Date of Report: Apr 16, 2010

Market Scenario over a Fortnight

News Flash

Indian steel makers hike prices for April deliveries: JSW Steel confirms it has raised prices for all its flat and long products by 5-7% from March levels. This amounts to an increase of Rs 2,000-2,500/t. Steel Authority of India Ltd (Sail) hiked prices of flats by Rs 4,000/t and longs by Rs 2,000/t effective from 1 April. These were applicable to Sail's ex-works prices, however, and after Sail decided on the level of rebates it would offer distributors, Sail-origin flat product prices are now Rs 2,500/t higher than March levels. Essar Group hikes steel prices by Rs 2000/tonne. Ispat hikes rates by up to Rs 3,000/tonne. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL) has hiked the ex-works prices of some of its long products by nearly Rs 2,000/tonne ($45/t). The new prices came into effect on 1 April.

Indian OMC raises chrome ore prices from April to June: The price of chrome ore 52% increased by 32.9% and the price of 42% moved up by 40.7% compared with last month. The following are chrome ore prices from OMC in Rs./tonne.

Specification（CR2O3）	April-June 2010	January-March 2010
≥54%（54%basis）	12410	9331
52-53.99%（52%basis）	11961	8993
50-51.99%（50%basis）	11500	8646
48-49.99%（48%basis）	11200	8329
46-47.99%（46%basis）	10900	8011
44-45.99%（44%basis）	8741	6344
42-43.99%（42%basis）	6581	4677
40-41.99%（40%basis）	6266	4453

NMDC announces provisional iron ore price hike: Effective 1 April, the new prices are 34-56% higher than in 2009 and will remain until definitive prices are determined for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2011. NMDC had already increased prices in January by 16%. NMDC high grade (>64% Fe) calibrated lump ore (10mm-40mm) is now priced at Rs 5,100/tonne ($114/t) ex-mine without taxes, royalty and freight. This is up from Rs 3,520/t before 1 April, marking a hike of almost 45%, an Orissa miner notes. Similarly, Fe 64% and higher calibrated lump ore (6mm-40mm) from NMDC now costs Rs 3,800/t ex mine without taxes, royalty and freight. Fines (63.5% Fe) are priced at Rs 2,600/t on average.

JSW proposes new railways for iron ore transport: JSW Steel Ltd has proposed to lay three new rail lines to relieve road traffic for iron ore transport in the Bellary district of Karnataka, where the firm operates a 6.8m tonnes/year steelworks.

Highest Bid At $505 FOB in Vizag Pig Iron Tender: Swiss trading company Prime Carbon AG has made the highest bid of US$505.00/MT FOB in the tender held by India's integrated steelmaker Vizag Steel to sell 25,000 tons of pig iron for May shipment. The highest bid this time marks an increase of US$4 on the corresponding bid in the tender held by India's MMTC Ltd at the end of March to sell pig iron.

LME tin hits 19-month high: Tin prices traded to the highest official levels since September 2008 on Apr 15 on currency related buying, low stocks and better demand. Three-month tin settled at $18,775/800 per tonne compared with $18,800 per tonne at the open. Tin prices rose alongside other base metals on the

LME supported by a weak dollar that is helping push prices to new highs for the year across the base metals complex.

Iron & Steel Sector

The domestic flat steel market stands at a better platform as compares to its foreign counterparts in demand recovery. In India, the steel producers are in a better position to pass on the cost of inputs and production to the end users, in form of higher final goods pricing. A number of major steel makers have found to increase their steel prices with the commencement of the month of April on account of high raw materials' cost. The last fortnight remained by and large firm for the flat steel market across the country with the prices still continuing to climb up. The market psychology has also got a boost from the improving demand scenario from the end users like automobile and white goods sector. With the inception of the month of April, various flat steel items like Medium plate, HR Coil, CR Coil and HGI Coil witnessed a price rise in the range of Rs. 700 to Rs.1000 per tonne over a fortnight and are prevailing at around Rs. 36,200/MT, Rs. 35,200/MT, Rs. 40,700/MT and Rs. 43,000/MT (basic) respectively in the Mumbai market. Imports of cold rolled coil from China into India have increased by $20 on improving demand. The price for Chinese material now stands at $850-855 cfr for shipment in May/June compared with previous shipments of $830-835 cfr in the first week.

