cent.



Price in Rs/tonne is including excise duty

Source: Steel Town Weekly

International Scenario: The international scrap steel market depicted a softened trend over a week. The Shredded Steel Scrap United States FOB East Coast decreased to USD 210/MT in Mar Week 02 from USD 225/MT in Mar Week 01 and HMS Scrap 1 & 2 (80:20 mix) United States export FOB East Coast also depicted a falling trend over a week with the prices falling to USD 215/MT in March 2nd week from USD 220/MT in Mar Week 01. Situation is no better in the European markets as well as the Shredded Steel Scrap FOB Rotterdam suffered a fall of USD 15/MT over a week to prevail at USD 200/MT in March week 02.

Steel Ingot Market Overview

The 2nd week of March didn't witness any significant turn around in the domestic steel market and the market continued its depressionary trend across the various segments of the long steel sector across the country. Moreover, with the Holi festival being celebrated all across the country in the last week it seems to have played a dampening role for the steel demand in the domestic market. This ongoing sparse demand situation in the market is unable to provide any up thrust to the steel prices in the domestic steel market. For the time being, the buyers are more content to hold a wait and watch attitude regarding their purchasing decision and this grim situation is expected to continue till the end of this financial year. March 3rd week began on a downward note with the ingot prices at various places moving further southward.

Over a week, the ingot prices across the country exhibited a softening trend with ingot prices at various places suffering a price fall in the range of 1 to 2 per cent on an average.

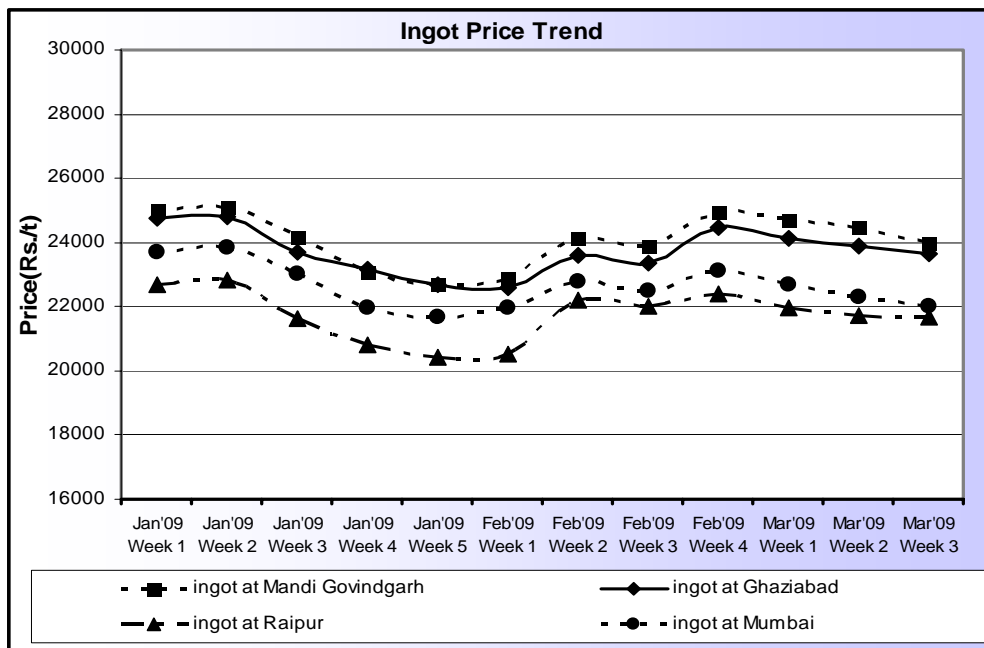
Ingot Price Trend over a Week:

Places	19-Mar	18-Mar	17-Mar	16-Mar	14-Mar	13-Mar	12-Mar
Mandi	23740	23650	23930	23970	23970	24210	24670
Ghaziabad	23320	23270	23640	23640	23630	23700	24000
Raipur	20945	21294	21642	21711	21571	21756	NA
Mumbai	21700	21500	21900	22000	22000	22100	22400

Price in Rs. /tonne is basic

Source: www.ncdex.com

According to the market sources, ingot price at Kolkata prevailed at around Rs. 21,140/MT (basic) on 18th March, 2009.

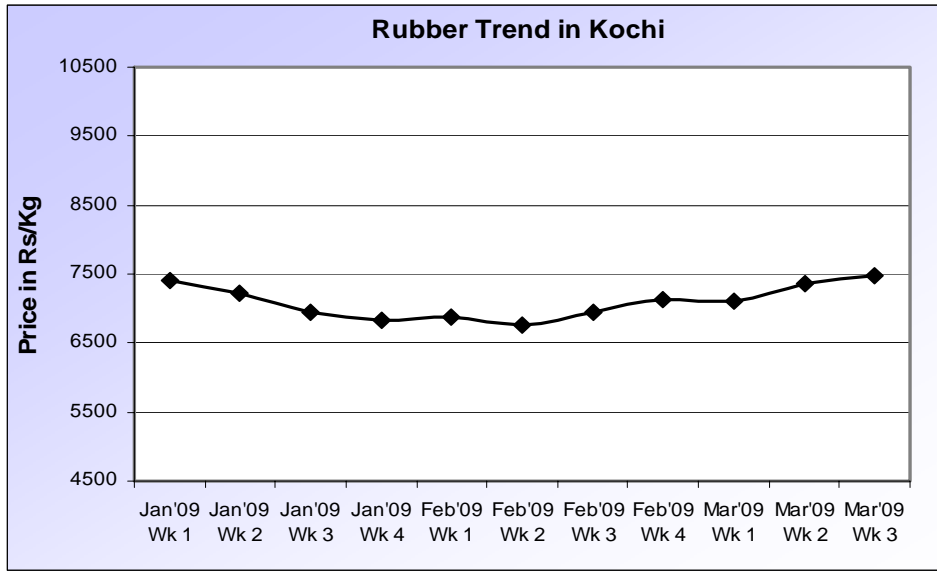


Price in Rs/MT (basic)

Source: NCDEX

Rubber Market Overview

Spot rubber prices improve: The physical rubber prices turned better on Tuesday, 17th March 2009. A firm closing in leading international indices kept the market in a positive mood during the session. Sheet rubber ended marginally higher at Rs 74 (73.75) a kg mainly on covering purchases. The trend was partially mixed as ungraded rubber closed flat amidst comparatively weak volumes. RSS 4 improved at its April futures to Rs 74.88 (74.27), May to Rs 76.10 (75.53), June to Rs 76.80 (76.44) and July to Rs 77 (76.20) a kg on National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).



Price in Rs/Kg (basic)

Source: NCDEX