



## Bolivia chooses first partner to develop lithium resources

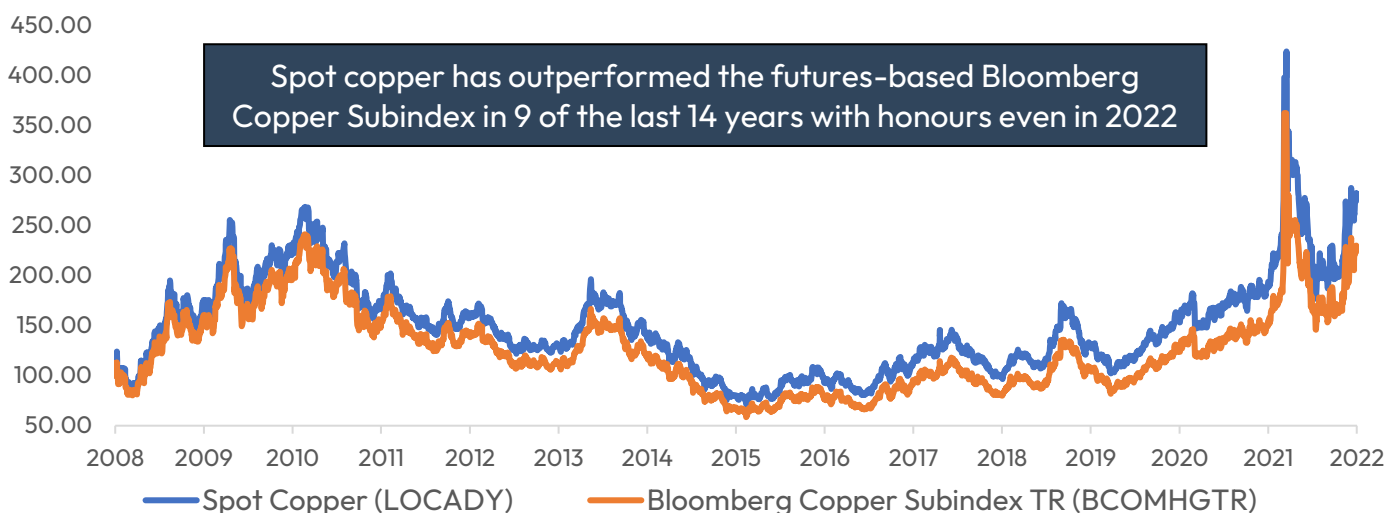
The CDC consortium, which includes Chinese battery maker CATL and mining company CNOOC, has been chosen as the initial foreign partner to help develop Bolivia’s lithium reserves, which the [US Geological Survey](#) ranks as the world’s largest at 21 million tons (19 million tonnes). Reuters [reported](#) that the consortium has been given the rights to develop two lithium plants, with the potential to each produce 25,000 tonnes of battery grade lithium carbonate annually. The state-owned lithium firm Yacimientos de Lito Bolivianos (YLB) will be responsible for supervising the project. The Bolivian government is in ongoing partnership discussions with other potential partners from the US, Russia and China.

Meanwhile, violent unrest in Peru reflecting dissatisfaction with the new President Dina Boluarte is having an impact on copper production and exports. Bloomberg [reported](#) that the Las Bambas mine, operated by MMG Ltd, has not been able to despatch copper concentrate since 3 January and, following three attacks, Glencore took the decision to suspend operations at its Antapaccay copper mine, which has been subject to blockades since the beginning of month, on 20 January ([Reuters](#)). The two mines account for nearly 2% of global copper production. Spot copper rose 1.4% over the week and is up just over 10% year to date.

In the renewable space, [Norges Bank Investment Management](#) has signed an agreement to acquire from Iberdrola a 49 percent interest in a 1.3 GW portfolio of solar plants and onshore wind farms located in Spain. Iberdrola will continue as the operator. The portfolio is 80% solar and 20% wind with seven solar plant projects and five onshore wind projects with an installed capacity of 1265 MW, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of 700,000 Spanish households.

Finally, the week saw the demise of Britishvolt, the UK’s putative gigafactory operator. For more, see pieces in [Politico](#) and [Bloomberg Opinion](#).

## LME Spot Copper (USD) vs Bloomberg Copper Subindex Total Return (2009-2022, rebased to 100)



Note: LOCADY = London Metal Exchange Cash Official Price Copper

Source: Bloomberg, NTree

**Metal prices**

Metal	Price USD (20 January)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Gold	1924.9	0.9%	6.1%	108.4%	94.4%
Silver	23.87	0.8%	-0.3%	113.5%	91.2%
Palladium	1731	-0.5%	-2.5%	86.7%	57.4%
Platinum	1024	-3.1%	-0.7%	108.3%	89.0%
Cobalt	39032.3	-0.5%	-9.7%	64.2%	44.5%
Copper	9232	1.4%	10.1%	110.4%	86.0%
Nickel	28650	5.4%	-5.8%	113.4%	62.6%

Bloomberg codes: GOLDLNPM, SLVRLND, PLDMLNPM, PLTMLNPM, BYW1, LOCADY, LONIDY Notes. All performance data to 20 January 2023. Past performance is not an indicator of future performance and the value of an investment may fall as well as rise. Investors take on currency risk when taking unhedged exposure to commodities.

**The week ahead**

23 January	Australia: Flash PMIs
24 January	Eurozone, UK, US: Flash PMIs
25 January	Canada: BoC rate decision; Germany: Ifo business climate and expectations
26 January	US: 4Q GDP, durable goods, initial jobless claims
27 January	US: Core PCE, U of Michigan sentiment

**Further reading**

- Bloomberg [Lithium’s Next Big Risk Is Grand Supply Plans Falling Short](#)
- CME [CME Group Announces Record Copper Options Open Interest](#)
- Financial Post [James Bay lithium mine wins federal approval amid Trudeau's push to make Canada an EV player](#)
- McKinsey [Battery 2030: Resilient, sustainable, and circular](#)
- NAIF [NAIF increase support for Yangibana Rare Earths Project](#)

**Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)**



Data: as at 19 January 2023

Source: Bloomberg

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