The ***domestic long steel market*** saw a continuing firm trend in the first few days of the month with the steel makers announcing price hike across various long steel items. However, price rise was arrested to some extent on account of lack of demand for the finished steel items that failed to give any boost to the market sentiment. The buyers are now holding a cautious attitude towards the future market in the hope that a round of price hike may again take place and are only interested in buying smaller quantity in order to satisfy their immediate that is resulting in low demand in the market. Billet prices went down by Rs.2000 per tonne over a week to prevail at Rs.26,500 per tonne in the second week. The steel ingot market across the country too portrayed a similar subdued trend since the beginning of the FY 2010-11, which is evident from the ingot price fall in the range of Rs. 250 – 400/MT over a fortnight on an average across various places of the country.

Prices achieved through ***e-auction*** have remained aligned with the domestic market. The overall flat market conditions remained firm over a fortnight. HR Plate auctioned exhibited a firm price trend, hovering in the range of Rs.28,500 to Rs.29,000 per tonne; CR Coil depicted a price rise of around Rs.1000 per tonne over a fortnight while Defective plate hovered in the range of Rs.25,000 to Rs.25,500 per tonne. The Longs market saw a rising trend in the beginning of the month with Billet prices hovering at around Rs 25,500 per tonne and Bloom prevailing at around Rs.23,600 per tonne on an average. The second week saw some correction in price with demand getting weaker and prices softening to some extent.

The ***international flat steel market*** depicted a firm trend over a fortnight. The latest reference prices from The Steel Index show that European plate prices are at 12-month highs. European mills have increased their local market heavy plate prices by €60-70 ($81-95) over the past two weeks. Bookings for heavy plate in northern Europe were made at €620-660 per tonne delivered, up from €550-620 on the same terms two weeks ago. Bookings for heavy plate in southern Europe were slightly lower at €605-650 per tonne delivered, up from €580-610 per tonne delivered two weeks ago.
Chinese domestic cold rolled coil prices have kept rising, in Shanghai, 1.0mm CRC prices were offered at RMB 5,650-5,850/tonne ($828-857/t) with 17% VAT. Chinese mills have raised export offers on cold rolled and hot-dipped galvanized coil further this week on rising domestic market prices. HRC prices increased in South East Asia on increased iron ore costs. Rerolling-grade 2mm hot rolled coils (for making coated steel) from Taiwan have been transacted at $720-730/tonne fob. The US plate reference price FOB Midwest mill has increased slightly, and is now ruling at around USD 851/MT.

The ***international longs market*** has exhibited a steady upward trend in the beginning of the month. The rebar and mesh quality wire rod producers in Europe have been increasing their offers daily.
Northern European merchant bar prices have made significant gains in the past month because of rising input costs and supply-side constraints, effective delivered prices advanced from €470-490/tonne ($633-659/t) in mid-March to around €600/t in the first week.
On the other hand in China, the H-beam prices have continued to increase pushed by increasing ex-works prices from the major producers. China's domestic wire rod prices climbed upwards in part related to expectations of further price increases. To keep pace with domestic price increases, export offers have also increased. Chinese wire rod export prices from tier-two mills are $650/t fob due for May shipments, and transaction prices are said to be close to this level. Billet prices approached $615/t in northern China. Billet prices into Southeast Asia have gone up by $10 per tonne in the past week but scrap prices and demand are showing signs of softening. Prices rose to $610-640 per tonne cfr on thin bookings, from $600-630 cfr in the first week The US long steel market also exhibited a steady trend in the opening week of the month of April.

Ferrous Scrap Sector

After exhibiting a rising trend throughout the month of March, the long steel market across the country depicted a slightly softening trend beginning of the new financial year. Demand for finished products has fallen considerably with Billet prices suffering a drop of around Rs.2000 per tonne over a week. The metallic segment also remained subdued with Steel Ingot prices suffering a price drop in the range of Rs.800 to Rs.1100 per tonne at various places over a fortnight. Melting scrap price at Mandi Govindgarh market also portrayed a price drop of Rs.820 per tonne over a fortnight. However, the drop is expected to be temporary as demand for long products generally goes high during the summer season. Next round of price hike is expected by the integrated steel mills when prices will again go up.
Indian ferrous scrap market remains sluggish as international offers increase: Indian buyers are rejecting higher offers from European and US scrap exporters and are showing little interest in booking shipments for April or May. Small volumes of shredded scrap traded at USD 460-470 per tonne cfr India, the same level as last week, but customers are rejecting international offers at USD 470-490 per tonne cfr India. Scrap is being sold at USD 460-470/MT cfr Nhava Sheva, but only on the spot market. According to the market sources, the customers are not booking long-term contracts at the same level. Several exporters have stopped offering and are waiting for Indian buyers to return to the market with more aggressive bids***.***

The international Scrap steel market exhibited a firm market trend at various places.

Northern European scrap prices soar on Turkish buying: Northern European scrap prices have advanced significantly this month on strong demand, especially from Turkish producers. In Germany prices have risen by up to USD 109/MT on both Turkish buying and restocking of very low inventories by domestic steelmakers, who have been forced to pay higher prices to secure material amid climbing export prices. This has taken domestic shredded prices to around USD 448-461/MT delivered depending on grade and area, up from around USD 354-360/MT delivered in May, traders and merchants ascertain.

Export prices jump in latest Japanese scrap auction: The highest winning bid in the export auction for H2 grade Japanese scrap held on 9 April by the Kanto Tetsugen group of scrap dealers increased by USD 54/MT from last month's auction. The winning bids were USD 417.8/MT for 5,000 tonnes, USD 415/MT for 10,000t and USD 412/MT for two winners of 6,000MT and 5,000MT.

Spanish scrap traders fear Turkish competition: Not much scrap is being imported into Spain at present according to the local scrap market sources. The Spanish market, due to its lower price levels, is now less attractive for international traders. It is said that imported shredded (E40) was recently sold at cif USD 405-432/MT Spain. Moreover steel turnings coming from Russia reached cif USD 378-398/MT in the North of Spain.

Iron Ore Sector

The market shooted up in the month of April. Import prices for 63.5% Indian fines have touched $165-170 per tonne cfr China in the first week of the month. While offers are rising, tonnages shipped slowed due to tight supply of iron ore from India as well as high price levels. Prices crossed further $ 170 per tonne mark to prevail in the range of $170-173 per tonne cfr beginning of second week. The market sentiment is very positive currently. FOB prices for Fe 63.5% fines hover at $140-145/t, miners in Karnataka say. Chinese demand for high grade Indian ore is very strong now and the shortage of ore from Orissa is only going to hike prices further, said a Mumbai based exporter.

Orissa iron ore exports plunge to 20%: Iron ore exports from India's Orissa state have fallen by about 80% since the government started cracking down on illegal mines in March, said traders, miners and industry sources.
More than 50 iron ore mines have been suspended in Orissa, the largest supplier of high grade iron ore fines from India, sources told MB. All means of ore transportation have also been shut down by the government, to prevent illegal ore from leaving the state. There was hardly any iron ore at Orissa ports as railways have been stopped from lifting ore till the Orissa government gives the go-ahead, said Federation of Indian Mining Industry general secretary R.K. Sharma.

Sponge Iron Sector

Raw material crisis hits Chhattisgarh sponge iron units. Sponge iron industry in Chhattisgarh plunged into raw material crisis as production in nearly half the units had been suspended after disruption in the supply of iron-ore from Orissa. Orissa-based iron-ore miners stopped the supply since four weeks. Most of the sponge iron units in Raigarh and Bilaspur districts have suspended production.

Sponge iron prices fall USD 20/MT even as output drops: Indian local sponge iron prices have corrected by Rs. 800-900/MT even as sponge iron plants in eastern India shut down because of shortage of iron ore. An official from West Bengal Based sponge iron plant said the fall in prices was because of drop in finished product prices. Sponge iron prices are currently at Rs. 19,000-19,100/MT ex-plant compared to last week's prices of Rs. 19,800-20,000 per tonne ex-plant. The supply of iron ore from Orissa has almost stopped, and while iron ore from Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh is available there are also constrains of transportation from these states, according to the sponge iron producers.

Base Metals Sector

Nickel: After exhibiting a brisk rise in the prices across the globe in the concluding week of the month of March, nickel depicted by and large a steady trend in the opening week of April. At present the demand is mainly emanating from US and Europe. In March, the US manufacturing sector grew at its fastest pace in more than in the last five years while activity in Europe picked up with a cheaper Euro helping stimulate exports and hence boosting the nickel market across the world. The demand in the domestic market too remained buoyant and nickel prices found to soar at home as well. With the inception of the second week of April, nickel once again depicted a northwardly movement with the metal prices in LME witnessing a w-o-w price gain of over 3 per cent while its counter part at home increased by around 3 per cent as compared to the week before.

Zinc: After depicting a strong performance in the closing week of the month of March, the zinc market opened on a stable note with the commencement of the month of April as the global demand stabilizes. Zinc market remained more or less stable in the first week with the metal prices rising by nearly 0.7 percent at home and around 1.3 per cent at LME as compared to the week before. No significant movement was noticed in the second week as well as the zinc prices remained by and large steady all across the globe.

Aluminium: Following a sturdy performance in the closing week of the month of March, the aluminium market opened on a steady note with the commencement of the month of April as the global demand picks up. Rising alongside are the share prices of the leading metal companies in the country like Sterlite, National Aluminium Company and Hindustan Zinc. Moreover, the Tata's smallest car Nano is all set to roll out from the company's new plant in Sanand in Gujarat from May 1 which has further boosted up the demand for aluminium in the domestic market. The market remained firm in the second week and aluminium in LME witnessed a price rise of over 2.1 per cent while in Mumbai market the metal prices went up by around 2 per cent as against the week before.

Copper: After a spirited performance by copper in the final week of the month of March, the metal remained by and large steady in the opening week of April with the metal not showing any significant changes in its prices. Aluminium across the globe witnessed a price rise of around 1 per cent in April week 01. However, the metal seemed to have lost its ground slightly in the second week with the strengthening of the greenback; prices at home diminished by around 0.5 per cent over a week while its counterpart in LME dropped by around 0.12 per cent as compared to the week before.

Lead: The buoyancy that was noticed across the lead market at the end of March successfully transpired in the first half of the month of April which is evident from the northwardly march of the lead prices of late. The demand scenario across the globe remained favorable which has helped the prices to rush upward over the last fortnight. In week 01 lead at LME and at home witnessed a w-o-w price rise of over 4.5 and 3 per cent respectively. The price rise remained unabated in the second week as well, with the prices rising by over 2 per cent on an average both at LME and at home.

Ferro Alloys Sector

Ferro-chrome – After exhibiting a rising trend in the month of March, the domestic **Ferro-chrome** market once again kicked off on a positive note with the commencement of the month of April mainly due to tight power supply and high prices of chrome ore. The high carbon Ferro-chrome (60% min) went up by Rs. 1,000/MT in the first week to prevail at around Rs. 66,500/MT (basic). The Ferro chrome prices then further shot up by Rs. 5,000/MT in the following week to rule at around Rs. 71,500/MT (basic). On the other hand, the Chinese traders and producers have raised their offers to as high as USD1,391/MT delivered for high carbon ferrochrome 50%, up from the range of USD1,332-1,362/MT delivered the week before.

Ferro-molybdenum – As buying activity becomes steady in the **Ferro-molybdenum** market, the mainstream prices are stable in the range of Rs. 1170-1200/Kg Mo and with appreciation of the Rupee, some think it is difficult for dealers to increase price since molyoxide material that is imported for ferromolybdenum production is now relatively cheaper. The **Ferro-molybdenum (60% min)** prices witnessed a price rise of Rs. 10/Kg in the opening week of the month to prevail at around Rs. 1,185/MT and prices are stable since then. On the other hand in South Korea according to the market sources with no major tender and enquiries in the ferromolybdenum market for the past two weeks, the buying activity has remained quiet with mainstream prices largely unchanged in the range of USD42.00-43.00/kg Mo delivered.

Ferro-manganese – The **Ferro-manganese** market across the country remained steady in the opening week of FY 10-11 with the silico-manganese and Ferro-manganese prices keeping firm in India. Considering that manganese ore prices have just risen 20% into the second quarter, there seems to be no room for any decrease of alloy prices. With the inception of the second week of the month, the high carbon Ferro-manganese (65-70%) rose by Rs. 2,000/MT to prevail at around Rs. 61,000/MT (basic).

Ferro-silicon – According to the active market sources, most silicon metal buyers in India have made plenty of purchase in the past several weeks and it may take around two weeks for them to come back to the market to replenish stocks. The high carbon Ferro-silicon (65-70% min) witnessed a price rise of Rs. 1,000/MT in the first week of the month of April and since then it is prevailing stable at around Rs. 63,500/MT (basic). On the other hand in China, the ferrosilicon market remained by and large strong with prices varying in the range of USD984-999/MT (basic) and USD1,350-1,380/MT FOB China for ferrosilicon 75%.

Base Metals, Steel, Metallics & Ferro-Alloy Prices

International Base metal Prices:

Price at LME in USD/tonne	Apr'10 Week 02	Mar'10 Week 04	Mar'10 Week 02	Feb'10 Week 04	Feb'10 Week 02
Nickel	25924	23211	21906	20355	17729
Zinc	2381	2256	2333	2194	2094
Aluminum	2398	2221	2167	2085	2003
Copper	7889	7512	7462	7142	6572
Lead	2311	2100	2244	2212	2023

Source: LME

Indian Base metal Prices:

Price at India in Rs/kg (basic)	Apr'10 Week 02	Mar'10 Week 04	Mar'10 Week 02	Feb'10 Week 04	Feb'10 Week 02
Nickel	1151	1048	999	940	820
Zinc	105	102	106	102	97
Aluminum	106	103	101	97	93
Copper	352	342	341	333	305
Lead	102	95	102	102	94

Source: NCDEX, MCX

International Steel & Scrap Prices:

Items	Apr'10 Week 02	Mar'10 Week 04	Mar'10 Week 02	Feb'10 Week 04	Feb'10 Week 02
China Domestic HRC Yuan/tonne	4440	4300	4060	3820	3750
China Domestic CRC Yuan/tonne	5550	5550	5350	5100	5050
China Domestic Rebar Yuan/tonne	4210	4020	3740	3610	3610
Europe Domestic HRC Ex-Works €/t	500	500	460	440	440
Europe Domestic CRC Ex-Works €/t	590	590	560	500	500
US Domestic HRC FOB $/tonne	690	690	690	610	610
US Domestic CRC FOB $/tonne	810	810	810	710	710
CIS Export HR Coil $/tonne	710	605	565	565	530
CIS Export Slab Black Sea/Baltic Sea $/tonne	600	575	440	440	440
CIS Export Billet Black Sea/Baltic Sea $/tonne	620	610	520	460	460
CIS Export Rebar Black Sea/Baltic Sea $/tonne	690	570	520	480	480
Shredded Scrap US fob East Coast $/tonne	425	400	360	315	310
HMS I &II (80:20) United States fob East Coast $/tonne	420	395	355	310	305

HMS I&II(70:30) fob Rotterdam Export $/tonne	415	380	349	305	298
HMS I$II(80:20mix) Rotterdam Export $/tonne	420	395	351	312	303
IOF Fe=63.5% CNF China USD/tonne	175	150	141	137	128

Source: Metal Bulletin

Indian Steel & Scrap Prices:

Items	Apr'10 Week 02	Mar'10 Week 04	Mar'10 Week 02	Feb'10 Week 04	Feb'10 Week 02
Pig Iron at Kolkata	26190	24730	24430	24130	23700
Pig Iron at Mumbai	23800	22500	22500	22500	22500
Sponge Iron(Coal Based) at Kolkata	17950	16710	15700	15570	16070
Melting Scrap(HMS I) at Kolkata	22950	21320	20280	17360	18720
Melting Scrap(HMS II) at Kolkata	22430	20800	19240	16340	17680
Billet(100mm) at Kolkata	28520	28720	28410	27560	28620
Billet(100mm) at Mumbai	27630	27530	27530	27530	27530
Bloom(150*150mm) at Kolkata	27300	27600	27290	26360	27500
Wire Rod(6mm) at Kolkata	34160	33560	32740	32080	32560
TMT Bar(10mm) at Kolkata	33860	34020	32930	32490	33040
TMT Bar(10mm) at Delhi	35770	35100	33880	33310	33100
Angles(50*50*6mm) at Kolkata	35480	35440	34500	33910	34350
Angles(50*50*6mm) at Delhi	36540	35910	34830	33960	34350
Plate(6mm) at Kolkata	36710	36530	36350	35840	35960
Plate(6mm) at Delhi	37980	37710	37350	37020	37020
HR Coil(2mm) at Kolkata	35460	35260	35070	34710	34720
HR Coil(2mm) at Delhi	36420	36240	35840	35540	35590
CR Coil(0.63mm) at Kolkata	40140	39570	39380	39270	39270
CR Coil(0.63mm) at Delhi	42610	41210	40090	40090	39530
GP Sheet(0.63mm) at Kolkata	44390	43740	43480	43230	42970
GP Sheet(0.63mm) at Delhi	48420	45720	44820	44350	44050

Price quoted above in Rs. /tonne is all inclusive. Source: JPC

Ferro-Alloy prices:

Ferro Alloys- Raipur market (Basic price in Rs./kg)	**09.04.10**	**06.04.10**	**31.03.10**	**26.03.10**	**22.03.10**	**12.03.10**	**09.03.10**
Ferro Silicon 70/75	68	68	66	68	62	67	63
Ferro Manganese 70/75	60	53	53	53	50	55	55
High Carbon Ferro Chrome	68	65	65	68	63	67	62
Ferro Titanium 30/35%	104	106	104	105	104	105	102
Ferro Alloys- Mumbai market (Basic price in Rs./kg)	**09.04.10**	**01.04.10**	**26.03.10**	**19.03.10**	**12.03.10**	**05.03.10**	**26.02.10**
Ferro Molybdenum	775	1180	1150	1160	1160	1160	1080
Molybdenum Oxide	1150	1150	1100	1140	1130	1100	1050
Ferro Manganese HC	68	68	68	68	68	67	68
Ferro Manganese MC	105	88	88	88	110	78	88
Ferro Chromium LC	145	141	133	135	138	135	135
Ferro Vanadium	775	770	750	775	775	775	775

Source: MMR

Producer's Prices:

Zinc

Hindusthan Zinc Ltd. (Prices are Rs/MT, Excl. ED & ST,VAT)	08.04.10	03.04.10	01.04.10	29.03.10	25.03.10	18.03.10	15.03.10	11.03.10
Ex-smelter: Debari / Chanderia								
Prime Western	124,400	123,000	122,400	118,200	118,200	121,700	124,200	124,800
High Grade	125,900	124,500	123,900	119,700	119,700	123,200	125,700	126,300
Special High Grade	126,900	125,500	124,900	120,700	120,700	124,200	126,700	127,300
Ex-Bangalore								
Prime Western	126,600	125,200	124,600	120,400	120,400	123,900	126,400	127,000
High Grade	128,100	126,700	126,100	121,900	121,900	125,400	127,900	128,500
Special High Grade	129,100	127,700	127,100	122,900	122,900	126,400	128,900	129,500

Source: MMR

Binani Zinc (Prices are Rs/MT, inc. ED)

Binani Zinc (Prices are Rs/MT,incl. ED)	09.04.10	01.04.10	30.03.10	26.03.10	18.03.10	16.03.10	12.03.10	09.03.10
Ex Godown: Bhiwandi								
High Grade	130,000	133,000	128,500	127,000	129,000	127,500	131,500	134,500
Special High Grade	130,500	133,500	129,000	127,500	129,500	128,000	132,000	135,000
Super Special High Grade	131,000	134,000	129,500	128,000	130,000	128,500	132,500	135,500
Ex Godown: Daman/Silvasa								
High Grade	130,000	133,000	128,500	127,000	129,000	127,500	131,500	134,500
Special High Grade	130,500	133,500	129,000	127,500	129,500	128,000	132,000	135,000
Super Special High Grade	131,000	134,000	129,500	128,000	130,000	128,500	132,500	135,500

Source: MMR

Copper

Hindusthan Copper Ltd. (Prices are Rs/MT, Excl. ED,Sales Tax, VAT)	01-Apr-10	01-Mar-10	01-Feb-10	01-Jan-10	01-Dec-10	01-Nov-09
Copper Cathode (Full)	371,394	350,179	373,860	358,755	343,083	324,768
Continuous Cast Copper Rods (8mm)	377,233	356,120	379,753	364,729	349,049	330,752

Source: MMR

Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. (Excl ED)	01-Mar-10	01-Feb-10	01-Jan-10	16-Dec-09	01-Dec-09	01-Nov-09
Copper Cathode (Full)	359,185	349,202	373,071	432,000	352,893	337,759
CC Copper Wire Rods (8mm)	362,814	352,868	376,700	436,000	359,198	334,065

Source: MMR

Lead

Hindusthan Zinc Ltd. (Prices are Rs/MT, Excl. ED & ST,VAT)	08.04.10	03.04.10	01.04.10	29.03.10	25.03.10	18.03.10	15.03.10	04.03.10
Purity 99.99%(Ex-smelter Chanderiya)	116,400	113,000	112,500	110,900	113,900	117,100	118,700	116,200
Purity 99.99%(Ex Bangalore)	119,400	116,000	115,500	113,900	116,900	120,100	121,700	119,200

Source: MMR

Aluminium

NALCO					
	CG Ingot (purity 99.0 to 99.5%)	**EC Ingot (99.7 to 99.799%)**	**CG Wire Rod (cond.less than 61%)**	**EC Wire Rod(cond.61.5% and above)**	**Alloy Wire Rod**
19-Dec-09	126,400	126,650	132,350	133,450	135,450
01-Jan-10	127,400	127,650	133,350	134,450	136,450
27-Jan-10	127,400	127,650	133,350	134,450	136,450
08-Feb-10	119,400	119,650	125,350	126,450	128,450
02-Mar-10	121,400	121,650	127,350	128,450	130,450

Prices in Rs./t, basic, ex-smelter, Excluding ED Source: MMR

HINDALCO					
	CG Ingot(purity 99.5% min)	**EC Ingot(99.6% min)**	**CG Wire Rod**	**EC Wire Rod (cond 61%min)**	**Alloy Wire Rod**
09-Dec-09	119,900	120,900	131,500	131,500	139,000
04-Jan-10	125,400	126,400	137,000	137,000	144,500
09-Feb-10	117,400	118,400	129,000	129,000	136,500
04-Mar-10	119,400	120,400	131,000	131,000	138,500
04-Apr-10	125,400	126,400	137,000	137,000	144,500

Prices in Rs./t, basic, ex-smelter, Excluding ED Source: MMR

Outlook

Steel uptrend to continue in India: Steel sector sets the tone of development and recovery not only in India but also for US and Europe, badly hit by the recessionary downturn. Worst is expected to get over for steel, as led by the stimulus packages announced by china last year, sustaining the demand in the market. Although china is large consumer of steel domestically, while it may turn out to be a net exporter with increased domestic production, as many steel mills in the country is adding capacity. India stands at a better platform as compares to its foreign counterparts in demand recovery. In India, steel producers are in a better position to pass on the cost of inputs and production to the end users, in form of higher final goods pricing. Furthermore, the steel producers are expected to upgrade the prices band of their products in the FY2010-11.

Source: Asian Metal, SBB, Metal Bulletin, MMR, Reuters, Bloomberg, NCDEX, MCX, JPC, LME.